



Each Healthy Community Planning NJ (HCP-NJ) report begins with a one-page Community Data Summary table. This provides a snapshot of health and environment-related indicators for the municipality with county and state comparisons using the most recent available data. The About the Town page follows the Community Data Summary table and gives additional detail on demographics, land use, and health care facilities in the municipality. The remainder of the report consists of Context pages for each of the Community Data Summary indicators that provides additional measures, details, and maps; and Turning Data into Action pages that provides a starting place for communities to consider in developing actions to improve indicators over time.

How Can I Use the Community Data Summary table?

The Community Data Summary table provides each New Jersey municipality with individual health and environmental data with county and state comparisons to help identify priorities for improvement. The Community Data Summary table provides the indicator value for each municipality in the blue column, the county's value in the yellow column, and the State's value in the green column.

Below is a detailed explanation of the column headings used in the Community Data Summary Table. For a detailed understanding of the indicators, please see the Context and Turning Data into Action pages that follow the Community Data Summary and About the Town pages. A glossary, FAQs, Data Limitations, and Map Books are also provided on the [HCP-NJ website](#).

1st Column | Issue

The information in the Community Data Summary table is grouped into five issue areas: demographics, environment, sites, built environment, and public health. The data and information in each area are related, and when seen together may help guide users to better understand a given topic area.

2nd Column | Indicator

Municipal level indicators offer objective measures of outcomes that describe community conditions. An environmental public health indicator provides information about the environment in the community and/or the population's health status. Users can review each indicator's context page, the HCP-NJ glossary, FAQs, and data limitations, for additional information important to understanding these reports.

→How does HCP-NJ define poverty?

Poverty can be defined many ways. The Community Data Summary table uses the federal definition of poverty and Census data. The Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine individuals in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and each individual in it is considered "in poverty." The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, are based on income before taxes, and do not include capital gains or non-cash benefits such as public housing, Medicaid, or food stamps.

→How does HCP-NJ define minority population?

The Community Data Summary table uses the standard, federal definition of minority status; all persons except individuals classified as non-Hispanic White.

3rd Column | Units

These are the standard measurements used to quantify each indicator. For example, the unit for the low birth weight indicator is the **percent** of live births in a population with birth weight less than 5 pounds 8 ounces. The unit for an environmental indicator of drinking water quality for example is the **number of health standard violations** over a specific time period.

4th Column | Time Period

This is the time interval during which data used to calculate the indicator were collected. While HCP-NJ data are generally the most recent data available at the time of report finalization, it is important to note that there can be a time lag between when data are collected, when a dataset is made publicly available, and when HCP-NJ reports are released.

5th Column | Municipality (blue)

The blue column includes the name of the municipality matching the Report heading. The numbers in this column present the numeric results for each indicator for that municipality.

6th Column | County (yellow)

The two columns highlighted in yellow present information comparing the relevant county to the report municipality. The first yellow column includes the name of the county where the municipality is located. The numbers in this column present the numeric results for each indicator for that county.

7th Column | County Comparison (yellow)

The second county column compares the report municipality to all municipalities in their county. The number used for the comparison is a percentile, except for public health indicators where rates are compared. For a few indicators, where the numbers are too small for percentiles to be relevant, the indicator for the entire county is shown, if available. For example, combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are only located in 20 municipalities. Therefore, rather than using a percentile, the Community Summary Report indicates their presence by displaying “CSO” in the County Comparison column.

A common definition of a percentile is a number where a certain percentage of scores fall below that number. For example, if there were 100 municipalities in a county and your municipality has a percentile of 80 for an indicator, this means that your municipality is higher than 80 municipalities, and 19 municipalities are higher than your municipality for that indicator.

Public health indicators are provided as a percent or an age-adjusted rate and, when compared to the relevant county, are labeled as “Above,” “No Difference,” “Below,” or “Suppressed”, using 95% confidence intervals. A rate tells how frequently the health outcome occurred in a defined population over a defined time interval. An age-adjusted rate enables comparisons between populations which have different age structures. To determine if a rate is significantly different from the state rate or if any difference may be due solely to chance, a 95% confidence interval was calculated to assess the magnitude and stability of the rate. The 95% confidence interval (calculated as 1.96 times the standard error of a statistic) indicates the range of values within which the statistic would fall 95% of the time if the statistic was calculated from an infinite number of samples of the same size drawn from the same base population. The confidence interval represents the range of probable true values for a statistic. In general, as a population or sample size increases, the confidence interval gets smaller. Estimates with smaller confidence intervals are referred to as more “precise.” Less precise estimates, such as those calculated from small numbers, will have wider confidence intervals.

8th Column | State (green)

Similar to the county comparison columns, the State columns highlighted in green compare the report municipality to New Jersey overall. The first green column presents the numeric results for the indicator for the whole State.

9th Column | State Comparison (green)

The second State column compares the municipality to all municipalities in the State. As discussed above, under the 7th Column explanation, the number used for the comparison is a percentile, except for public health indicators where it compares rates. Other explanations included above, such as addressing situations where the use of percentile is impractical, also apply for the State comparisons.

When the state percentile is 80% or above, or the health indicator is statistically significantly above the state average, they are shown in **red** text. For the indicators not provided as percentile or rate, if they are present, they are also shown in **red**. Highlighting these comparisons in **red** highlights areas in need of closer attention.

*Note: Many municipalities do not have Combined Sewer Overflows or Brownfield Development Areas so the **Context and Turning Data into Action** pages for these indicators are only included if the municipality has a Combined Sewer Overflow or a Brownfield Development Area. However, **Context and Turning Data into Action** pages pertaining to the Private Wells, Major Air Sources, and Scrap Metal Facilities indicators were included for all municipalities regardless of whether the municipality has data for these indicators (blank spaces appear where measures and maps are normally provided).*
