



2021 Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book

Presentation to:
Children's Caucus
April 16th, 2021

by Maine Children's Alliance

2021

MAINE KIDS COUNT

Maine's only comprehensive report of the physical, social,
economic and educational well-being of Maine children

www.mekids.org



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION



Ellis L. Phillips Foundation



The Maine Children's Alliance, MCA,

is a nonpartisan, nonprofit that advocates for sound public policies and promotes best practices to improve the lives of Maine's children youth and families.



COVID-19 Exacerbated Existing Inequities

In Maine, the impacts of the pandemic fell disproportionately on certain populations – people who have historically faced inequitable challenges due to race, poverty, disability, or geography.

In this data book, we have included disaggregated data to expose these disparities.



Maine KIDS COUNT

- is part of the national KIDS COUNT Network, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- publishes the Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book every other year - Maine's only comprehensive report of the health, economic and educational well-being of Maine children
- maintains up-to-date online interactive state and county data <https://datacenter.kidscount.org>



Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Maine Children and Families



Child care:

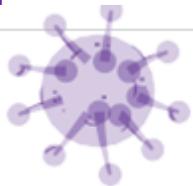
- Approximately 66% of child care providers in Maine were not able to secure enough relief funding 2020 to cover lack of revenue and increased operating costs

[Maine+Child+Care+Survey+Results+July+2020.pdf](#)

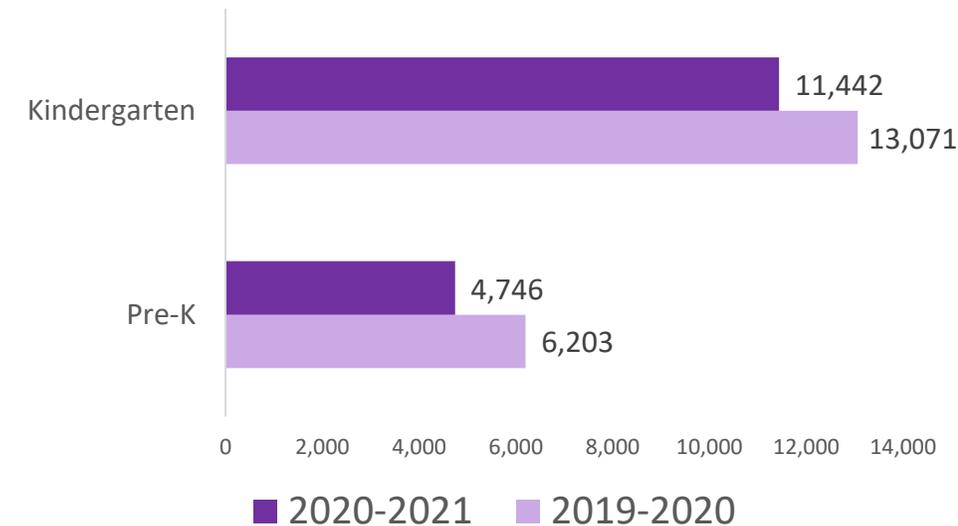
Women out of the workforce:

- 57% of net job loss in Maine during the pandemic was among women (2020)

<https://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/cps.html>

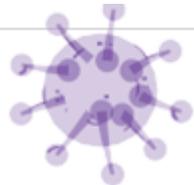


Pre-kindergarten enrollment
in Maine was down 23 %
Kindergarten was down 12%



This was the lowest pre-kindergarten enrollment since 2014.

[Maine Dept. of Educ Public School Enrollment](#)

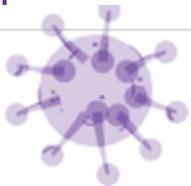


Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Teen Mental Health in Maine



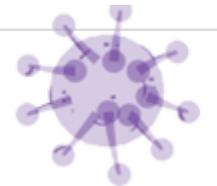
Maine teens were under stress even before the pandemic:

- 16% of Maine youth ages 12 -17 experienced a major depressive episode) [Maine-BH-Barometer 2019](#)
- 16% of 35,000 Maine high school students surveyed indicated that they had seriously considered attempting suicide in the last 12 months [Maine Integrated Youth Survey 2019](#)

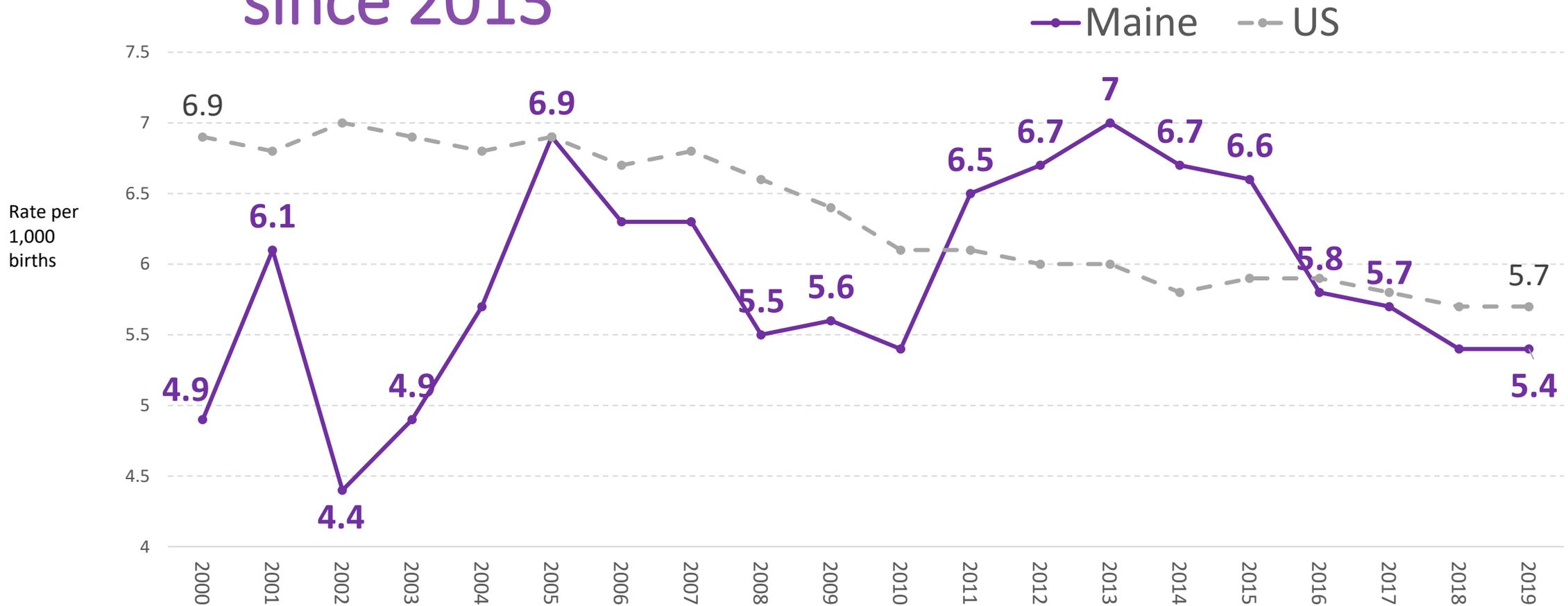


More than one in four students feels much less connected to classmates, adults, and school than before

[Americas PromiseYouthDuringCOVID](#)

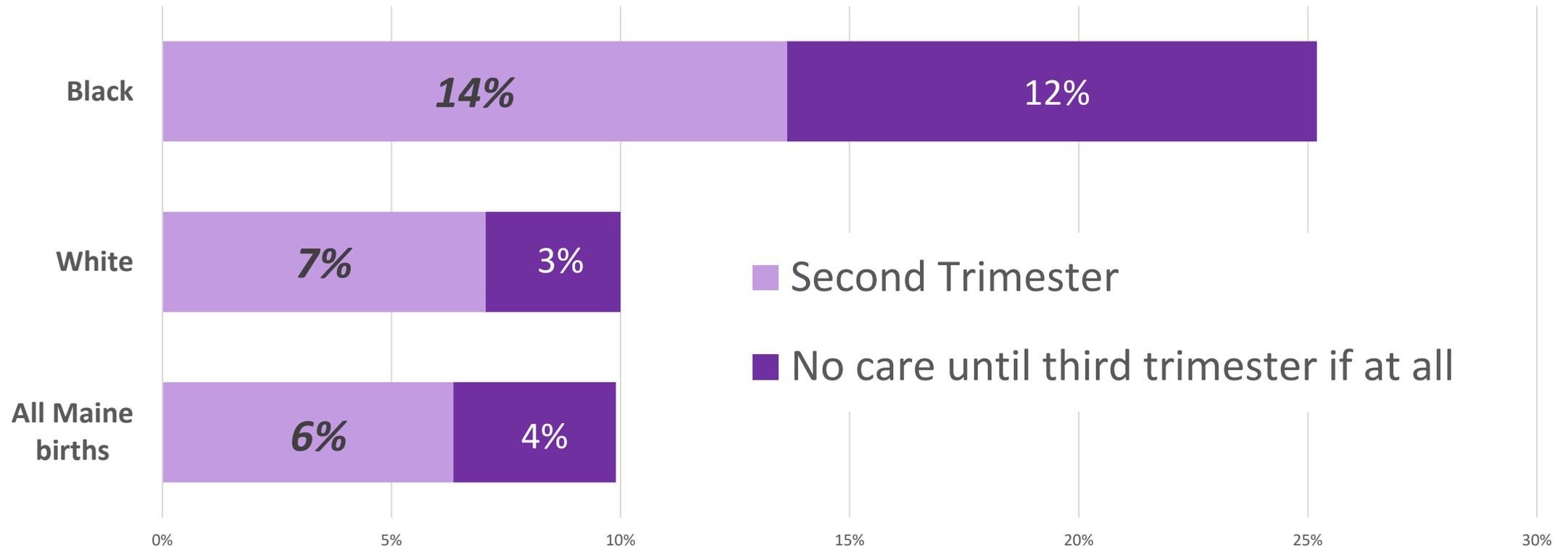


Maternal and Infant Health Equity: Infant mortality rate in Maine has declined since 2013



Source: [KIDS COUNT 1 year infant mortality rate](#)

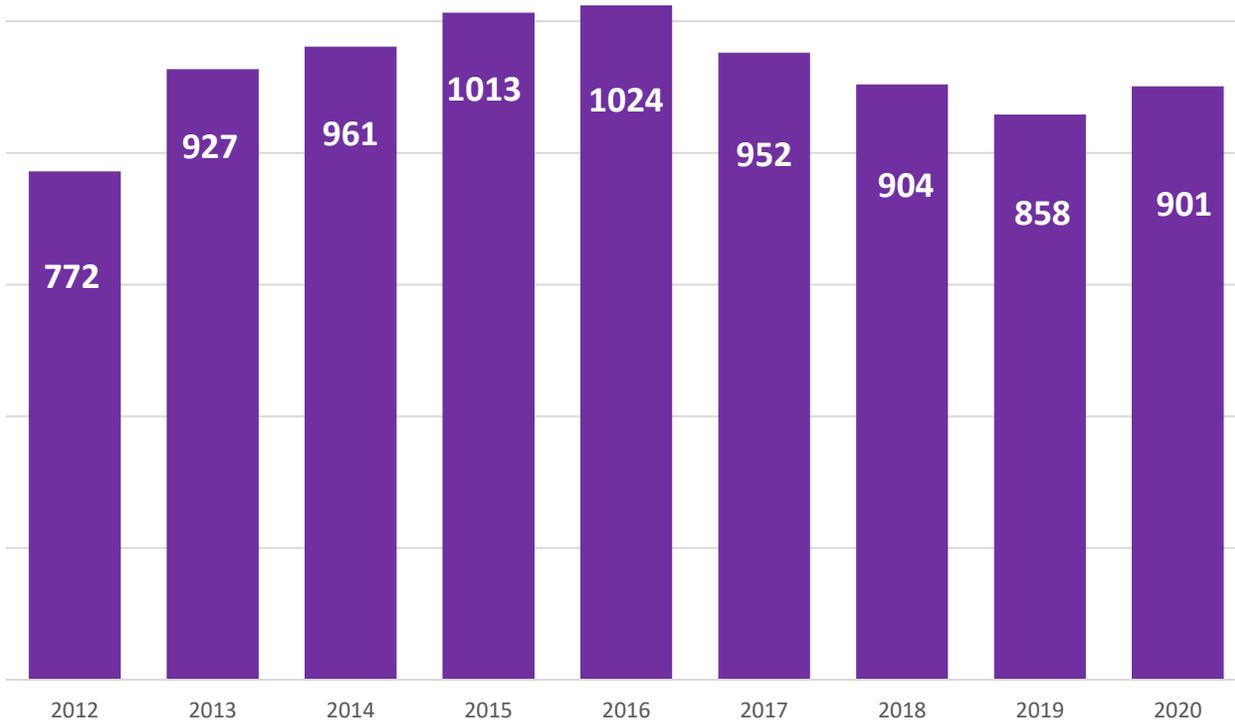
Maternal and Infant Health Equity: Racial Disparities in Pre-Natal Care



Source: Prenatal Care in First Trimester 2019, Maine Department of Human Services, Office of Vital Statistics, No Prenatal Care until Third Trimester if at all, KIDS COUNT, [births-to-women-receiving-late-or-no-prenatal-care-by-race](#) 2019,. Note that prenatal care among other races is not available because small numbers make the data uncertain.

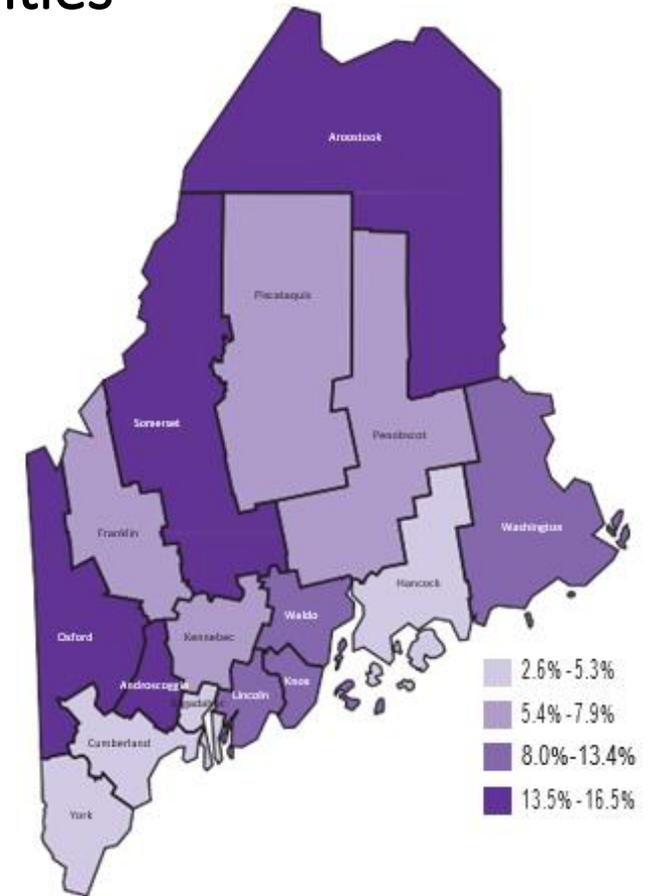
Maternal and Infant Health Equity:

The number of babies born exposed/affected to substances rose in 2020 after 3 years of declines



Source for both graph and map: Maine DHHS, OCFS Maine Automated Child Welfare Information System, calendar year 2020

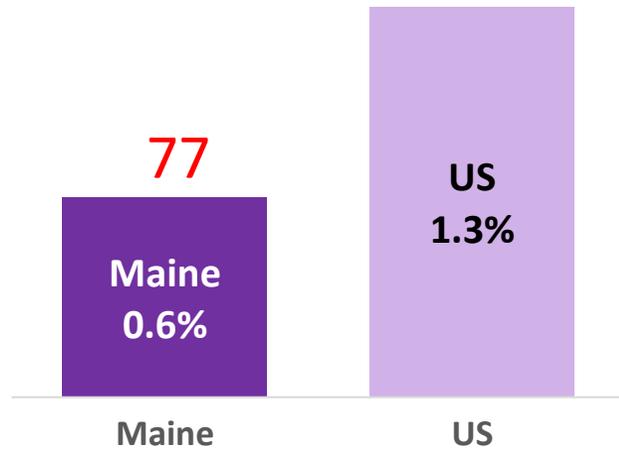
Babies born exposed/affected was as high as 1 in 7 infants in some counties



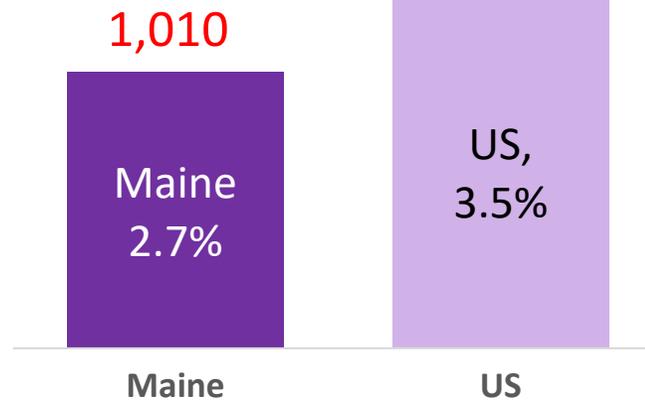
*These counties are Aroostook, Androscoggin, Washington, Oxford, and Somerset Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Child and Family Services, (OCFS), 2020

Early Intervention and Special Education

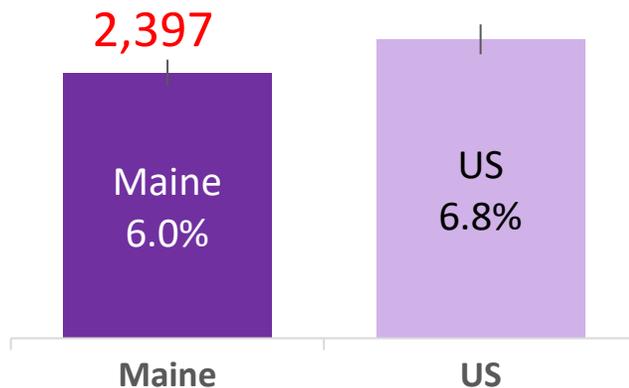
Children ages 0 -1



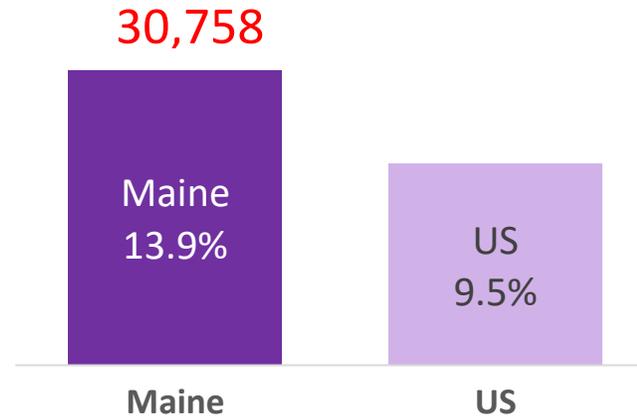
Children ages 0 -3



Children ages 3- 5



Children ages 6 -21



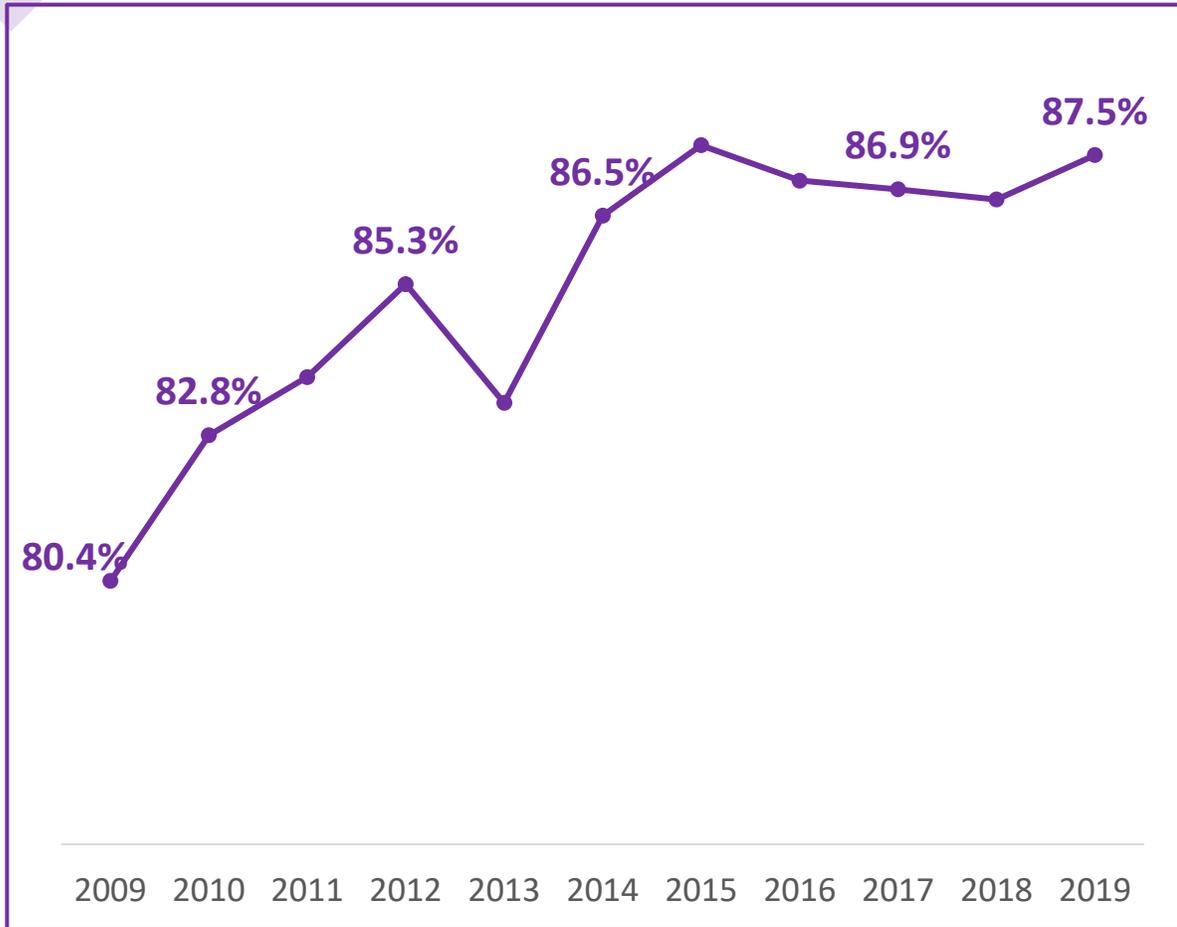
*Rates for these graphs are calculated as a percent of all children, not all children enrolled in public schools. For the graph of ages 6 -21, the denominator includes youth ages 18-21, even though most youth who do not have a disability have graduated by age 18.

These graphs do not share the same scales.

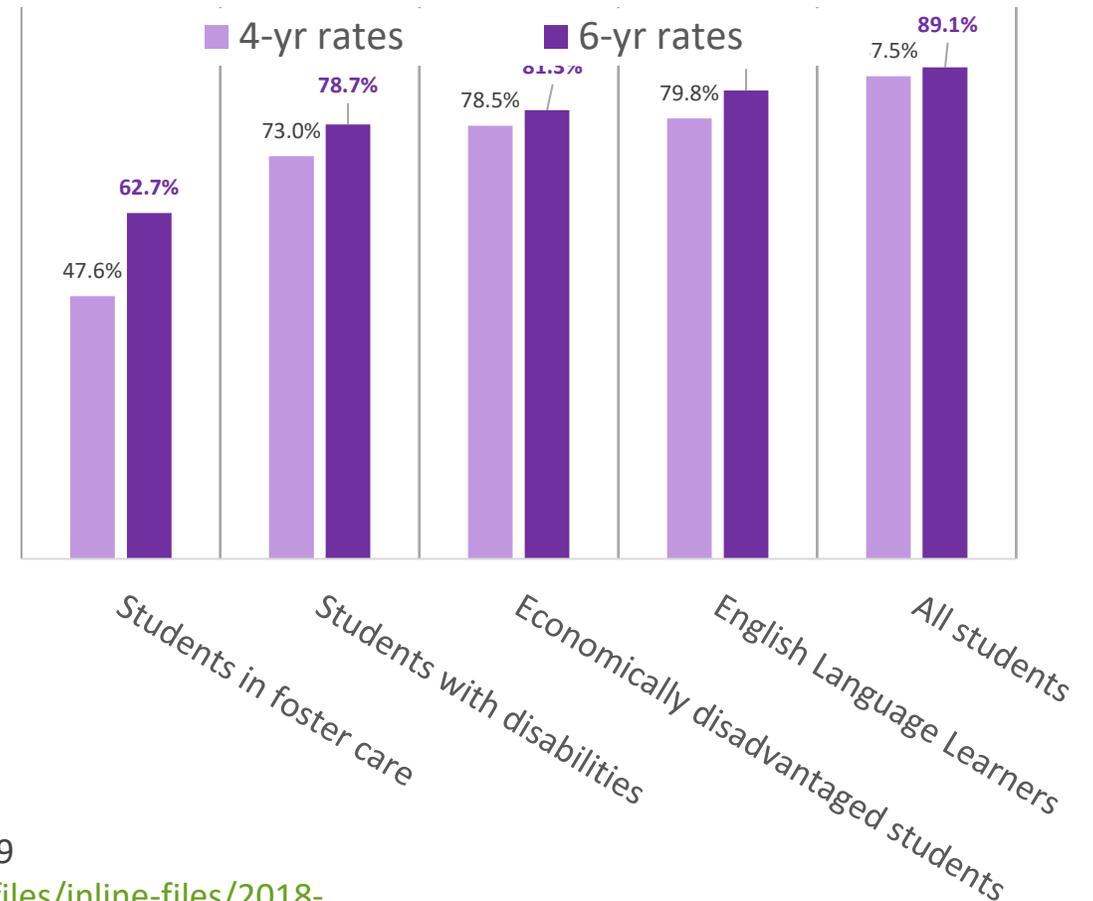
Source: Child Development Services (under age 1) and (under age 3). US Department of Education, IDEA 618, Part B Child Count and Education Environments Table 1 (ages 3-5) and Table 8 (ages 6- 21) 2019-2020.

Positive Trends for Teens

High School Graduation Rates Improve



Some students need more time to graduate, but can if given time

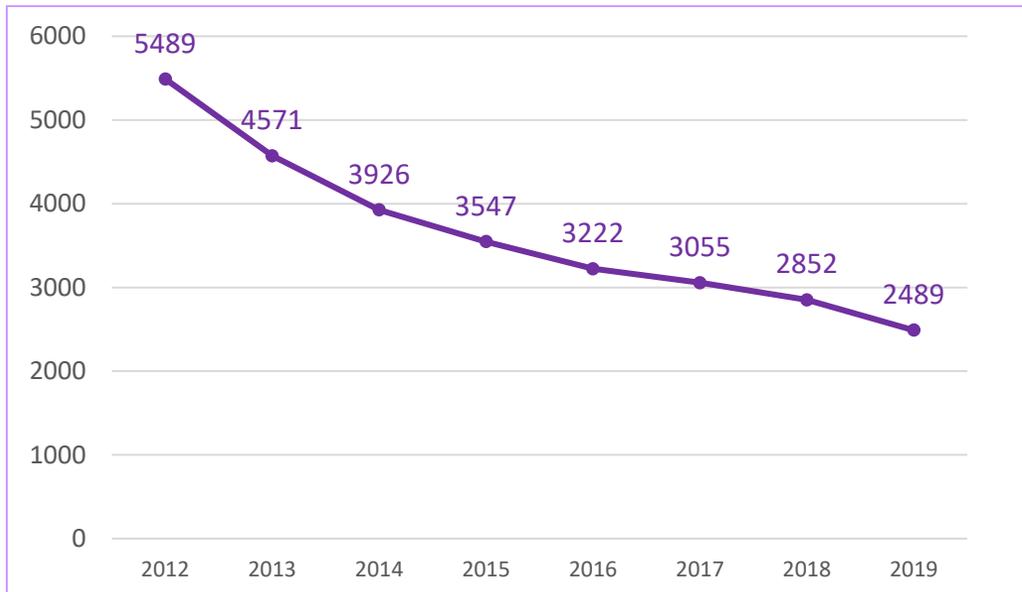


Source: Maine Department of Education, 2018-2019

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/2018-19%20Graduation%20Data.xlsx>

Positive Trends for Teens

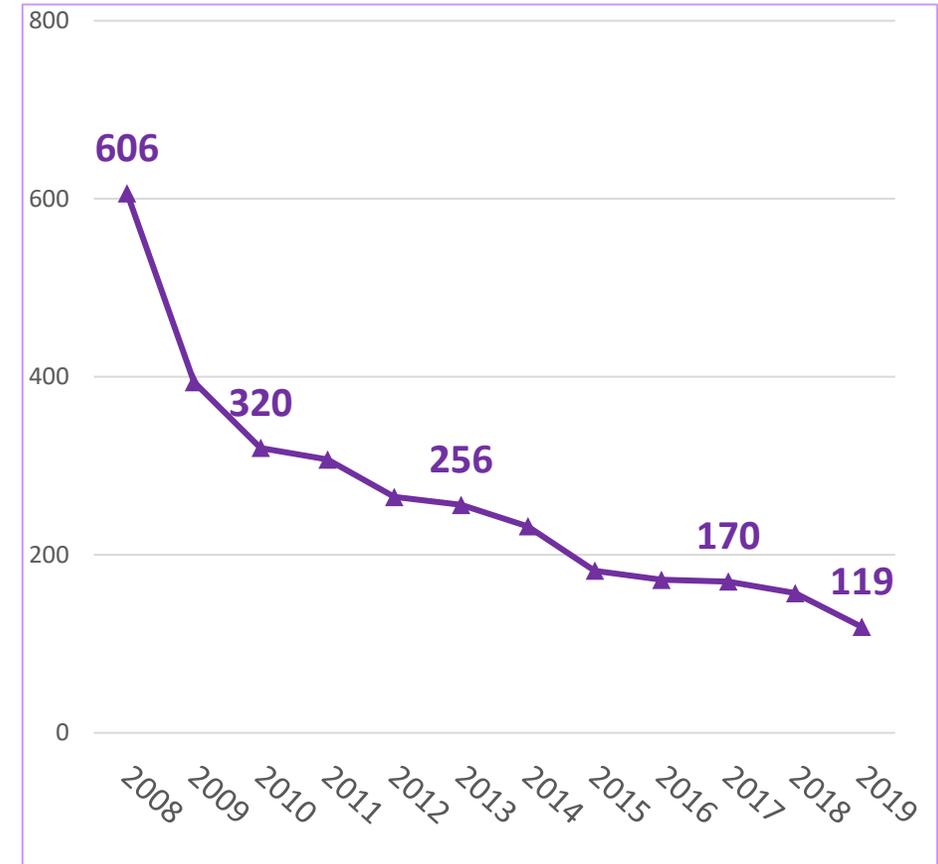
Juvenile arrests are down by 3,000 between 2012-2019



Juvenile incarcerations are down, too. from 318 incarcerated in December 1997, to 45 youth in December 2018 to 29 youth as of December 2020.

Source: Arrests--Maine Department of Public Safety [Crime in Maine 2019](#) Incarcerations- Maine Department of Corrections, Juvenile Services, point in time in December each year.

Young teen pregnancy (ages 10 -17) is down 80% since 2008

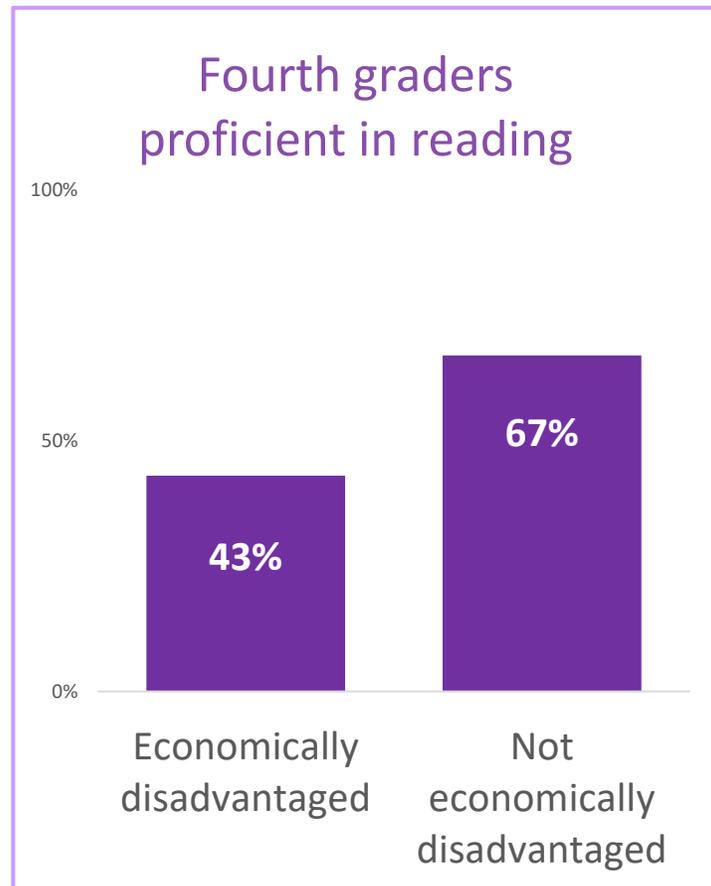


Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics; and posted to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT [KIDS COUNT young-teen-pregnancy-](#)

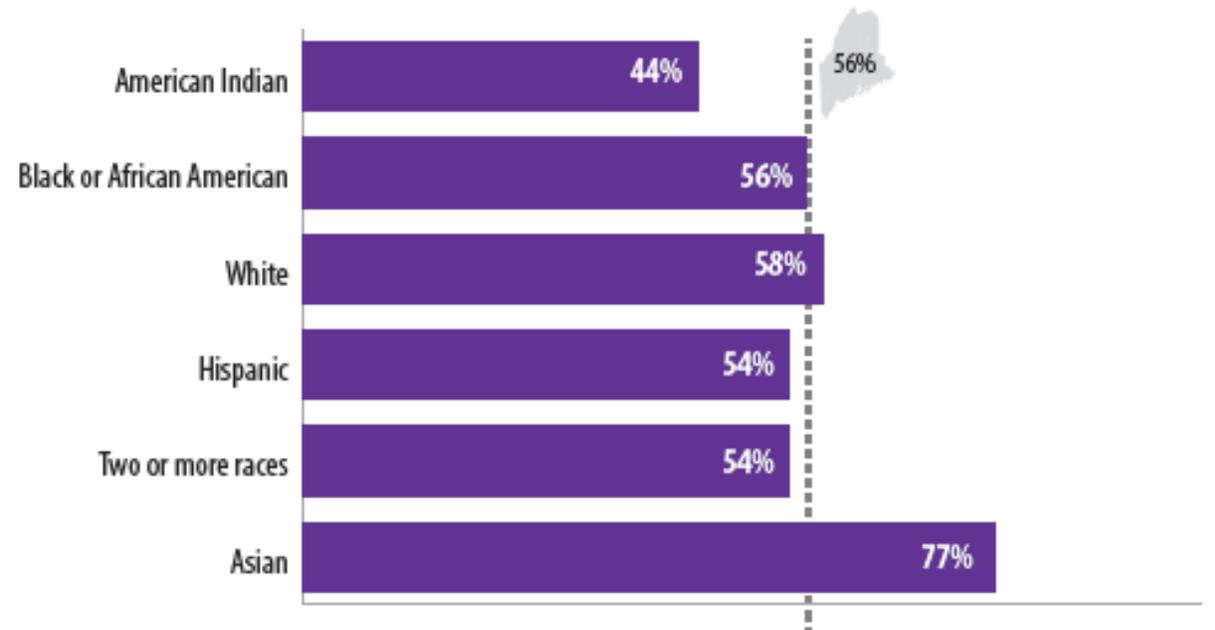
Other Positive Educational Trends:

Improvements in 4th grade reading proficiency

Statewide: from 51.7% in 2018 to 56.2% in 2019



FOURTH GRADERS PROFICIENT IN READING



Source: Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine, Analysis of statewide data from Maine Education Assessment (MEA), March 2019

*English Language Learners are not included.

Other positive trends

Maine continues to rank well compared to other states in Healthy Habits

Source: [National Child Health Survey 2018-2019](#)

Healthy Habits, Thriving Maine Families

Source: National Child Health Survey 2018-2019

Family Strengths
95%

There's an adult besides a parent that the child can rely upon

43%

Families eat meals together



47%

Young children are read to every day

86%

Parents feel supported by another adult



Physical Health

41%

Children ages 6-11 exercise daily

19%

Children ages 12 - 17 years exercise daily



69%

Child has normal body weight

Healthy Habits

21%

Child usually spends less than one hour per weekday in front of any screen, not including schoolwork

71%

Child sleeps enough



84%

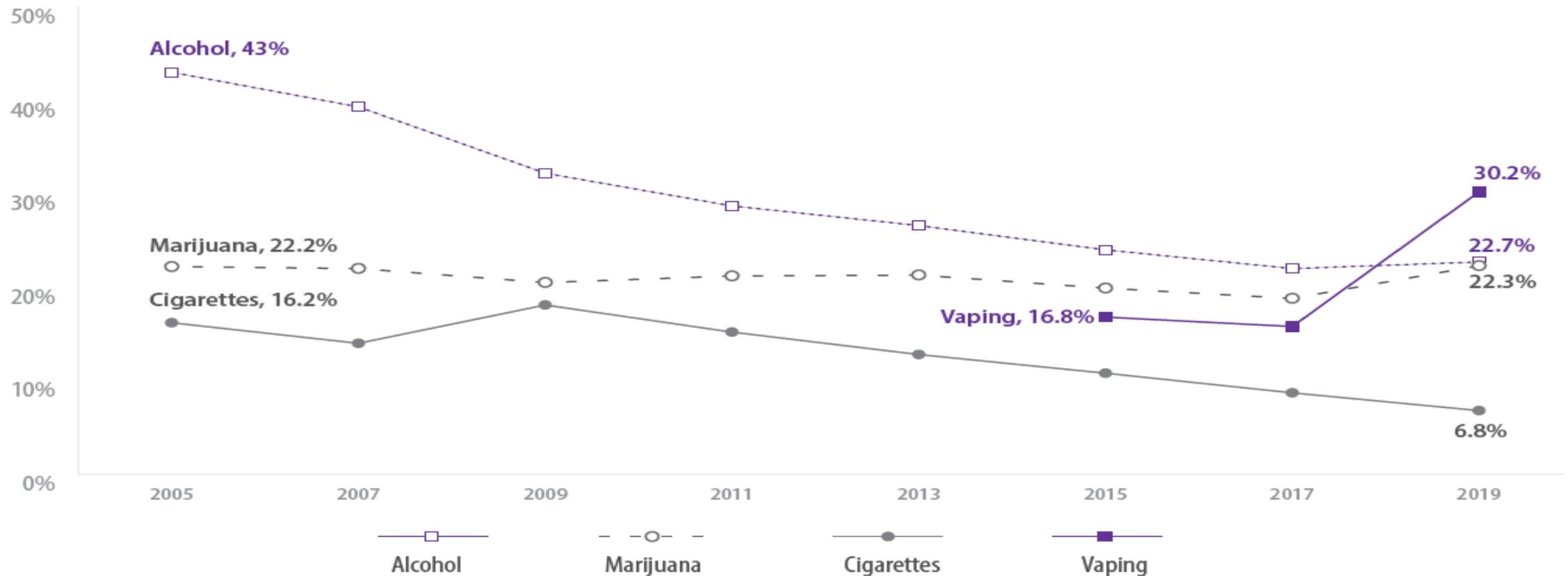
No one smokes in child's home



Adolescent Health:

Alcohol, Marijuana, Vaping and Tobacco Use comparing 2017 to 2019

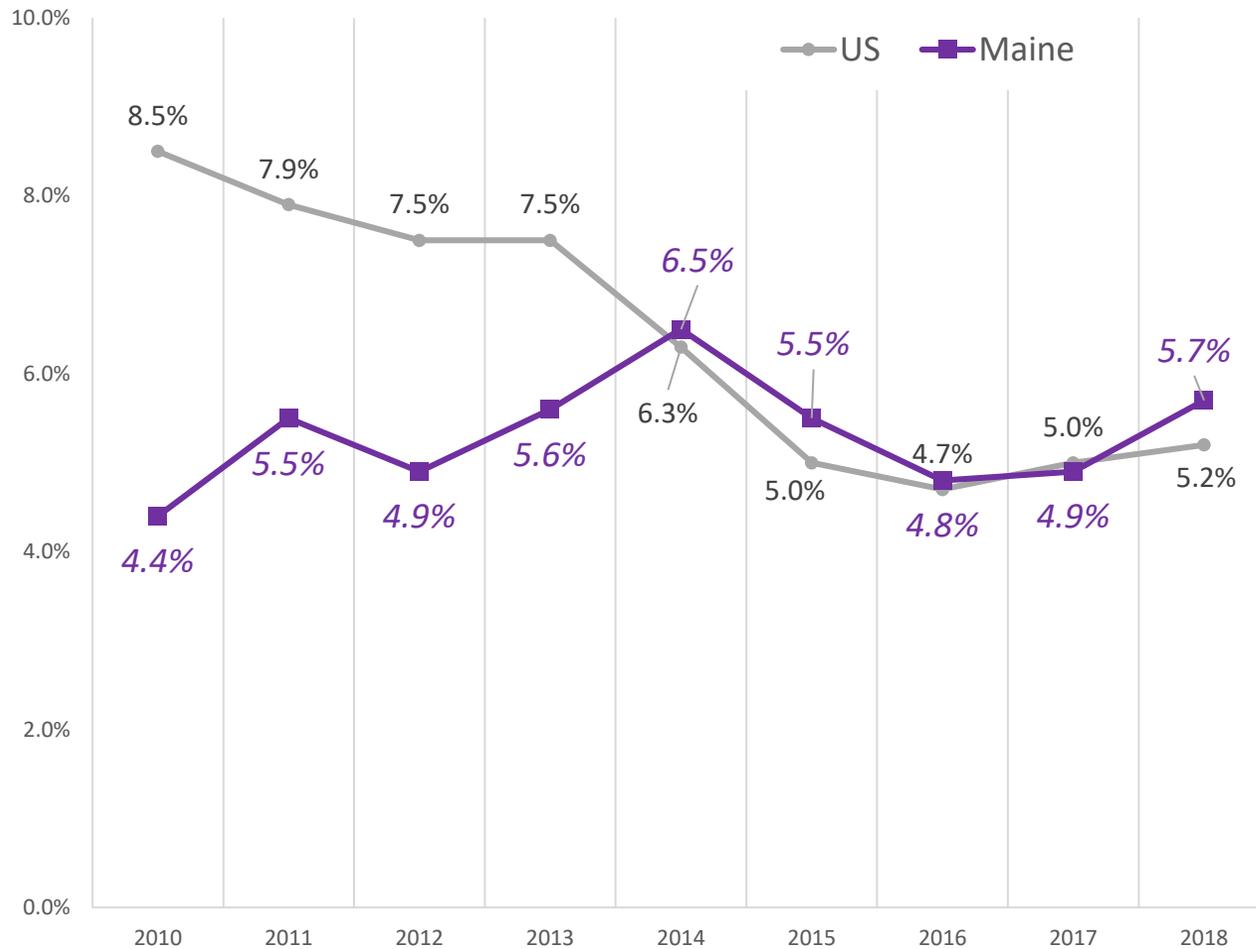
- Vaping use doubled
- Alcohol use was steady
- Marijuana use trended up
- Tobacco use was down



Source: CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System [YRBS Maine 2019](#)

Health care coverage

In 2018, Maine's Rate of Uninsured Children Rose Above the National Rate



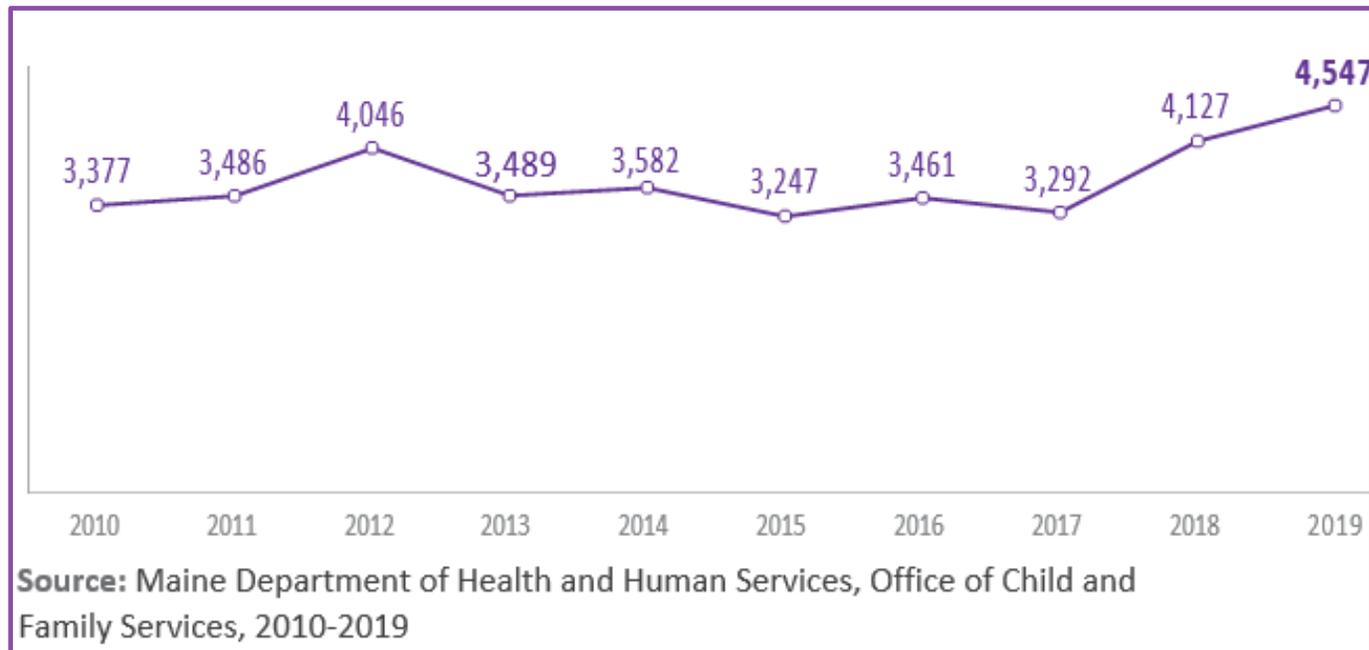
5.7% represents about 14,500 Maine children without health care coverage

Given parental unemployment and loss of employer-sponsored health insurance during the pandemic, it is likely more children have lost coverage during this crisis.

Source: [Small Area Health Insurance Estimates \(SAHIE\), 2018](#)

Child Welfare

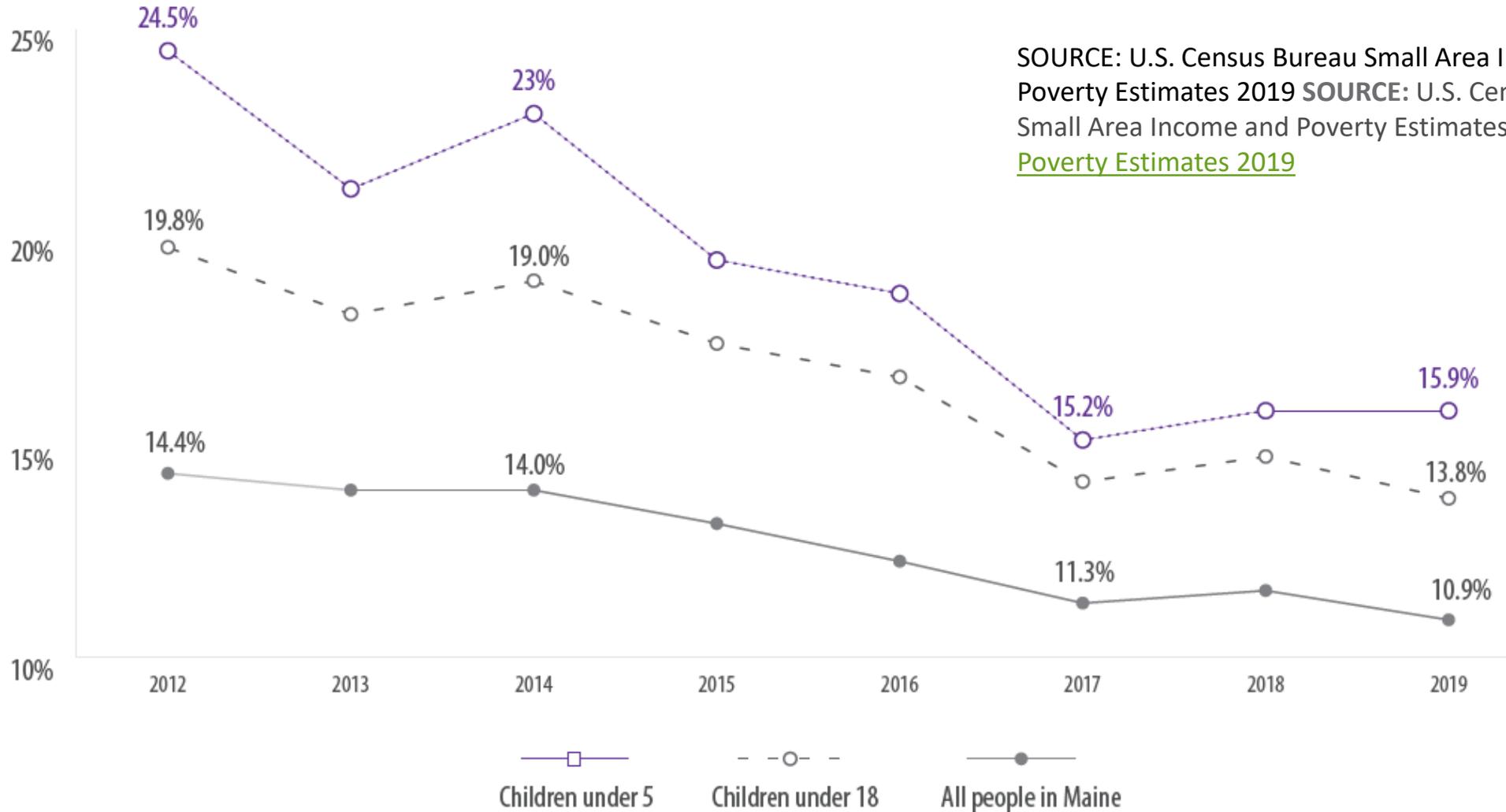
- Between 2017 and 2019, there was a 38% increase in children experiencing maltreatment, from 3,292 to 4,547 children
- There were more children experiencing maltreatment in 2019, than any year in the past 10 years



Between 2017 and 2019, there was a 52% increase in the number of children entering foster care from 820 children to 1,246 children.

Child Poverty

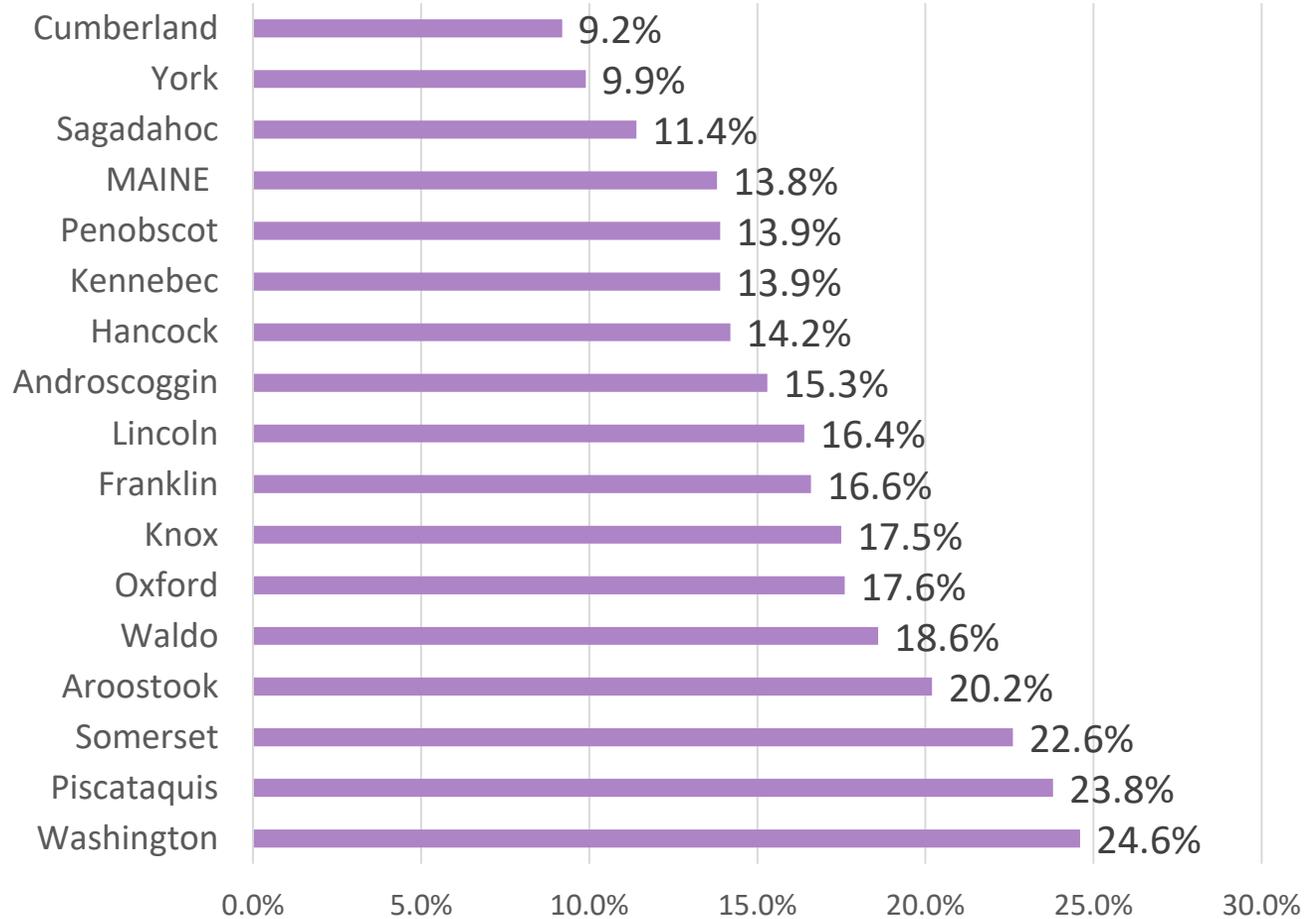
MAINE'S OVERALL CHILD POVERTY RATE HAS BEEN DECREASING SINCE 2012
2017 WAS THE YEAR WITH THE LOWEST POVERTY RATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5



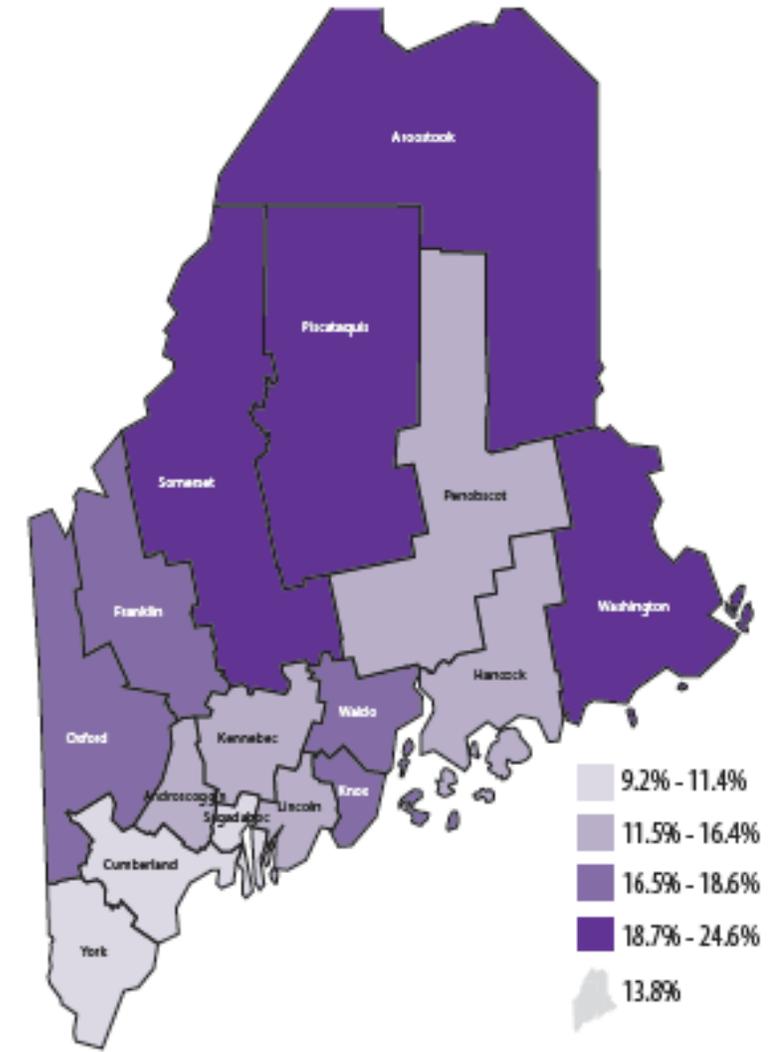
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates 2019 SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates 2019 [SAHIE Poverty Estimates 2019](#)

Child Poverty

Child poverty rate by county



TWO COUNTIES HAD CHILD POVERTY RATES BELOW 10 PERCENT, WHILE FOUR COUNTIES HAD RATES ABOVE 20 PERCENT

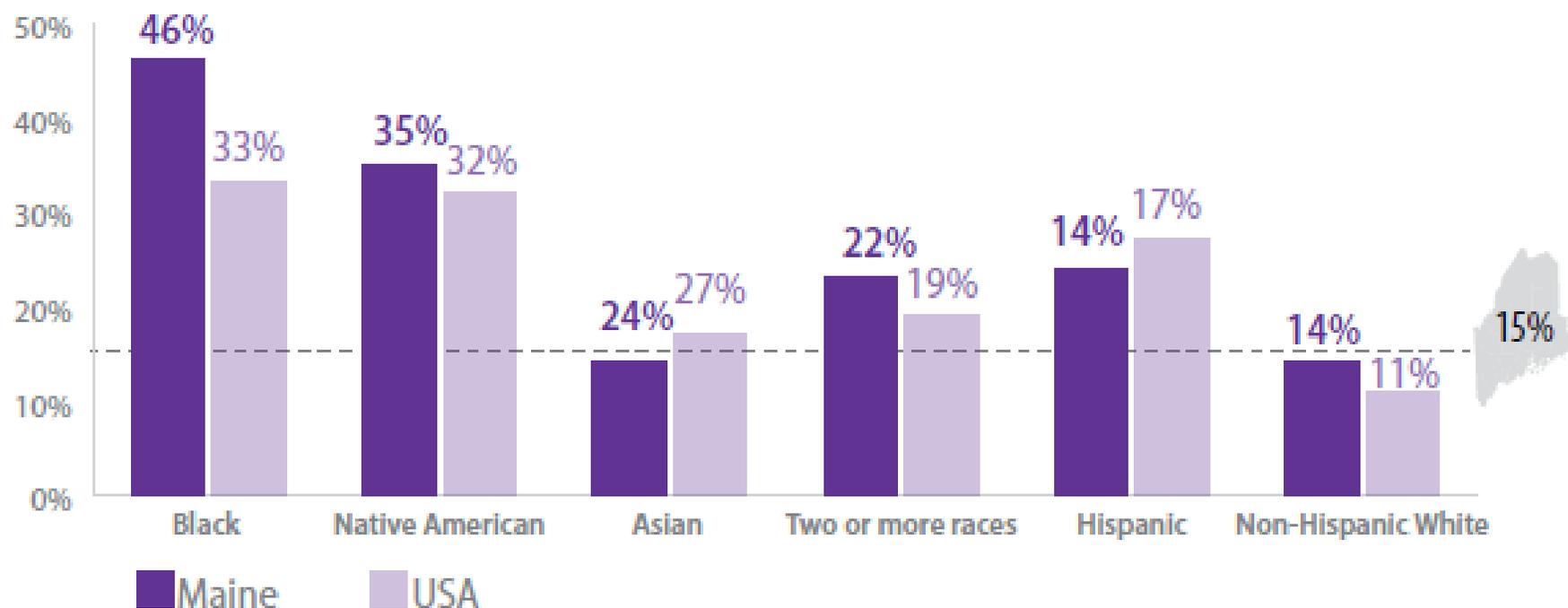


SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates 2019 SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates 2019 [SAHIE Poverty Estimates 2019](#)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE, 2019)

Racial Disparities in Child Poverty

CHILDREN OF COLOR EXPERIENCED HIGHER RATES OF POVERTY IN MAINE AND THE NATION



Source: MCA Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019). Tables B1700, & B170011A-I

Housing



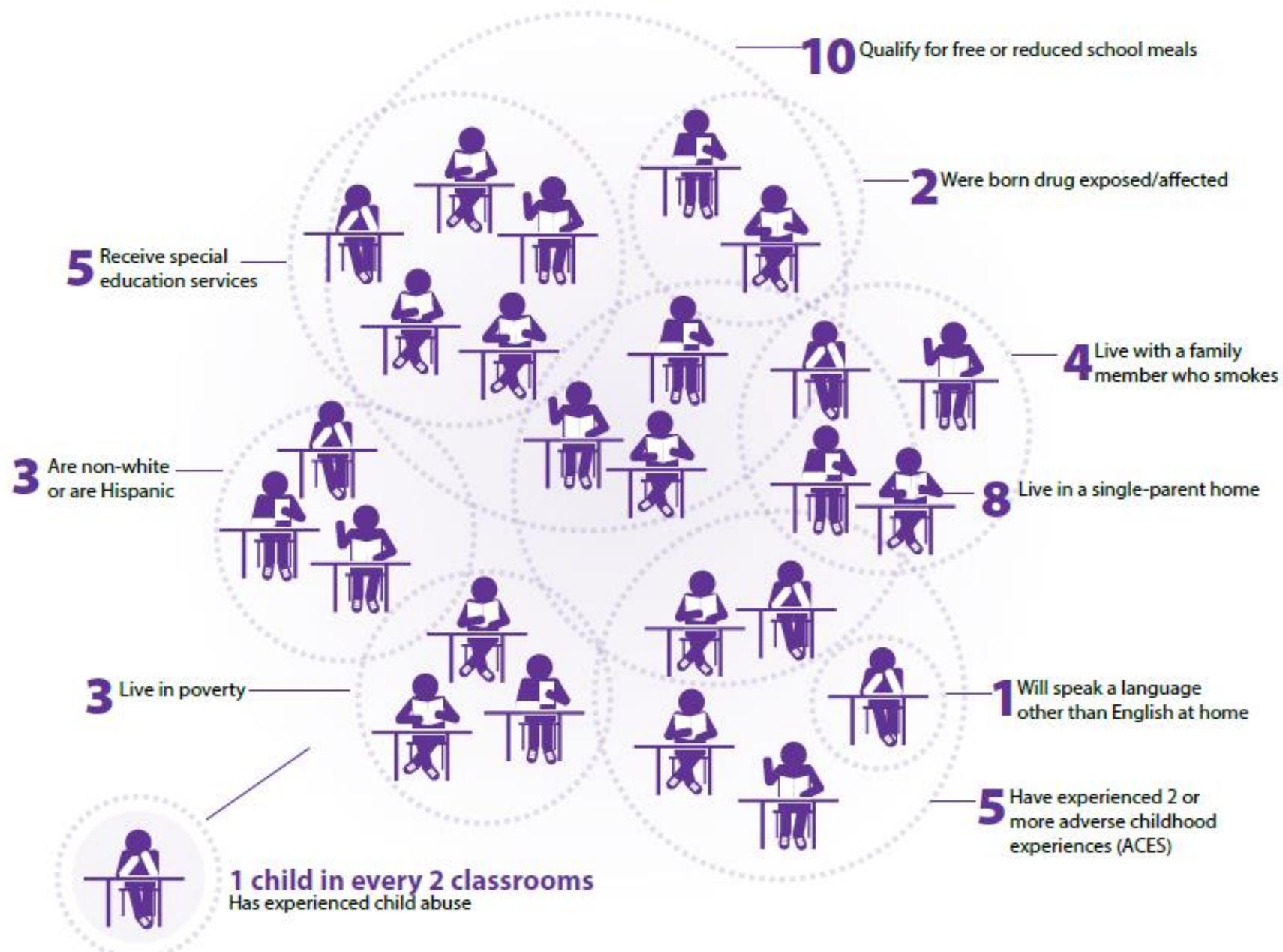
43,000 children in low-income households where housing costs exceed 30% of income.

KIDS COUNT
Children in low
income
households with
high housing cost

On January 28, 2020, there were 250 Maine children in homeless shelters.

Maine Housing
Point in Time
Survey

A Hypothetical Classroom of 25 first graders in Maine



Based on statewide rates of children of all ages, except child abuse is for children under age 6 and babies born drug exposed/affected is for births from 2013-2020.



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Questions?

For viewing the sources of the data and the links to the KIDS COUNT Data Center, and to footnoted articles, please download your copy of this report at our website. www.mekids.org

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