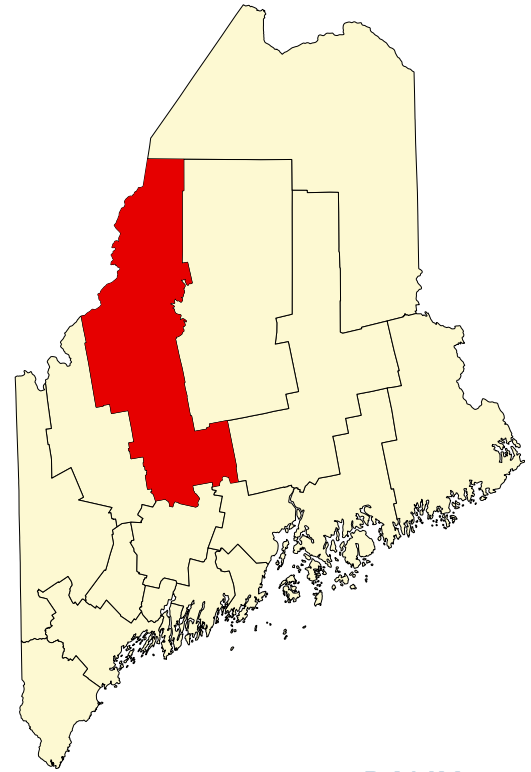


DEMOGRAPHICS

	MAINE	SOMERSET
Total population	1,405,012	51,338
Births	11,586	427
Children under age 5	60,550	2,259
Total children ages 0-17	247,082	9,274
Median household income	\$73,463	\$56,422
SNAP	54,617 (22%)	3,077 (33%)
MaineCare	140,666 (53%)	6,907 (71%)



Areas of Strength + Challenge

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	4
Child maltreatment per 1,000	15

HEALTH, SAFETY, + WELL-BEING

RANK

16

	MAINE		SOMERSET			
1st trimester prenatal care	85.1%	83.1%	82.2%	73.2%	↓ WORSE	16
ME 9,516 SO 306	2021	2024	2021	2024		
Children without insurance	5.7%	4.6%	6.0%	5.8%	↑ BETTER	11
ME 11,881 SO 565	2018	2023	2018	2023		
Children receiving dental care	63.9%	40.4%	62.1%	54.0%	↓ WORSE	9
ME 118,763 SO 4,685	2018	2023	2018	2023		
Child maltreatment per 1,000	18.3	16.6	42.2	39.8	↑ BETTER	15
ME 4,112 SO 369	2019	2024	2019	2024		

FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

5

MAINE

SOMERSET

Children in poverty

ME 30,775 SO 1,650

14.8% 12.6%
2018 2023

21.1% 18.0%
2018 2023

↑
BETTER

12

ALICE households

ME 177,879 SO 6,840

29.3% 29.4%
2018 2023

27.7% 30.1%
2018 2023

↓
WORSE

10

Childhood food insecurity

ME 50,610 SO 2,340

15.9% 20.6%
2020 2023

24.3% 24.7%
2020 2023

↓
WORSE

13

Renter housing burden

ME 65,062 SO 1,819

47.9% 52.3%
2018 2023

60.9% 45.6%
2018 2023

↑
BETTER

2

EARLY CARE + EDUCATION

16

MAINE

SOMERSET

Child care providers

ME -14.8% SO -35.9%

1,659 1,413
2019 2024

64 41
2019 2024

↓
WORSE

16

Public preschool

ME 6,116 SO 296

47.0% 47.5%
2019 2024

66.9% 61.5%
2019 2024

↓
WORSE

4

4th grade reading

ME 7,557 SO 269

83.4% 63.6%
2021 2025

74.0% 58.5%
2021 2025

↓
WORSE

12

Chronic absenteeism

ME 42,196 SO 2,188

16.7% 24.6%
2019 2025

23.5% 31.8%
2019 2025

↓
WORSE

14

Notes

The Maine Children's Alliance is part of the national KIDS COUNT® network of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which provides reliable, up-to-date data indicators on the well-being of children in Maine and across the nation through an accessible online platform. This County Profile highlights those indicators for which county-level data exists and where progress can be clearly measured. By understanding these indicators and using them to guide policy decisions, we can help ensure that Maine's children and families have the best opportunity to thrive.

Each County Profile includes demographic data and information on twelve selected indicators with comparisons to county and statewide data from five years prior. When data from exactly five years prior were unavailable, we used the next closest year for which data were available.

Counties were ranked on each indicator, category, and overall to reflect how well each county performed relative to each other. When counties received identical rankings, they received the same rank, and the next rank was skipped. The overall ranking represents the average rank across all three sections.

Total population. 2024. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics.

Births. 2024. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics.

Children under age 5. 2024. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics.

Total children ages 0-17. 2024. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics.

Median household income. 2023. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). 2024. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Independence.

Children with MaineCare. 2024. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare.

1st trimester prenatal care. 2024. Vital Statistics. The numerator is the number of mothers that received prenatal care in the first trimester, and the denominator is the total number of live births. A methodology change in 2021 makes previous data from any previous years not directly comparable.

Children without insurance. 2023. Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. The numerator is children ages 0 to 19 years who did not have health insurance at any point during the year, and the denominator is all children ages 0 to 19 years.

Children receiving dental care. 2023. Children's Oral Health Network. The numerator is the number of children ages 0 to 20 years who had either MaineCare or commercial dental coverage for at least 11 months of the year, and who had at least one claim for a dental service, and the denominator is the total number of children ages 0 to 20 years.

Child maltreatment. 2024. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Division of Child Welfare. This rate was calculated as the unique number of children in a calendar year who are victims of child maltreatment per 1,000 children ages birth to age 17. Substantiated child maltreatment cases are defined by assessments that lead to a finding of a threat to a child's health or welfare by physical, mental or emotional injury or impairment, sexual abuse or exploitation, deprivation of essential needs or lack of protection from these by a person responsible for the child (22 MRSA §4002).

Notes

Children in poverty. 2023. US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. The numerator is the estimated number of children ages 0 to 17 living in families who have incomes below the poverty thresholds for the 1-year period noted, and the denominator is the total number of children ages 0 to 17. For 2023, a family of 4 was in poverty if their cash income was less than \$30,000.

ALICE - Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Households in Maine, 2023. ALICE in Maine. The numerator is the number of households with incomes above the Federal Poverty Level but below what is needed to afford the cost of basic expenses, and the denominator is all households. The numerator was adjusted for household size and composition for each county. For more information on methodology, see the [ALICE Research Methodology Overview](#).

Childhood food insecurity, 2023. Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap. The numerator is the number of children under age 18 living in households experiencing food insecurity, and the denominator is the total number of children under age 18. Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. A methodology change in 2020 made data from any previous years not directly comparable.

Renter housing burden, 2023. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. The numerator is the number of renter households who are paying more than 30% of their income, and the denominator is all renter households for whom the percent of income spent on housing could be determined according to the US Census American Community Survey, Table DP04, 5-year estimates. All households, not just households with children under age 18, are included. The year 2023 represents data for 2019-2023. Care should be used in interpreting data that is in overlapping intervals.

Child care centers, 2024. Maine Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child & Family Services. The number of licensed family child care providers and licensed child care facilities in Maine. The year refers to the number of licensed sites in December. For this indicator, counties were ranked not on the number of licensed providers but on the percent change over time in licensed providers. Caution should be used when interpreting this indicator as a decrease in the number of providers does not directly equal a decrease in child care capacity.

Public preschool, 2024. Maine Department of Education. The numerator is the number of four-year-old children enrolled in a four-year-old program offered through a school administrative unit, and the denominator is the number of four-year-old children. Children must be four years of age by October 15 of the entering school year in order to be eligible for a public preschool program, also known as pre-kindergarten. Data marked as 2024 is for students enrolled as of October 2024 and the year indicated is the fall term of the year, such that "2024" means the 2024-2025 school year.

4th grade reading, 2025. Maine Department of Education. The numerator is the number of fourth grade students who scored "at or above state expectations," and the denominator is the number of fourth-grade students who took the test. Grade 4 reading was selected as an indicator because at that grade level students are reading to learn, as opposed to learning to read. The year represents spring of the school year, so, for example, 2025 refers to the school year of 2024-2025. Due to Covid-19, the test was not administered in the 2019-2020 school year.

Chronic absenteeism, 2025. Maine Department of Education. The numerator is the number of students who were absent 10% or more of the days enrolled, including both excused and unexcused absences, and the denominator is the total number of students enrolled. The year represents the spring of the school year, so, for example, 2025 refers to the school year of 2024-2025. Incomplete data for the 2019-2020 school year resulted in the use of data for the 2018-2019 school year.

Special thanks to our funders!

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