

Androscoggin County, with the cities of Lewiston and Auburn, is one of the five counties in Maine with 23,000 or more children and it is the most diverse county in the state with 24.8% children of color.

Areas of Strength

Androscoggin County had the second highest rate of all parents in the workforce and the third lowest rate of uninsured children. Androscoggin saw economic improvements, as the child poverty rate declined by from 13.8% to 12.8% from 2019 to 2020. Jobs that pay a living wage and income supports such as the Child Tax Credit promote safe, financially stable families. Androscoggin also improved in the rate of four-year-olds in public preschool and ranked fourth.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
All parents in the workforce	2
Uninsured children	3
Public preschool	4

Areas of Challenge

Androscoggin County had the second lowest rate of prenatal care in the first trimester. Androscoggin also had the third lowest rate of students graduating high school; 76.9% in 2021 compared to 80.1% the previous year. Androscoggin had the highest chronic absenteeism rate among secondary schools at 45.9%, (10 or more excused and unexcused absences). Creating a positive school climate where students feel they matter improves individual student outcomes and well-being.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Chronic absenteeism	16
Prenatal care in first trimester	15
High school graduation	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Androscoggin	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	6,185	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	17,047	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	23,232	247,952
Births, 2021	1,121	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	5,760	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	3,507	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	14,354	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	6,864	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	4,121	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	1,161	5.0%	5.2%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	937	85.6%	86.3%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	867	64.2%	62.7%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	277	11.9	10.2		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	426	18.3	17.3		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	3,507	15.6%	15.3%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$57,723	\$58,958		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	283	5.2%	3.8%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.9%	5.1%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	7,610	77.5%	77.5%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	748	59.8%	51.0%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	799	76.9%	80.1%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	45.9%	28.2%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	24	15.2%	10.4%		17.7%

= Better, = Worse, = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

†See [Census 2020 Children by race/ethnicity](#) for the numbers and percents for children of each race and ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; and among Non-Hispanic children of the following races: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; Two or More Races or Some Other Race; and White.

*Chronic absenteeism is based on ten or more excused or unexcused absences and is an unweighted average of secondary schools, not taking into account the number of students per school.

Aroostook County is the most northern and remote county in Maine, with approximately 12,200 children.

Areas of Strength

Aroostook County continued to have the highest rate of children enrolled in public preschool, though still lower than before the pandemic. An estimated 77.8% of four-year-olds attended public preschool in 2021-2022, compared to 92.9% in 2019-2020. Aroostook improved from the previous year in several economic measures, including a lower child poverty rate, a higher percentage of parents with children under age 6 working, and a lower percentage of teens not in school and not working.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	1

Areas of Challenge

Aroostook County had the highest rate of children in foster care and the third highest rate of substantiated child maltreatment. Aroostook also had the second highest child poverty rate; the second lowest median household income in the state at \$45,523; and the third highest unemployment rate. Jobs that pay a living wage and income supports such as the Child Tax Credit promote safe, financially stable families.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Children in foster care	16
Child poverty	15
Median household income	15
Unemployment rate	14
Child maltreatment	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Aroostook	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	3,148	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	9,053	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	12,201	247,952
Births, 2021	650	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,704	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	2,211	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	7,994	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	3,581	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	8,908	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	884	7.2%	6.3%	👎	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	523	89.4%	90.6%	👎	90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	705	75.6%	78.4%	👎	72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	193	15.8	19.2	👍	9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	341	26.7	32.3	👍	16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	2,211	18.8%	20.2%	👍	12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$45,523	\$40,675	👍	\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	86	2.7%	4.1%	👍	3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	5.7%	5.1%	👎	4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	3,700	65.9%	59.6%	👍	70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	465	77.8%	73.8%	👍	42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	628	87.7%	86.2%	👍	86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	28.6%	26.8%	👎	20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	10	16.1%	12.0%	👍	17.7%

👍 = Better, 👎 = Worse, 🟡 = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

†See [Census 2020 Children by race/ethnicity](#) for the numbers and percents for children of each race and ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; and among Non-Hispanic children of the following races: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; Two or More Races or Some Other Race; and White.

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Cumberland County, which includes the city of Portland, is the most populous county in Maine with 54,500 children and is the county with the second most diverse child population.

Areas of Strength

Cumberland County had the highest household median income, at \$75,455; the lowest child poverty rate; the lowest rate of uninsured children; and the lowest child maltreatment rate. Cumberland had the third highest high school graduation rate and the third lowest rate of secondary school students chronically absent (10 or more excused and unexcused absences). Cumberland improved in the number of high-quality child care sites in the QRIS system. A diversified local economy and a strong educational system helps children thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median household income	1
Child poverty	1
Uninsured children	1
Child maltreatment	1

Areas of Challenge

Cumberland County ranked last in the rate of four-year-olds attending public preschool with just 22.4% of children attending in 2021-2022. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age five is important to build a foundation for success. Both the rates of child maltreatment and children in foster care increased by over 15% from the previous year in Cumberland. All children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	16

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Cumberland	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	14,135	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	40,327	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	54,462	247,952
Births, 2021	2,870	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	12,850	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	4,644	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	20,618	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	7,314	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	12,003	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	2,430	4.3%	4.5%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	2,456	89.3%	89.9%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	2,695	71.8%	67.6%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	278	5.1	4.4		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	445	8.0	6.5		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	4,644	8.8%	9.2%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$75,455	\$75,254		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	396	2.8%	3.1%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.0%	4.9%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	16,290	73.8%	75.1%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	658	22.4%	18.2%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	2,998	88.5%	89.5%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	18.7%	18.8%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	59	19.7%	11.9%		17.7%

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Franklin County, with Maine’s western mountains, is rural, and the second least populous county in Maine with 5,240 children.

Areas of Strength

Franklin County ranked second in the rate of four-year-olds attending public pre-schools with rates nearly doubling from 33.8% the previous year to 64.9% for the 2021-2022 school year. Attending to the educational needs of young children builds a foundation for success. Franklin County also had the second lowest rate of teens not in school and not working. Franklin’s rate of uninsured children also improved from 6.1% to 5.3% in 2020 and is fifth among all counties.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	2
Teens not in school and not working	2
Uninsured children	5

Areas of Challenge

Franklin County had the lowest rate of all parents of children under age 6 in the workforce, at 53.8%. Franklin also has the second lowest rate of high school graduation at 76.0% as well as the second highest rate of chronic absenteeism among secondary schools, (10 or more excused and unexcused days). Creating a positive school climate where students feel they matter improves individual student outcomes and, in turn, helps build a strong work force.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
All parents in the workforce	16
High school graduation	15
Chronic absenteeism	15

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Franklin	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,266	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	3,974	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	5,240	247,952
Births, 2021	227	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	614	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	820	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	3,102	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,242	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	1,141	59,291



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	282	5.3%	6.1%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	197	90.0%	87.2%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	177	74.4%	76.4%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	41	7.8	8.1		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	77	14.2	14.6		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	820	16.2%	16.6%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$49,317	\$51,136		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	24	1.4%	2.6%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	5.3%	5.6%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	1,635	53.8%	63.4%		70.1%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	168	64.9%	33.8%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	257	76.0%	86.3%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	39.0%	34.0%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	9	22.5%	21.4%		17.7%

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Hancock County, home to Acadia National Park, is a Downeast coastal community with approximately 9,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Hancock County had the third highest rate of prenatal care in the first trimester. Hancock also experienced a drop in child poverty to 12.9%, very close to the state rate. Hancock was one of only six counties where the level of chronic absenteeism among secondary schools, (10 or more excused and unexcused absences) improved in 2020-2021. Supports to families in poverty such as the Child Tax Credit and a positive educational climate helps children thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Prenatal care in first trimester	3
Chronic absenteeism	4

Areas of Challenge

Hancock County had the lowest rate of child care sites rated in the QRIS system as high-quality. Hancock County also had the second lowest rate of four-year-olds attending public preschool at 29.4% in 2021-2022, but up from 18.0% the previous year. Attention to the educational needs of children under age five is important to build a foundation for success. Another area of concern is a substantial increase in teens not in school and not working.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	16
Public preschool	15

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Hancock	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	2,250	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	6,778	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	9,028	247,952
Births, 2021	374	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,205	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	1,145	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	4,668	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,579	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	1,802	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	682	7.3%	7.3%	—	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	391	94.2%	92.0%	👍	90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	306	68.9%	74.9%	👎	72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	100	11.1	10.5	👎	9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	179	19.2	15.7	👎	16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,145	12.9%	14.2%	👍	12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$58,466	\$58,926	—	\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	101	4.9%	2.3%	👎	3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	5.0%	5.3%	👍	4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	2,752	66.0%	69.6%	👎	70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	143	29.4%	18.0%	👍	42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	446	88.3%	88.6%	—	86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	22.5%	31.6%	👍	20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	5	9.8%	6.6%	👍	17.7%

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Kennebec County is one of the five counties in Maine with 23,000 or more children. The state’s capital, Augusta, is located there.

Areas of Strength

Kennebec County had the highest immunization rates in the state for young children. Kennebec was also ranked in the top three for two measures related to employment, with a low rate of teens not in school and not working, and a low average annual unemployment rate. Access to health care for young children and family economic stability are critical factors in ensuring children can thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Young child immunization	1
Unemployment rate	3
Teens not in school and not working	3 (tie)

Areas of Challenge

While most counties improved, in Kennebec County, child care sites that are considered of high-quality in the QRIS system remained at 14% since 2018; and Kennebec ranked fourteenth. The median income in Kennebec also declined in 2020. The rate of children who experienced substantiated child maltreatment as well as the rate of children in foster care were both above the state averages. All children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Quality child care	14
Child maltreatment	10
Children in foster care	10

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Kennebec	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	5,998	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	17,431	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	23,429	247,952
Births, 2021	1,102	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	3,201	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	3,105	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	12,426	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	5,034	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	5,714	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	1,224	5.2%	5.7%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	963	91.1%	91.3%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	1,301	79.3%	81.3%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	280	12.0	11.7		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	522	22.5	26.7		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	3,105	13.8%	13.9%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$53,876	\$55,358		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	147	2.4%	3.3%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.3%	4.6%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	6,637	69.7%	69.8%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	623	48.0%	36.8%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	1,076	86.3%	87.2%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	28.4%	24.4%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	20	13.7%	13.1%		17.7%

= Better, = Worse, = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

†See [Census 2020 Children by race/ethnicity](#) for the numbers and percents for children of each race and ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; and among Non-Hispanic children of the following races: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; Two or More Races or Some Other Race; and White.

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Kennebec	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	5,998	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	17,431	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	23,429	247,952
Births, 2021	1,102	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	3,201	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	3,105	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	12,426	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	5,034	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	5,714	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	1,224	5.2%	5.7%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	963	91.1%	91.3%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	1,301	79.3%	81.3%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	280	12.0	11.7		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	522	22.5	26.7		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	3,105	13.8%	13.9%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$53,876	\$55,358		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	147	2.4%	3.3%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.3%	4.6%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	6,637	69.7%	69.8%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	623	48.0%	36.8%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	1,076	86.3%	87.2%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	28.4%	24.4%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	20	13.7%	13.1%		17.7%

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Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

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Knox County is a coastal county with approximately 6,900 children and is the second smallest county in Maine by land area.

Areas of Strength

In Knox County, the child poverty rate dropped from 17.5% to 13.6% in 2020. Similarly, median income improved from \$55,910 in 2019 to \$66,058 in 2020 and Knox ranked fourth. Children thrive when their families’ basic needs are met. In 2021, Knox had the seventh highest graduation rate in the state at 86.6%, although this was lower than Knox’s rate the previous year of 91.3%, when Knox ranked first.

Areas of Challenge

Knox County had the third lowest rate of all parents in the workforce for children under age six at 59.7%. Families need access to child care and jobs that pay a living wage to support their children. The rate of children with substantiated reports of child maltreatment increased in 2021 and is above the state rate. Children thrive in safe, stable families.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median income	4
Unemployment rate	4 (tie)
High school graduation	7

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
All parents in the workforce	14
Child maltreatment	12

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Knox	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,611	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	5,304	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	6,915	247,952
Births, 2021	279	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	805	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	918	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	3,563	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,138	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	1,502	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	442	6.2%	6.9%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	250	91.2%	91.3%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	230	71.7%	71.6%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	45	6.5	5.6		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	158	22.9	19.6		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	918	13.6%	17.5%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$66,058	\$55,910		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	71	4.5%	3.6%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.4%	5.0%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	1,825	59.7%	64.5%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	115	35.0%	32.4%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	311	86.6%	91.3%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	33.2%	36.8%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	6	17.6%	11.4%		17.7%

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Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

†See [Census 2020 Children by race/ethnicity](#) for the numbers and percents for children of each race and ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; and among Non-Hispanic children of the following races: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; Two or More Races or Some Other Race; and White.

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Lincoln County is a coastal county with approximately 5,800 children. The largest town is Waldoboro.

Areas of Strength

Lincoln County was among the three counties with the lowest rates of children in foster care. Children thrive in safe, stable families. Lincoln was also above the state average for the percent of high-quality child care sites in the QRIS system, ranking fifth. Child care that is high-quality helps children succeed in school and develop into healthy adults. Lincoln had above average median household income and ranked fifth. Children thrive when their families' basic needs are met.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Children in foster care	3
Quality child care sites	5
Median household income	5

Areas of Challenge

Lincoln County had by far the highest rate of teens not working or in school at 14.6%, compared to 6.5% for the county with the second highest rate. Lincoln had the second highest rate of uninsured children at 9.1%; the second lowest rate for child immunizations; and the third lowest rate of prenatal care in the first trimester. Access to health insurance can help children get the care they need, including timely immunizations.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	16
Uninsured children	15
Young child immunizations	15
Prenatal care in first trimester	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Lincoln	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,522	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	4,262	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	5,784	247,952
Births, 2021	254	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	536	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	772	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	2,996	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,009	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	588	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	537	9.1%	9.0%	👎	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	204	87.2%	83.7%	👍	90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	116	48.1%	47.0%	👍	72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	28	4.8	5.0	👍	9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	88	15.3	15.4	➖	16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	772	13.8%	16.4%	👍	12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$64,825	\$58,619	👍	\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	179	14.6%	8.6%	👎	3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.4%	4.9%	👍	4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	1,821	65.2%	62.2%	👍	70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	124	38.3%	33.4%	👍	42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	283	87.6%	86.8%	👍	86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	29.3%	31.4%	👍	20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	6	25.0%	15.6%	👍	17.7%

👍 = Better, 👎 = Worse, ➖ = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

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Oxford County is a rural, inland county with the sixth largest child population in the state with 10,450 children.

Areas of Strength

Oxford County had the fourth highest rate of child care sites that are high-quality in the QRIS system. Oxford also was above the state rate for four-year-olds attending public preschool, at 53.2%. Communities that have quality education programs for all ages help their children reach their full potential. Oxford also recorded better than the state rate of uninsured children, at 5.4%.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Quality child care sites	4
Uninsured children	6
Public preschool	7

Areas of Challenge

Oxford County had the second highest rate of teenagers not in school and not working as well as the fourth highest unemployment rate. Young adults become productive adults when given opportunities for education and employment that pay a living wage. Oxford was one of the four counties with the highest rates of children in foster care. Children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	15
Unemployment rate	13
Children in foster care	14 (tie)

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Oxford	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	2,482	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	7,966	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	10,448	247,952
Births, 2021	452	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,358	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	1,701	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	6,899	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	3,113	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	2,258	59,291



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	568	5.4%	5.9%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	455	90.3%	90.9%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	313	72.5%	71.7%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	129	12.3	13.1		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	217	19.5	20.9		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,701	16.9%	17.6%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$47,611	\$50,344		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	168	6.5%	6.3%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	5.6%	6.1%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	2,918	70.9%	71.5%		70.1%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	272	53.2%	51.4%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	567	83.0%	85.0%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	36.0%	29.2%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	12	25.5%	16.9%		17.7%

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Penobscot County, home to the city of Bangor in central Maine, is Maine’s third most populous county with 27,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Penobscot County had the second highest rates in the state for both prenatal care in the first trimester and the rate of young children receiving all their immunizations. Penobscot also had the second lowest rate of uninsured children. Practices that promote access to health care for pregnant women and young children help set the stage for their healthy development.

Areas of Challenge

Penobscot County had the second lowest percentage of high-quality child care sites in the QRIS system. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age five is important to build a foundation for success. Additionally, Penobscot’s rate of children in foster care was above the state rate. Children need safe and supportive families to thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Prenatal care in first trimester	2
Young child immunizations	2
Uninsured children	2

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Quality child care	15

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Penobscot	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	6,923	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	19,771	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	26,694	247,952
Births, 2021	1,301	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	3,971	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	3,401	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	14,981	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	6,293	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	7,595	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	1,345	4.9%	6.1%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	1,146	95.3%	93.6%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	1,345	78.4%	76.8%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	309	11.6	11.9		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	500	18.0	20.9		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	3,401	13.1%	13.9%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$52,079	\$50,702		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	271	3.0%	2.0%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.7%	5.0%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	8,355	67.0%	67.1%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	773	53.4%	41.0%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	1,359	86.4%	86.7%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	26.6%	24.4%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	14	10.9%	7.6%		17.7%

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Piscataquis County, home of Baxter State Park, is Maine’s least populated and most rural county with 3,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Although Piscataquis County had above-average overall unemployment rates, youth ages 16-19 were more likely to be working or in school in Piscataquis than in all but two of Maine’s other counties. The rate of substantiated child maltreatment in Piscataquis was third lowest among all counties, falling substantially from the year before. Median household income and the rate of all parents of children under age 6 in the workforce both improved.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child maltreatment	3
Teens not working and not in school	3 (tie)

Areas of Challenge

Piscataquis County has the highest child poverty rate among all counties at 21.2% and is the only county with child poverty above 20%. Piscataquis also had the lowest high school graduation rate at 75.1%. Families whose basic income needs are met are more able to support students in their education. Access to health care is also of concern, as Piscataquis had the third lowest rate of young children fully immunized.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	16
High school graduation	16
Young child immunizations	14
Children in foster care	14 (tie)

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Piscataquis	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	926	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	2,079	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	3,005	247,952
Births, 2021	133	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	424	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	607	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	2,049	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	956	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	1,219	59,291



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	219	7.4%	7.4%	—	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	110	89.4%	88.4%	👍	90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	68	51.1%	53.2%	👎	72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	37	12.3	11.8	👎	9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	39	13.5	25.0	👍	16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	607	21.2%	23.8%	👍	12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$48,769	\$43,509	👍	\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	19	2.4%	2.6%	👍	3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	5.0%	5.0%	—	4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	924	64.7%	51.8%	👍	70.1%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	73	37.1%	48.1%	👎	42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	139	75.1%	87.2%	👎	86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	35.6%	25.7%	👎	20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	3	15.0%	11.1%	👍	17.7%

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Sagadahoc County is the smallest county geographically and has approximately 6,700 children.

Areas of Strength

Sagadahoc County had the lowest rate of teens who are not working or in school and the highest high school graduation rate. Additionally, Sagadahoc had the lowest annual unemployment rate at 3.7% as well as the highest rate of all parents with children under age six in the workforce. Sagadahoc had the second highest household median income and the third lowest rate of child poverty. These are all indications of a strong economy that helps families thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	1
High school graduation	1
Unemployment rate	1
Children in foster care	2
Median household Income	2
Child poverty	3

Areas of Challenge

In Sagadahoc County, 79.4% of pregnant women received prenatal care in the first trimester, a far lower rate than any other county. Similarly, at 33.3%, Sagadahoc had the lowest immunization rates for children ages 18 – 35 months by 15 percentage points. Adequate prenatal care and immunizations are important for the healthy development of young children. The community benefits when families with young children access needed health care services.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Prenatal care in first trimester	16
Young child immunizations	16

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Sagadahoc	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,637	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	5,025	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	6,662	247,952
Births, 2021	304	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	811	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	712	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	2,555	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	897	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	610	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	463	6.7%	5.4%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	224	79.4%	83.6%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	9	33.3%	50.0%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	18	2.7	4.1		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	63	9.3	9.9		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	712	10.9%	11.4%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$68,433	\$65,841		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	0	s	s		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	3.7%	4.4%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	2,071	80.2%	76.9%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	142	40.5%	30.2%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	337	91.1%	86.8%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	9.3%	17.5%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	6	14.6%	14.3%		17.7%

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Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

†See [Census 2020 Children by race/ethnicity](#) for the numbers and percents for children of each race and ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; and among Non-Hispanic children of the following races: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; Two or More Races or Some Other Race; and White.

*Chronic absenteeism is based on ten or more excused or unexcused absences and is an unweighted average of secondary schools, not taking into account the number of students per school.

Somerset County is rural but has the eighth highest number of children of all 16 counties at 9,340 children.

Areas of Strength

Somerset County was among the three counties with the highest rates of high-quality child care sites in the QRIS system. Quality early education prepares children to be successful in school and reach their potential. Additionally, Somerset had the third highest young child immunization rate. Somerset saw a reduction in their child poverty rate from 22.6% in 2019 to 18.5% in 2020.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	3
Young child immunizations	3

Areas of Challenge

Somerset County had the lowest median household income of any county at \$43,694 and the second highest unemployment rate. Somerset also had the highest rate of substantiated child maltreatment and the second highest rate for children in foster care. Children benefit from safe and stable homes. When economic conditions are not strong, financial stress can impact the caregiving relationship between parents and their children.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median household income	16
Child maltreatment	16
Unemployment rate	15
Children in foster care	15
Child poverty	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Somerset	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	2,344	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	6,993	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	9,337	247,952
Births, 2021	460	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	970	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	1,655	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	6,236	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	2,785	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	3,406	59,291



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	551	5.9%	5.7%	👎	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	425	90.4%	89.9%	🟡	90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	179	76.2%	74.4%	👍	72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	141	15.1	17.9	👍	9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	286	29.8	28.4	👎	16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,655	18.5%	22.6%	👍	12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$43,694	\$45,333	👎	\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	127	5.9%	3.8%	👎	3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	6.3%	6.1%	👎	4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	2,702	64.2%	66.4%	👎	70.1%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	284	59.5%	58.5%	👍	42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	488	81.5%	84.0%	👎	86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	36.1%	18.3%	👎	20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	15	26.3%	19.0%	👍	17.7%

👍 = Better, 👎 = Worse, 🟡 = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

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Waldo County, where the Penobscot Narrows Bridge is located, is a central, coastal county in Maine with approximately 7,300 children.

Areas of Strength

Waldo County had the highest rate of high-quality child care sites in the QRIS system, at 43.2%. Waldo also had the third highest rate of all parents with children under age six in the workforce. Quality child care makes it easier for parents to be part of the workforce and for children to thrive. Additionally, Waldo saw a reduction in child poverty from 18.6% in 2019 to 15.6% in 2020.

Areas of Challenge

Waldo County had the highest rate of uninsured children at 10.2%. Access to health insurance is important to ensure children get the care they need. Waldo also had the second highest rate of substantiated child maltreatment. Waldo County was one of the three counties with the lowest rates of four-year-olds in public preschool. Waldo also had the third highest rate of teens not in school and not working.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Quality child care	1
All parents in the workforce	3

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Uninsured children	16
Child maltreatment	15
Public preschool	14
Teens not in school and not working	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Waldo	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,830	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	5,451	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	7,281	247,952
Births, 2021	349	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	802	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	4,283	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	1,705	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,527	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	4,121	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	750	10.2%	6.6%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	302	88.6%	89.1%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	169	64.8%	61.1%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	89	12.2	8.9		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	205	28.0	30.5		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,086	15.6%	18.6%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$56,085	\$51,073		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	109	6.1%	4.4%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.7%	4.7%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	2,073	75.8%	68.5%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	135	34.2%	26.1%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	213	85.2%	85.1%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	26.8%	18.3%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	19	43.2%	30.0%		17.7%

= Better, = Worse, = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

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Washington County is a Downeast, coastal county with approximately 6,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Washington County had the highest rate of prenatal care in the first trimester at 97.2%. Washington was also second for child care sites that are of high-quality in the QRIS system. Washington ranked third for the rate of four-year-olds in public preschool. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age five is important to build a foundation for success. Washington had the second lowest rate of children in foster care.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Prenatal care in the first trimester	1
Quality child care	2
Children in foster care	2
Public Preschool	3

Areas of Challenge

Washington County had the highest average annual unemployment rate and second lowest rate of all parents with children under age six in the work force. Washington also had the third highest rate for uninsured children. Washington’s child poverty rate decreased from 24.6% to 17.7% in one year, but still was the county with the fourth highest child poverty rate. Families need access to jobs that pay a living wage to support their children.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Unemployment rate	16
All parents in the work force	15
Uninsured children	14
Child poverty	13

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Washington	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,525	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	4,507	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	6,032	247,952
Births, 2021	274	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,074	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	1,035	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	4,287	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,750	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	1,859	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	481	8.0%	8.6%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	247	97.2%	92.0%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	195	75.9%	86.2%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	20	3.3	4.5		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	131	23.0	20.5		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,035	17.7%	24.6%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$48,582	\$39,068		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	76	5.3%	4.8%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	6.5%	5.7%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	1,807	58.5%	58.0%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	194	60.4%	62.8%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	265	85.8%	87.8%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	29.8%	18.3%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	7	30.4%	20.0%		17.7%

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York County, with the cities of Biddeford and Sanford, is the southernmost county and the second most populous, with approximately 38,200 children.

Areas of Strength

York County had the second lowest poverty rate and the third highest household median income. York also had the second highest high school graduation rate and third lowest rate of secondary students who are chronically absent (10 or more excused or unexcused days). When communities have both strong economies and quality education programs for all students, children have greater opportunities to be successful.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	2
High school graduation	2
Median household income	3
Chronic absenteeism	3

Areas of Challenge

York County was the only county with no rankings in the bottom three. York, however, had the fourth lowest rate of four-year-olds attending public preschool as well as the fourth lowest rate of child care sites that are of high-quality in the QRIS system. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age five is important to build a foundation for success.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	13
Quality child care	13

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	York	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	9,598	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	28,604	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	38,202	247,952
Births, 2021	1,850	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	5,429	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	3,293	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	15,120	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	5,121	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	5,038	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	2,219	5.6%	4.6%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	1,573	91.1%	91.1%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	1,435	69.4%	67.8%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	235	6.2	6.1		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	586	15.2	16.5		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	3,293	8.9%	9.9%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$67,965	\$66,803		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	279	3.1%	2.7%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.5%	5.0%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	11,165	70.0%	73.7%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	694	34.4%	29.0%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	1,729	89.4%	90.8%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	16.4%	18.3%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	27	14.1%	11.2%		17.7%

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KEY COUNTY INDICATORS OF CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

State of Maine: 2022

MAINE
KIDS
COUNT

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	247,952
Births, 2021	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	59,291



HEALTH

	State number	State rate	Previous state rate	Better or Worse?
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	14,238	5.6%	5.6%	—
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	10,403	90.2%	90.1%	—
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	4,347	72.0%	71.2%	👍
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	2,220	9.0	8.9	—
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	4,263	16.9	17.6	👍

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	State number	State rate	Previous state rate	Better or Worse?
Child poverty, 2020	30612	12.8%	13.8%	👍
Median household income, 2020	\$59,145	N/A	\$58,824	—
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	2336	3.7%	3.3%	👎
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.6%	5.4%	👍
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	74,285	70.1%	70.7%	—

EDUCATION

	State number	State rate	Previous state rate	Better or Worse?
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	5,613	42.5%	35.6%	👍
High school graduation rate, 2021	11,895	86.1%	87.4%	👎
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	27.7%	26.3%	👎
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	242	17.7%	12.7%	👍

👍 = Better, 👎 = Worse, — = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

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