

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%, (18 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

Maine KIDS COUNT®, a project of the Maine Children’s Alliance, has been part of the national KIDS COUNT® network, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), since 1994. KIDS COUNT puts together in a user-friendly internet platform the most recent, reliable data available on the well-being of children in Maine and in the nation.

From the hundreds of available indicators in the areas of health, education, and social and economic status on KIDS COUNT, the selected indicators in this County Profile are among those with county-level information, where it is clear which direction we want the indicator to go. By understanding the data and making informed policy decisions in response, we can help ensure children and families in Maine have the best opportunity to thrive.

Each County Profile includes a summary of the county’s strengths and challenges, some demographics, and then the 14 indicators of child health and well-being for the current year, previous year and in comparison to the state rate.



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 eighteen or more excused or unexcused absences and is an unweighted average of secondary schools, not taking into account the number of students per school.