

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 (18 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

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**

	<b>Cumberland</b>	<b>Maine</b>
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%

= 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.