

Cumberland County, which includes the city of Portland, is the most populous, diverse, and growing county in Maine with 54,200 children.

Areas of Strength

Cumberland County had the highest household median income, at \$75,354, it was \$9,000 more than the second ranked county; the lowest child poverty rate; and the lowest rate of uninsured children. Cumberland also had the highest rate of 4th graders reading proficiently. Notably, Cumberland County ranks first in five of the fourteen indicators. A diversified local economy helps young children thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median household income	1
Uninsured children	1
Child poverty	1
4th grade reading	1

Areas of Challenge

Cumberland County was ranked fifteenth in the rate of four-year-olds attending public preschool with just 18% of children attending in 2020-2021. Additionally, the number of high-quality child care sites fell from 52 to 42 in the last year, and the rate of high-quality child care sites was below the state average. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age 5 is important to build a foundation for success.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	15

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.

The County Profiles offer insight into how policies and practices in Maine are working and where there are opportunities for improvement. 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. Where possible, 2020 data is shown to reflect the current situation for children and families. For other data, the most recent data is 2019 and this can serve as a baseline for assessing well-being before the onset of the Covid-19 crisis.

KEY COUNTY INDICATORS OF CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Cumberland County: 2021

MAINE
KIDS
COUNT

To learn more about the measure, click on the link to the KIDS COUNT Data Center or other source.

DEMOGRAPHICS	Cumberland	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	14,007	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	40,167	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	54,174	248,624
Births, 2020	2,750	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	4820	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	18497	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	8067	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	9651	64925



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	2,538	4.5%	4.7%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	2,401	89.9%	88.4%		90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	2,364	67.6%	64.5%		71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	238	4.4	4.5		8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	350	6.5	6.8		17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	4,820	9.2%	8.0%		13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	\$75,254	\$71,586		\$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	163	1.1%	3.6%		3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	5.3%	2.2%		5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	12,195	75.1%	76.7%		70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	535	18.2%	17.2%		35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	2,927	89.5%	89.0%		87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	1,824	65.3%	59.4%		56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	42	11.9%	14.8%		12.7%

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

* MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures.

