

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, (18 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 |

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

| | 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% |

= 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.