

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, (18 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
<b>Prenatal care in first trimester</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chronic absenteeism</b>	<b>4</b>

### 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
<b>High-quality child care sites</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Public preschool</b>	<b>15</b>

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**

	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%

👍 = 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.