

Kennebec County is one of the five counties in Maine with 23,000 or more children. The state’s capital, Augusta, is located there.

Areas of Strength

Kennebec County had the highest immunization rates in the state for young children. Kennebec was also ranked in the top three for two measures related to employment, with a low rate of teens not in school and not working, and a low average annual unemployment rate. Access to health care for young children and family economic stability are critical factors in ensuring children can thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Young child immunization	1
Unemployment rate	3
Teens not in school and not working	3 (tie)

Areas of Challenge

While most counties improved, in Kennebec County, child care sites that are considered of high-quality in the QRIS system remained at 14% since 2018; and Kennebec ranked fourteenth. The median income in Kennebec also declined in 2020. The rate of children who experienced substantiated child maltreatment as well as the rate of children in foster care were both above the state averages. All children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Quality child care	14
Child maltreatment	10
Children in foster care	10

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

	Kennebec	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	5,998	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	17,431	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	23,429	247,952
Births, 2021	1,102	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	3,201	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	3,105	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	12,426	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	5,034	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	5,714	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	1,224	5.2%	5.7%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	963	91.1%	91.3%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	1,301	79.3%	81.3%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	280	12.0	11.7		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	522	22.5	26.7		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	3,105	13.8%	13.9%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$53,876	\$55,358		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	147	2.4%	3.3%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.3%	4.6%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	6,637	69.7%	69.8%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	623	48.0%	36.8%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	1,076	86.3%	87.2%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	28.4%	24.4%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	20	13.7%	13.1%		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 ten or more excused or unexcused absences and is an unweighted average of secondary schools, not taking into account the number of students per school.