

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

Areas of Strength

Kennebec was ranked in the top three for two measures related to employment, with a low rate of teens not in school and not working, and the state’s second lowest unemployment rate for 2020. Kennebec County had the second highest immunization rates in the state for young children. Access to health care for young children and family economic stability are critical factors in ensuring children can thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Young child immunizations	2
Unemployment rate	2
Teens not in school and not working	3

Areas of Challenge

Kennebec County experienced an increase in the rate of children who experienced substantiated child abuse and ranked twelfth of all counties. The rate of children in foster care was also above the state average. All children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults. The rate of uninsured children also increased and is now above the state average.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child abuse	12
Children in foster care	11

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.

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

DEMOGRAPHICS	Kennebec	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	6,019	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	17,324	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	23,343	248,624
Births, 2020	1,057	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	3,100	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	11,620	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	5,385	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	5,865	64,925



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	1,357	5.7%	5.2%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	1,010	91.3%	87.4%		90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	1,450	81.3%	79.7%		71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	273	11.7	11.4		8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	623	26.7	22.4		17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	3,100	13.9%	15.0%		13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	\$55,358	\$52,154		\$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	57	0.9%	4.3%		3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	5.0%	2.6%		5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	4,782	69.8%	68.8%		70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	484	36.8%	54.3%		35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	1,140	87.2%	85.4%		87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	707	53.7%	50.1%		56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	23	13.1%	13.7%		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.

