

Knox County is a coastal county with approximately 6,900 children and is the second smallest county in Maine by land area.

Areas of Strength

In Knox County, the child poverty rate dropped from 17.5% to 13.6% in 2020. Similarly, median income improved from \$55,910 in 2019 to \$66,058 in 2020 and Knox ranked fourth. Children thrive when their families’ basic needs are met. In 2021, Knox had the seventh highest graduation rate in the state at 86.6%, although this was lower than Knox’s rate the previous year of 91.3%, when Knox ranked first.

Areas of Challenge

Knox County had the third lowest rate of all parents in the workforce for children under age six at 59.7%. Families need access to child care and jobs that pay a living wage to support their children. The rate of children with substantiated reports of child maltreatment increased in 2021 and is above the state rate. Children thrive in safe, stable families.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median income	4
Unemployment rate	4 (tie)
High school graduation	7

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
All parents in the workforce	14
Child maltreatment	12

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

	Knox	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,611	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	5,304	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	6,915	247,952
Births, 2021	279	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	805	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	918	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	3,563	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,138	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	1,502	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	442	6.2%	6.9%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	250	91.2%	91.3%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	230	71.7%	71.6%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	45	6.5	5.6		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	158	22.9	19.6		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	918	13.6%	17.5%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$66,058	\$55,910		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	71	4.5%	3.6%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.4%	5.0%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	1,825	59.7%	64.5%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	115	35.0%	32.4%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	311	86.6%	91.3%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	33.2%	36.8%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	6	17.6%	11.4%		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.