

Knox County is a coastal county with approximately 7,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Knox County had the highest high school graduation rate in the state at 91.3%. 4th grade reading scores were also above the state average, improving six percentage points from the previous year. When communities have quality education programs for all students from early childhood through adolescence, children have greater opportunities to be successful.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High school graduation	1
4th grade reading	5

Areas of Challenge

Knox County had no indicators in the bottom three of county rankings. Knox showed improvement in teenagers not in school or working, although its rate is still above the state average. Young adults become productive adults when given opportunities for education and employment. While the state had decreased child poverty rates, in Knox County the child poverty rate increased from 16.1% to 17.5% from 2018 to 2019 and was higher than the state average.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	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.

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	Knox	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	1,656	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	5,291	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	6,947	248,624
Births, 2020	274	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	1,179	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	3,369	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	1,309	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	1,541	64,925



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	490	6.9%	7.3%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	272	91.3%	86.9%		90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	265	71.6%	73.3%		71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	39	5.6	5.8		8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	136	19.6	18.0		17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	1,179	17.5%	16.1%		13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	\$55,910	\$56,678		\$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	56	3.6%	7.1%		3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	5.4%	2.6%		5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	1,289	64.5%	73.8%		70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	110	32.4%	45.0%		35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	263	91.3%	90.2%		87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	175	56.8%	50.7%		56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	5	11.4%	14.6%		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.

