

Androscoggin County, with the cities of Lewiston and Auburn, is one of the five counties in Maine with 23,000 or more children and it is the most diverse county in the state with approximately 25% children of color.

Areas of Strength

Androscoggin County had the second lowest rate of children without health insurance and the third highest rate of all parents with children under age six in the workforce. Androscoggin saw a large improvement in the high school graduation rate, from 76.9% in 2021 to 83.2% in 2022. Androscoggin had economic gains, too, with declines in both the child poverty rate and the unemployment rate. A diversified local economy helps families meet their basic needs.

Areas of Challenge

Androscoggin County had an increase in the percent of infants with low birth weights and had the highest rate in the state in 2022. Similarly, Androscoggin had an increase in the rate of children in foster care and the state's highest rate in 2022. Access to health care for pregnant women and access to targeted services to support families are two policies that help young children thrive. Androscoggin had the third highest rate of chronic absenteeism among secondary students.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Children without health insurance	2
All parents in the workforce	3

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Infants with low birth weights	16
Children in foster care	16
Chronic absenteeism	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Androskoggin	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	5,970	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	17,278	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	23,248	249,306
Births, 2022	1,178	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	5,760	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	3,591	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	15,000	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	7,521	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	7,065	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	953	3.9%	5.0%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	136	11.6%	9.5%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	9	0.83	0.55		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	404	17.4	11.9		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	423	18.2	18.3		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	3,591	15.9%	19.1%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$62,848	\$61,411		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	270	4.5%	4.7%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.0%	4.9%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	5,239	72.8%	75.4%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	794	65.8%	65.6%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	849	83.2%	76.9%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	1,676	39.4%	43.9%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	22	13.2%	13.2%		17.7%

= Better, = Worse, = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Notes:

Maine's standardized reading tests do not include proficiency determinations so academic achievement indicators are not included.

† See [Children by race & ethnicity, 2020 Census](#) for the numbers and percents of children by each race and ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; and among Non-Hispanic children the following races: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black or African-American, Two or More Races/ Some Other Race and white.

* HCT-MST and HCT-FFT are the acronyms of two evidence-based intensive home and community mental health treatment services for families and youth to prevent institutional placements.

** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

†† As of March 2023, Rising Stars is Maine's method of assessing and encouraging quality early care programs. It is mandatory and licensed child care programs start at 2 stars.

Aroostook County is the most northern and remote county in Maine, with approximately 12,350 children.

Areas of Strength

Aroostook County had the second lowest rate of infants with low birth weights. Aroostook saw reductions in both the child poverty rate and the unemployment rate in 2022. The rate of children without health insurance also declined. Access to health care and family economic stability are important for child well-being. Aroostook had the third highest rate of children enrolled in public preschool, at 80% for 2023-2024, though the rate was lower than the previous year.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Infants with low birth weights	2
Public preschool	3

Areas of Challenge

In 2022, Aroostook County had the lowest median household income in the state at \$51,562, and the third highest unemployment rate at 4.1%. Aroostook had no access to evidence-based community mental health treatment for youth at risk for institutional placement. The rate of child maltreatment was the second highest in the state in 2022. Access to intensive mental health treatment may help families become more stable.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median household income	16
Evidence-based mental health	16 (tie)
Child maltreatment	15
Unemployment rate	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Aroostook	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	3,116	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	9,238	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	12,354	249,306
Births, 2022	563	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,704	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	1,986	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	8,236	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	3,949	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	4,226	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	627	5.0%	7.2%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	36	6.4%	8.0%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	-	0.00	0.00		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	193	15.6	15.8		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	321	26.3	26.7		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	1,986	16.5%	18.9%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$51,562	\$51,770		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	99	3.1%	2.6%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	4.1%	5.7%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	2,545	68.1%	68.3%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	502	80.1%	83.4%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	556	84.0%	87.7%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	1,017	32.7%	34.3%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	14	17.5%	17.3%		17.7%

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Notes:

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* HCT-MST and HCT-FFT are the acronyms of two evidence-based intensive home and community mental health treatment services for families and youth to prevent institutional placements.

** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

†† As of March 2023, Rising Stars is Maine's method of assessing and encouraging quality early care programs. It is mandatory and licensed child care programs start at 2 stars.

Cumberland County, which includes the city of Portland, is the most populous county in Maine with 55,020 children and is the county with the second most diverse child population with approximately 23% children of color.

Areas of Strength

Cumberland County had the highest household median income at \$88,571 in 2022; the lowest child poverty rate; the lowest unemployment rate; and the second highest rate of all parents with children under age 6 in the workforce. Cumberland had the second lowest child maltreatment rate. A strong economy helps families have financial security to meet their basic needs.

Areas of Challenge

Cumberland County ranked last in public preschool rates with 26.6% of children attending in 2023-2024. The rate of infants with low-birth weights increased in 2022. Attention to the health and educational needs of young children builds a foundation for success. The rate of children in foster care increased and there were fewer youth in evidence-based mental health services that can prevent institutional placement.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median household income	1
Child poverty	1
Unemployment	1
Child maltreatment	2

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	16

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Cumberland	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	14,216	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	40,805	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	55,021	249,306
Births, 2022	2,911	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	12,850	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	3,640	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	21,765	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	8,291	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	10,002	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	2,072	3.5%	4.3%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	213	7.3%	6.5%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	23	0.89	1.04		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	330	6.0	5.1		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	431	7.9	8.0		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	3,640	6.8%	8.7%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$88,571	\$80,484		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	479	3.4%	2.9%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	2.4%	4.0%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	12,006	73.1%	73.8%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	781	26.6%	27.3%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	3,057	88.5%	88.5%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	3,274	26.7%	26.7%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	66	20.6%	20.4%		17.7%

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Notes:

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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Franklin County, with Maine’s western mountains, is rural, and the second least populous county in Maine with 5,200 children.

Areas of Strength

Franklin County ranked second in the rate of youth in evidenced-based mental health treatment to prevent hospitalization. Franklin’s rate of substantiated child maltreatment was reduced and was the fourth lowest among all counties. Access to intensive mental health treatment can avert crises and strengthen families. Franklin County also had the fourth highest percent of child care sites rated as high-quality. Franklin’s unemployment rate in 2022 improved to 3.6% but was still above the state average.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Evidence-based mental health	2
Child maltreatment	4
High-quality child care sites	4

Areas of Challenge

Franklin County had the lowest rate of all parents of children under age six in the workforce and had the second lowest median household income in the state. Franklin’s rate of high school graduation of 75.8% in 2022 ranked fifteenth, well below the state average. Franklin also experienced an increase in the number of youth not in school and not working. Empowering students to both graduate high school and pursue education and careers helps youth thrive as adults.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
All parents in the workforce	16
Median household income	15
High school graduation	15

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Franklin	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	1,215	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	3,980	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	5,195	249,306
Births, 2022	219	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	614	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	817	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	3,284	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	1,393	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	2,022	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	245	4.5%	5.3%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	16	7.3%	8.8%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	6	2.33	2.33		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	28	5.4	7.8		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	62	11.8	14.2		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	817	16.3%	15.7%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$52,159	\$52,295		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	134	7.2%	1.6%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.6%	5.3%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	704	44.0%	51.1%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	144	53.9%	55.6%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	260	75.8%	76.0%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	560	38.4%	46.4%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	9	24.3%	22.2%		17.7%

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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Hancock County, home to Acadia National Park, is a Downeast coastal community with approximately 9,210 children.

Areas of Strength

Hancock County had the lowest rate of infants with low birth weights. Access to prenatal care helps babies to be born healthy. Hancock’s high school graduation rate was better than state averages and ranked fifth. Hancock saw improvements in every economic measure including a reduction in child poverty and unemployment and an increase in median household income and in the rate of all parents in the workforce. A strong local economy helps children and families thrive.

Areas of Challenge

Hancock County had the lowest rate of high-quality child care sites and a low rate of four-year-olds attending public preschool. Attention to the educational needs of children under age five is important for future success. Hancock also had the second highest rate of children without health insurance. Hancock was one of only two counties where the chronic absenteeism rate among secondary students got worse in 2022-2023 compared to the previous year.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Infants with low birth weights	1
High school graduation	5

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	16
Children without health insurance	15
Public preschool	13
Chronic absenteeism	13

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Hancock	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	2,200	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	7,012	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	9,212	249,306
Births, 2022	411	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,205	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	1,177	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	4,835	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	1,636	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	1,994	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	563	5.8%	7.3%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	23	5.6%	7.5%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	1	0.22	0.22		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	113	12.3	11.1		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	160	17.7	19.2		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	1,177	13.3%	14.2%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$63,879	\$57,001		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	107	4.2%	4.7%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.5%	5.0%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,767	66.4%	65.5%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	186	38.2%	38.0%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	446	87.8%	88.3%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	797	39.2%	38.4%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	5	8.2%	9.5%		17.7%

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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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 rate of youth in evidenced-based community mental health treatment that can prevent institutional placement. Kennebec also had the second lowest rate of teens not in school and not working. Kennebec ranked fourth both in the high school graduation rate and in the secondary school chronic absenteeism rate. Helping older youth with their mental health, having a positive school climate, and focusing on future career paths all help youth thrive as adults.

Areas of Challenge

While most counties experienced reductions in child poverty, in Kennebec County, child poverty increased from 12.8% to 14.4% between 2021 and 2022. Kennebec had the second highest rate of children living in foster care. The rate of children who experienced substantiated child maltreatment as well as the rate of children in foster care were both well above the state averages. Safe and stable home environments support the healthy development of children.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Evidence-based mental health	1
Teens not in school and not working	2
High school graduation	4
Chronic absenteeism	4

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Children in foster care	15
Child maltreatment	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Kennebec	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	5,819	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	17,662	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	23,481	249,306
Births, 2022	1,096	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	3,201	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	3,280	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	12,764	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	5,440	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	6,329	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	1,088	4.4%	5.2%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	95	8.7%	7.9%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	26	2.33	1.88		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	390	16.6	12.0		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	513	21.9	22.5		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	3,280	14.4%	12.8%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$63,191	\$60,449		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	176	3.0%	3.3%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	2.8%	4.3%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	4,953	70.3%	72.9%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	677	55.8%	46.5%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	1,091	88.3%	86.3%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	1,404	30.3%	34.7%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	22	14.3%	15.2%		17.7%

= Better, = Worse, = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Notes:

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* HCT-MST and HCT-FFT are the acronyms of two evidence-based intensive home and community mental health treatment services for families and youth to prevent institutional placements.

** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

†† As of March 2023, Rising Stars is Maine's method of assessing and encouraging quality early care programs. It is mandatory and licensed child care programs start at 2 stars.

Knox County is a coastal county with approximately 7,015 children. It includes the populated islands of Vinalhaven, North Haven, and Isle Au Haut.

Areas of Strength

In Knox County, the child poverty rate dropped from 13.5% to 10.5% from 2021 to 2022. Knox had the fourth lowest child poverty rate, was fifth in median household income, and sixth in the unemployment rate. Children thrive when their families’ basic needs are met. In addition, Knox saw improvements in two access to health care measures: more children had health care insurance and more youth were in evidence-based mental health treatment to prevent institutional placement.

Areas of Challenge

Knox County ranked fourteenth in the percent of infants with low birth weights, exceeding 10% in 2022. Knox had the second lowest rate of all parents in the workforce for children under age six. Access to prenatal care, early intervention services and quality child care help young children thrive. The rate of children in foster care in Knox doubled in 2023, while the child maltreatment rate remained higher than the state average.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	4
Median income	5
Unemployment rate	6

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Infants with low birth weights	14
All parents in the workforce	15
Child maltreatment	13
Children in foster care	12

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Knox	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	1,574	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	5,442	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	7,016	249,306
Births, 2022	276	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	805	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	708	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	3,642	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	1,330	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	1,559	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	365	5.0%	6.2%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	28	10.1%	5.0%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	4	1.12	0.84		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	95	13.5	6.5		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	143	20.7	22.9		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	708	10.5%	13.5%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$65,615	\$68,786		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	69	3.8%	4.0%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.0%	4.4%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,057	58.6%	54.3%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	147	44.8%	44.1%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	279	86.4%	86.6%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	546	39.0%	43.7%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	8	17.0%	16.7%		17.7%

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Notes:

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* HCT-MST and HCT-FFT are the acronyms of two evidence-based intensive home and community mental health treatment services for families and youth to prevent institutional placements.

** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

†† As of March 2023, Rising Stars is Maine's method of assessing and encouraging quality early care programs. It is mandatory and licensed child care programs start at 2 stars.

Lincoln County is a coastal county with approximately 6,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Lincoln County was among the three counties with the lowest rates of children in foster care. Lincoln had above average median household income and saw economic improvements in a reduced unemployment rate, a reduced child poverty rate, and an increased percentage of all parents with children under age six in the work force. A strong economy helps families have financial security to meet their basic needs.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Children in foster care	3
Median household income	4

Areas of Challenge

Lincoln County had the highest rate of teens not working or in school for 2018-2022 at 13.0%. There was no access to evidence-based community mental health treatment for youth at risk for institutional placement. Secondary school chronic absenteeism was second highest and Lincoln’s high school graduation rate was below the state average. Having a positive school climate and empowering students to graduate helps youth thrive as adults. Lincoln also had the highest rate of children without health insurance.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	16
Evidence-based mental health	16 (tie)
Children without health insurance	16
Chronic absenteeism	15

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Lincoln	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	1,474	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	4,528	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	6,002	249,306
Births, 2022	257	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	536	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	680	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	3,104	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	1,141	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	1,387	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	382	6.2%	9.1%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	20	7.8%	7.5%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	0	0%	0.69		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	20	3.3	4.8		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	106	18.3	15.3		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	680	11.9%	13.3%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$72,657	\$65,638		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	160	13.0%	14.0%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	2.9%	4.4%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,187	65.0%	62.5%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	155	46.1%	45.4%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	299	84.9%	87.6%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	600	41.0%	36.6%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	4	13.8%	17.2%		17.7%

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Notes:

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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Oxford County is a rural, inland county with the sixth largest child population in the state with 10,350 children.

Areas of Strength

Oxford County had the highest rate of high-quality child care sites, in the Rising Stars system in December 2023, over double the state rate. Oxford was fifth in the state for four-year-olds attending public preschool. Children in communities that have quality early education programs get a strong foundation for learning. Oxford had the third highest rate of youth in evidence-based treatment to prevent institutional placement. Oxford also saw improvements in the rates of child maltreatment and children in foster care.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	1
Evidence-based mental health	3
Public preschool	5

Areas of Challenge

Oxford County had the third highest rate of teenagers not in school and not working. The high school graduation rate was below the state average. Empowering students to graduate high school helps youth thrive as adults. Approximately 10% of the infants born in Oxford in 2022 had low birth weights, the fourth highest in the state. Although there were improvements, Oxford remains below state averages for both the median household income and the child poverty rate.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	14
Infants with low birth weights	13

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Oxford	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	2,408	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	7,943	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	10,351	249,306
Births, 2022	529	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,358	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	1,611	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	7,241	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	3,289	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	4,259	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	489	4.5%	5.4%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	53	10.0%	7.7%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	9	1.75	1.55		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	76	7.3	12.3		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	159	15.2	19.5		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	1,611	16.0%	20.9%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$58,842	\$51,872		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	232	9.3%	8.5%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.3%	5.6%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,926	68.8%	71.4%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	335	64.3%	65.6%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	571	82.4%	83.0%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	1,087	37.8%	43.9%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	20	38.5%	24.1%		17.7%

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Notes:

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Penobscot County, home to the city of Bangor in central Maine, is Maine’s third most populous county with approximately 26,920 children.

Areas of Strength

Penobscot County had the third lowest rate for infants with low birth weights and the fourth lowest rate of children without health insurance. Practices that promote access to health care for pregnant women and young children help lay the foundation for their healthy development. Penobscot was the only county to show improvement on over 90% of the indicators. A strong economy and a healthcare system with adequate capacity helps families meet basic needs and stay healthy.

Areas of Challenge

Penobscot County had the third lowest percent of high-quality child care sites, rated at 4 or 5 stars in the Rising Stars system at 11.8% in December 2023. High quality early education is important to build a foundation for future learning. Although Penobscot’s rate of child poverty improved slightly, it exceeded the state rate in 2022. Penobscot’s rate of children in foster care and children with maltreatment were both above state rates.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Infants with low birth weights	3
Children without health insurance	4

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Penobscot	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	6,661	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	20,258	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	26,919	249,306
Births, 2022	1,349	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	3,971	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	4,012	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	15,339	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	6,805	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	7,869	63,983



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	1,170	4.2%	4.9%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	89	6.6%	7.7%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	11	0.84	0.46		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	294	10.9	11.6		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	368	13.8	18.0		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	4,012	15.5%	15.7%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$60,761	\$56,261		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	297	3.4%	3.8%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.1%	4.7%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	5,420	66.8%	66.8%		69.6%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	870	61.8%	66.0%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	1,418	87.6%	86.4%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	2,050	31.2%	36.0%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	18	11.8%	10.3%		17.7%

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Notes:

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Piscataquis County, home of Baxter State Park, is Maine’s least populated and most rural county and has approximately 3,020 children.

Areas of Strength

In Piscataquis County, the rate of four-year-olds in public preschool doubled in one year and had the second highest rate in the state. Quality early childhood education helps young children thrive. Median household income, child poverty and the unemployment rate all improved. As of December 2023, Piscataquis had the lowest rate of children in foster care. Families are stronger when their economic needs are met. Piscataquis also had the fourth lowest rate of infants born with low birth weights.

Areas of Challenge

Piscataquis County had the third highest child poverty rate among all counties and had the third lowest median household income. Piscataquis also had the third lowest high school graduation rate in 2022 at 76.7%, as well as the second highest rate of teens not in school and not working. When there are opportunities for high-paying jobs in the local community, youth can see the benefits in secondary education and beyond.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Children in foster care	1
Public preschool	2
Infants with low birth weights	4

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	15
Child poverty	14
Median household income	14
High school graduation rate	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Piscataquis	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	865	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	2,152	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	3,017	249,306
Births, 2022	104	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	424	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	528	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	2,132	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	1,026	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	1,193	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	150	4.9%	7.4%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	7	6.7%	9.8%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	2	1.43	1.43		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	8	2.7	12.3		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	56	18.6	13.5		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	528	18.2%	21.3%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$52,529	\$49,999		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	66	9.8%	7.5%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.8%	5.0%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	641	69.0%	65.2%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	122	83.6%	40.6%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	158	76.7%	75.1%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	335	30.4%	34.5%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	2	10.0%	14.3%		17.7%

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Notes:

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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Sagadahoc County is the smallest county geographically and has approximately 6,725 children.

Areas of Strength

Sagadahoc County had the most top rankings of any county; the lowest rate of teens who were not working or in school, the highest high school graduation rate, and the lowest secondary school chronic absenteeism rate. Sagadahoc also had the lowest unemployment rate and the highest rate of all parents with in the workforce. Young adults with well-paying jobs contribute to the local economy. Sagadahoc had the lowest child maltreatment rate.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	1
High school graduation	1
All parents in the work force	1
Unemployment rate	1
Chronic absenteeism	1
Child maltreatment	1

Areas of Challenge

Sagadahoc County ranked fourteenth in the rate of four-year-olds who attended public preschool in 2023-2024 at 38.1% compared to the state average of 48.5%. Sagadahoc was thirteenth in the percent of child care sites that had 4 or 5 stars in the Rising Stars quality system. Access to high-quality early education builds a foundation for future learning. Although Sagadahoc’s median household income was the third highest, it was the only county where the median household income dropped in 2022.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	14
High-quality child care sites	13

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Sagadahoc	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	1,547	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	5,178	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	6,725	249,306
Births, 2022	304	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	811	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	620	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	2,688	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	943	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	1,243	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	316	4.4%	6.7%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	22	7.2%	6.6%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	2	0.61	0.00		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	20	3.0	4.1		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	49	7.4	9.3		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	620	9.6%	11.3%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$73,587	\$75,624		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	s	s	s		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	2.4%	3.7%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,629	84.5%	79.8%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	128	38.1%	28.8%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	334	91.3%	91.1%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	341	23.9%	25.5%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	5	13.2%	12.2%		17.7%

= Better, = Worse, = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

Notes:

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* HCT-MST and HCT-FFT are the acronyms of two evidence-based intensive home and community mental health treatment services for families and youth to prevent institutional placements.

** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

†† As of March 2023, Rising Stars is Maine's method of assessing and encouraging quality early care programs. It is mandatory and licensed child care programs start at 2 stars.

Somerset County is rural but has the eighth highest number of children of all 16 counties at 9,265 children.

Areas of Strength

As of December 2023, Somerset County was among the three counties with the highest rates of high-quality child care sites using the Rising Stars quality system at 31.4% compared to 17.7% statewide. Quality early education prepares children to be successful in school and reach their potential. Additionally, Somerset had the fourth highest rate of youth in the evidenced-based community mental health service to avoid institutional placement, and the fifth highest rate of children with health insurance.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	3
Evidenced-based mental health	4
Children without health insurance	5

Areas of Challenge

Somerset County had the highest child poverty rate in the state at 19.0% in 2022, and the third highest unemployment rate. Somerset had the highest rate of child maltreatment, double the state rate, and the third highest rate for children in foster care. When economic conditions are not strong, financial stress can impact the care-giving relationship between parents and their children. Somerset high school graduation rate declined from 81.5% to 74.7% in 2022, the lowest in the state.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	16
Child maltreatment	16
High school graduation	16
Unemployment rate	14
Children in foster care	14

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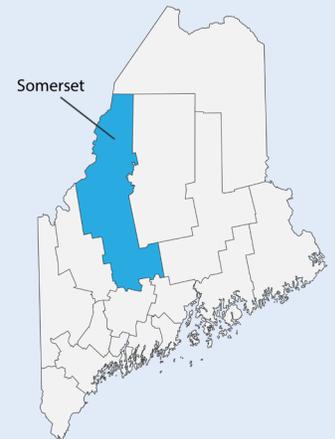
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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Somerset	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	2,312	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	6,953	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	9,265	249,306
Births, 2022	442	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	970	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	1,718	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	6,630	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	3,017	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	3,808	63,983



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	407	4.3%	5.7%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	35	7.9%	8.3%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	7	1.55	1.78		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	145	15.7	17.9		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	296	31.7	29.8		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	1,718	19.0%	19.2%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$55,093	\$51,040		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	162	7.3%	6.5%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	4.1%	6.3%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,833	61.6%	57.7%		69.6%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	289	60.6%	60.8%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	446	74.7%	81.5%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	768	36.2%	37.7%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	16	31.4%	27.8%		17.7%

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Notes:

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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Waldo County is a central, coastal county in Maine with approximately 7,160 children.

Areas of Strength

Waldo County had the second highest rate of high-quality child care sites in the Rising Stars system, at 36.7% in December 2023. Communities that have quality early education programs help their children reach their full potential. Additionally, there were improvements in child poverty and an increase in median household income, and concurrently, Waldo saw a reduction in child maltreatment in 2022 and improved from ranking fifteenth to seventh among Maine’s counties. Families thrive when their economic needs are met.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	2

Areas of Challenge

Waldo County had the highest rate in the state of chronic absenteeism among secondary students at 41.2% in 2022-2023 and its high school graduation rate was below the state average. Having a positive school climate and empowering students to graduate high school and pursue education and careers helps youth thrive as adults. Waldo also had the second lowest rates of four-year-olds in public preschool as well as the third highest rate of children without health insurance.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Chronic absenteeism	16
Public preschool	15
Children without health insurance	14

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Waldo	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	1,769	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	5,392	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	7,161	249,306
Births, 2022	304	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	802	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	1,118	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	4,416	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	1,770	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	1,989	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	402	5.4%	6.6%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	30	9.9%	9.5%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	1	0.29	1.15		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	42	5.9	8.9		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	128	17.6	28.0		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	1,118	16.2%	18.2%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$63,619	\$58,262		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	88	4.9%	4.9%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.2%	4.7%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,311	69.0%	71.5%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	118	32.3%	29.6%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	190	85.2%	85.2%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	408	41.2%	45.3%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	18	36.7%	36.0%		17.7%

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Notes:

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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Washington County is a Downeast, coastal county with approximately 5,825 children.

Areas of Strength

Washington County had the highest rate of children in public preschool at 87.1% for 2023-2024, up from 62.8% the prior year. Washington was also fifth for the rate of child care sites that were of high-quality, ranked with 4 or 5 stars in the Rising Stars system. Quality early education prepares children to be successful in school. In 2022, the child poverty rate in Washington was reduced four percentage points and the median household income rose substantially.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public Preschool	1
High quality child care	5

Areas of Challenge

In 2022, Washington County had the highest average annual unemployment rate and second highest child poverty rate. Families need access to jobs that pay a living wage to support their children. With over 10% of babies with low birth weights in 2022, Washington ranked fifteenth. No youth in Washington had access to evidence-based community mental health treatment that can prevent institutional placement. Access to health care prenatally and throughout childhood is important for all children to be healthy.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Unemployment rate	16
Evidence-based mental health	16 (tie)
Child poverty	15
Infants with low birth weights	15

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	Washington	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	1,414	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	4,410	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	5,824	249,306
Births, 2022	263	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,074	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	1,042	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	4,385	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	2,035	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	1,923	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	323	5.4%	8.6%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	29	11.1%	6.6%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	-	0.00	0.00		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	36	6.2	4.5		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	122	20.2	23.0		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	1,042	18.5%	22.5%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$55,381	\$42,755		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	99	6.7%	5.7%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	4.3%	6.5%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,063	62.9%	60.7%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	236	87.1%	62.8%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	238	82.1%	85.8%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	505	32.3%	38.8%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	6	22.2%	26.7%		17.7%

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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York County, with the cities of Biddeford and Sanford, is the southernmost county and the second most populous, with approximately 38,515 children.

Areas of Strength

In 2022, York County had the second lowest poverty rate and the second highest household median income. York also had the second highest high school graduation rate and second lowest rate of secondary students who were chronically absent. When communities have both strong economies and quality education programs for all students, children have greater opportunities to be successful. York had a substantial reduction in child maltreatment in 2022.

Areas of Challenge

York County was the only county with no rankings in the bottom four. York, however, had the fifth lowest rate of four-year-olds attending public preschool in 2023-2024 and was below the state average in the rate of child care sites that were high-quality. Attention to the educational needs of children under age five is important to build a foundation for future learning. Also, the rate of infants born with low birth weights increased and is now above the state average.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	2
Median household income	2
High school graduation	2
Chronic absenteeism	2

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	12

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DEMOGRAPHICS

	York	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	9,560	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	28,955	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	38,515	249,306
Births, 2022	1,874	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	5,429	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	3,462	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	15,955	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	5,890	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	7,115	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	1,674	4.1%	4.6%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	160	8.5%	5.7%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	23	1.24	1.72		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	207	5.4	6.1		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	331	8.7	15.2		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	3,462	9.3%	9.9%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$81,315	\$73,794		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	283	3.1%	3.0%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	2.7%	4.5%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	7,980	72.2%	70.2%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	785	39.4%	29.0%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	1,769	88.8%	89.4%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	2,011	25.0%	27.6%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	30	14.0%	12.8%		17.7%

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** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

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KEY COUNTY INDICATORS OF CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

State of Maine: 2024

Maine
KIDS
COUNT

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	249,306
Births, 2022	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	29,991
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	63,983
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	55,559



HEALTH

	State number	State rate	Previous state rate	Better or Worse?
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	11,226	4.3%	5.6%	
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	994	8.2%	7.3%	
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	124	1.04	1.05	
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	2,401	9.6	9.0	
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	3,907	15.8	16.9	

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	State number	State rate	Previous state rate	Better or Worse?
Child poverty, 2022	29,991	12.4%	13.8%	
Median household income, 2022	\$69,485	N/A	\$64,823	
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	2,721	4.2%	3.9%	
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.0%	4.6%	
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	51,261	69.6%	69.7%	

EDUCATION

	State number	State rate	Previous state rate	Better or Worse?
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	6,269	48.5%	47.5%	
High school graduation rate, 2022	11,961	86.1%	86.1%	
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	17,379	31.4%	34.0%	
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	265	17.7%	17.0%	

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