

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

The Maine Children’s Alliance is part of the national [KIDS COUNT](#)® network of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In a user-friendly internet platform, KIDS COUNT® makes available the most recent, reliable data on the well-being of children in Maine and the nation.

From the hundreds of indicators in the areas of health, education, and economic status on KIDS COUNT, the selected indicators in this County Profile are among those where county-level data is available where it is clear which direction we want the indicator to go to make improvements for Maine children. 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, demographic data, and then information on the fourteen indicators of child health and well-being for the current year, previous year, and in comparison to the state rate.



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%

= 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.