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.

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

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
Public preschool	**16**

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.

Maine Children's Alliance

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

Cumberland

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%	Better	4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	213	7.3%	6.5%	Worse	8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	23	0.89	1.04	Worse	1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	330	6.0	5.1	Worse	9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	431	7.9	8.0	Better	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%	Better	12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	$88,571	$80,484	Better	$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	479	3.4%	2.9%	Worse	4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	2.4%	4.0%	Better	3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	12,006	73.1%	73.8%	Worse	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%	Worse	48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	3,057	88.5%	88.5%	No change	86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	3,274	26.7%	26.7%	No change	31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	66	20.6%	20.4%	Better	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.