

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

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**

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



**HEALTH**

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

**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC**

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

**EDUCATION**

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