

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.

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

## 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
Children in foster care	15
Child maltreatment	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

	Kennebec	Maine
<a href="#">Children under age 5, 2022</a>	5,819	62,120
<a href="#">Children ages 5 -17, 2022</a>	17,662	187,186
<a href="#">Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022</a>	23,481	249,306
<a href="#">Births, 2022</a>	1,096	12,081
<a href="#">Children of color, Census 2020 †</a>	3,201	41,514
<a href="#">Children in poverty, 2022</a>	3,280	29,991
<a href="#">Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023</a>	12,764	133,431
<a href="#">Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023</a>	5,440	55,559
<a href="#">Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024</a>	6,329	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>	1,088	4.4%	5.2%		4.3%
<a href="#">Infants with low birth weights, 2022</a>	95	8.7%	7.9%		8.2%
<a href="#">Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023</a>	26	2.33	1.88		1.04
<a href="#">Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000</a>	390	16.6	12.0		9.6
<a href="#">Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000</a>	513	21.9	22.5		15.8

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
<a href="#">Child poverty, 2022</a>	3,280	14.4%	12.8%		12.4%
<a href="#">Median household income, 2022</a>	N/A	\$63,191	\$60,449		\$69,485
<a href="#">Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022</a>	176	3.0%	3.3%		4.2%
<a href="#">Unemployment Rate, 2022</a>	N/A	2.8%	4.3%		3.0%
<a href="#">All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022</a>	4,953	70.3%	72.9%		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>	677	55.8%	46.5%		48.5%
<a href="#">High school graduation rate, 2022</a>	1,091	88.3%	86.3%		86.1%
<a href="#">Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022</a>	1,404	30.3%	34.7%		31.4%
<a href="#">High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023</a>	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:**

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.