

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

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

	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%

= 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.