

Oxford County is a rural, inland county with the sixth largest child population in the state with 10,350 children.

Areas of Strength

Oxford County had the highest rate of high-quality child care sites, in the Rising Stars system in December 2023, over double the state rate. Oxford was fifth in the state for four-year-olds attending public preschool. Children in communities that have quality early education programs get a strong foundation for learning. Oxford had the third highest rate of youth in evidence-based treatment to prevent institutional placement. Oxford also saw improvements in the rates of child maltreatment and children in foster care.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	1
Evidence-based mental health	3
Public preschool	5

Areas of Challenge

Oxford County had the third highest rate of teenagers not in school and not working. The high school graduation rate was below the state average. Empowering students to graduate high school helps youth thrive as adults. Approximately 10% of the infants born in Oxford in 2022 had low birth weights, the fourth highest in the state. Although there were improvements, Oxford remains below state averages for both the median household income and the child poverty rate.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	14
Infants with low birth weights	13

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

	Oxford	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	2,408	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	7,943	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	10,351	249,306
Births, 2022	529	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,358	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	1,611	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	7,241	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	3,289	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	4,259	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	489	4.5%	5.4%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	53	10.0%	7.7%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	9	1.75	1.55		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	76	7.3	12.3		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	159	15.2	19.5		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	1,611	16.0%	20.9%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$58,842	\$51,872		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	232	9.3%	8.5%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.3%	5.6%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,926	68.8%	71.4%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	335	64.3%	65.6%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	571	82.4%	83.0%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	1,087	37.8%	43.9%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	20	38.5%	24.1%		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.