

York County, with the cities of Biddeford and Sanford, is the southernmost county and the second most populous, with approximately 38,515 children.

Areas of Strength

In 2022, York County had the second lowest poverty rate and the second highest household median income. York also had the second highest high school graduation rate and second lowest rate of secondary students who were chronically absent. When communities have both strong economies and quality education programs for all students, children have greater opportunities to be successful. York had a substantial reduction in child maltreatment in 2022.

Areas of Challenge

York County was the only county with no rankings in the bottom four. York, however, had the fifth lowest rate of four-year-olds attending public preschool in 2023-2024 and was below the state average in the rate of child care sites that were high-quality. Attention to the educational needs of children under age five is important to build a foundation for future learning. Also, the rate of infants born with low birth weights increased and is now above the state average.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	2
Median household income	2
High school graduation	2
Chronic absenteeism	2

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	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

	York	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	9,560	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	28,955	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	38,515	249,306
Births, 2022	1,874	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	5,429	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	3,462	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	15,955	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	5,890	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	7,115	63,983



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	1,674	4.1%	4.6%		4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	160	8.5%	5.7%		8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	23	1.24	1.72		1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	207	5.4	6.1		9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	331	8.7	15.2		15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	3,462	9.3%	9.9%		12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	\$81,315	\$73,794		\$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	283	3.1%	3.0%		4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	2.7%	4.5%		3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	7,980	72.2%	70.2%		69.6%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	785	39.4%	29.0%		48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	1,769	88.8%	89.4%		86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	2,011	25.0%	27.6%		31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	30	14.0%	12.8%		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.