

Oxford County is a rural, inland county with the fifth largest child population in the state at 10,500 children.

Areas of Strength

Oxford County’s child poverty rate plummeted by nine percentage points to 17.6% in 2019. While most counties saw a decline in public preschool attendance due to COVID, Oxford’s rate went up by 10 percentage points and was well above the state rate of 35.6%. Oxford also improved its rate of 4th graders reading proficiently by 10 percentage points. Communities that have quality education programs for all ages help their children reach their full potential.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	4

Areas of Challenge

Oxford County had the second highest rate of teenagers not in school and not working. Oxford also had the third lowest high school graduation rate. Young adults become productive adults when given opportunities for education and employment that pay a living wage. This might be a challenge in the short run, as Oxford County’s annual unemployment rate was the highest in the state.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Unemployment rate	16
Teens not in school and not working	15
High school graduation	14

Maine KIDS COUNT, a project of the Maine Children’s Alliance, has been part of the national KIDS COUNT network, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), since 1994. [KIDS COUNT](#) puts together in a user-friendly internet platform the most recent, reliable data available on the well-being of children in Maine and in the nation.

From the hundreds of available indicators in the areas of health, education, and social and economic status on KIDS COUNT, the selected indicators in this County Profile are among those with county-level information, where it is clear which direction we want the indicator to go. 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.

The County Profiles offer insight into how policies and practices in Maine are working and where there are opportunities for improvement. Each County Profile includes a summary of the county’s strengths and challenges, some demographics, and then the 14 indicators of child health and well-being for the current year, previous year and in comparison to the state rate. Where possible, 2020 data is shown to reflect the current situation for children and families. For other data, the most recent data is 2019 and this can serve as a baseline for assessing well-being before the onset of the Covid-19 crisis.

To learn more about the measure, click on the link to the KIDS COUNT Data Center or other source.

DEMOGRAPHICS	Oxford	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	2,496	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	7,988	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	10,484	248,624
Births, 2020	504	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	1,756	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	6,344	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	3,261	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	4,507	64,925



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	622	5.9%	5.7%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	478	90.9%	90.3%		90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	258	71.7%	72.4%		71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	137	13.1	11.8		8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	219	20.9	19.9		17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	1,756	17.6%	26.3%		13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	\$50,344	\$44,243		\$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	165	6.3%	7.3%		3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	6.7%	3.2%		5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	2,180	71.5%	67.7%		70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	265	51.4%	61.2%		35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	539	85.0%	85.5%		87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	282	50.7%	40.7%		56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	10	16.9%	17.5%		12.7%

= Better, = Worse, = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

* MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures.

