

Penobscot County, home to the city of Bangor in central Maine, is Maine’s third most populous county with 27,000 children.

### Areas of Strength

Penobscot County had the highest rate in the state of prenatal care in the first trimester. Penobscot also saw an improvement in young children getting all seven recommended vaccinations and ranked fourth. Practices that promote access to health care for pregnant women and young children help set the stage for their healthy development.

### Areas of Challenge

Penobscot County had the second lowest percent of high-quality child care sites. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age 5 is important to build a foundation for success. Additionally, Penobscot’s rate of children in foster care was the fourth highest and above the state average. All children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
<b>Prenatal care in first trimester</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Young child immunizations</b>	<b>4</b>

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
<b>Quality child care</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Children in foster care</b>	<b>13</b>

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	Penobscot	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	7,086	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	19,980	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	27,066	248,624
Births, 2020	1,203	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	3,625	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	14,060	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	6,569	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	7,853	64,925



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	1,699	6.1%	6.4%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	1,167	93.6%	94.0%		90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	1,443	76.8%	75.5%		71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	322	11.9	11.8		8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	567	20.9	24.6		17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	3,625	13.9%	17.1%		13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	\$50,702	\$47,840		\$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	176	2.0%	1.9%		3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	5.4%	3.0%		5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	5,591	67.1%	70.2%		70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	610	41.0%	59.6%		35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	1,426	86.7%	88.4%		87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	635	55.8%	53.8%		56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	12	7.6%	8.3%		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.

