

Piscataquis County, home of Baxter State Park, is Maine’s least populated and most rural county with 3,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Although Piscataquis County had above-average overall unemployment rates, youth ages 16-19 were more likely to be working or in school in Piscataquis than in all but two of Maine’s other counties. The rate of substantiated child maltreatment in Piscataquis was third lowest among all counties, falling substantially from the year before. Median household income and the rate of all parents of children under age 6 in the workforce both improved.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child maltreatment	3
Teens not working and not in school	3 (tie)

Areas of Challenge

Piscataquis County has the highest child poverty rate among all counties at 21.2% and is the only county with child poverty above 20%. Piscataquis also had the lowest high school graduation rate at 75.1%. Families whose basic income needs are met are more able to support students in their education. Access to health care is also of concern, as Piscataquis had the third lowest rate of young children fully immunized.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	16
High school graduation	16
Young child immunizations	14
Children in foster care	14 (tie)

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.

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.



DEMOGRAPHICS

	Piscataquis	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	926	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	2,079	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	3,005	247,952
Births, 2021	133	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	424	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	607	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	2,049	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	956	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	1,219	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	219	7.4%	7.4%	—	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	110	89.4%	88.4%	👍	90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	68	51.1%	53.2%	👎	72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	37	12.3	11.8	👎	9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	39	13.5	25.0	👍	16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	607	21.2%	23.8%	👍	12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$48,769	\$43,509	👍	\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	19	2.4%	2.6%	👍	3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	5.0%	5.0%	—	4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	924	64.7%	51.8%	👍	70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	73	37.1%	48.1%	👎	42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	139	75.1%	87.2%	👎	86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	35.6%	25.7%	👎	20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	3	15.0%	11.1%	👍	17.7%

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

Note: MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

†See [Census 2020 Children by race/ethnicity](#) for the numbers and percents for children of each race and ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; and among Non-Hispanic children of the following races: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; Two or More Races or Some Other Race; and White.

*Chronic absenteeism is based on eighteen or more excused or unexcused absences and is an unweighted average of secondary schools, not taking into account the number of students per school.