

Somerset County is rural but has the eighth highest number of children of all 16 counties at 9,340 children.

Areas of Strength

Somerset County was among the three counties with the highest rates of high-quality child care sites in the QRIS system. Quality early education prepares children to be successful in school and reach their potential. Additionally, Somerset had the third highest young child immunization rate. Somerset saw a reduction in their child poverty rate from 22.6% in 2019 to 18.5% in 2020.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	3
Young child immunizations	3

Areas of Challenge

Somerset County had the lowest median household income of any county at \$43,694 and the second highest unemployment rate. Somerset also had the highest rate of substantiated child maltreatment and the second highest rate for children in foster care. Children benefit from safe and stable homes. When economic conditions are not strong, financial stress can impact the caregiving relationship between parents and their children.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median household income	16
Child maltreatment	16
Unemployment rate	15
Children in foster care	15
Child poverty	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.

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

	Somerset	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	2,344	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	6,993	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	9,337	247,952
Births, 2021	460	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	970	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	1,655	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	6,236	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	2,785	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	3,406	59,291



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	551	5.9%	5.7%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	425	90.4%	89.9%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	179	76.2%	74.4%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	141	15.1	17.9		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	286	29.8	28.4		16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,655	18.5%	22.6%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$43,694	\$45,333		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	127	5.9%	3.8%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	6.3%	6.1%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	2,702	64.2%	66.4%		70.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	284	59.5%	58.5%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	488	81.5%	84.0%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	36.1%	18.3%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	15	26.3%	19.0%		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.