

Somerset County is rural but has the eighth highest number of children of all 16 counties at nearly 9,400 children.

### Areas of Strength

Somerset County was among the three counties with the highest rates of 4-year-olds in public preschool. Quality early education prepares children to be successful in school and reach their potential. Additionally, Somerset saw improvement in the rate of uninsured children and in prenatal care in the first trimester. Access to health care for pregnant women and for young children is important for children’s healthy development.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	3
Uninsured children	5

### Areas of Challenge

Somerset County had the second highest rate in the state for children in foster care and the third highest rate for substantiated child abuse. All children need safe, stable families to become healthy, productive adults. In terms of education, 4th grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates ranked among the lowest three counties in Maine. To improve this, it is important that local schools are adequately funded, and supportive services are accessible for all students.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Children in foster care	15
Child abuse	14
High school graduation	15
4th grade reading	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	Somerset	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	2,373	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	7,076	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	9,449	248,624
Births, 2020	470	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	2,023	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	5,777	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	2,949	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	4,028	64,925



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	542	5.7%	6.0%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	375	89.9%	88.1%		90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	201	74.4%	75.2%		71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	169	17.9	19.2		8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	268	28.4	42.2		17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	2,023	22.6%	21.1%		13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	\$45,333	\$43,755		\$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	81	3.8%	2.5%		3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	6.6%	4.0%		5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	1,807	66.4%	65.3%		70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	285	58.5%	66.9%		35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	520	84.0%	83.4%		87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	169	45.7%	45.2%		56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	12	19.0%	18.8%		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.

