

Waldo County is a central, coastal county in Maine with approximately 7,300 children.

Areas of Strength

Waldo County had the highest rate of high-quality child care sites. Quality child care sets the stage for children to be successful in school and to reach their potential. While child poverty in Waldo is still above the statewide average, Waldo saw a reduction in child poverty and an increase in median household income. When families' basic needs are met, children thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Quality child care	1

Areas of Challenge

Waldo County had the second highest rate of substantiated child abuse yet was at the statewide average for the rate per 1,000 children in foster care. All children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults. Waldo County was also one of the three counties with the lowest rates of 4-year-olds in public preschool. Due to the pandemic, the rate of public preschool decreased from 46.4% to 26.1%.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child abuse	15
Public preschool	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	Waldo	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	1,734	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	5,533	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	7,267	248,624
Births, 2020	341	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	1,281	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	3,963	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	1,813	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	2,050	64,925



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	486	6.6%	6.0%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	319	89.1%	88.1%		90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	151	61.1%	56.6%		71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	65	8.9	7.1		8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	222	30.5	20.5		17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	1,281	18.6%	20.2%		13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	\$51,073	\$49,482		\$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	79	4.4%	5.1%		3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	5.2%	2.9%		5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	1,399	68.5%	66.0%		70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	98	26.1%	46.4%		35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	222	85.1%	85.4%		87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	128	51.8%	45.0%		56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	15	30.0%	32.7%		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.

