

Washington County is a Downeast, coastal county with approximately 6,000 children.

### Areas of Strength

Washington County had the highest rate of prenatal care in the first trimester at 97.2%. Washington was also second for child care sites that are of high-quality in the QRIS system. Washington ranked third for the rate of four-year-olds in public preschool. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age five is important to build a foundation for success. Washington had the second lowest rate of children in foster care.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
<b>Prenatal care in the first trimester</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Quality child care</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Children in foster care</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Public Preschool</b>	<b>3</b>

### Areas of Challenge

Washington County had the highest average annual unemployment rate and second lowest rate of all parents with children under age six in the work force. Washington also had the third highest rate for uninsured children. Washington’s child poverty rate decreased from 24.6% to 17.7% in one year, but still was the county with the fourth highest child poverty rate. Families need access to jobs that pay a living wage to support their children.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>All parents in the work force</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Uninsured children</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Child poverty</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.

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

	Washington	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,525	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	4,507	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	6,032	247,952
Births, 2021	274	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,074	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	1,035	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	4,287	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,750	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	1,859	59,291



## HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	481	8.0%	8.6%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	247	97.2%	92.0%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	195	75.9%	86.2%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	20	3.3	4.5		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	131	23.0	20.5		16.9

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,035	17.7%	24.6%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$48,582	\$39,068		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	76	5.3%	4.8%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	6.5%	5.7%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	1,807	58.5%	58.0%		70.1%

## EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	194	60.4%	62.8%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	265	85.8%	87.8%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	29.8%	18.3%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	7	30.4%	20.0%		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.