York County, with the cities of Biddeford and Sanford, is the southernmost county and the second most populous, with approximately 38,400 children.

Areas of Strength

York County had a strong economy, based on pre-pandemic economic indicators. York had the second highest household median income; the second lowest poverty rate; and the second lowest rate of uninsured children. York had the third highest rate of 4th graders reading proficiently and was one of two counties with high school graduation rates above 90%. Children thrive when their families' basic needs are met.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Median household income	2
Child poverty	2
Uninsured children	2
High school graduation	2
4th grade reading	3

Areas of Challenge

York County was below statewide averages in the rate of high-quality child care sites and in the rate of 4-year-olds attending public preschool. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age 5 is important to build a foundation for success. Comparing the 2020 annual unemployment rate to the previous year, York's unemployment rate nearly more than doubled and was the largest increase in the state.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	13
Quality child care	12

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

	York	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	9,625	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	28,813	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	38,438	248,624
Births, 2020	1,729	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	3,632	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	14,116	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	5,696	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	7,074	64,925

York

HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	1,840	4.6%	4.6%	No change	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	1,633	91.1%	90.9%	No change	90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	1,266	67.8%	64.8%	Better	71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	233	6.1	5.5	Worse	8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	634	16.5	19.3	Better	17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	3,632	9.9%	10.5%	Better	13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	$66,803	$65,984	Better	$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	251	2.7%	2.2%	Worse	3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	5.4%	2.4%	Worse	5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	8,303	73.7%	72.9%	Better	70.7%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	593	29.0%	34.9%	Worse	35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	1,776	90.8%	91.1%	No change	87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	1,163	59.7%	54.4%	Better	56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	24	11.2%	9.8%	Better	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.

Maine Children's Alliance