



# 2023

## **MAINE KIDS COUNT<sup>®</sup>**

The Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book<sup>®</sup> is a project  
of the Maine Children's Alliance



**Maine Children's Alliance**

Advocating for the well-being of all Maine families.

# MAINE KIDS COUNT: DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES OF DATA

## DEMOGRAPHICS



### POPULATION

#### Children by race and ethnicity and county, according to the Decennial Census 2020, KIDS COUNT

Children by race/ethnicity is the estimated number and percentage of children in Maine by race and ethnicity in 2020. Census 2020 is a once every 10-year enumeration of the population and replaces other population estimates that are based on small surveys for the year that the census is administered. The population of children under age 18 is computed by subtracting the total population from the voting age (age 18 & over) population. Race and ethnicity are based on replies to the Census questions.

SOURCE: U.S. Census 2020 [Table P2](#) and U.S. Census 2020 [Table P4](#)

#### Children by age Group, 2020, KIDS COUNT

Population by age groups for Maine children were based on population estimates for calendar year 2020. Unless otherwise noted, the denominators for age groups were derived from these population estimates.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics.

#### Births in Maine, 2022, provisional, KIDS COUNT

is the number of live births in Maine per calendar year by mother's resident county. Births are still provisional for 2022.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics.

### SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

#### Maine public school enrollment 2022-2023

The number of publicly-funded students in Maine enrolled in grades prekindergarten (also called public preschool) to grade 12 based on a data collection on October 1, 2022, so for the school year 2022-2023. This includes public schools and 60% publicly funded private schools.

SOURCE: [Maine Department of Education Data Warehouse](#)

## HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING



#### Babies born exposed/affected to substances, KIDS COUNT

Is the number of infants and estimated percentage of infants born in Maine where a healthcare provider reported to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), that there was reasonable cause to suspect the baby may be either affected by illegal substance abuse, demonstrating withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal exposure (illicit or prescribed), or have fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. This measure potentially excludes instances where the infant was exposed to substances and did not show withdrawal symptoms after birth, instances where the birth of an infant affected by substances was not reported to OCFS, and any other instances in which there were discrepancies between reporters when interpreting the law. Data is for the calendar year 2022.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services

#### Infant mortality

is the number and rate of deaths of infants in Maine under one year of age. The rate is per 1,000 live births. For the state of Maine in comparison to national data, one-year rates are used. Data are reported by place of residence, not place of death. Maine county level data are averaged over the five-year period, from 2017-2021. A five-year time frame is used because small numbers make the data more uncertain.

SOURCE: [Maine Maternal, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Panel](#), June 2022

#### Children without health insurance, KIDS COUNT

is the estimated number and percentage of children under age 19 in Maine who did not have any kind of public or private health insurance at some point in time and the denominator is all Maine children ages 0 -18. Data is for the calendar year 2020.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, [Small Area Health Insurance Estimates \(SAHIE\)](#), 2020

### Children who received a dental service by insurance type, KIDS COUNT

is the number and estimated percentage of children, ages 0-20 in Maine with either MaineCare or other dental insurance who had at least one claim for a dental service in 2021. Because it is based on claims data, it includes fluoride varnish delivered by a primary care provider and dental related services at a federally qualified health center. Only children who had continuous coverage 11 months of the year either through MaineCare or private insurance are included.

SOURCE: The Children's Oral Health Network of Maine provided the analysis. The data comes from the Maine Health Data Organization's All Payer Claims Dataset. Please refer to the [MHDO website](#) for more details regarding data restrictions and represented insurers.

### Children and teens who are overweight or obese, KIDS COUNT

is the estimated number and percentage of children and teens in Maine who were overweight and obese. Having a weight between the 85th and 95th percentile BMI-for-age were categorized as overweight, and children at or above the 95th percentile BMI-for-age were characterized as obese. Height and weight were reported by the parent or most knowledgeable adult, to determine a child's Body Mass Index, or BMI, which is then used to determine if a child had a normal weight or was overweight or obese. The BMI is age- and gender-specific. Data is for the two-year period 2020-2021.

SOURCE: [The National Survey of Children's Health, 2020-2021, Indicator 1.4a](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE

### High school students who feel sad or hopeless

is the estimated number and percentage of Maine high school students who answered yes in a survey to the question, "During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?" This is a symptom of possible depression. The survey, called the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS) is a collaboration between the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Department of Education. Its purpose is to quantify the health of students by direct student survey. Data is from surveys conducted among Maine high school students in October and November 2021.

SOURCE: [Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, 2021](#), Maine Department of Health and Human Services

### Adverse Childhood Experiences, KIDS COUNT

is the estimated number and percent of children ages 3 to 17 in Maine who have experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences. This includes: a.) hard to cover the basics, like food or housing; b.) parent or guardian is divorced or separated; c.) parent or guardian served time in jail; d.) child witnessed domestic violence or neighborhood violence; e.) child lived with someone who was mentally ill, suicidal or severely depressed; f.) child lived with someone who had a problem with alcohol or drugs; g) child was treated or judged unfairly because of their race or ethnic group or sexual orientation or gender identity This data is from the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH). Data is for 2020-2021.

SOURCE: National Survey of Children's Health, Indicator 6.13: [Two or more adverse childhood experiences](#)

### Teen suicide, KIDS COUNT

is the average annual number and estimated rate of children and teens ages 10-19 who commit suicide in Maine. These data represent five-year averages from 2011-2015 to 2017-2021. The rate is per 100,000 children ages 10-19. A five-year time frame is used because small numbers makes the data more uncertain.

SOURCE: Maine data from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics and national data from the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC), [CDC Wonder Online Database](#),

### High school students who reported that they used tobacco, alcohol, marijuana or e-cigarettes in the last 30 days

is the estimated number and percentage of Maine high school students who stated that in separate questions that they had used this specific substance at least once in the last 30 days. The survey, called the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS), is a collaboration between the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Department of Education. Its purpose is to quantify the health of students by direct student survey. Data is from surveys conducted among Maine high school students in October and November 2021.

SOURCE: [Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, 2021](#)

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## CHILD WELFARE

### Children with substantiated child maltreatment

is the number and estimated rate of individual children ages birth to age 17 in Maine who have one or more substantiated child maltreatment reports. Substantiated means that an assessment led to a finding of a threat to a child's health or welfare by physical, mental or emotional injury or impairment, sexual abuse or exploitation, deprivation of essential needs or lack of protection from these by a person responsible for the child (22 MRSA §4002). The rate is per 1,000 children ages 0-17. Data is for federal fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019- September 30, 2020) so that comparisons to national data may be made.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, [Child Maltreatment 2020](#), page 36

### Children in foster care, KIDS COUNT

is the number and estimated rate of children in foster care in Maine on December 31, 2022. The rate is per 1,000 children ages 0-17. The denominator is the number of children ages 0-17 per the latest population estimates from the Maine Office of Vital Statistics the year before. The numerator is the number of children in state custody at a point in time the day of the last month of the calendar year. The county is where the child lived before placement into foster care. Note that the Maine total includes any children where their county is not recorded. These children were ordered into DHHS custody as a result of a child protection hearing where the child is found to be in jeopardy, a juvenile hearing where it would be contrary to the child's health and welfare to remain in the care or custody of the parents, or a divorce and/or custody hearing where neither parent has been found able to provide a home in the best interest of the child.

SOURCE: Maine Office for Children and Families Services.

## FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY



## POVERTY

### **Federal poverty threshold**

is used to estimate the number of people in poverty. It is calculated as three times the cost of a minimum food diet per person in a family and is updated yearly and is the same throughout the United States.

SOURCE: [U.S. Census Poverty Thresholds](#)

### Children in poverty, KIDS COUNT

is the estimated number and percentage of children in Maine, based on data for calendar year 2021 who live in households with incomes below the federal poverty threshold. For 2021, the federal poverty threshold for a family of four was \$27,740.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, (SAIPE), 2021 [Poverty Estimates](#)

### **Supplemental poverty measure**

is an alternative government poverty measure which takes into account where a household lives as well as government non-cash benefits and necessary expenses. For more information about how it is calculated, see [How the U.S. Census Bureau Measures Poverty](#)

### Child supplemental poverty, KIDS COUNT

is the estimated number and percentage of children in Maine, based on data for calendar year 2019-2021, who live in households considered to be in poverty based on the supplemental poverty measure.

SOURCE: 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) Research File, 2019 CPS ASEC Bridge File, 2020-2022 CPS ASEC. Estimates represent a three-year average.

## INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

### Median household income, KIDS COUNT

is the dollar amount representing the median (middle number) income of households in Maine both with and without children and including one-person households in 2021. Note that median household income values are not adjusted for inflation.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2021, [Median Income Estimates](#)

### Children under age six with all available parents in the workforce, KIDS COUNT

is the estimated number and percentage of Maine children under age 6 with all parents in the family in the workforce. For children living in a home with two parents this means that both parents are in the workforce. For children living in a single-parent family, this means the resident parent is in the work force. A person is considered in the workforce if they are employed part time or full time or if they are unemployed but actively looking for work. Note that for county estimates five-year estimates are used, with the latest time period

being 2017-2021, while state-level data is also available in one-year estimates, with the most recent year of 2021.

SOURCE: [U.S. Census Table B23008](#)

## Children whose parents lack secure employment, KIDS COUNT

is the estimated number and percentage of children under age 18 in 2021 in Maine who lived in families where no parent has regular, full-time employment. For children living in single-parent families, this means the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. For children living in married-couple families, this means neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. Children living with neither parent were listed as not having secure parental employment because those children are likely to be economically unstable.

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey, (one-year data).

## HOUSING

### High housing cost burden for renter households, KIDS COUNT

is the estimated number and percentage of Maine households who paid more than 30 percent of monthly household pretax income on housing. The numerator is the number of renter households who paid more than 30 percent of their income and the denominator is all renter households for whom the percent of income spent on housing could be determined according to the U.S. Census American Community Survey, Table DP04, five-year estimates. The most recent data is for 2017-2021. All renter households, not just renter households with children under age 18, are included.

SOURCE: [U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table DP04](#)

### Children who were homeless

is the number of children in Maine, ages birth to 17 who were experiencing homelessness on January 25, 2022 in Maine according to a point-in-time survey conducted for the U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by Maine's Continuum of Care including information from emergency shelters and other service providers and including both sheltered and unsheltered populations.

SOURCE: [Maine Housing Point in Time Report](#), 2022

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION



### High-quality child care, KIDS COUNT

is the number and percent of all child care providers in Maine that have an active license and are enrolled in the 4-step rating Quality for Maine rating system, (called QRIS) who have achieved either level 3 or the highest level, level 4. QRIS is a voluntary quality improvement system for licensed child care providers. The data represent the number and percent of family-based child cares and the number and percent of center-based child cares enrolled in the QRIS data based in December of the calendar year who have achieved either a level 3 or level 4 status. Note that the criteria for being included is that child cares that have an active license- so this excludes child cares whose license is in process of a routine review, pending or suspended. The state changed from the QRIS system to a different system in March 2023. For more information, see [Quality Rating and Improvement System: Rising Stars for ME Transition Plan](#).

SOURCE: Maine Office for Children and Family Services. This indicator is also updated monthly and posted to Maine [OCFS Dashboard for Early Childhood Education](#), although it does not differentiate between family child cares and center-based child cares.

### Four-year-olds in public preschool, KIDS COUNT

is the number and percent of four-year-old children in Maine enrolled in a four-year-old program offered through a school administrative unit. Children must be four years of age by October 15 of the entering school year in order to be eligible for a public preschool program, also known as pre-kindergarten. Data marked as 2022 is for students enrolled as of October 2022. Data represent school years. The year indicated is the fall term of the year, such that "2022" data represent 2022-2023 school year.

SOURCE: [Maine Department of Education Data Warehouse](#)

### High school graduation, KIDS COUNT

is the percent of students in Maine who graduate in 4 years from public schools and 60% publicly funded private schools. It is based on examining a cohort of ninth graders and whether they graduated within 4 years. The year represents the end of school year, so 2022 is the school year September 2021 to June 2022. The Maine Department of Education reports on graduation rates on: 1) economically disadvantaged students, 2) English Language Learners, and 3) students with disabilities 4) students in foster care, 5.) students who are homeless, or

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6.) students in migrant families or 7.) military-connected families. Each of these groups is a priority population.

SOURCE: [Maine Department of Education Data Warehouse: Student Outcomes](#)

## **Chronic absenteeism**, KIDS COUNT

is the number and percent of students in Maine who are chronically absent from school and this is disaggregated by whether the student's family is or is not economically disadvantaged. A student is defined as being chronically absent if the student is absent 10% or more of the days enrolled or for a typical school year at a rate which would lead to 18 or more absences, including both excused and unexcused absences. Economically disadvantaged refers to students who live in families whose income is 185% or below federal poverty levels. This was \$49,025 for a family of four persons in 2021. The year 2021 refers to the school year from September 2020- June 2021.

SOURCE: [Maine Department of Education ESSA Data Dashboard](#)

## **First year teacher's salary**, KIDS COUNT

is the average first-year starting teacher salary and is based on contracts submitted to Maine's educational union called the Educational Association (MEA). The definition of starting teacher salary is the amount a district has agreed in their contract to pay a first-year teacher by with a bachelor's degree and no experience teaching. The average of the county is computed by averaging the contracted starting salaries by district, without regard to how many teachers were hired at that salary. The year 2022 refers to the school year 2021-2022. Not every district submitted information to the MEA for every year, so the data is based only on districts that did. Notably, Lewiston and RSU 9 did not submit for 2021-2022. These are unweighted averages. This means that it is the average of the counties in the districts starting salaries, not the average pay of all the first-year teachers hired. For example, if a county had two districts and one hired five teachers at \$60,000 each and the second school hired one teacher at \$30,000, the unweighted average would  $(\$60,000 + \$30,000) \div 2 = \$45,000$  and not  $(5 * \$60,000) + (1 * \$30,000) / 6 = \$55,000$ .

SOURCE: [Maine Education Association \(MEA\) 2022 Salary Guide](#)

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS



## EDUCATION AND LEARNING

### EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

#### **Number of licensed child care providers**

is the number of licensed child care homes and child care centers as of December 2020. Data is also reported as a percent of the total number of licensed child care providers for each type of licensed child care; as well as the number and percent of child care providers enrolled in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) at the two highest levels, step 3 or step 4.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Data Dashboard for Early Childhood Education, December 2020 [OCFS Early Childhood Education Dashboard](#)

#### **Children enrolled in Maine Public Preschool**

is the number and estimated percentage of four-year-old children enrolled in a public preschool program offered through a school administrative unit during the 2020-2021 school year. Children must be four years of age by October 15 of the entering school year in order to be eligible for a public preschool program.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, Data Warehouse [Student Enrollment Data](#)

#### **Children receiving early intervention through Child Development Services (Part C and Part B)**

is the number and estimated rate of children ages 0-12 months (Part C); ages 0-36 months (Part C); and ages 3-5 (Part B) who receive services through Child Development Services. The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) makes it possible for states to offer free early intervention services for young children with developmental delays and sometimes for other children with specific health conditions that will probably lead to a delay. Maine provides both Early Intervention (birth-3 years) and Free Appropriate Public Education (3-5 years) through Child Development Services (CDS), which is under the Department of Education. Data is for FFY 2019.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, "IDEA Part C Child Count and Settings Survey," 2019: [Early Intervention ages 0-3](#) and U.S. Department of Education, IDEA Section 618 Data Products: Part B, Table 1, 2019-2020 [Early Intervention Services ages 3-5](#)

### **Chronic Absenteeism**

is the percentage of students in Maine schools who were chronically absent, defined as absent 18 or more days or 10% or more of the days enrolled. Chronic absenteeism includes being absent for any reason – excused or unexcused. Data is for all schools that reported in the 2018-2019 school year. Data is also reported by students who are economically disadvantaged or not.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, ESSA Dashboard, and choose the tab “student behavior” [Chronic Absenteeism](#)

### **HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION**

#### **High school graduates, Class of 2022**

is the number and percentage of students who entered ninth grade for the first time in the fall of 2015 and received a “regular” diploma in the spring of 2019. The data includes public schools and private schools with 60 percent or more publicly-funded students. Data is reported by students who are economically disadvantaged or not and is also reported by race and by populations of students who are in foster care, with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are homeless.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, [Graduation Rates](#)