Androscoggin County, with the cities of Lewiston and Auburn, is one of the four counties in Maine with 23,000 or more children.

Areas of Strength

Androscoggin County had the highest rate of all parents in the workforce. Androscoggin also had the third lowest rate of uninsured children. Androscoggin saw economic improvements between 2018 and 2019, as the child poverty rate declined by two percentage points from 17.3% to 15.3% and the median household income increased by $9,000 to $58,958. Children thrive when parents are able to support their families financially.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
All parents in workforce	**1**
Uninsured children	**3**

Areas of Challenge

Androscoggin County had the lowest rate of students graduating high school at 80.1%, four percentage points lower than any other county. 4th grade reading proficiency was the second lowest in the state. Like many counties, the rate of children attending public preschool declined dramatically during COVID. To improve these education indicators, it is important that local schools are adequately funded, and that supportive services are accessible for all students.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High school graduation	**16**
4th grade reading	**15**

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

DEMOGRAPHICS	Androscoggin	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	6,237	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	17,067	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	23,304	248,624
Births, 2020	1,093	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	3,430	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	13,537	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	7,312	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	8,844	64,925

HEALTH

HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	1,220	5.2%	4.6%	Worse	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	1,002	86.3%	84.6%	Better	90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	877	62.7%	65.5%	Worse	71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	237	10.2	9.9	Worse	8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	403	17.3	17.5	Better	17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	3,430	15.3%	17.3%	Better	13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	$58,958	$49,935	Better	$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	76	1.4%	3.9%	Better	3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	5.5%	2.7%	Worse	5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	6,015	77.5%	76.6%	Better	70.7%

EDUCATION

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	647	51.0%	70.3%	Worse	35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	862	80.1%	80.3%	No change	87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	473	43.2%	38.1%	Better	56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	21	10.4%	11.6%	Worse	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.