Franklin County, with Maine's Western Mountains, is rural, and the second least populous county in Maine with 5,300 children.

Areas of Strength

Franklin County had the second highest rate of child care sites that are high-quality. In addition, Franklin had the third lowest rate for children who have experienced maltreatment. 4th grade reading also improved significantly. While Franklin's child poverty rate remained above the state average, the county also had substantial improvement, dropping from 20.2% of children in poverty in 2018 to 16.6% in 2019.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	**2**
Child abuse	**3**

Areas of Challenge

Like many counties, the rate of children enrolled in public preschool in Franklin County dropped dramatically from 61.0% to 33.8%. Prenatal care in the first trimester also declined and was below the statewide average. The annual unemployment rate for 2020 of 6.1% was substantially higher than the previous year and above the state average. Investment in early education, access to prenatal care, and a strong economy help build communities where families can thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Prenatal care in first trimester	**12**
Unemployment rate	**13**

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	Franklin	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	1,312	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	4,028	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	5,340	248,624
Births, 2020	219	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	848	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	2,738	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	1,295	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	1,551	64,925

Franklin

HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	331	6.1%	6.0%	Worse	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	184	87.2%	89.8%	Worse	90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	220	76.4%	73.7%	Better	71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	43	8.1	8.0	No change	8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	78	14.6	24.7	Better	17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	848	16.6%	20.4%	Better	13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	$51,136	$49,561	Better	$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	55	3.2%	2.0%	Worse	3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	6.1%	3.4%	Worse	5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	1,042	63.4%	64.9%	Worse	70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	93	33.8%	61.0%	Worse	35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	322	86.3%	81.2%	Better	87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	173	49.9%	37.8%	Better	56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	9	21.4%	18.2%	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.