

Penobscot County, home to the city of Bangor, is in central Maine and is the third most populous county with 27,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Penobscot County has the highest rate in the state of prenatal care in the first trimester. Access to health care for pregnant women helps establish babies’ healthy development. Additionally, Penobscot has the second lowest rate of teens not in school and not working. Young adults thrive when they have access to higher education and employment that pays a living wage.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Prenatal care	1
Teens not in school and not working	2

Opportunities for Growth

Penobscot County has the lowest percent of child care sites that are high quality. Attention to the educational, social and emotional needs of children under age five builds a foundation for success. Also, Penobscot’s rates of both substantiated child abuse and children in foster care are well above state averages and went up this year. All children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults.

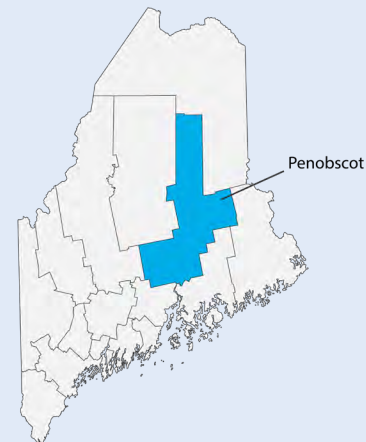
INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High quality child care sites	16

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. The County Profiles offer insight into how policies and practices in Maine are working and where there are opportunities for improvement.

DEMOGRAPHICS	Penobscot	Maine
Children under age 5, 2018	7,135	64,282
Children ages 5 -17, 2018	19,913	185,823
Children ages 0 -17, 2018	27,048	250,105
Children in poverty, 2018	4,554	35,961
Births, 2018	1,380	12,299
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2019	14,105	118,137
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2019	6,941	57,955
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2019-2020	13,094	82,073



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2018	1,789	6.4%	4.6%	👎	5.7%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2018	1,380	94.0%	92.4%	👍	89.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, 2019	1,642	75.5%	80.0%	👎	69.8%
Children in foster care, 12/31/19, (rate per 1,000)	319	11.8	9.1	👎	8.6
Substantiated child abuse victims, CY 2018, (rate per 1,000)	665	24.6	21.8	👎	18.2

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2018	4,554	17.1%	16.2%	👎	14.8%
Median household income, 2018	N/A	\$47,840	\$49,836	👎	\$55,579
Teens not in school and not working, 2014-2018	167	1.9%	1.9%	👍	3.5%
Unemployment, Dec 2019 (not seasonally adjusted)	N/A	3.0%	4.0%	👍	2.9%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018	5,857	70.2%	70.2%	🟡	71.1%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2019 -2020	869	59.6%	63.2%	👎	47.0%
High school graduation rate, 2019	1,526	88.4%	86.3%	👍	87.4%
4th grade reading meets or exceeds proficiency, MEA, 2018-2019	635	55.8%	53.8%	👍	56.2%
High quality child care sites (QRIS 3 or 4), Dec 2019	13	8.3%	10.1%	👎	13.9%

👍 = Better, 👎 = Worse, 🟡 = No change (defined as less than 1% change.)

To learn more about the measure, click on the link to the KIDS COUNT Data Center or other source.

