

Washington County is a Downeast, coastal county with approximately 6,000 children.

Areas of Strength

Washington County is the best or second best county for all education measures. Communities with a commitment to education help children reach their full potential. Washington is also in the top three counties for prenatal care in the first trimester and in immunizations of children ages 18-35 months. Access to health care for pregnant women and for young children encourages healthy development and helps prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High school graduation	1
Public preschool	2
4th grade reading	2
Young child immunizations	2
Prenatal care	3

Opportunities for Growth

Washington County has the highest child poverty rate in the state, with more than one in four children living in poverty. It also has the second lowest household median income. All children need financially secure families who can meet their basic needs. Washington also has the highest rate of children who lack health insurance. Children with health insurance are more likely to receive consistent primary care.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child poverty	16
Household income	15
Uninsured children	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

	Washington	Maine
Children under age 5, 2018	1,499	64,282
Children ages 5 -17, 2018	4,487	185,823
Children ages 0 -17, 2018	5,986	250,105
Children in poverty, 2018	1,534	35,961
Births, 2018	306	12,299
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2019	4,013	118,137
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2019	2,109	57,955
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2019-2020	2,663	82,073



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2018	539	9.1%	7.7%	🔴	5.7%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2018	306	91.8%	91.4%	🟡	89.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, 2019	229	79.5%	86.1%	🔴	69.8%
Children in foster care, 12/31/19, (rate per 1,000)	37	6.2	6.8	🟢	8.6
Substantiated child abuse victims, CY 2018, (rate per 1,000)	86	14.4	18.4	🟢	18.2

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2018	1,534	26.8%	26.8%	🟡	14.8%
Median household income, 2018	N/A	\$39,522	\$37,943	🟢	\$55,579
Teens not in school and not working, 2014-2018	68	4.6%	3.7%	🔴	3.5%
Unemployment, Dec 2019 (not seasonally adjusted)	N/A	4.1%	6.3%	🟢	2.9%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018	1,029	58.8%	56.9%	🟢	71.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2019 -2020	262	84.5%	64.5%	🟢	47.0%
High school graduation rate, 2019	297	92.2%	87.0%	🟢	87.4%
4th grade reading meets or exceeds proficiency, MEA, 2018-2019	58	61.7%	49.0%	🟢	56.2%
High quality child care sites (QRIS 3 or 4), Dec 2019	8	30.8%	25.0%	🟢	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.

