

Waldo County, where the Penobscot Narrows Bridge is located, is a central, coastal county in Maine with approximately 7,300 children.

### Areas of Strength

Waldo County had the highest rate of high-quality child care sites in the QRIS system, at 43.2%. Waldo also had the third highest rate of all parents with children under age six in the workforce. Quality child care makes it easier for parents to be part of the workforce and for children to thrive. Additionally, Waldo saw a reduction in child poverty from 18.6% in 2019 to 15.6% in 2020.

### Areas of Challenge

Waldo County had the highest rate of uninsured children at 10.2%. Access to health insurance is important to ensure children get the care they need. Waldo also had the second highest rate of substantiated child maltreatment. Waldo County was one of the three counties with the lowest rates of four-year-olds in public preschool. Waldo also had the third highest rate of teens not in school and not working.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Quality child care	1
All parents in the workforce	3

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Uninsured children	16
Child maltreatment	15
Public preschool	14
Teens not in school and not working	14

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.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

	Waldo	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	1,830	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	5,451	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	7,281	247,952
Births, 2021	349	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	802	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	4,283	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	1,705	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	1,527	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	4,121	59,291



## HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	750	10.2%	6.6%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	302	88.6%	89.1%		90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	169	64.8%	61.1%		72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	89	12.2	8.9		9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	205	28.0	30.5		16.9

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,086	15.6%	18.6%		12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	\$56,085	\$51,073		\$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	109	6.1%	4.4%		3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	4.7%	4.7%		4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	2,073	75.8%	68.5%		70.1%

## EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	135	34.2%	26.1%		42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	213	85.2%	85.1%		86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	26.8%	18.3%		20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	19	43.2%	30.0%		17.7%

= Better, = Worse, = No change (defined as less than 1% change) compared to county data from prior year.

**Note:** MEA reading tests were not conducted 2019-2020 school year, due to Covid-19 school closures. The 2020-2021 reading test was new and did not include proficiency determinations.

†See [Census 2020 Children by race/ethnicity](#) for the numbers and percents for children of each race and ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino; and among Non-Hispanic children of the following races: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; Two or More Races or Some Other Race; and White.

\*Chronic absenteeism is based on eighteen or more excused or unexcused absences and is an unweighted average of secondary schools, not taking into account the number of students per school.