

Aroostook County is the most northern and remote county in Maine, with approximately 12,200 children.

### Areas of Strength

Aroostook County continued to have the highest rate of children enrolled in public preschool, though the 2020-2021 enrollment was affected by the pandemic. The rate was 73.8%, down from 92.9% the previous year, compared to the 2021 state rate of just 35.6%. Aroostook also had the third highest immunization rates of young children. Community norms that promote the importance of vaccinations and foster opportunities for early learning help young children thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Public preschool	1
Young child immunizations	3

### Areas of Challenge

Aroostook County had the highest rate of children who have experienced child maltreatment, as well as the most per capita children in foster care. Aroostook had the second lowest median household income in the state at \$40,675, and the third lowest percent of all available parents of children under age 6 in the work force. All children need safe, financially stable families to become healthy, productive adults.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Child abuse	16
Children in foster care	16
Median household income	15
All parents in the workforce	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.

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	Aroostook	Maine
Children under age 5, 2019	3,200	63,537
Children ages 5 -17, 2019	9,015	185,087
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2019	12,215	248,624
Births, 2020	586	11,537
Children in poverty, 2019	2,363	33,026
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2020	7,451	118,603
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2020	3,594	53,963
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2020-2021	4,231	64,925



HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2019	768	6.3%	8.3%		5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2019	561	90.6%	91.1%		90.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 20, Q4	720	78.4%	79.1%		71.2%
Children in foster care, 12/31/20, (rate per 1,000)	234	19.2	17.0		8.9
Substantiated child abuse CY 2020, (rate per 1,000)	394	32.3	29.5		17.6

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2019	2,363	20.2%	19.1%		13.8%
Median household income, 2019	N/A	\$40,675	\$39,450		\$58,824
Teens not in school and not working, 2015-2019	62	2.0%	4.3%		3.3%
Unemployment Rate, 2020	N/A	5.5%	4.1%		5.4%
All parents in work force, children under 6, 2015-2019	2,196	59.6%	59.9%		70.7%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2020-2021	449	73.8%	92.9%		35.6%
High school graduation rate, 2020	619	86.2%	87.1%		87.4%
4th grade reading MEA meets or exceeds proficiency, 2018-2019*	348	57.0%	54.3%		56.2%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2020	11	12.0%	11.4%		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.

