

Oxford County is a rural, inland county with the fifth largest child population in the state at 10,600 children.

Areas of Strength

Oxford County has the fifth highest percentage of child care sites that are high quality. The rate of children in public preschool is also well above the state average and is improving. In Oxford, the rate of 4th graders reading proficiently increased by ten percentage points. High school graduation rates also improved. Communities that have quality education programs for all ages help children reach their full potential.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High quality child care sites	5

Opportunities for Growth

Oxford County is one of two counties in Maine where more than one in four children live in poverty. All children deserve to live in families that have resources to meet their basic needs. Oxford also has the second highest 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
Children in poverty	15
Teens not in school and not working	15

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

	Oxford	Maine
Children under age 5, 2018	2,613	64,282
Children ages 5 -17, 2018	8,018	185,823
Children ages 0 -17, 2018	10,631	250,105
Children in poverty, 2018	2,674	35,961
Births, 2018	473	12,299
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2019	6,327	118,137
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2019	3,396	57,955
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2019-2020	5,099	82,073



HEALTH

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2018	612	5.7%	5.1%	👎	5.7%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2018	473	90.3%	89.0%	👍	89.1%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, 2019	233	72.4%	75.8%	👎	69.8%
Children in foster care, 12/31/19, (rate per 1,000)	125	11.8	6.7	👎	8.6
Substantiated child abuse victims, CY 2018, (rate per 1,000)	209	19.7	14.3	👎	18.2

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2018	2,674	26.3%	20.2%	👎	14.8%
Median household income, 2018	N/A	\$44,243	\$50,367	👎	\$55,579
Teens not in school and not working, 2014-2018	200	7.3%	3.6%	👎	3.5%
Unemployment, Dec 2019 (not seasonally adjusted)	N/A	3.4%	4.5%	👍	2.9%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018	2,126	67.7%	66.4%	👍	71.1%

EDUCATION

	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2019 -2020	325	61.2%	60.1%	👍	47.0%
High school graduation rate, 2019	637	85.5%	84.5%	👍	87.4%
4th grade reading meets or exceeds proficiency, MEA, 2018-2019	282	50.7%	40.7%	👍	56.2%
High quality child care sites (QRIS 3 or 4), Dec 2019	11	17.5%	12.3%	👍	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.

