Oxford County is a rural, inland county with the sixth largest child population in the state with 10,450 children.

Areas of Strength

Oxford County had the fourth highest rate of child care sites that are high-quality in the QRIS system. Oxford also was above the state rate for four-year-olds attending public preschool, at 53.2%. Communities that have quality education programs for all ages help their children reach their full potential. Oxford also recorded better than the state rate of uninsured children, at 5.4%.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Quality child care sites	4
Uninsured children	6
Public preschool	7

Areas of Challenge

Oxford County had the second highest rate of teenagers not in school and not working as well as the fourth highest unemployment rate. Young adults become productive adults when given opportunities for education and employment that pay a living wage. Oxford was one of the four counties with the highest rates of children in foster care. Children need safe and stable families to become healthy, productive adults.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Teens not in school and not working	15
Unemployment rate	13
Children in foster care	14 (tie)

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.

Maine Children's Alliance

Maine Children's Alliance | 2022 County Data Profiles | mekids.org

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Oxford	Maine
Children under age 5, 2020	2,482	63,380
Children ages 5 -17, 2020	7,966	184,572
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2020	10,448	247,952
Births, 2021	452	12,001
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,358	41,514
Children in poverty, 2020	1,701	30,612
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2022	6,899	128,221
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2021	3,113	50,410
School children eligible for free and reduced meals, 2021-2022	2,258	59,291

Oxford

HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2020	568	5.4%	5.9%	👍	5.6%
Prenatal care in first trimester, 2020	455	90.3%	90.9%	➖	90.2%
Immunization rate, ages 24-35 months, CY 21, Q4	313	72.5%	71.7%	👍	72.0%
Children in foster care, 12/31/21, (rate per 1,000)	129	12.3	13.1	👍	9.0
Substantiated child abuse CY 2021, (rate per 1,000)	217	19.5	20.9	👍	16.9

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2020	1,701	16.9%	17.6%	👍	12.8%
Median household income, 2020	N/A	$47,611	$50,344	👎	$59,145
Teens not in school and not working, 2016-2020	168	6.5%	6.3%	👎	3.7%
Unemployment Rate, 2021	N/A	5.6%	6.1%	👍	4.6%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2016-2020	2,918	70.9%	71.5%	➖	70.1%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2021-2022	272	53.2%	51.4%	👍	42.5%
High school graduation rate, 2021	567	83.0%	85.0%	👎	86.1%
Secondary school students who were chronically absent, 2020-2021*	not available	36.0%	29.2%	👎	20.9%
Child Care sites at QRIS level 3 or 4, Dec 2021	12	25.5%	16.9%	👍	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.