Hancock County, home to Acadia National Park, is a Downeast coastal community with approximately 9,210 children.

Areas of Strength

Hancock County had the lowest rate of infants with low birth weights. Access to prenatal care helps babies to be born healthy. Hancock's high school graduation rate was better than state averages and ranked fifth. Hancock saw improvements in every economic measure including a reduction in child poverty and unemployment and an increase in median household income and in the rate of all parents in the workforce. A strong local economy helps children and families thrive.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
Infants with low birth weights	**1**
High school graduation	**5**

Areas of Challenge

Hancock County had the lowest rate of high-quality child care sites and a low rate of four-year-olds attending public preschool. Attention to the educational needs of children under age five is important for future success. Hancock also had the second highest rate of children without health insurance. Hancock was one of only two counties where the chronic absenteeism rate among secondary students got worse in 2022-2023 compared to the previous year.

INDICATOR	STATE RANK
High-quality child care sites	**16**
Children without health insurance	**15**
Public preschool	**13**
Chronic absenteeism	**13**

The Maine Children's Alliance is part of the national KIDS COUNT® network of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In a user-friendly internet platform, KIDS COUNT® makes available the most recent, reliable data on the well-being of children in Maine and the nation.

From the hundreds of indicators in the areas of health, education, and economic status on KIDS COUNT, the selected indicators in this County Profile are among those where county-level data is available where it is clear which direction we want the indicator to go to make improvements for Maine children. 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, demographic data, and then information on the fourteen indicators of child health and well-being for the current year, previous year, and in comparison to the state rate.

Maine Children's Alliance

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Hancock	Maine
Children under age 5, 2022	2,200	62,120
Children ages 5 -17, 2022	7,012	187,186
Total Children ages 0 -17, 2022	9,212	249,306
Births, 2022	411	12,081
Children of color, Census 2020 †	1,205	41,514
Children in poverty, 2022	1,177	29,991
Children ages 0 -18 participating in MaineCare, SFY 2023	4,835	133,431
Children receiving SNAP, Dec 2023	1,636	55,559
Economically disadvantaged students, under 185% of poverty, 2023-2024	1,994	63,983

Hancock

HEALTH	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Children under age 19 without health insurance, 2021	563	5.8%	7.3%	Better	4.3%
Infants with low birth weights, 2022	23	5.6%	7.5%	Better	8.2%
Youth in evidence-based practices of HCT FFT or HCT MST*, rate per 1,000, September 2023	1	0.22	0.22	No change	1.04
Children in foster care, December 2023, rate per 1,000	113	12.3	11.1	Worse	9.6
Substantiated child abuse, 2022, rate per 1,000	160	17.7	19.2	Better	15.8

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Child poverty, 2022	1,177	13.3%	14.2%	Better	12.4%
Median household income, 2022	N/A	$63,879	$57,001	Better	$69,485
Teens not in school and not working, 2018-2022	107	4.2%	4.7%	Better	4.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2022	N/A	3.5%	5.0%	Better	3.0%
All parents in workforce, children under 6, 2018-2022	1,767	66.4%	65.5%	Better	69.6%

EDUCATION	Current number	Current rate	Previous rate	Better or Worse?	State rate
Four-year-olds in public preschool, 2023-2024	186	38.2%	38.0%	No change	48.5%
High school graduation rate, 2022	446	87.8%	88.3%	Worse	86.1%
Chronic absenteeism in schools with 12th graders**, 2021-2022	797	39.2%	38.4%	Worse	31.4%
High-quality child care sites (Rising Stars 4 or 5)††, December 2023	5	8.2%	9.5%	Worse	17.7%

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

Notes:

Maine's standardized reading tests do not include proficiency determinations so academic achievement indicators are not included.

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

* HCT-MST and HCT-FFT are the acronyms of two evidence-based intensive home and community mental health treatment services for families and youth to prevent institutional placements.

** Secondary school chronic absenteeism (18 days or more) among all public schools that offer grades 9-12, including 60% publicly funded private schools and excluding technical schools.

†† As of March 2023, Rising Stars is Maine's method of assessing and encouraging quality early care programs. It is mandatory and licensed child care programs start at 2 stars.