

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

In order to assess our present standing and to evaluate our progress over time, it is essential to understand what is being measured and how. Detailed definitions and data sources inside the brochure provide a comprehensive definition of each indicator and an explanation of how and by whom the data are collected and measured.

For every indicator, we report the most recent year for which data are available. For indicators that tend to vary widely from one year to the next, or that have small base populations, we use multi-year averages to improve the stability of the rate. For each indicator, we report a percentage or rate and, whenever available, a number. It is essential to present the indicators as percents or rates in order to enable comparison between groups of different population size (i.e., different counties), and we certainly like to know the number of children represented by any indicator.

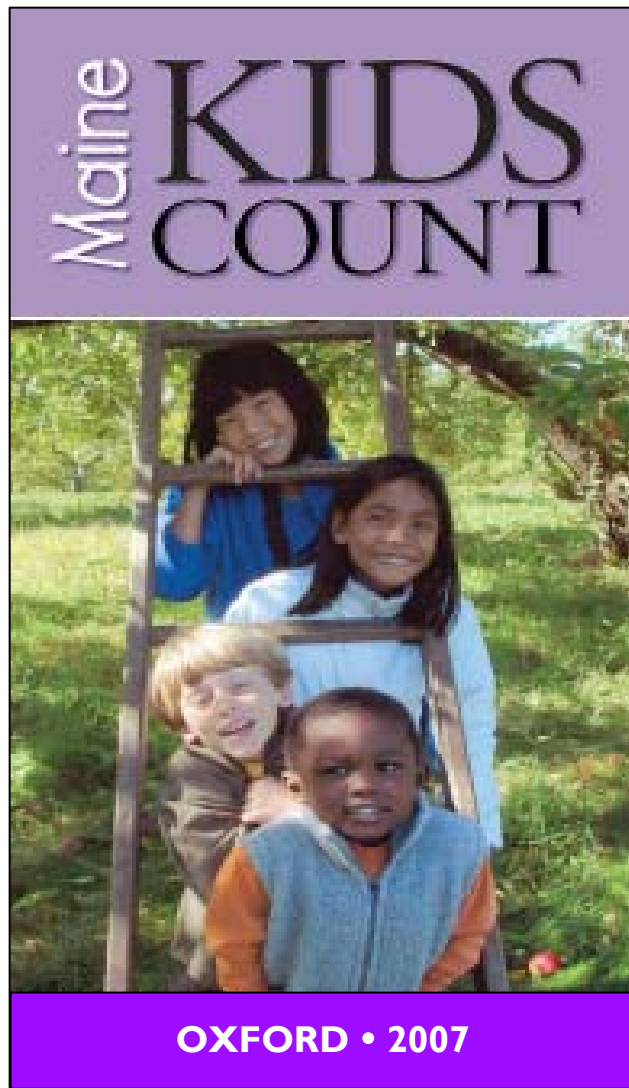
CALCULATING RATES

Percentages and rates are measures of the probability of an event. They both take into account the total population of children who could experience that event. Whenever possible, the denominator (the population that could experience the event) represents the size of the population during the year for which the event is reported; but when that is not possible, we use the most recent year for which population data are available. Rates that include a “%” sign are percents, or rates per 100 events. Other rates are expressed per 1,000, 10,000, or 100,000 events.



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THIS BROCHURE WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH FUNDING FROM:



OXFORD • 2007

Every year for the past thirteen years, the Maine Children's Alliance has published the Maine KIDS COUNT data book. The data book is an annual, comprehensive report of the physical, social, economic, and educational well-being of Maine children. All of the indicators presented in the data book reflect the well-being of children at the state-level and many of them reflect the well-being of children at the county-level. This brochure is a collection of some of the child well-being indicators available at the county-level.

OXFORD COUNTY	COUNTY			STATE		
	Number	Rate	% change	Number	Rate	% change
DEMOGRAPHICS						
Total population – 2004 estimate	56,614	100%	n/a	1,317,253	100%	n/a
Under 5 years old	2,756	4.9%	0%	67,628	5.1%	-1.9%
5-17 years old	9,577	16.9%	-3.4%	214,501	16.3%	-2.4%
18-64 years old	35,165	62.1%	1%	845,373	64.2%	0.6%
65 years and over	9,116	16.1%	0%	189,751	14.4%	0%
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH						
Children participating in MaineCare, age 0-18, SFY 2006	7,311	56.2%	n/a	133,934	44.5%	n/a
Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, and General Practitioners, 2004*	24	1.9	-9.5%	851	3	0%
Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, 2004	493	85%	-1.3%	12,276	88.1%	1%
Low birth-weight infants, 2004	43	7.4%	-9.8%	896	6.4%	-1.5%
Infant mortality, 2000-2004 annual avg.*	3	5.9	n/a	71	5.2	n/a
Child deaths (ages 1-14), 2000-2004 annual avg.**	2	2.5	n/a	43	2	n/a
Teen deaths (ages 15-19), 2000-2004 annual avg.**	3	8.3	n/a	55	6	n/a
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS						
Children in poverty, 2004	1,989	17.1%	-1.7%	39,342	14.3%	0%
Children receiving TANF, December 2006	1,472	11.9%	1.7%	22,937	8.1%	-1.2%
Children receiving food stamps, December 2006	3,463	28.1%	6%	57,643	20.4%	2.5%
School children receiving subsidized school lunch, 2006-07	4,796	46.9%	6.1%	70,811	36.4%	4.3%
Estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of 3, 2004	\$14.97/hr	n/a	n/a	\$18.15/hr	n/a	n/a
Median household income, 2004	\$35,979	n/a	n/a	\$41,287	n/a	n/a
Unemployment, 2005	1,640	5.7%	1.8%	34,470	4.8%	4.3%
Domestic assaults reported to police, 2005***	254	448.7	27.3%	5,459	414.4	4.3%
Arrests of children, 2005*	201	30.9	-19.9%	7,740	54.5	-7.9%
Arrests of children for crimes against persons, 2005*	7	1.1	^	146	1	0%
EDUCATION AND LEARNING						
Public high school graduates, Class of 2005	625	84.6%	-0.7%	12,884	87.2%	-0.2%
Public high school dropouts, 2004-05	83	2.7%	-10%	1,721	2.8%	3.7%
Public high school graduates planning to attend post-secondary school, 2005	452	72.3%	24.2%	9,356	71.8%	3.8%
Students with disabilities, 2005-06 (as % of regular enrollment)	1,758	16.6%	0.6%	36,494	18.1%	-1.6%

KEY: *1,000; **10,000; ***100,000; †Data contains fewer than 5 individuals and has been suppressed to preserve confidentiality; ^ Small numbers may result in exaggerated % change comparisons and are not presented; n/a Not available or not applicable