

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.



The Maine Children's Alliance advocates for sound public policies to improve the lives of all Maine's children, youth and families.

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Maine KIDS COUNT



KENNEBEC • 2008

Every year for the past fourteen 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.

KENNEBEC COUNTY	COUNTY			STATE		
	Number	Current Rate	Previous Rate	Number	Current Rate	Previous Rate
DEMOGRAPHICS						
Total population – 2005 estimate	120,986	n/a	n/a	1,321,505	n/a	n/a
Under 5 years old	6,036	5.0%	5.0%	67,660	5.1%	5.1%
5-17 years old	18,999	15.7%	16.6%	209,676	15.9%	16.3%
18-64 years old	78,585	65.0%	64.2%	851,505	64.4%	64.2%
65 years and older	17,366	14.4%	14.2%	192,664	14.6%	14.4%
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH						
Children participating in MaineCare, ages 0-18, SFY 2007	12,869	47.8%	n/a	139,048	46.9%	n/a
Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, and General Practitioners, 2004 and 2002*	92	3.5	3.6	851	3.0	3.0
General practice dentists, 2006 and 2002*	50	0.4	0.4	464	0.4	0.3
Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, 2005 and 2004	1,019	83.3%	82.9%	12,392	87.8%	88.1%
Low birth-weight infants, 2005 and 2004	76	6.2%	7.5%	963	6.8%	6.4%
Pre-term births, 2005 and 2004	107	8.7%	10.4%	1,346	9.5%	9.1%
Infant mortality, 2001-2005 and 2000-2004 annual avg.*	6	4.8	4.8	77	5.6	5.2
Child deaths (ages 1-14), 2001-2005 and 2000-2004 annual avg.**	3	1.7	1.4	41	1.9	2.0
Teen deaths (ages 15-19), 2001-2005 and 2000-2004 annual avg.**	3	3.8	3.6	56	6.0	6.0
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS						
Children under age 18 in poverty, 2005 and 2004	4,747	19.4%	15.4%	44,682	16.7%	14.3%
Children receiving TANF, Dec. 2007 & 2006	2,181	8.7%	8.3%	22,396	8.1%	8.1%
Children receiving Food Stamps, Dec. 2007 & 2006	6,532	26.1%	21.5%	65,752	23.7%	20.4%
School children receiving subsidized school lunch, 2008-07 and 2006-07	7,249	38.4%	36.8%	69,017	37.5%	36.4%
Estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of 3, 2006 and 2004	n/a	\$18.12	\$14.25	n/a	\$19.35	\$18.15
Median household income, 2005 and 2004	n/a	\$42,512	\$39,199	n/a	\$42,648	\$41,287
Unemployment, 2006 and 2005	2,830	4.4%	5.0%	32,500	4.6%	4.8%
Domestic assaults reported to police, 2006 and 2005***	672	555.4	588.5	5,554	420.3	414.4
Arrests of children, 2006 and 2005*	656	52.0	55.1	7,767	55.9	54.5
Arrests of children for crimes against persons, 2006 and 2005*	15	1.2	1.0	141	1.0	1.0
EDUCATION AND LEARNING						
Public high school dropouts, 2005-06 and 2004-05	307	5.8%	1.5%	3,133	5.2%	2.8%
Public high school graduates, Class of 2006 & 2005	1,143	83.8%	92.1%	12,900	83.8%	87.2%
Students with disabilities, 2006-07 and 2005-06	3,104	15.8%	18.6%	35,564	17.6%	18.1%

KEY: *1,000; **10,000; ***100,000 † Data has been suppressed to preserve confidentiality n/a Not available or not applicable

Definitions and Sources of Data

Demographics

SOURCE: Population estimates for 2005 were provided by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Children participating in MaineCare is the estimated number and percent of individual children ages 0-18 participating in MaineCare in SFY 2007 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007). These data are reported by the child's county of residence at the end of the SFY or the end of the child's participation in the program. Note: The previous rate is not presented because the method for reporting the data has changed. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services

Pediatricians, family practitioners, and general practitioners is the number and rate of licensed and board certified pediatricians, family practitioners, and general practitioners (allopaths/MDs and osteopaths/DOs) in Maine. The rate is per 1,000 children ages 0-17. These data represent calendar year 2004 and 2002. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics.

General practice dentists is the number and rate of licensed, active, general practice dentists in Maine. The rate is per 1,000 total population. These data represent calendar year 2006 and 2002. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics.

Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester is the number and percent of live births for which the mother began receiving prenatal care during the first three months of pregnancy. These data represent calendar year 2005 and 2004. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics

Low birth-weight infants is the number and percent of live births in which the newborn weighed less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds). These data represent calendar year 2005 and 2004. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics

Pre-term births is the number and percent of live births in which the newborn was born at less than 37 weeks gestation. These data represent calendar year 2005 and 2004. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics.

Infant mortality is the number and rate of deaths of infants under 1 year of age from all causes. The rate is per 1,000 live births. These data are averaged over the five-year period from 2001-2005 and from 2000-2004, and are reported by place of residence, not place of death. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics

Child deaths is the number and rate of deaths of children ages 1-14 from all causes. The rate is per 10,000 children ages 1-14. These data are averaged over the five-year period from 2001-2005 and from 2000-2004, and are reported by the child's place of residence, not the place of death. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics

Teen deaths is the number and rate of deaths of teens ages 15-19 from all causes. These data are averaged over the five-year period from 2001-2005 and from 2000-2004, and are reported by the child's place of residence, not the place of death. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS

Children under age 18 in poverty is the estimated number and percent of children under age 18 living in poverty. In 2005, the poverty threshold for a typical family of three was \$15,577. Note: 2005 SAIPE estimates are not directly comparable to 2004 and previous years because the data used to model the estimates has changed. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe.html

Children receiving TANF is the number and percent of children ages 0-17 who were receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in December 2007 and 2006. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Integrated Access and Support

Children receiving Food Stamps is the number and percent of children ages 0-17 who were receiving Food Stamp benefits in December 2007 and 2006. SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Integrated Access and Support

School children receiving subsidized school lunch is the number and percent of school children receiving subsidized school lunches through the National School Lunch Program, which is a meal entitlement plan primarily funded through federal dollars. These data represent the 2007-08 and 2006-07 school year. All elementary and junior high schools are required to participate in the program. SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, School Nutrition Program. http://portalx.bisoex.state.me.us/pls/doe_sfsr/eddev.ed534.ed534_parameters

Estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of three is the estimated hourly wage required to meet basic expenses for a single-parent, three-person family. A livable wage is calculated by dividing the total expenses in a basic needs budget by the number of hours that make up a year of full-time work. These data represent calendar year 2006 and 2004. SOURCE: Maine Center for Economic Policy. *Getting By: Maine Livable Wages in 2006*. (June 2007) and *Getting By: Maine Livable Wages in 2004*. (October 2005). www.mecep.org

Median household income is the estimated median household income. The median income is the dollar amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups - half with income above the median and half with income below it. These data represent calendar year 2005 and 2004. Note: 2005 SAIPE estimates are not directly comparable to 2004 and previous years because the data used to model the estimates has changed. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe.html

Unemployment is the estimated annual monthly average number and percent of people in the civilian labor force who are unemployed. SOURCE: Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Labor Market Information Services, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS). www.state.me.us/labor/lmis/laus.html

Domestic assaults reported to police is the number and rate of assaults reported to police that were perpetrated by family or household members who are or were married or living together in a romantic relationship, natural parents of the same child (whether or not the couple ever lived together) or other adult family members related by blood or marriage. The rate is per 100,000 of the population. These are not unduplicated counts and may include numerous assaults affecting the same individuals. These data represent calendar year 2006 and 2005. SOURCE: Maine Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reports. www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/cim.htm

Arrests of children is the number and rate of children ages 10-17 arrested during calendar year 2006 and 2005. The rate is per 1,000 children ages 10-17. The annual arrest data count all arrests of youth for offenses, including repeat offenses by the same individual. SOURCE: Maine Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reports. www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/cim.htm

Arrests of children for crimes against persons is the number and rate of arrests of children ages 10-17 for crimes against persons during calendar year 2006 and 2005. The rate is per 1,000 children ages 10-17. Crimes against persons include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault (does not include other assaults). The annual arrest data count all arrests of youth for crimes against persons, including repeat offenses by the same individual. SOURCE: Maine Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reports. www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/cim.htm

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Public high school dropouts is the number and percent of public high school students who have withdrawn or been expelled from high school before graduation or completion of a program of studies and who have not enrolled in another educational institution or program. Each local educational unit submits a dropout report to the Department of Education as of the last day of school with a count of all students who dropped out during the previous calendar year. This calculation is referred to as an "event" dropout rate. These data represent the 2005-06 and 2004-05 school year. Note: Data for the 2005-06 school year are not directly comparable to 2004-05 and previous school years because the method for collecting these data has changed. Also, for the 2005-06 school year, all data for Cape Elizabeth has been removed due to known errors. SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, School Finance and Operations. www.maine.gov/education/enroll/enr/facts.htm

Public high school graduates is the number and percent of students who graduated from their high school, rather than dropping out of school sometime during their high school years. A separate completion rate is calculated for each graduating class, such as the "Class of 2006." The rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the number of graduates plus the number of students who dropped out during the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade years of this graduating class. These data represent the 2005-06 and 2004-05 school year. Note: Data for the 2005-06 school year are not directly comparable to 2004-05 and previous school years because the method for collecting these data has changed. Also, for the 2005-06 school year, all data for Cape Elizabeth has been removed due to known errors. SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, School Finance and Operations. www.maine.gov/education/enroll/enr/facts.htm

Students with disabilities is the number and percent of students enrolled in schools and individual programs who are ages 3-21 and who have disabilities requiring the provision of special education services. The count is taken on December 1 of the school year and reflects special education enrollment on that one date. The child count is completed by school administrative units, approved state-operated/state-supported schools, and Child Development Services sites. The percent of students receiving special education services is calculated by dividing the number of special education students by the number of regular education students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 counted on October 1. These data represent school year 2006-07 and 2005-06. SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, Office of Special Services. www.state.me.us/education/speced/EFS05/public_reports.htm