

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. While knowing the number of children represented in each indicator is important, including percentages and rates allows for comparison between groups of different population size (i.e., different counties).

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.

Maine KIDS COUNT



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Every year for the past fifteen 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.

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

	COUNTY			STATE		
	Number	Current Rate	Previous Rate	Number	Current Rate	Previous Rate
DEMOGRAPHICS						
Total population - 2006 estimate	274,656	n/a	n/a	1,314,967	n/a	n/a
Under 5 years old	15,462	5.6%	5.4%	70,862	5.4%	5.1%
5-17 years old	44,807	16.3%	15.8%	212,675	16.2%	16.3%
18-64 years old	177,332	64.6%	65.3%	839,409	63.8%	64.2%
65 years and older	37,055	13.5%	13.4%	192,021	14.6%	14.4%
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH						
Children participating in MaineCare ages 0-18, SFY 2008 and 2007	20,368	31.8%	n/a	138,883	46.1%	46.9%
Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, and General Practitioners, 2004 and 2002*	214	3.7	3.6	851	3.0	3.0
General practice dentists, 2006 and 2002*	128	0.5	0.5	464	0.4	0.3
Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, 2006 and 2005	2,767	89.6%	91.4%	12,370	87.4%	87.8%
Low birth-weight infants, 2006 and 2005	212	6.9%	7.1%	971	6.9%	6.8%
Pre-term births, 2006 and 2005	320	10.4%	9.9%	1,304	9.2%	9.5%
Infant mortality, 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.*	17	5.5	5.2	78	5.6	5.6
Child deaths (ages 1-14), 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.**	7	1.5	1.4	41	1.9	1.9
Teen deaths (ages 15-19), 2002-2006 and 2001-2005 annual avg.**	9	4.9	4.6	56	6.0	6.0
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS						
Children in poverty, 2006 and 2005	6,751	11.5%	12.2%	46,379	16.9%	16.7%
Children receiving TANF, December 2008 and 2007	3,730	6.2%	6.4%	22,724	8.0%	8.1%
Children receiving Food Stamps, December 2008 and 2007	9,274	15.4%	17.0%	61,950	21.8%	23.7%
School children receiving subsidized school lunch, 2008-09 and 2007-08	11,250	27.5%	26.9%	75,310	39.0%	37.5%
Estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of 3, 2006 and 2004 (rate per hour)	n/a	\$21.64	\$19.42	n/a	\$19.35	\$18.15
Median household income, 2007 and 2006	n/a	\$54,992	\$51,474	n/a	\$45,832	\$43,472
Unemployment, 2007 and 2006	5,530	3.5%	3.4%	33,400	4.7%	4.6%
Domestic assaults reported to police, 2007 and 2006***	1,122	408.5	402.3	5,771	438.9	420.3
Arrests of children, 2007 and 2006*	1,546	53.6	53.1	7,092	51.1	55.9
Arrests of children for crimes against persons, 2007 and 2006*	39	1.4	0.7	110	0.8	1.0
EDUCATION AND LEARNING						
Public high school dropouts, 2006-07 and 2005-06	598	4.3%	3.9%	3,182	5.2%	5.2%
Public high school graduates, Class of 2007 and 2006	2,992	84.5%	85.0%	13,166	80.8%	83.8%
Students with disabilities, 2007-08 and 2006-07	5,904	14.5%	14.2%	34,425	18.1%	17.6%
Public preschool enrollment, 2007-08	102	0.7%	n/a	2,589	4.0%	n/a



FOR MORE INFORMATION

on the Maine Children's Alliance, the Maine KIDS COUNT project, or the data in this brochure, visit the MCA website at www.mekids.org or contact the office at (207) 623-1868.



Definitions and Sources of Data

Demographics

SOURCE: Population estimates for calendar year 2006 were provided by Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics. NOTE: 2006 population estimates are preliminary and contain a known rounding error.

Physical and Mental Health

Children participating in MaineCare is the number and percent of individual children ages 0-18 participating in MaineCare in state fiscal year (SFY) 2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008). 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 that the statewide figure includes 3,164 children who were non-residents, who were out-of-state, or whose residence is unknown.

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 are from the Health Manpower Resource Inventory, a survey enclosed with relicensure application and returned on a voluntary basis by the licensee to the respective board (Board of Licensure in Medicine for MDs, and Board of Osteopathic Licensure for DOs). These data represent calendar years 2004 and 2002.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics, Maine Cooperative Health Manpower Resource Inventory, Physicians: 2004, and Maine Cooperative Health Manpower Resource Inventory, Physicians: 2002.

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 years 2006 and 2002.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics, Maine Cooperative Health Manpower Resource Inventory, Dentists: 2006 (<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bohodr/odrvs.htm>), and Maine Cooperative Health Manpower Resource Inventory, Dentists: 2002.

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 years 2006 and 2005.

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 years 2006 and 2005.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics; 2006 national rate from Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics Report, Vol. 57, No. 7, "Births: Final Data for 2006." http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_07.pdf

Pre-term births is the number and percent of pre-term births in which the newborn was born at less than 37 weeks gestation. These data represent calendar years 2006 and 2005.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics; 2006 national rate from Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics Report, Vol. 57, No. 7, "Births: Final Data for 2006." http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr56/nvsr56_07.pdf

Infant mortality is the number and rate of deaths of infants under 1 year of age. The rate is per 1,000 live births. These data are averaged over the five-year period from 2002-2006 and from 2001-2005 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; 2005 national rate from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT State-Level Data Online website. www.kidscount.org/datacenter/

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 2002-2006 and from 2001-2005 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; 2005 national rate from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT State-Level Data Online website. www.kidscount.org/datacenter/

Teen deaths is the number and rate of deaths of teens ages 15-19 from all causes. The rate is per 10,000 children ages 15-19. These data are averaged over the five-year period from 2002-2006 and from 2001-2005 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; 2005 national rate from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT State-Level Data Online website. www.kidscount.org/datacenter/

Social and Economic Status

Children under age 18 in poverty is the estimated number and percent of children under age 18 living in poverty. For 2006 and 2005, the estimates are modeled from combined census estimates, the 2006 and 2005 American Community Survey, and other administrative and economic data. In 2006, which represents the current rate, the poverty threshold for a typical family of three was \$16,079. For 2004 and previous years, the estimates are modeled from combined census estimates, Current Population Surveys, and other administrative and economic data. These data represent calendar years. Note: 2006 and 2005 SAIPE estimates are not directly comparable to 2004 and previous SAIPE estimates because the data used to model the estimates has changed.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2005. <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/>

Children receiving TANF is the number and percent of children ages 0-17 who were receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families in December 2008 and 2007. Note: 2008 state number and percent include 6 children whose county is unknown; 2007 state number and percent include 11 children whose county is unknown.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Human Services, Office of Integrated Access and Support, Report: Geographic Distribution of Programs and Benefits.

Children receiving Food Stamps is the number and percent of children ages 0-17 who were receiving Food Stamp benefits in December 2008 and 2007. Note: 2008 state number and percent include 12 children whose county is unknown, who are not Maine residents, who are not in state, or who have no data; 2007 number and percent include 179 children in these same categories.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Integrated Access and Support, Food Stamp Program.

School children receiving subsidized school lunch is the number and percent of school children receiving subsidized school lunch through the National School Lunch Program, which is a meal entitlement plan primarily funded through federal dollars. All elementary and junior high schools are required to participate in the program. In Maine, high schools have the option of participating. School children are eligible for free school

lunches if their family income does not exceed 130% of the federal poverty level. They are eligible for reduced price school lunches if their family income falls between 130% and 185% of the federal poverty level. These data represent the 2008-09 and 2007-08 school years.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, School Nutrition Program. http://portalx.bisox.state.me.us/pls/doi_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 years 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.mecp.org

Median household income is the estimated median household income. These estimates are modeled from combined census estimates, the 2006 American Community Survey, and other administrative and economic data. 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 2006. Note: 2006 and 2005 SAIPE estimates are not comparable to 2004 and previous SAIPE estimates because the data used to model the estimates has changed.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2005. <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/>

Unemployment is the estimated annual monthly average number and percent of people in the civilian labor force who are unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the average number of unemployed people by the average number of people in the civilian labor force. These data represent calendar years 2007 and 2006.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Labor Market Information Services, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Maine and Maine Counties, By Month and Annual Average, 2007, and Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Maine and Maine Counties, By Month and Annual Average, 2006. Available at <http://www.state.me.us/labor/> 2007 national data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), Table 1: Employment status of the civilian non-institutional population 16 years of age and over by region, division, and state, 2006-2007 annual averages. <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/srgune.t01.htm>

Domestic assaults reported to police is the number and rate of assaults reported to police that were perpetrated by family or household members including couples who are married or living together in a romantic relationship, who are the natural parents of the same child 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 years 2007 and 2006.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Public Safety, Crime in Maine Reports. http://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 years 2007 and 2006. The rate is per 1,000 children ages 10-17. The annual arrest data count all arrests of youth for offenses, including repeated offenses by the same individual.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Public Safety, Crime in Maine Reports. http://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. 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 repeated offenses by the same individual. These data represent calendar years 2007 and 2006.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Public Safety, Crime in Maine Reports. http://www.maine.gov/dps/cim/crime_in_maine/cim.htm

Education and Learning

High school dropouts is the number and percent of 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, counting all students who dropped out during the previous school year. This calculation is referred to as an "event" dropout rate. Data represent the 2006-07 school year for public schools and private schools with 60% or more publicly-funded students. Data reported by county are for public schools only. Note: 2006-07 & 2005-06 data are not comparable to 2004-05 and previous school years because the method for collecting data has changed. Also, all 2005-06 data for Cape Elizabeth has been removed due to known errors.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Education.

Public high school completion, Class of 2007 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 2007." 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. The data represent public school graduates only. Note: 2006-07 & 2005-06 data are not comparable to 2004-05 and previous school years because the method for collecting data has changed. Also, all 2005-06 data for Cape Elizabeth has been removed due to known errors.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Education.

Students with disabilities is the number and percent of students enrolled in schools and individual education programs who are ages 3-21 and who have disabilities requiring the provision of special education services during the 2007-08 school year. The count is taken as of 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. SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, Office of Special Services. <http://www.maine.gov/education/specceddata/index.html>

Public Preschool Enrollment is the number of children enrolled in a four year old program offered through a school administrative unit during the 2007-08 school year. Children must be four years of age by October 15 of the entering school year in order to be eligible for a public pre-school program.

SOURCE: Maine Department of Education, Four-Year Old Program