

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

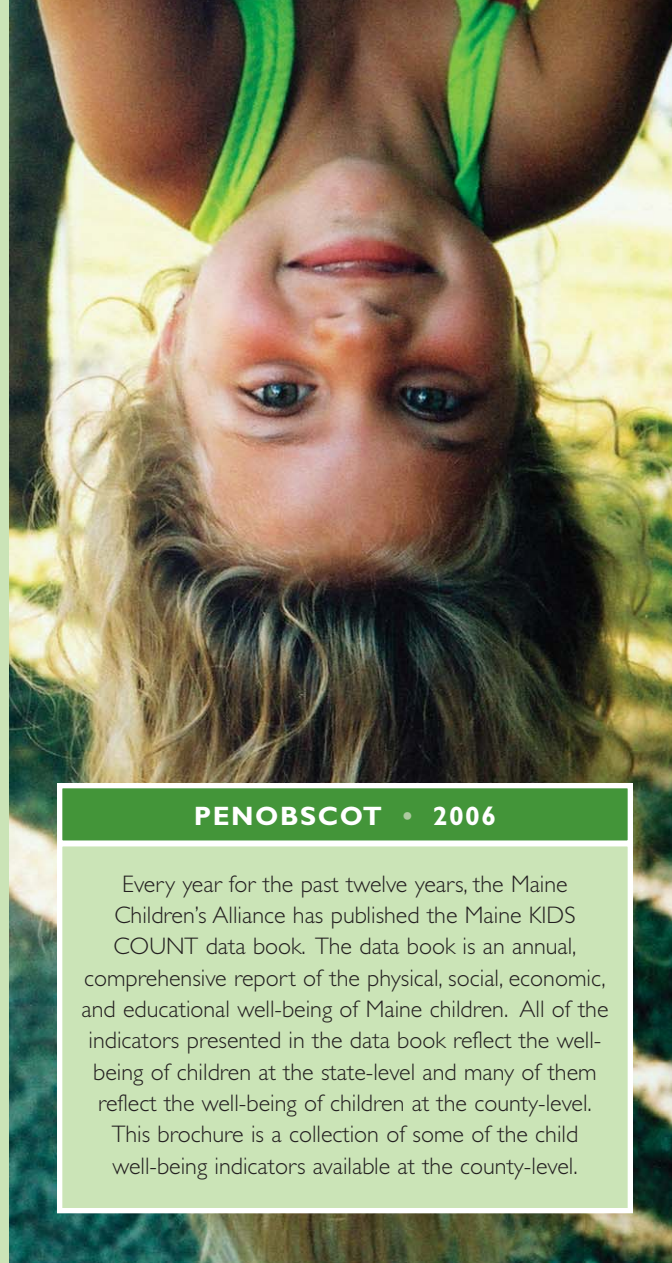
In order to understand the indicators, it is necessary to know what is being measured and how. Detailed definitions and data sources inside the brochure provide a comprehensive definition of each indicator and an explanation of how and by whom the data are collected and measured.

Whenever possible, for each indicator, we report a number. We also report a percentage or rate for each indicator. This is simply the number of times the event occurs, divided by the total population of the county or state that could experience the event. We report the indicators as percents or rates in order to accurately compare groups of different population size.

For the majority of the indicators, we compare the county rate to the state rate. This is expressed as a percent above or below the statewide average for the indicator. When looking at these percents, it is important to understand that large percents resulting from the difference between the county rate and the state rate may be due to small numbers. This does not mean that these differences are not important, but that these differences should be interpreted carefully. **It should be noted that we chose not to compare the county rate to the state rate of four indicators because of small numbers.**

The comparison of the county rates to the state rates was computed by subtracting the value for the state rate from the value for the county rate, and then dividing that quantity by the value for the state rate. The results are multiplied by 100 for readability.

Maine KIDS COUNT



PENOBSCOT • 2006

Every year for the past twelve 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.



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.

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PENOBSCOT COUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total population - 2003 estimate
 Children age 0-17
 Children age 10-17
 Children age 1-14
 Children age 15-19

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Children participating in MaineCare, SFY 2005
 Live births for which prenatal care began in the first trimester, 2003
 Low birth-weight infants, 2003
 Infant mortality, 1999-2003 annual average *
 Child deaths (age 1-14), 1999-2003 annual average **
 Teen deaths (age 15-19), 1999-2003 annual average **
 High school students reporting alcohol use in the past 30 days, 2006
 High school students reporting cigarette use in the past 30 days, 2006
 High school students reporting marijuana use in the past 30 days, 2006
 Children (age 0-17) in the care or custody of DHHS, December 2005 *

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS

Children in poverty, 2003
 Children receiving TANF, December 2005
 Children receiving food stamps, December 2005
 School children receiving subsidized school lunch, 2005-06
 Median household income, 2003
 Unemployment, 2004
 Teen pregnancies (females age 10-17), 2003 *
 Births to single teens (females age 10-19) who have not completed 12 years of school, 1999-2003 annual average *
 Arrests of children (age 10-17), 2004 *
 Arrests of children (age 10-17) for crimes against persons, 2004 *

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Public high school graduates, Class of 2004
 Public high school dropouts, 2003-04
 Public high school graduates planning to attend post-secondary school, 2003-04
 Special education students (age 3-21), 2004-05

	COUNTY		STATE		COMPARISON TO STATEWIDE AVERAGE
	Number	Rate or Percent	Number	Rate or Percent	
	146,982		1,305,728		
	31,045	21.1%	285,615	21.9%	-3.4
	15,762	10.7%	144,320	11.1%	-3.0
	23,295	15.8%	216,051	16.5%	-4.2
	11,972	8.1%	93,546	7.2%	13.7
	15,351	45.6%	124,442	40.8%	11.8
	1,375	87.1%	12,072	87.2%	-0.1
	95	6.0%	904	6.5%	-7.7
	9	6.1	68	5.0	See "Understanding the Data."
	7	2.7	42	1.9	See "Understanding the Data."
	7	5.7	57	6.3	See "Understanding the Data."
		40.0%		40.3%	-0.7
		20.8%		19.5%	6.7
		20.2%		21.4%	-5.6
	305	9.8	2,350	8.2	19.8
	4,887	16.4%	39,896	14.3%	14.7
	2,675	8.6%	23,282	8.2%	4.9
	6,793	21.9%	56,823	19.9%	10.1
	8,877	38.9%	69,093	34.9%	11.5
	\$36,485		\$39,212		-7.0
	4,280	5.6%	32,130	4.6%	21.7
	63	8.2	532	7.6	7.9
	71	6.8	575	6.5	4.6
	844	53.5	8,539	59.2	-9.6
	14	0.7	145	1.0	See "Understanding the Data."
	1,571	88.2%	13,219	87.4%	0.9
	196	2.6%	1,678	2.7%	-3.7
	1,103	69.7%	9,219	69.2%	0.7
	4,117	17.2%	37,573	18.4%	-6.5

* rate per 1,000

** rate per 10,000