

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

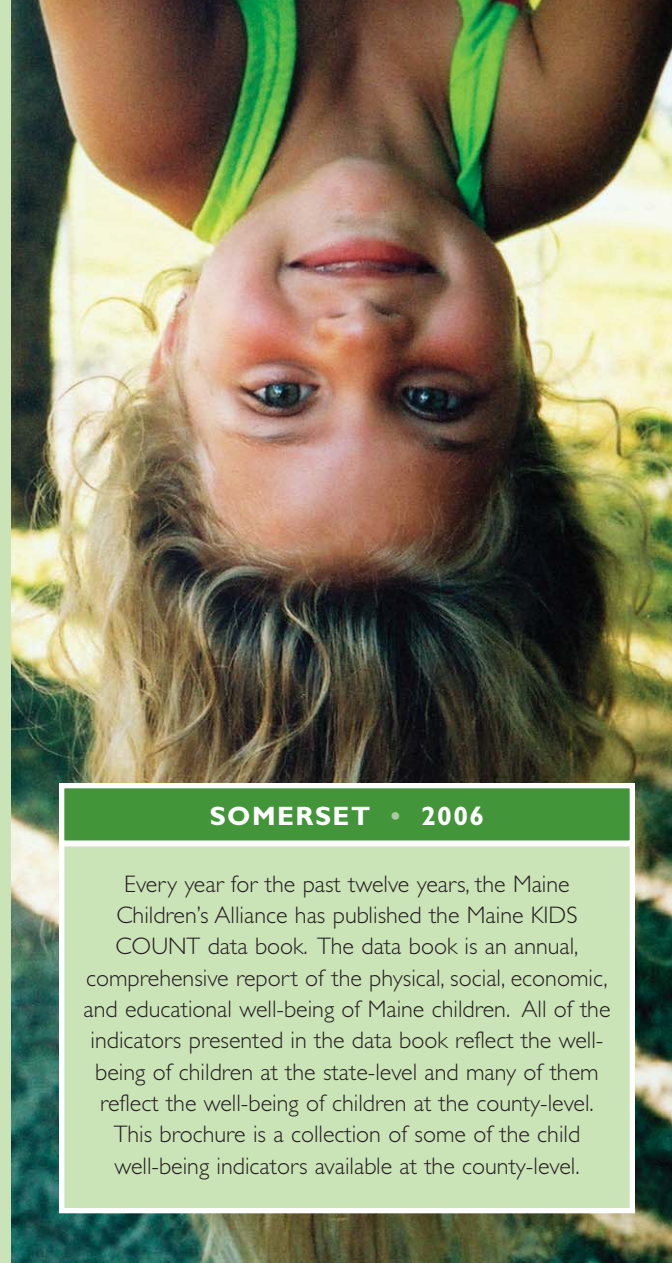
In order to understand the indicators, it is necessary to know what is being measured and how. Detailed definitions and data sources inside the brochure provide a comprehensive definition of each indicator and an explanation of how and by whom the data are collected and measured.

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



SOMERSET • 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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SOMERSET 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	
51,154	1,305,728				
11,711	285,615	22.9%	21.9%	4.7	
6,092	144,320	11.9%	11.1%	7.7	
8,735	216,051	17.1%	16.5%	3.2	
3,768	93,546	7.4%	7.2%	2.8	
7,089	124,442	57.0%	40.8%	39.7	
384	12,072	70.8%	87.2%	-18.8	
46	904	8.5%	6.5%	30.8	
2	68	4.0	5.0	See "Understanding the Data"	
2	42	2.6	1.9	See "Understanding the Data"	
3	57	8.6	6.3	See "Understanding the Data"	
		38.0%	40.3%	-5.7	
		21.4%	19.5%	9.7	
		18.8%	21.4%	-12.1	
194	2,350	16.6	8.2	102.0	
2,300	39,896	20.6%	14.3%	44.1	
1,295	23,282	11.1%	8.2%	35.4	
3,460	56,823	29.5%	19.9%	48.2	
4,368	69,093	49.5%	34.9%	41.8	
\$32,079	\$39,212			-18.2	
1,830	32,130	7.6%	4.6%	65.2	
30	532	10.1	7.6	32.9	
35	575	9.7	6.5	49.2	
366	8,539	60.1	59.2	1.5	
10	145	2.5	1.0	See "Understanding the Data"	
562	13,219	86.5%	87.4%	-1.0	
66	1,678	2.5%	2.7%	-7.4	
360	9,219	62.9%	69.2%	-9.1	
2,027	37,573	21.8%	18.4%	18.5	

* rate per 1,000

** rate per 10,000