

MAINE CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

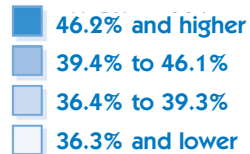
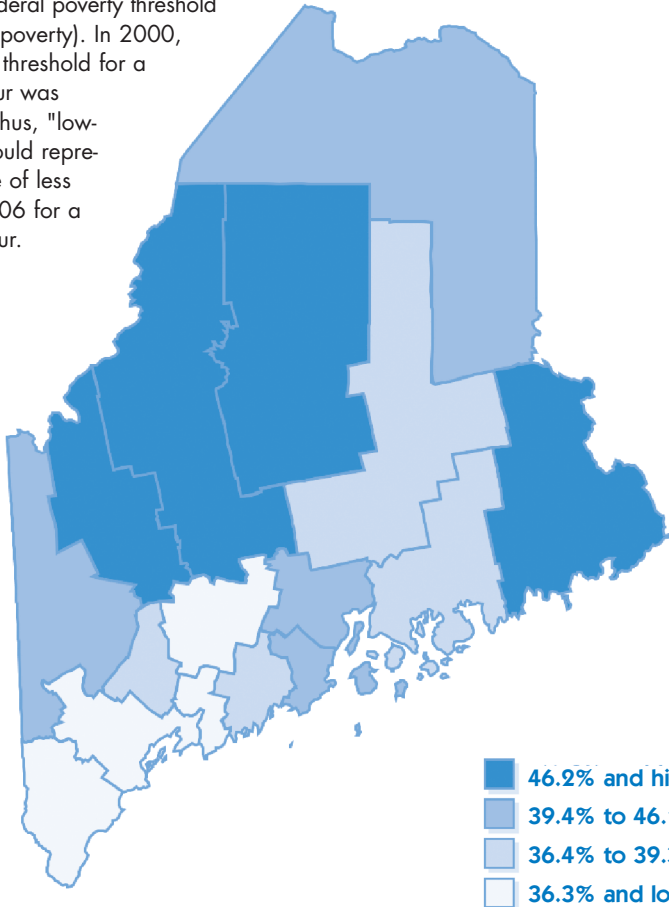
(as % of all children) 2000

DEFINITION:

Percent of children age 0-17 who live in families with incomes less than twice the federal poverty threshold (<200% of poverty). In 2000, the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$17,603. Thus, "low-income" would represent income of less than \$35,206 for a family of four.

STATEWIDE AVERAGE:

35%



SOURCE: Census 2000

46.2% AND HIGHER:

Franklin	46.5%
Piscataquis	49.2%
Somerset	49.0%
Washington	53.7%

39.4% to 46.1%:

Aroostook	45.7%
Knox	40.0%
Oxford	41.8%
Waldo	45.2%

36.4% to 39.3%:

Androscoggin	36.4%
Hancock	37.7%
Lincoln	37.4%
Penobscot	38.5%

36.3% and lower:

Cumberland	25.1%
Kennebec	36.1%
Sagadahoc	33.3%
York	26.8%

Children in Low-Income Families

- ▶ The majority of low-income families are headed by parents who work year round, but who are employed in jobs that have seen little wage growth in the last decade. These jobs tend to provide few, if any, benefits such as health care, paid sick leave, or parental leave.

Other statistics that help us understand the stresses on Maine's low-income working families:

- ▶ 33% of all jobs in Maine do not pay a livable wage.
- ▶ Maine ranks 10th nationally in the percentage of women with children who work: 81% of mothers with school-age children are employed; 70% of mothers with children under age 6 are employed.
- ▶ The average cost of child care in the state of Maine is more expensive than tuition at the University of Maine (Average range for toddler care is \$4600-\$7500 per year).



All data from 2003 Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book

Maine KIDS COUNT

Maine Children's Alliance :: 303 State Street :: Augusta, ME 04330-7037 :: (207) 623-1868 :: www.mekids.org