



**2021**

**MAINE KIDS COUNT**

Maine's only comprehensive report of the physical, social, economic and educational well-being of Maine children

[www.mekids.org](http://www.mekids.org)

# 2021 Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book

Proudly presented to the  
Maine Resilience Building Network  
by the  
Maine Children's Alliance  
June 19, 2021



THE ANNIE E. CASEY  
FOUNDATION



Ellis L. Phillips Foundation



## The Maine Children's Alliance, MCA,

is a nonpartisan, nonprofit that advocates for sound public policies and promotes best practices to improve the lives of Maine's children youth and families.



# COVID-19 Exacerbated Existing Inequities

In Maine, the impacts of the pandemic fell disproportionately on certain populations – people who have historically faced inequitable challenges due to race, poverty, disability, or geography.

In this data book, we have included disaggregated data to expose these disparities.



# Maine KIDS COUNT

- is part of the national KIDS COUNT Network, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- publishes the Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book every other year - Maine's only comprehensive report of the health, economic and educational well-being of Maine children
- maintains up-to-date online interactive state and county data <https://datacenter.kidscount.org>



# Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Maine Children and Families



## Child care:

- Approximately 66% of child care providers in Maine were not able to secure enough relief funding 2020 to cover lack of revenue and increased operating costs

## Women out of the workforce:

- 57% of net job loss in Maine during the pandemic was among women (2020)

Children in special education and English Language Learning experienced barriers to receiving services. Remote and hybrid schooling was especially challenging for students needing personalized learning, leaving these students more at risk of falling behind academically. Reduced in-person schooling also created an increased burden on parents who needed to facilitate their children's specialized learning.

<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-43>



# Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Teen Mental Health in Maine



Maine teens were under stress even before the pandemic:

- 16% of Maine youth ages 12 -17 experienced a major depressive episode (Maine Behavioral Health Barometer, 2019)
- 16% of 35,000 Maine high school students surveyed indicated that they had seriously considered attempting suicide in the last 12 months (Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey , 2019)

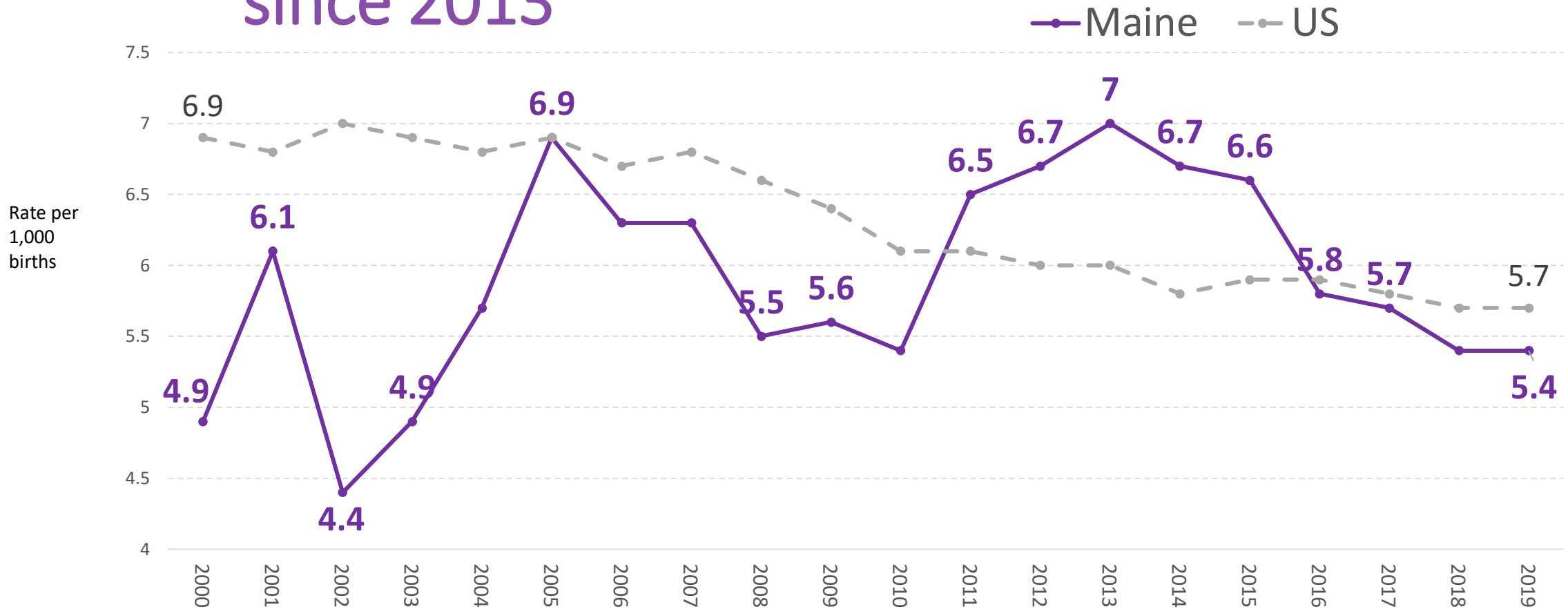


More than one in four students feels much less connected to classmates, adults, and school than before

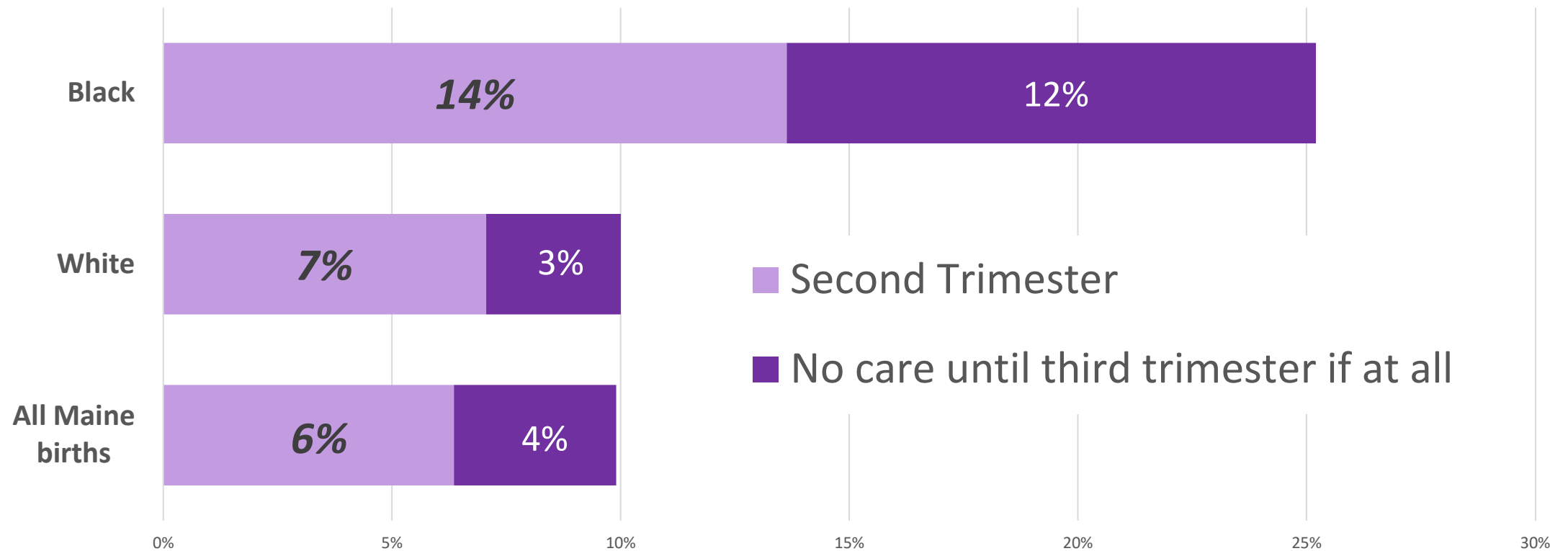
(The State of Young People During COVID-19, May 2020)



# Maternal and Infant Health Equity: Infant mortality rate in Maine has declined since 2013



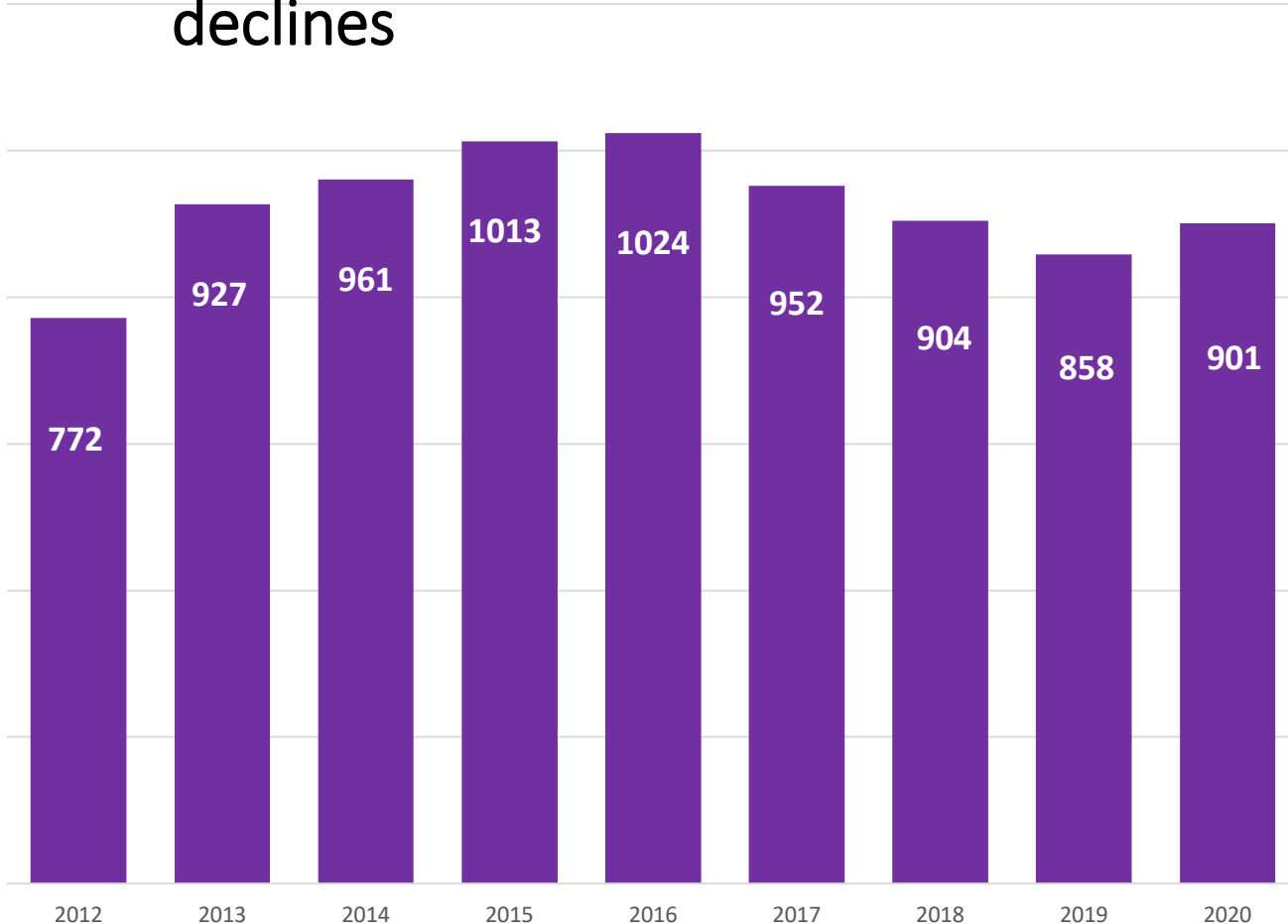
# Maternal and Infant Health Equity: Racial Disparities in Pre-Natal Care



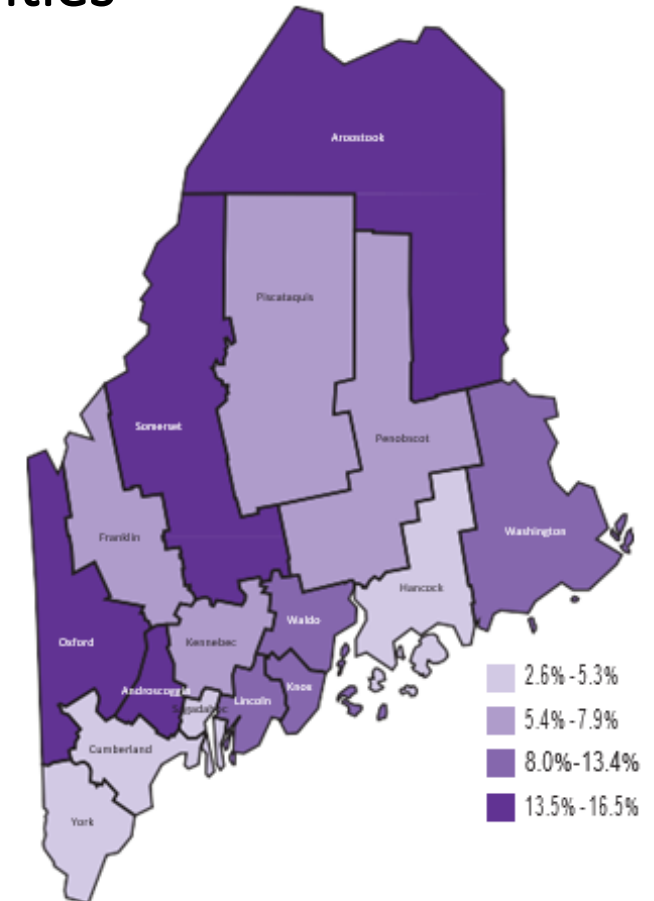


# Maternal and Infant Health Equity:

The number of babies born exposed/affected to substances rose in 2020 after 3 years of declines



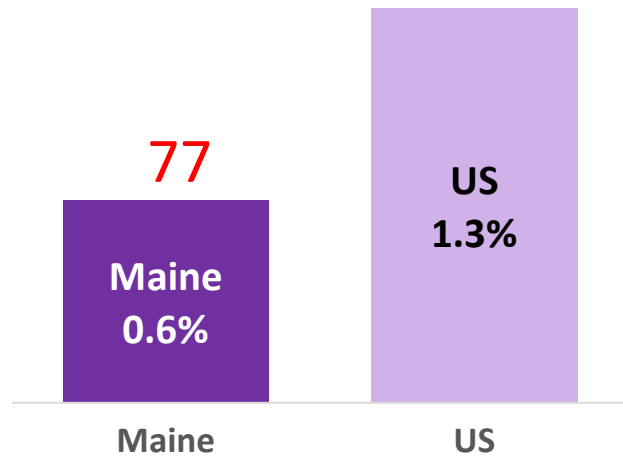
Babies born exposed/affected was as high as 1 in 7 infants in some counties



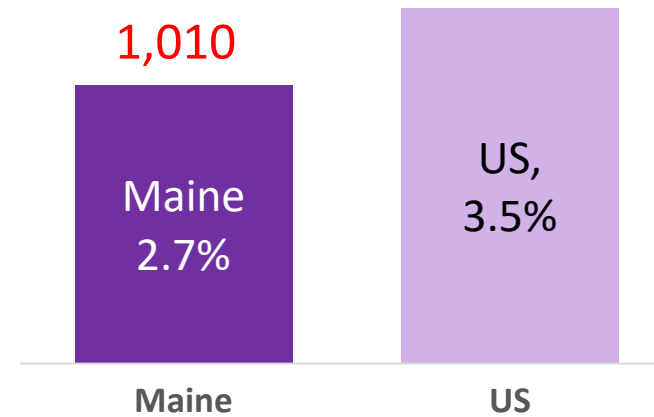
\*These counties are Aroostook, Androscoggin, Washington, Oxford, and Somerset Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Child and Family Services, (OCFS), 2020

# Early Intervention and Special Education

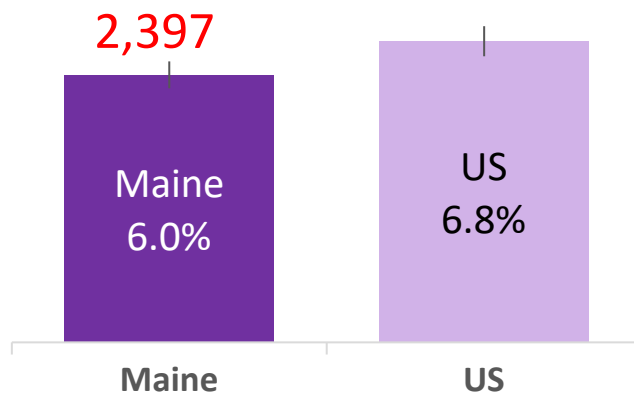
Children ages 0 -1



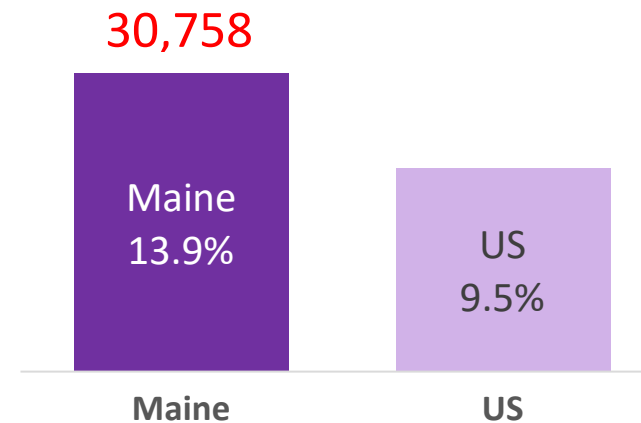
Children ages 0 -3



Children ages 3- 5



Children ages 6 -21



# Special Education Grades 1 -12

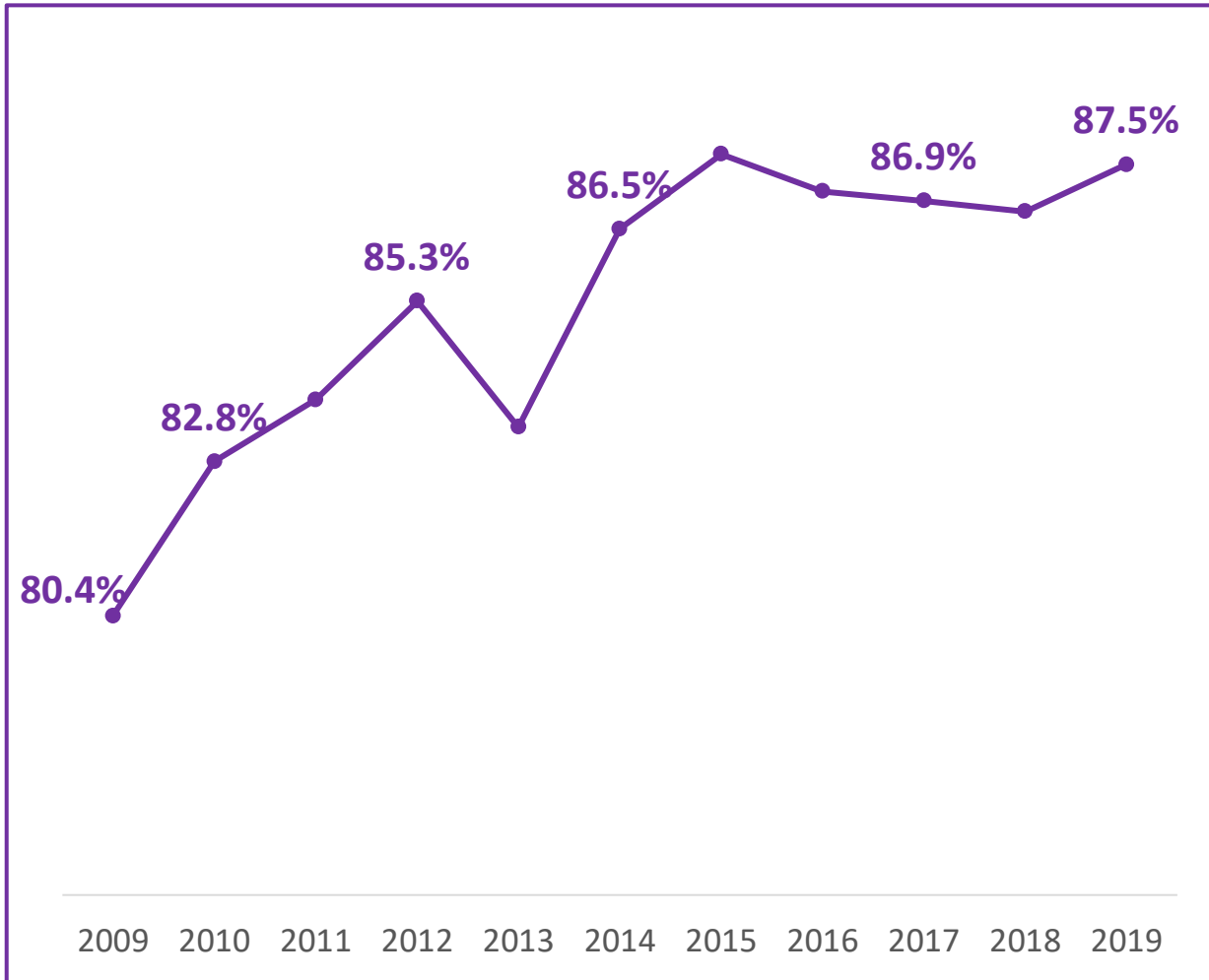
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION BY DISABILITY</b>	<i>State Number</i>	<i>Current Percent</i>
Specific learning disability	9,745	31.7%
Other health impairment	6,770	22.0%
Speech or language impairment	4,346	14.1%
Multiple disabilities	3,319	10.8%
Autism	3,102	10.1%
Emotional disturbance	2,328	7.6%
Intellectual Disability	848	2.8%
Hearing impairment	127	0.4%
Traumatic brain injury	49	0.2%
Orthopedic impairment	42	0.1%
Visual impairment	38	0.1%
Developmental delay	29	0.1%
Deaf-blindness	15	0.05%
<b>Total students with disabilities grades 1 -12</b>	<b>30,758</b>	

*Maine has the highest rate in the nation for students receiving special education services*

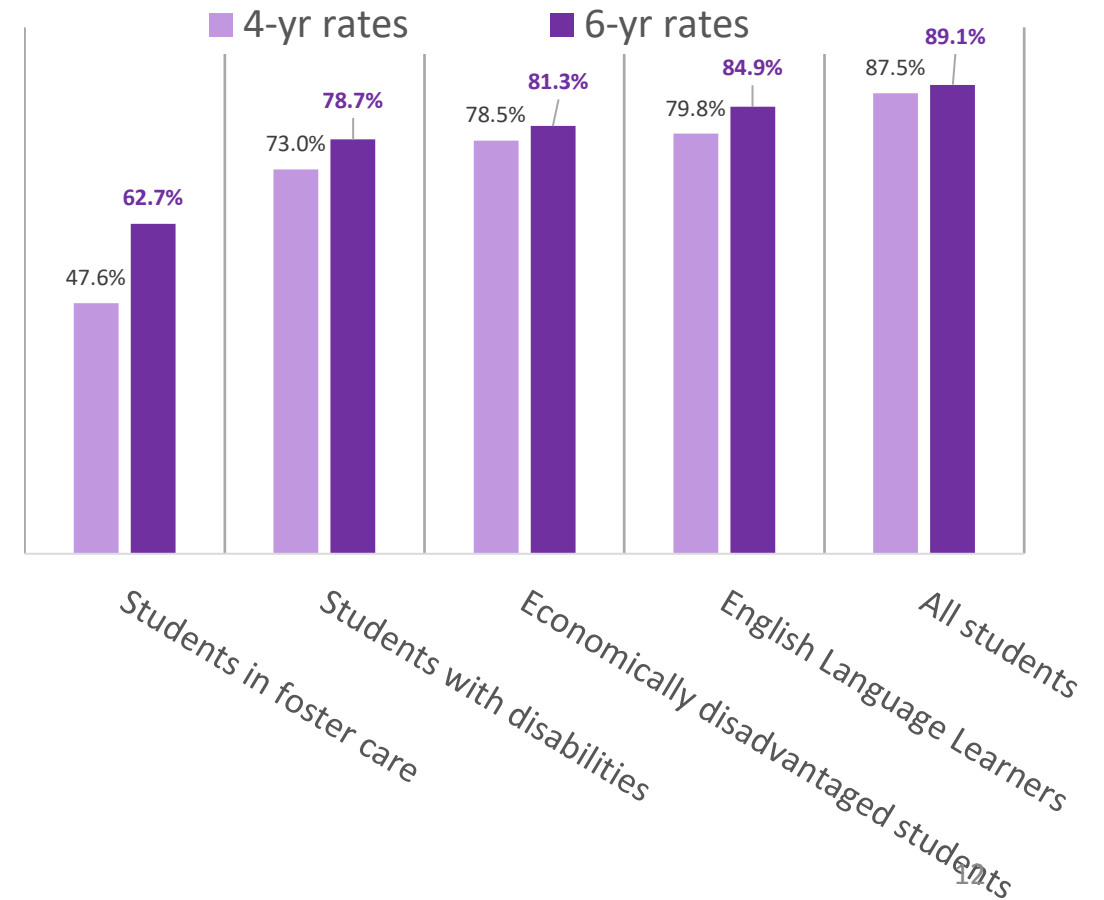
Source: Maine Department of Education 2018-2019 school year <https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/SpED%20Disability.xlsx>

# Positive Trends for Teens

## High School Graduation Rates Improve



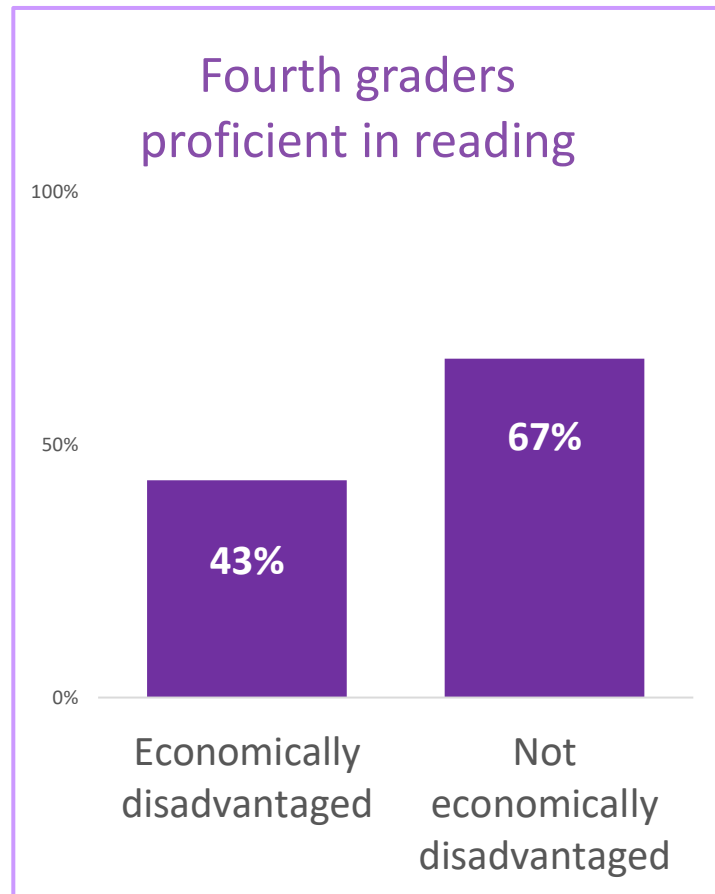
Some students need more time to graduate, but can if given time



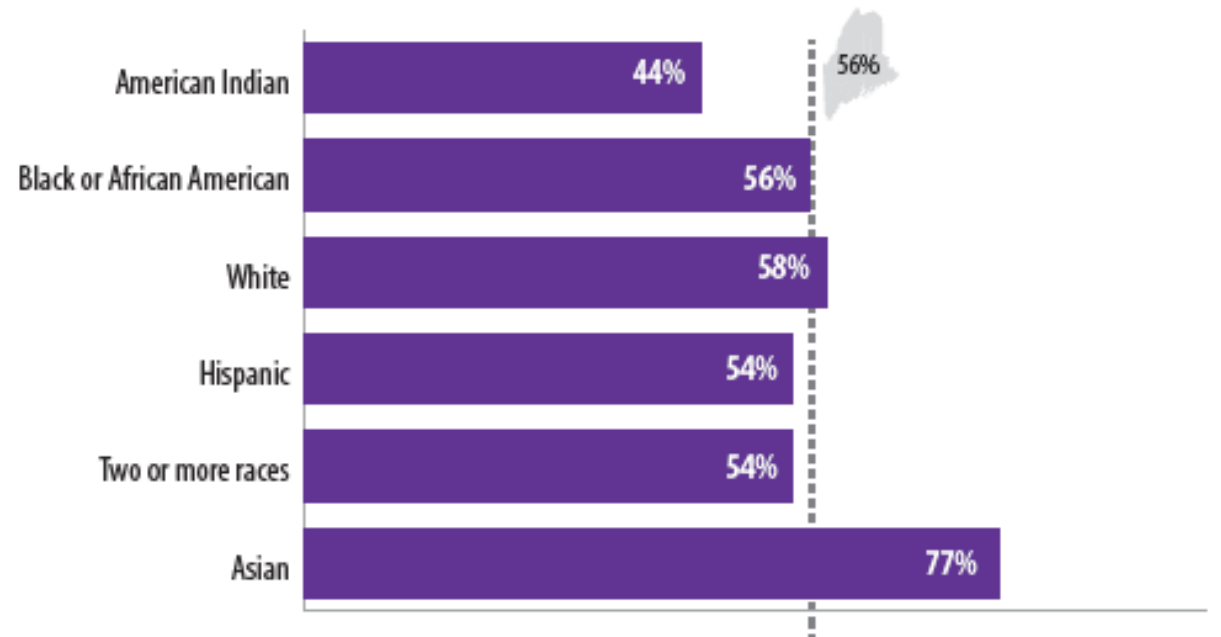
# Positive Educational Trends:

Improvements in 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading proficiency

Statewide: from 51.7% in 2018 to 56.2% in 2019



## FOURTH GRADERS PROFICIENT IN READING



Source: Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine, Analysis of statewide data from Maine Education Assessment (MEA), March 2019

\*English Language Learners are not included.

# Building Resiliency

*Maine continues to rank well compared to other states in Healthy Habits*

## Healthy Habits, Thriving Maine Families

Source: National Child Health Survey 2018-2019

**Family Strengths**  
**95%**

There's an adult besides a parent that the child can rely upon



**47%**

Young children are read to every day

**Physical Health**

**41%**

Children ages 6-11 exercise daily

**19%**

Children ages 12 - 17 years exercise daily

**69%**

Child has normal body weight



**43%**

Families eat meals together



**86%**

Parents feel supported by another adult

**Healthy Habits**

**21%**

Child usually spends less than one hour per weekday in front of any screen, not including schoolwork



**71%**

Child sleeps enough



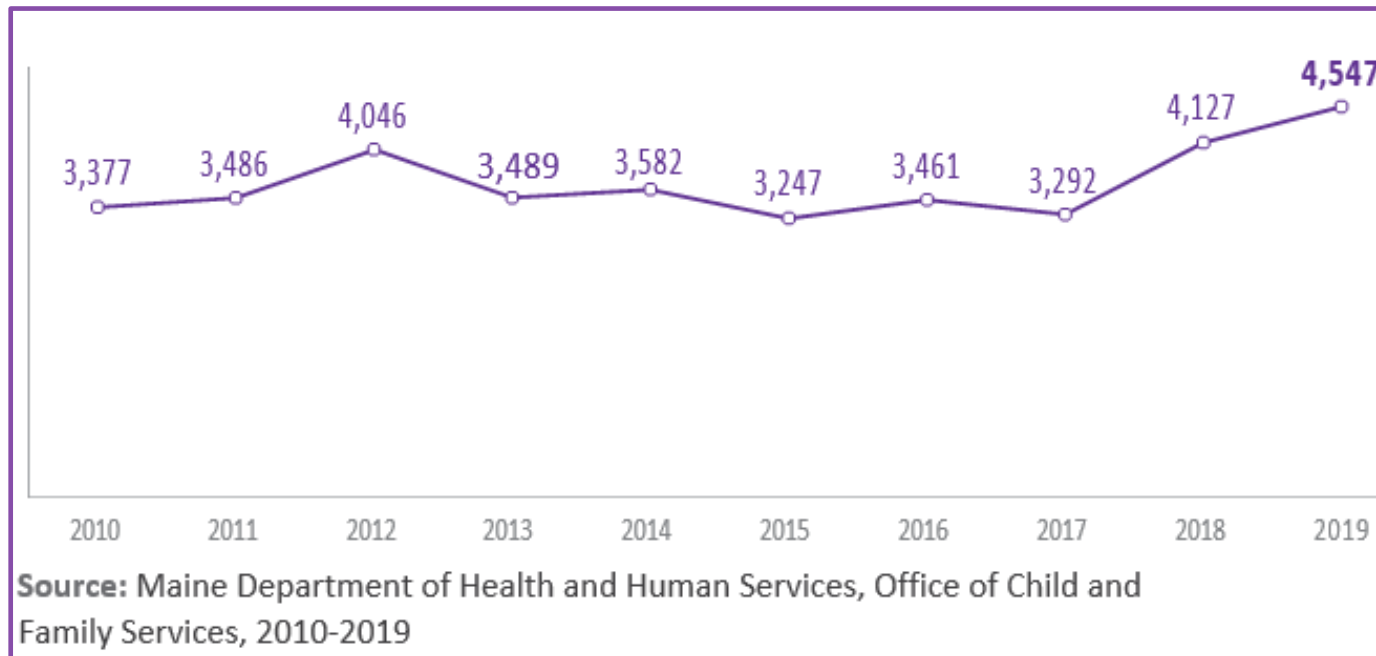
**84%**

No one smokes in child's home



# Child Welfare

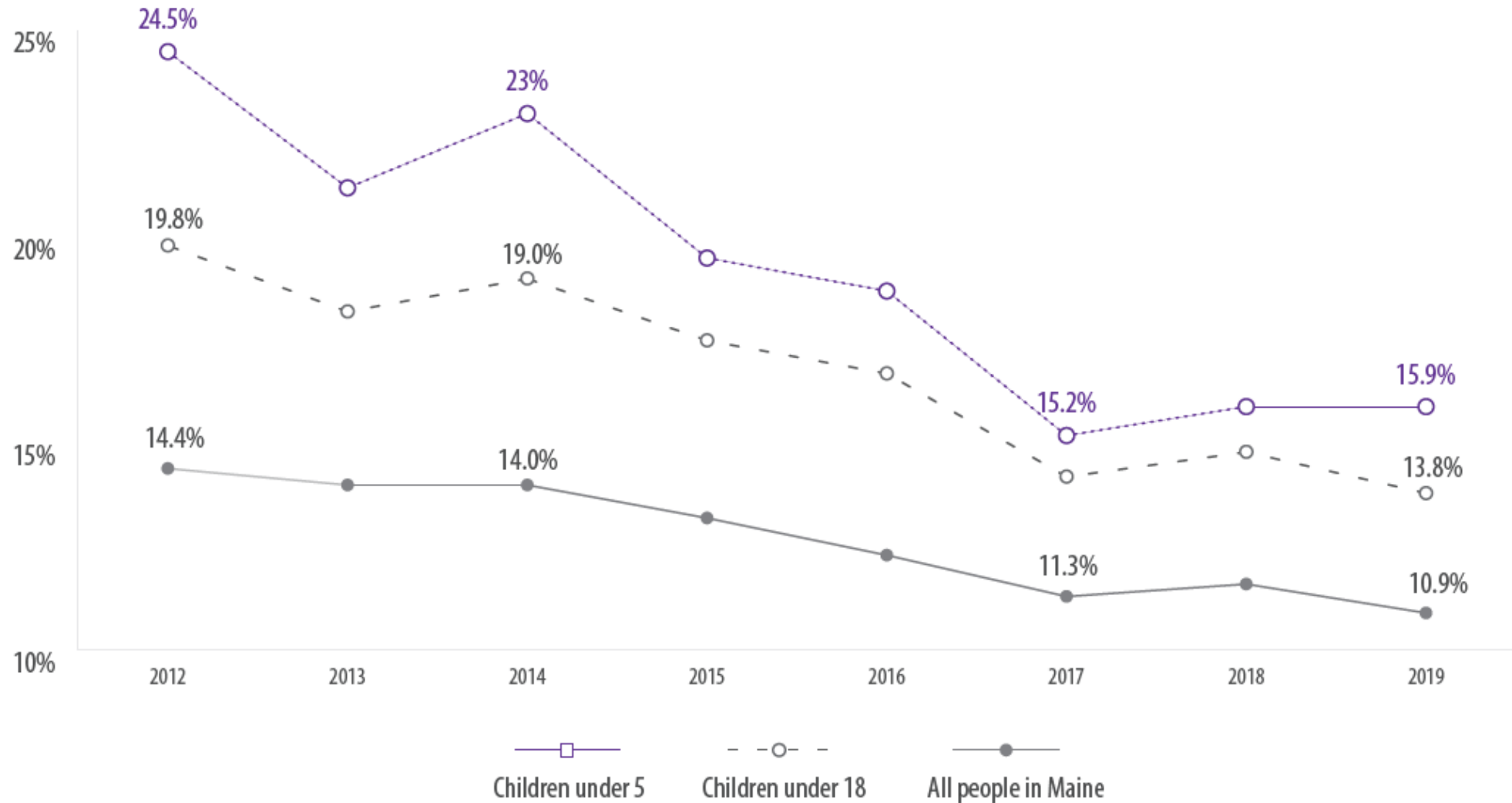
- Between 2017 and 2019, there was a 38% increase in children experiencing maltreatment, from 3,292 to 4,547 children.
- There were more children experiencing maltreatment in 2019, than any year in the past 10 years



Between 2017 and 2019, there was a 52% increase in the number of children entering foster care from 820 children to 1,246 children.

# Child Poverty

MAINE'S OVERALL CHILD POVERTY RATE HAS BEEN DECREASING SINCE 2012  
2017 WAS THE YEAR WITH THE LOWEST POVERTY RATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5

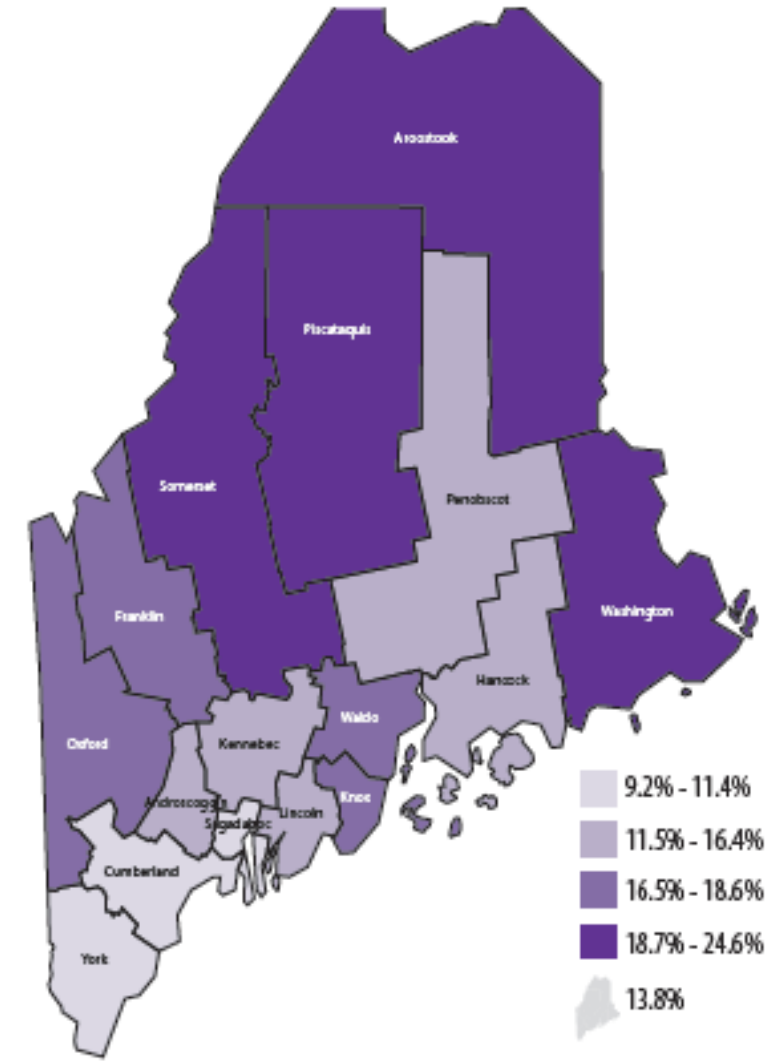
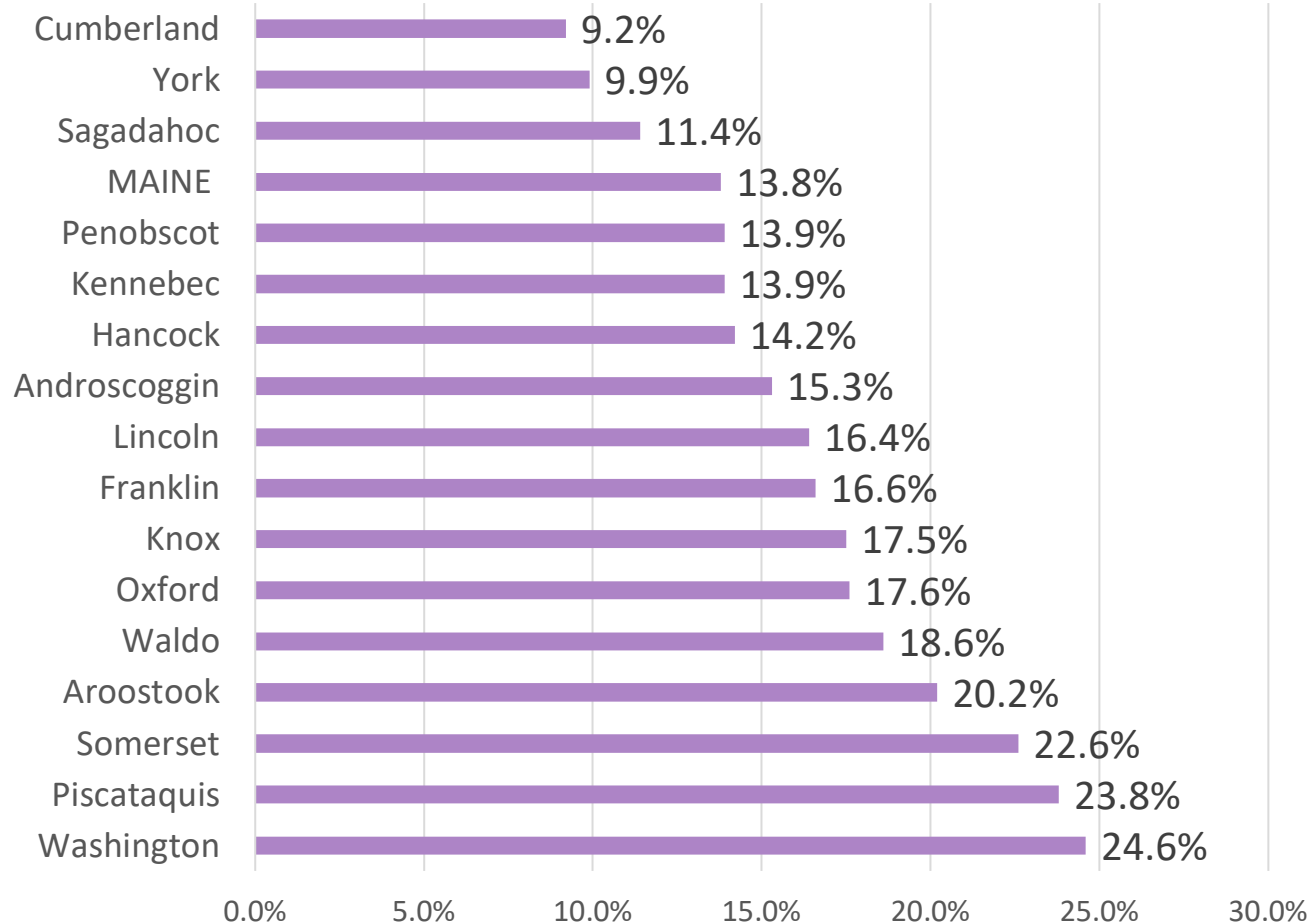




# Child Poverty

TWO COUNTIES HAD CHILD POVERTY RATES BELOW 10 PERCENT, WHILE FOUR COUNTIES HAD RATES ABOVE 20 PERCENT

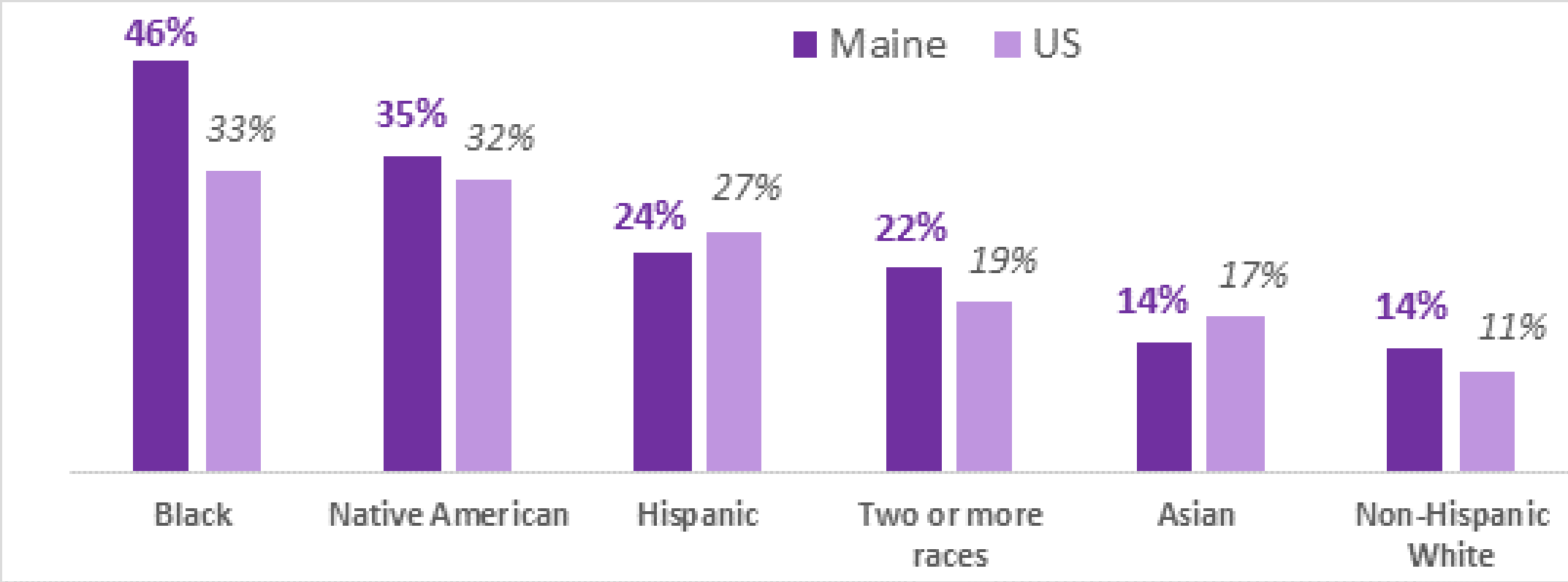
## Child poverty rate by county



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE, 2019)

# Racial Disparities in Child Poverty

CHILDREN OF COLOR EXPERIENCED HIGHER RATES OF POVERTY IN MAINE AND THE NATION



Source: MCA Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019). Tables B1700 & B17001A-1

# Housing

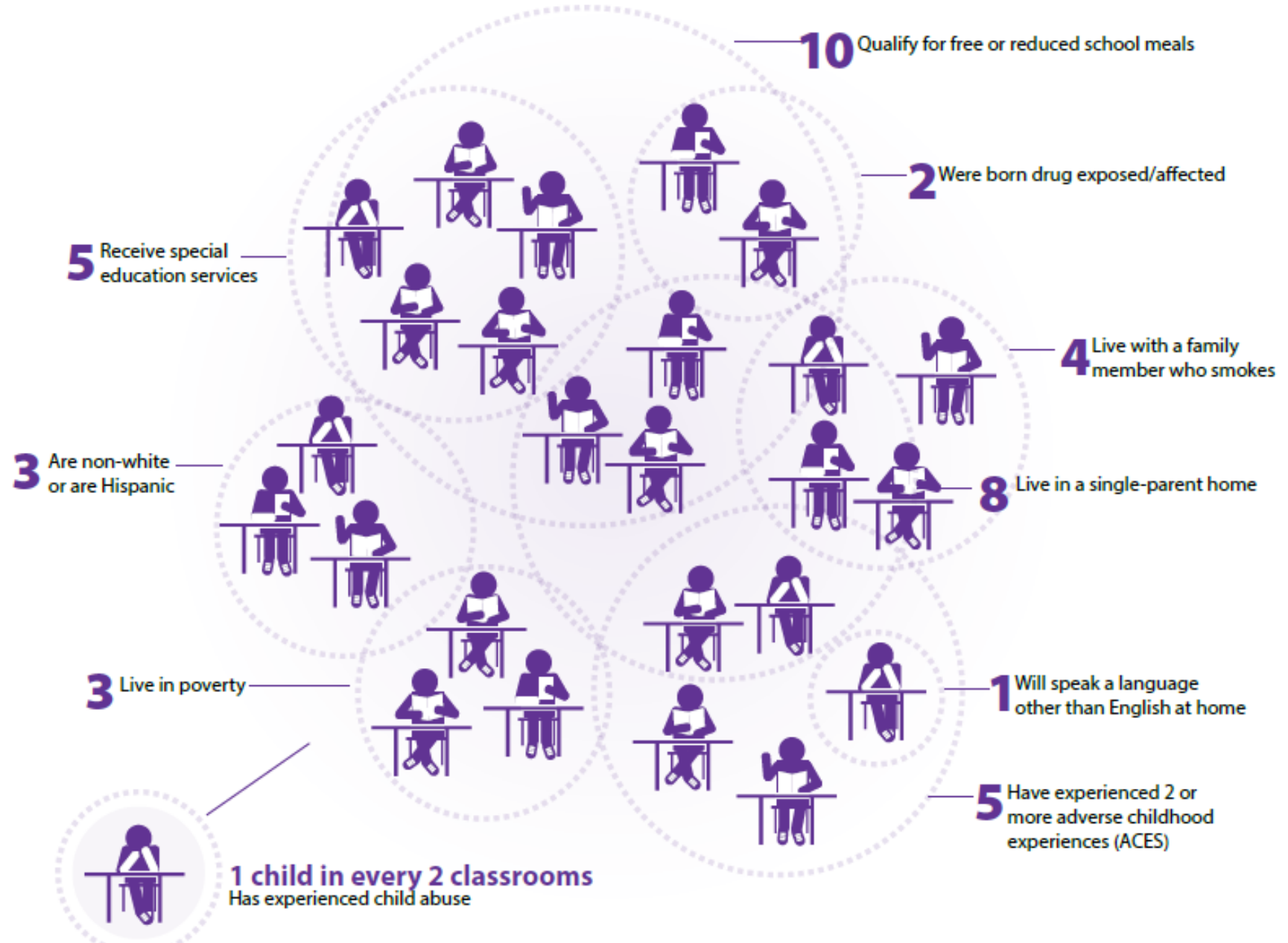


43,000 children in low-income households where housing costs exceed 30% of income.

Wait list for housing vouchers is 10,000 families.

On January 28, 2020, there were 250 Maine children in homeless shelters.

# A Hypothetical Classroom of 25 first graders in Maine



# Questions?

For viewing the sources of the data and the links to the KIDS COUNT Data Center, and to footnoted articles, please download your copy of this report at our website. [www.mekids.org](http://www.mekids.org)



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