



2023 Maine KIDS COUNT® Data Book

Presentation to:
Maine Coalition of
Housing and Quality
Services

July 10, 2023





The Maine Children's Alliance advocates for sound public policies and best practices to improve the lives of all Maine children, youth and families.



The 2023 Maine KIDS COUNT® Data Book focuses on the well-being of Maine children in:

- Health & welfare
- Family economic security
- Early learning & education

Systems Iceberg

Seen

OUTCOMES

Outcomes:

- Education
- Health
- Housing
- Income

Default to fixing people. See people as the problem.

Unseen

PATTERNS WITHIN PLACE

Power, trauma, access to resources, generational poverty, data trends

SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES, POLICIES

Laws, rules, regulations, requirements, social, cultural, and physical structures, political access

MENTAL MODELS

Out-groups, in-groups, what is considered normative/normal, undesirable

HISTORY

Content based on work of Peter Senge and adapted by Raj Chawla; Graphics by Kaylene Mitchell; The OCLGroup.com 2022



EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same—regardless if it's needed or right for them.



EQUITY:

Everyone gets what they need—understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.





HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Babies born exposed/affected to substances

Children without health insurance

Children who received a dental service by insurance type

Children and teens who are overweight or obese

High School students who feel sad or hopeless

Teen suicide Alcohol, marijuana, vaping and tobacco use among high school students

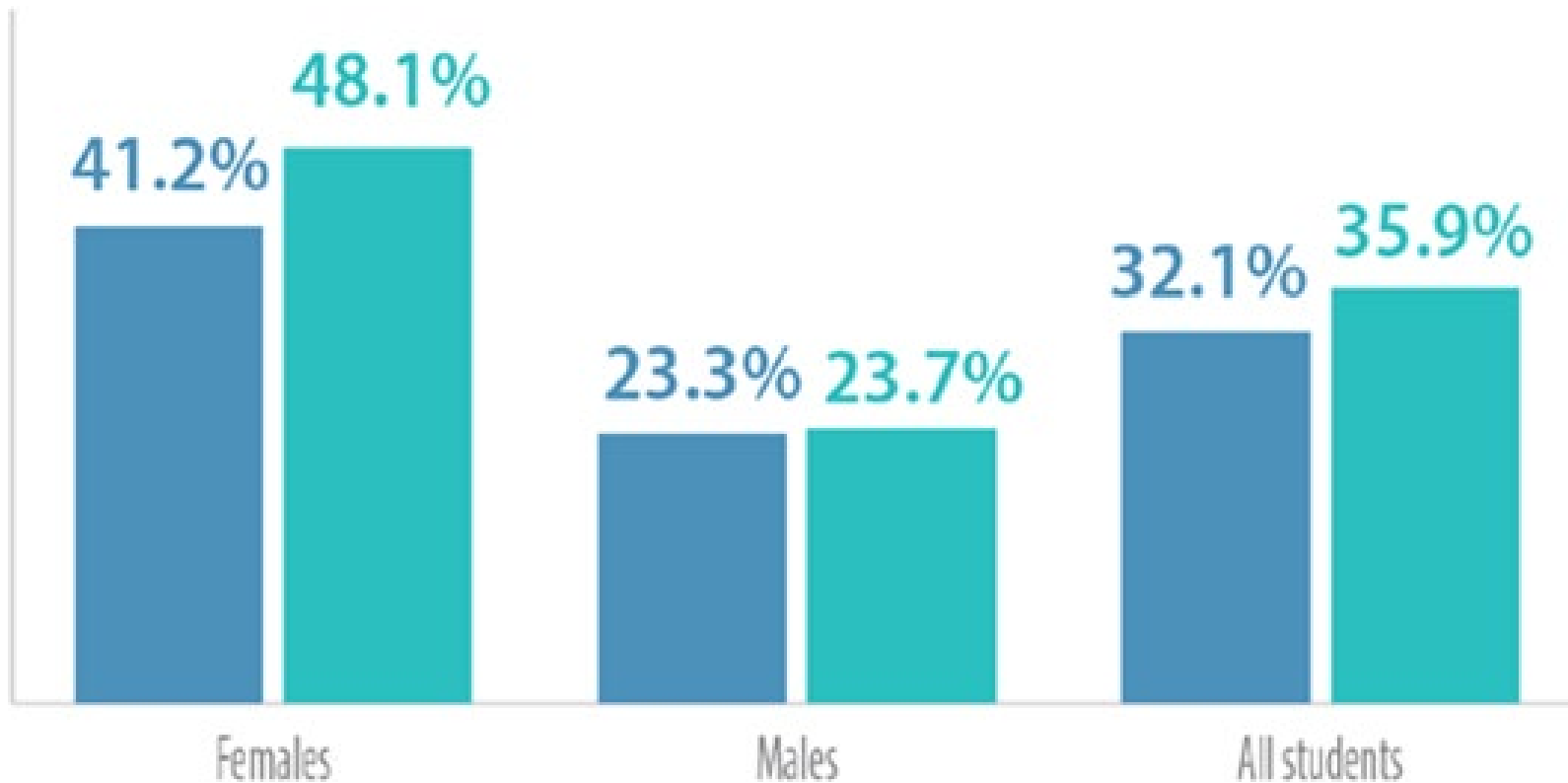
Closer Look: Infant and Maternal Health

Closer Look: Child Welfare

Teen Mental Health

Females reported a higher rate of feeling sad or hopeless than males both years

Percent of students in the 2019 & 2021 MIYHS survey who reported feeling sad or hopeless, by gender



In 2021, among Maine high school students:

- 23% engaged in self-harm behaviors such as cutting or burning.
- 19% seriously considered suicide.

Teen Mental Health: Suicide

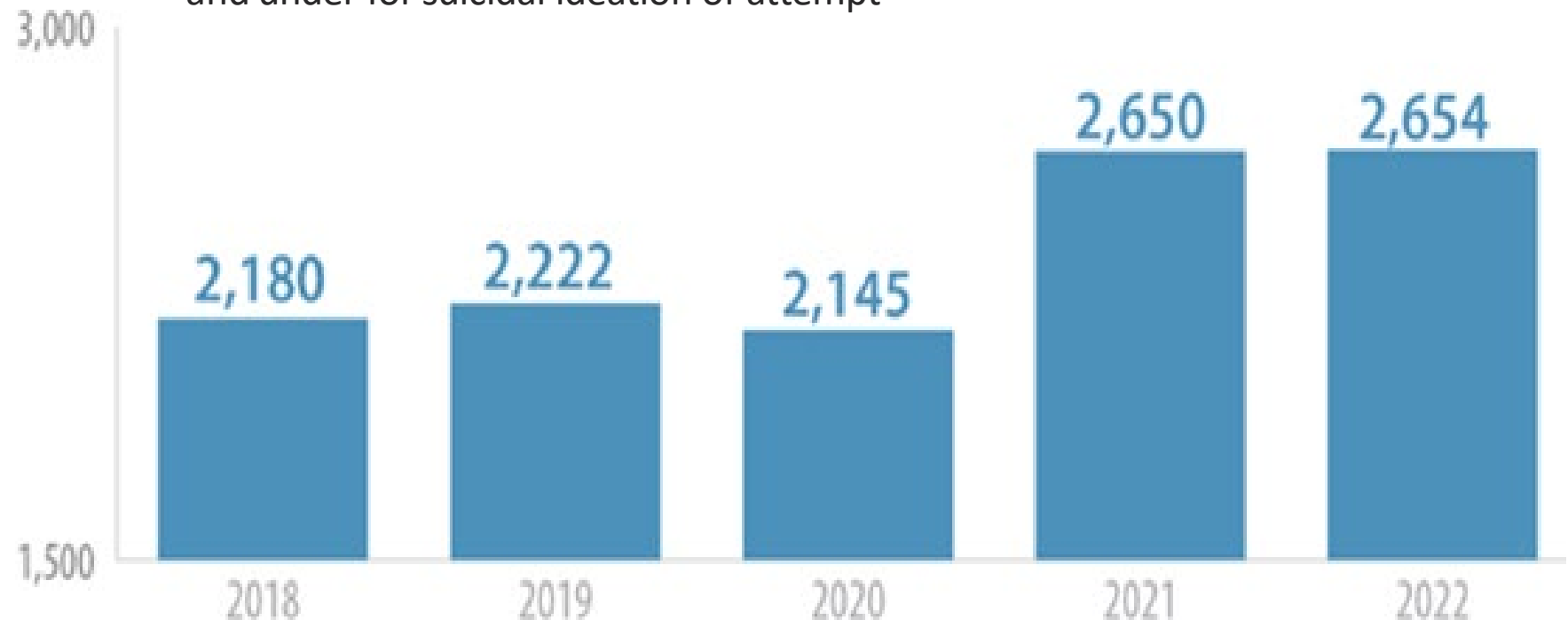
Maine's teen suicide rate has remained above the national rate.

If you or anyone you know are struggling with thoughts of suicide:

- Call or text 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline)
- Call the Maine Crisis Line 1-888-568-1112

Visits to the emergency room for suicidal ideation or suicide attempts increased by over 500 in 2021 and did not decrease in 2022

Annual number of visits to any emergency room in Maine by youth ages 19 and under for suicidal ideation or attempt

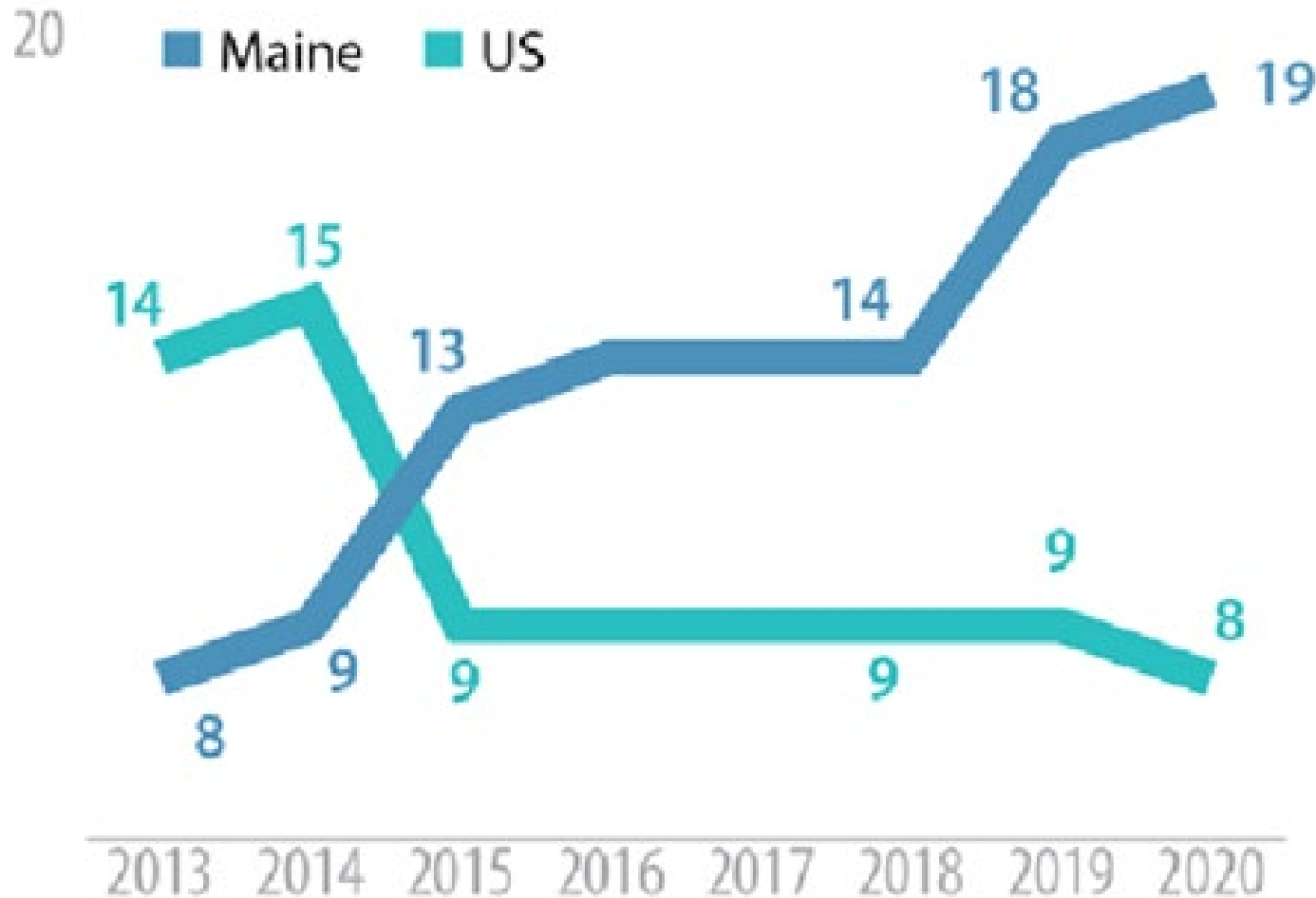


Teen mental health: Solutions

- Implement Maine's recent comprehensive behavioral health plan so all children have access to a continuum of services.
- Ensure young children get the developmental and mental health supports they need as a part of a preventative system of care.
- Build up the behavioral health system so youth experiencing mental health crises receive timely and appropriate treatment.

Child Welfare

Children who experienced substantiated child maltreatment (rate per 1,000 children)



In 2020,
4,263 children,
19.0 per 1,000
children

- Increasing in Maine
- Decreasing nationally
- Maine's rate was twice the national average
- Highest in the nation.

Child Welfare: Solutions

The State should:

- Develop, implement, and oversee a comprehensive statewide child maltreatment prevention plan.
- Invest in peer support for families experiencing challenges and those involved in the child welfare system.
- The State, Legislature, and philanthropist organizations should invest in essential supports for families' basic needs and services, like child care.

FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY



KEY INDICATORS

Children in poverty

Child supplemental poverty measure

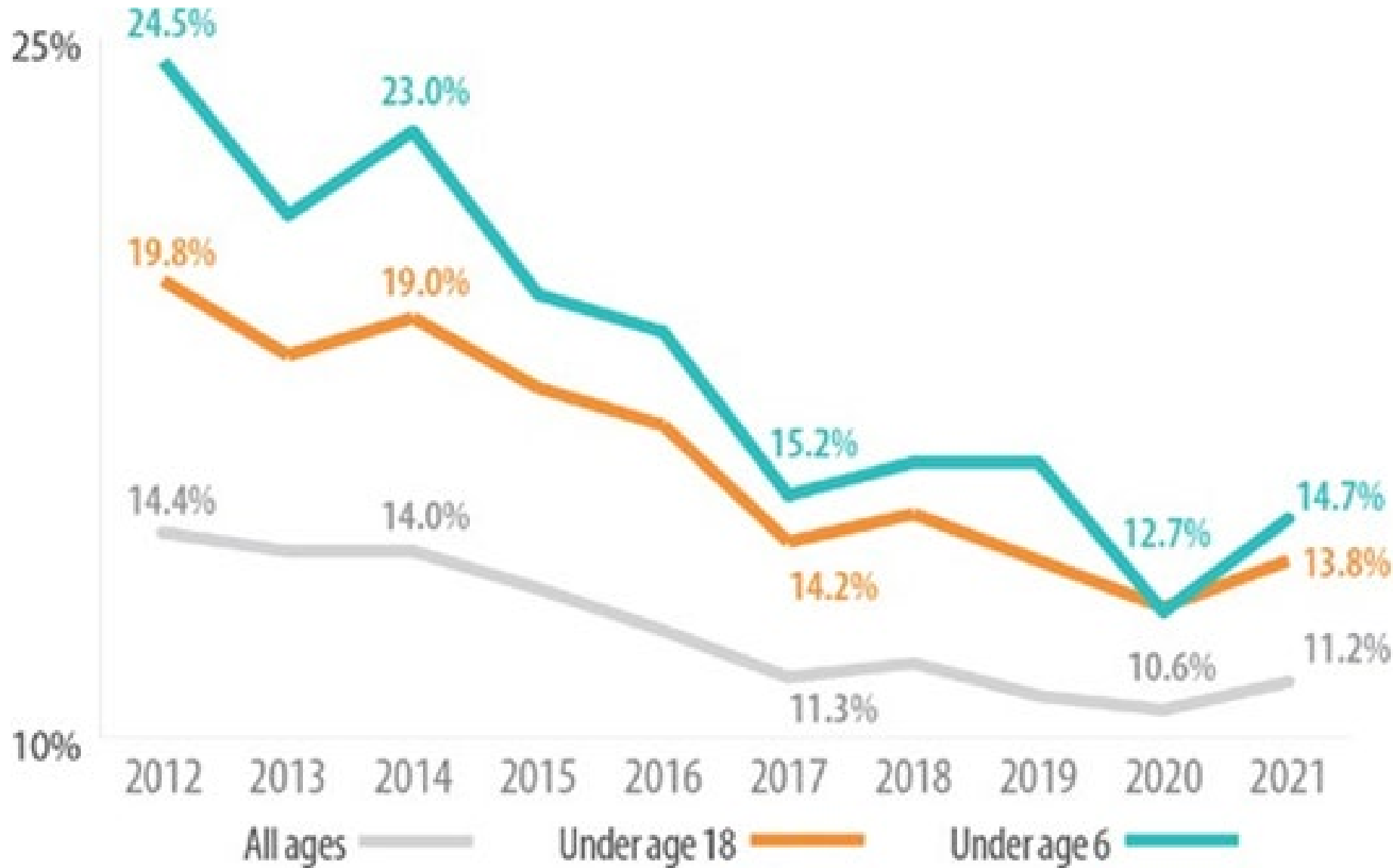
Median household income

Children under age six with all available parents in workforce

Children whose parents lack secure employment

High housing cost burden for renter households

Poverty by age groups in Maine 2012-2021



Maine Child Poverty

34,000 Children

13.8% of children

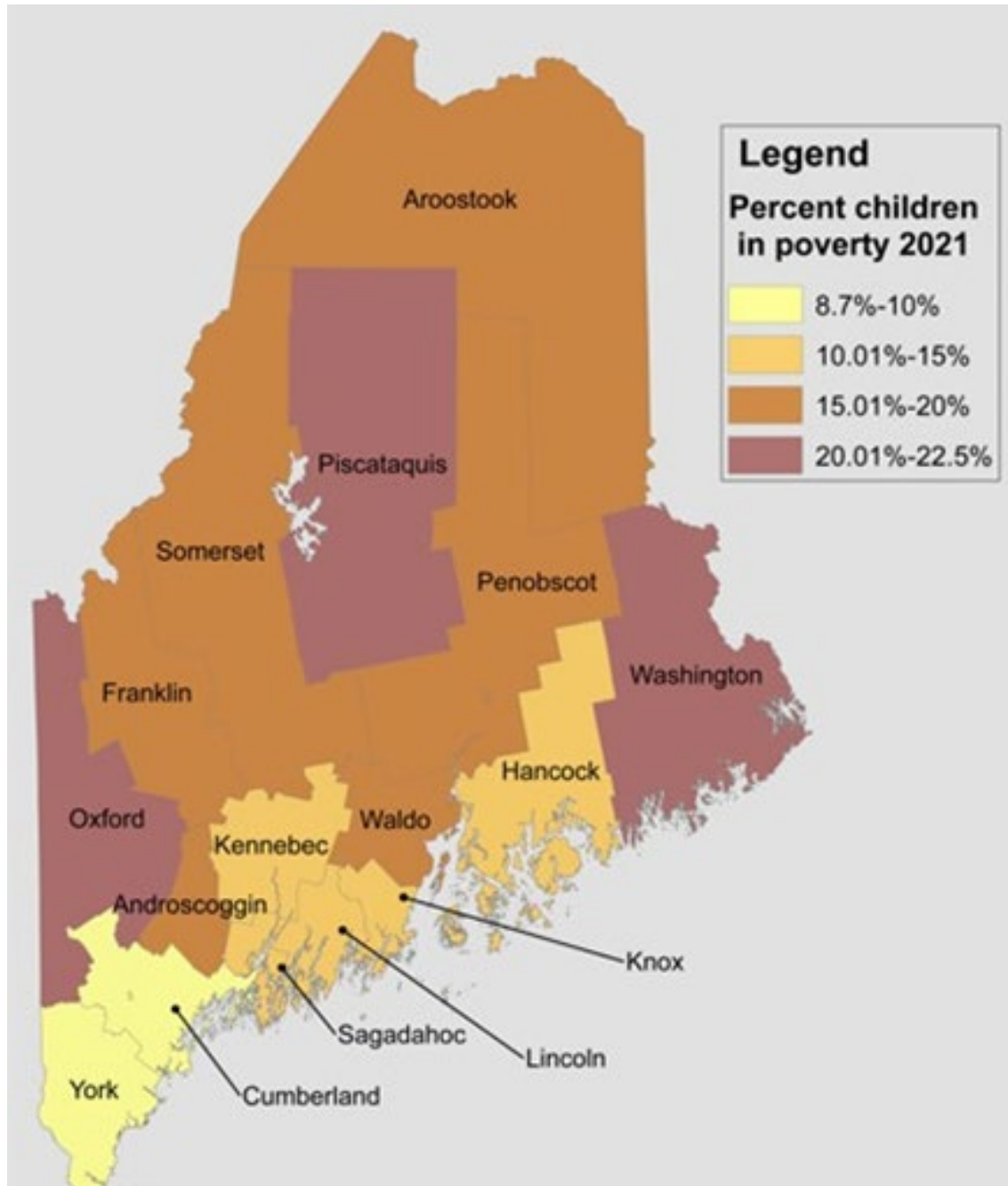
Child Poverty by County

Rural

Piscataquis, Washington, Oxford:
Child poverty rates above 20%

Urban

York & Cumberland:
Child poverty rates below 10%



Child Poverty by Family Composition

31% poverty rate among children with single parents

Disparities in Child Poverty by Race Have Improved

Child poverty by race/ethnicity, 2012-2016 vs. 2017-2021

Race/Ethnicity	MAINE			UNITED STATES		
	2012-2016	2017-2021	Child Poverty Reduction	2012-2016	2017-2021	Child Poverty Reduction
American Indian or Alaskan Native	40.9%	32.4%	-20.8%	35.2%	30.1%	-14.5%
Asian	16.0%	11.7%	-26.5%	12.5%	10.4%	-16.8%
Black or African American	53.6%	31.5%	-41.2%	37.4%	31.2%	-16.6%
Hispanic or Latino	27.0%	16.9%	-37.4%	31.3%	23.8%	-24.0%
Non-Hispanic white	16.1%	12.8%	-20.7%	12.7%	10.4%	-18.1%
Two or more races	27.7%	19.0%	-31.3%	21.6%	17.7%	-18.1%
All Races	17.0%	13.8%	-18.6%	21.2%	17.0%	-19.8%

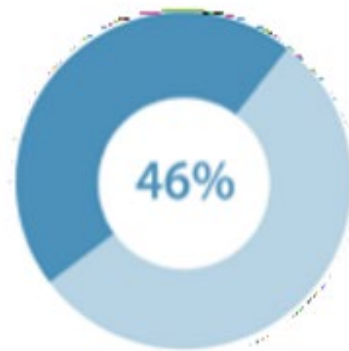
Child Poverty: Solutions

- Reinststate the federal Child Tax Credit expansion and expand and make fully refundable the state Child Tax Credit.
- Sustain universal access to healthy school meals.
- Reduce barriers to and improve effectiveness of public anti-poverty programs.
- Expand outreach for the Child Care Subsidy Program, especially for infant care and in rural areas.
- Increase wages and the number of year-round, good-paying jobs.

High Housing Cost Burden by Renter Households

Children with stable housing have improved health and academic achievement

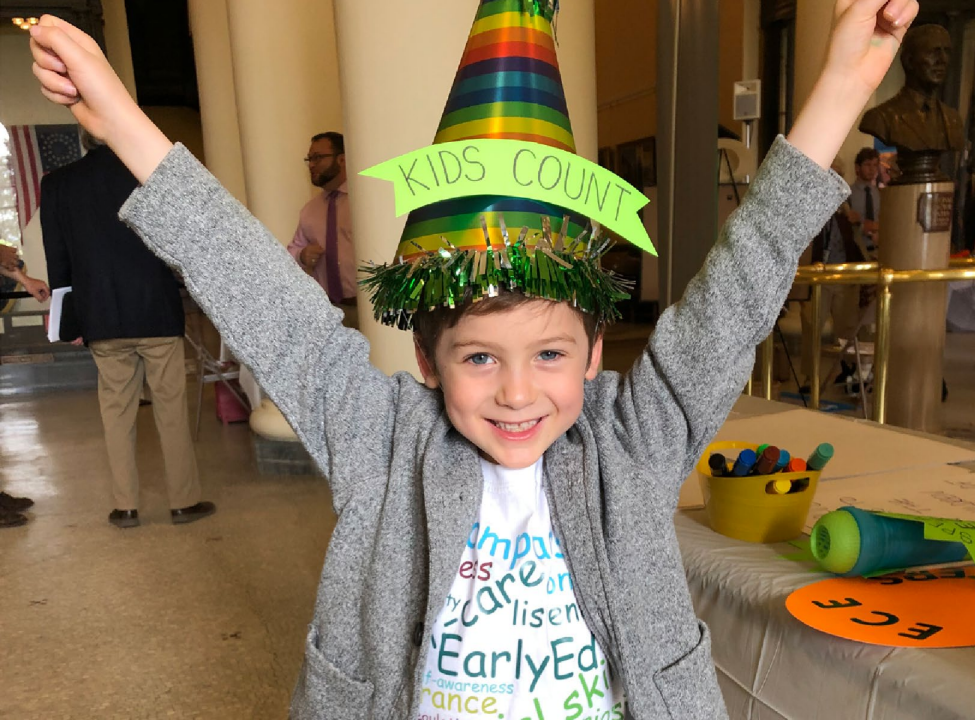
- ▶ **63,564 Maine households pay more than 30% of their income as rent**



816 children and youth were counted as homeless on January 25, 2022.

For the state of Maine, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment was \$1,180 in 2022.

In order to afford this level of rent and utilities—without paying more than 30 percent of income on housing, a household must earn \$47,194 annually, or \$22.69 hourly.



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

KEY INDICATORS

High-Quality Child Care

Four-year-olds in Public Preschool

High School Graduation

Chronic Absenteeism

First Year Teacher Salary

Closer Look: Early Intervention

Early Intervention

Babies under 1 year receiving early intervention services in 2022:
118 babies or less than 1%

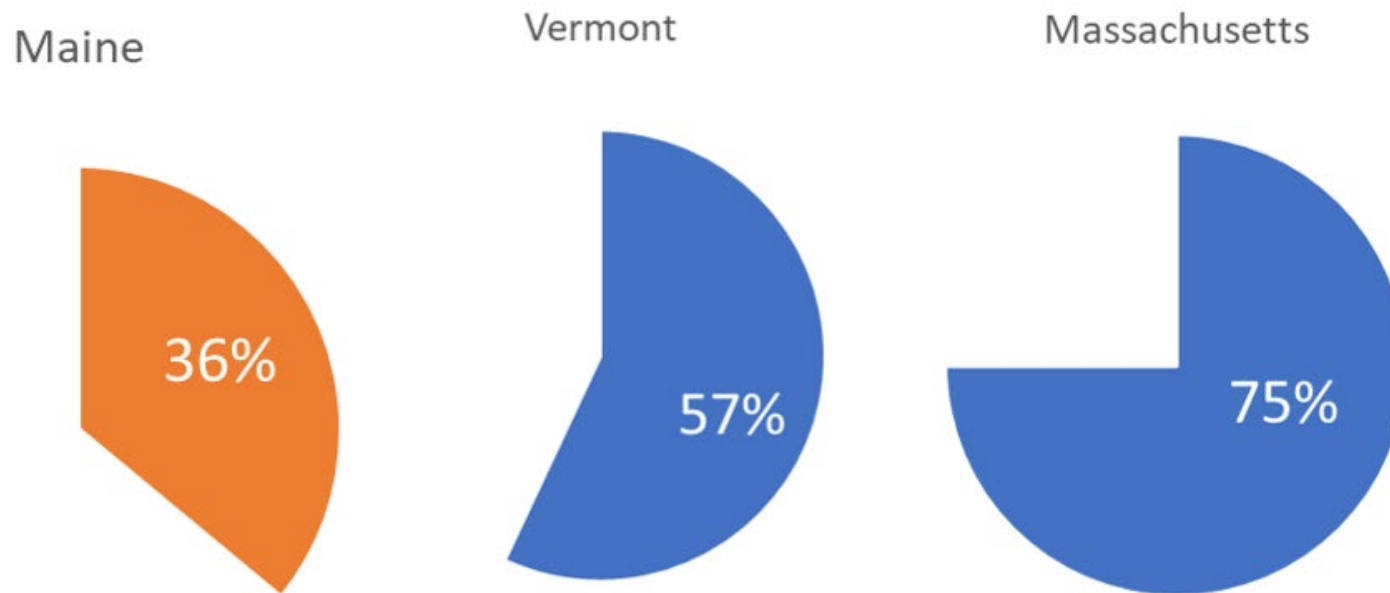
Below the national average and
lowest in New England

Early intervention produces more favorable outcomes for child development than later remediation.



Early Intervention

Developmental screenings for children in Maine with Medicaid lag behind other New England states



Percentage of Children Screened for Risk of Developmental, Behavioral, and Social Delays Using a Standardized Screening Tool Preceding or on their First, Second, or Third Birthday, as Submitted by States for the FFY 2020 Child Core Set Report

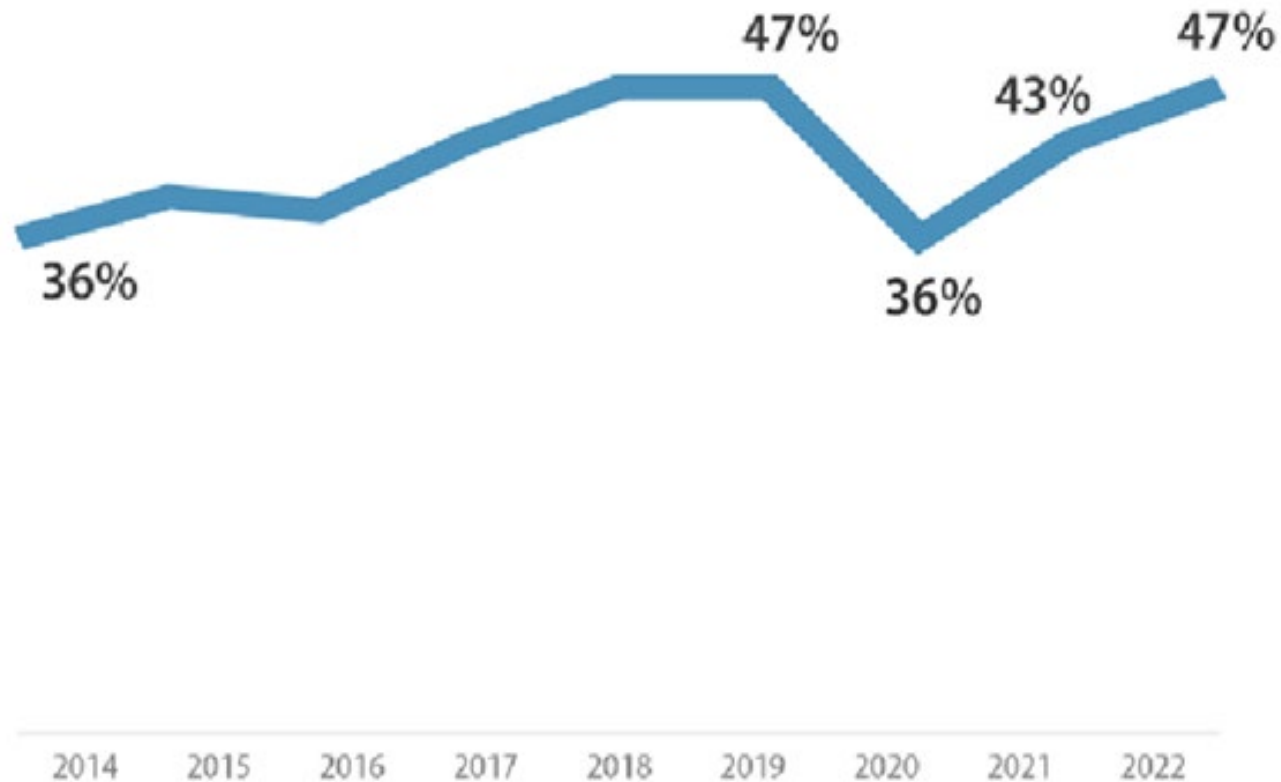
Early Intervention: Solutions

- Implement reforms to improve early childhood special education in Maine.
- Expand the criteria for “developmental delay.” Maine is 1 of 16 states with the most restrictive eligibility requirements.
- Increase public awareness that some children may be automatically eligible.
- Establish a centralized billing system making it easier for schools and CDS to bill MaineCare.

Public Preschool

Participation in public preschool has returned to pre-pandemic levels, after dropping in the fall of 2020

Percent of four-year-olds in Maine public preschools

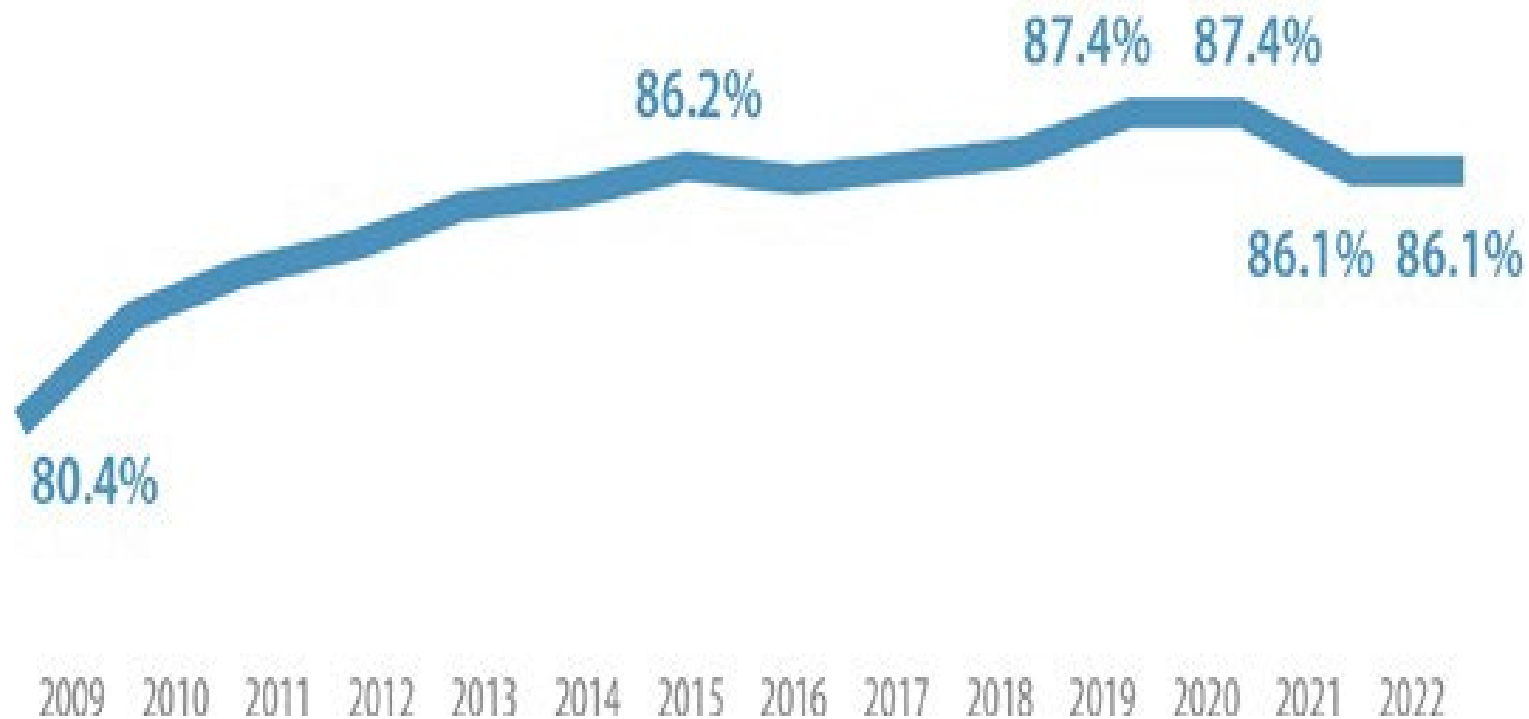


Public investment in early care and education provides an important foundation for all children to learn social emotional skills.

High School Graduation

High school graduation rates in 2021 were the lowest since 2016 and did not improve in 2022.

High school four-year graduation rates (June of each year)

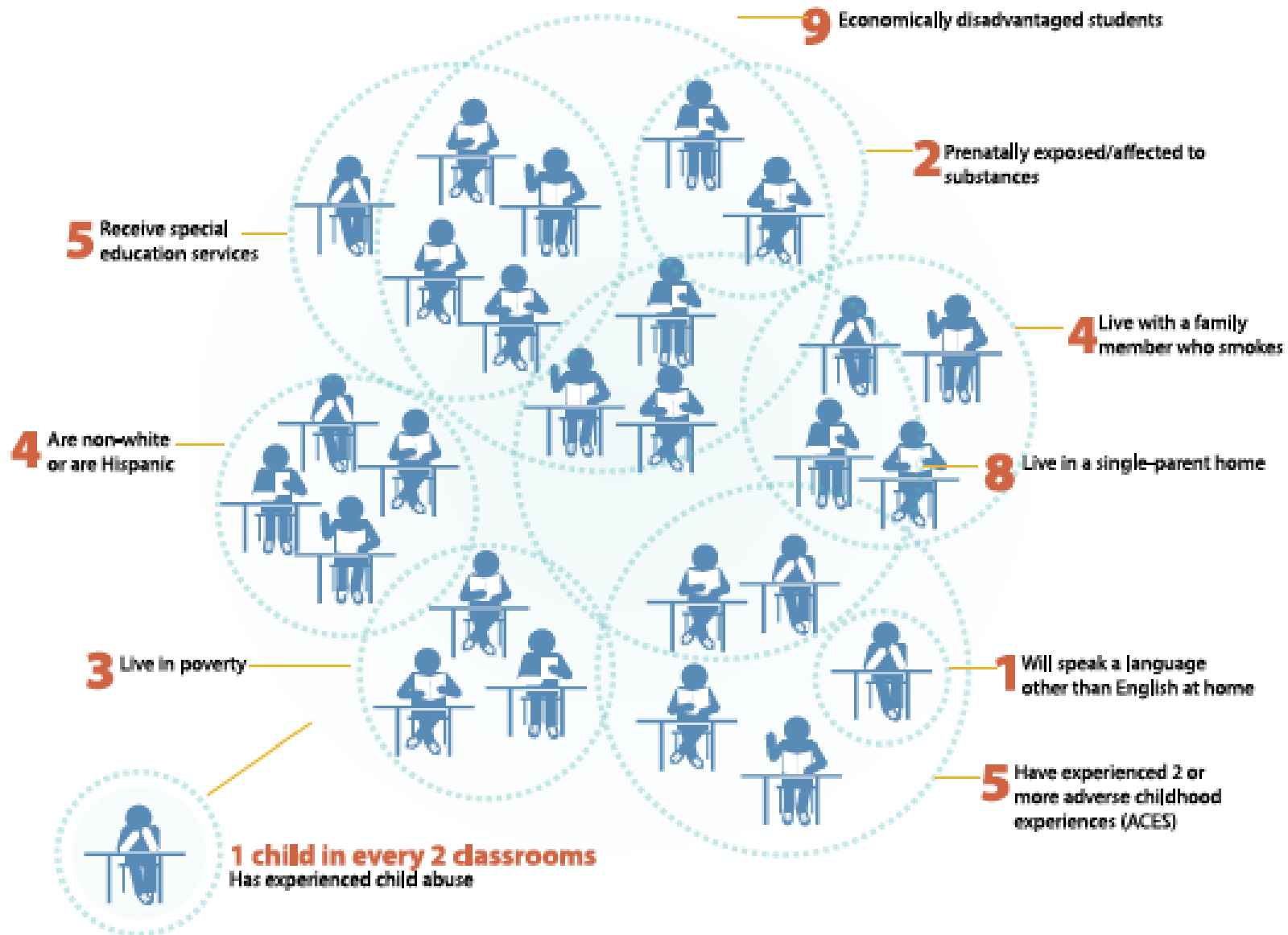


In 2022, Maine's high school graduation rate for males was 4.5 percentage points lower than for females (84.0% compared to 88.5%).

Education: Solutions

- Increase investments in the early care and education system, including public and private child care partnerships and Head Start.
- Increase investments in school districts to provide full-day, full-week preschool.
- Improve school climate to reduce chronic absenteeism.
- Increase teacher pay.
- Maintain the State's obligation to provide 55% of public school education costs.
- Expand the Community Schools' programs including after-school tutoring and extended day schooling.

A HYPOTHETICAL CLASSROOM OF 25 FIRST GRADERS IN MAINE



Data sources & links to the KIDS COUNT Data Center: mekids.org/databook/



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