

Early Care & Education Fact Sheet

Across the Country



- 90% of brain development in children is established by age 5; therefore, providing quality child care at a young age enhances cognitive development.
- Studies show that the availability of quality child care results in a demonstrably higher employee morale; reduced absenteeism; increased productivity; lower employee turnover; lower recruiting and training costs.
- Children who experience quality care and education early in life are **more likely** to:
 - have better jobs and higher earnings as adults;
 - strengthen the tax base;
 - experience lower rates of alcohol and substance abuse;
 - have lower incarceration rates.
- Children who experience quality care and education early in life are **less likely** to:
 - become teen parents;
 - depend on welfare;
 - engage in criminal behavior as teens and adults.



Across the State

- In Maine, 75% of mothers with children 5 and under are in the labor force; and 78% with children between 6 and 17 are in the labor force.
- 31% of the total workforce in Maine felt that their work had been made less effective because of **another employee's** child care problems. A study of York County employers was completely consistent with this data.

Across York County



- Full-day child care in York County will now cost a family between \$7,000 and \$10,000, a cost comparable to a college tuition costs at a public university.
- An employee survey of employees of manufacturing businesses in York County demonstrated that 52% of the employee group required child care.
- There are nearly 8,400 York County children under the age of 5 who need child care so that their parents can work. There are currently only 4,200 licensed child care slots available.

Facts and statistics that describe Sanford ...

Demographic information			
	Maine	York County	Sanford
Male, now married, except separated (15+ years old)	58.8%	61.2%	54.2%
Female, now married, except separated (15+ years old)	54.1%	56.2%	49.5%
Households consisting of unmarried partners	3.0%	2.8%	3.3%
Population of 5-10 year olds with a disability	9.0%	9.2%	9.5%
Those receiving public assistance income in 1999	4.8%	3.7%	7.5%
Families with female householder, no husband present, with related children under 5 years below the poverty level	54.7%	49.5%	56.8%

Please note:

These facts and statistics have been compiled to help create a picture of the conditions affecting families of young children in Sanford. The Sanford data is compared to York County and Maine data. Since most of the latest information available about Sanford is from the 2000 Census, the information about York County and Maine is also from the 2000 Census to make fair comparisons possible. If information did not come from the 2000 Census, the source is listed below the table.

If you have any questions about these data tables, please contact Janice Goldsberry at <jgoldsberry@sanford.org>. (6/08)

Social and Economic Status						
	York County			Maine		
	#	Current	Previous	#	Current	Previous
Children receiving Food Stamps	7,178	16.2% (12/07)	13.6% (12/06)	65,752	23.7% (12/07)	20.4% (12/06)
Estimated livable wage for a single-parent family of 3, rate/hour	N/A	\$20.78 (2006)	\$18.69 (2004)	N/A	\$19.35 (2006)	\$18.15 (2004)
Domestic assaults reported to police (per 100,000)	1,071	529.4 (2006)	537.0 (2005)	5,554	420.3 (2006)	414.4 (2005)
Arrests of children 10-17 (per 1000)	1,570	69.7 (2006)	68.0 (2005)	7,767	55.9 (2006)	54.5 (2005)
Arrests of children (10-17) for crimes against persons	26	1.2 (2006)	1.1 (2005)	141	1.0 (2006)	1.0 (2005)

KIDS COUNT, 2008

Educational Attainment			
	Maine	York County	Sanford
Population of those 25+ years ¹	888,000	127,591	13,551
High school graduate or higher ²	85.4%	86.5%	76.4%
Some college, no degree ³	18%	20%	19%
Associate's degree ⁴	8%	8%	6%
Bachelor's degree ⁵	18%	16%	9%
Bachelor's degree or higher ⁶	26%	23%	12%

1, 3, 4, 5, & 6: Thomas, M. K., Inventory of Postsecondary Needs & Opportunities in York County & Sanford, Maine: Submitted to the University of Maine's University College Center at Sanford, July 2006
2: U.S. Census, 2000

More Economic Information			
	Maine (2000)	York County (2000)	Sanford (2000)
In labor force (population 16 years+)	65.3%	68.1%	63.3%
Median household income (1999 dollars)	\$37,240	\$43,630	\$33,504
Per capita income (1999 dollars)	\$19,533	\$21,225	\$16,682
Families below poverty level	7.8%	5.9%	11.9%
Individuals below poverty level	10.9%	8.2%	13.4%
Median value of owner-occupied homes	\$98,700	\$122,600	\$92,300

U.S. Census, 2000 - Data from 2006 is available for Maine & York Co. but not Sanford. For that reason, all data shown is from the 2000 census so that a fair comparison can be made.

Other information
<p>The Sanford School Department is engaged in a research study being conducted by Hornby-Zeller Associates (HZA) for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to evaluate the school readiness of children who have participated in the Maine Home Visiting Program. In Sanford, the Maine Home Visiting Program is known as the Alliance for Healthy Families.</p> <p>Additionally, because there is no standardized kindergarten screening instrument in Maine, this research study will help determine the feasibility of using a similar kindergarten screening process statewide.</p> <p>Parents/guardians are asked to complete a survey (ASQ:S/E) at the time of kindergarten screening. Participation is completely voluntary.</p>