



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCILS

At A Glance

PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine's Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Councils are the state-designated **organizations** that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs.

PREVENTION COUNCIL WORK

The Prevention Councils are in each county in Maine and offer a wide range of supports for families and parents.

All support services are free.



PARENTING
EDUCATION



PARENT
SUPPORT
GROUPS



PLAY
GROUPS



COMMUNITY
EVENTS



CONCRETE
SUPPORTS &
REFERRALS



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils focus on *primary and secondary* child abuse prevention efforts by **strengthening Maine families**.

The Prevention Council's do this by using The Center for the Study of Social Policy's **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the 5 Protective Factors in all Maine families:

Knowledge of Child
Development

Parental
Resilience

Concrete Supports
in Times of Need

Supportive Social
Connections

Social-Emotional
Competence of
Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

Director

Community
Educator

Community
Coordinator



In FY24, the total FTEs for Educators & Coordinators (direct service staff) who serve all 16 counties is **17.61 FTEs**.

Community Coordinators = **.45 FTE** per County
Community Educators = **.64 FTE** per County

PREVENTION COUNCIL REACH

For FY24, the Prevention Councils provided:



356 public awareness activities, including community events, reaching **169,125** people

207,052 concrete supports (diapers, clothing, etc.) to families



329 multi-session, evidence-based parenting education classes

260 parent support activities including **playgroups, support groups, workshops, and community trainings**



358 trainings to professionals in Mandated Reporting, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying (Abusive Head Trauma Prevention), and Protective Factors

PREVENTION COUNCIL SUCCESS

For FY24 evaluations resulted in:

82.75%

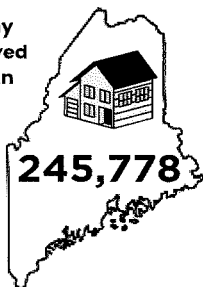
of **parenting education participants** reported **improvement in protective factors**, as measured by responses on the Retrospective Protective Factor Survey.



92%

of **professional training participants** reported **improvement in knowledge and skills**.

How many
children lived
in Maine in
2023?



IMPACT

In FY24, for every **1 FTE** Prevention Council staff providing direct service to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine, there were:

13,956
children

PREVENTION COUNCIL FUNDING

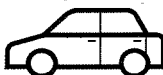
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In FY24, **half of Maine counties** received less than **\$55,000** in total program support and staffing to prevent child abuse and neglect.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

2,009 square miles per every **1 FTE** providing direct service

The State of Rhode Island is **1,214 square miles**.



UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The lifetime economic burden of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00**.



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including **\$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs**.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information visit www.mechildrenstrust.org

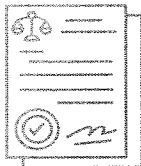


YORK COUNTY



PREVENTION COUNCIL

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The York County Prevention Council is housed at Kids Free to Grow. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work**.

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.

All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In York County:



108 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting, Active Parenting, and Circle of Security Parenting

193 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



594 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through playgroups

59 parents/caregivers were reached through Protective Factor and Period of PURPLE Crying community trainings



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

2 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served York County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

For every 1 FTE providing direct services in York County, the coverage area is

496 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in York County was:



38,515

For every 1 FTE providing direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in York County, there were:

19,258 children

Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

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(207) 317-1377
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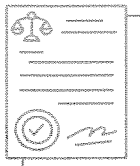




WASHINGTON COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Washington County Prevention Council is housed at Sunrise Opportunities. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work.**

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.

All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Washington County:



59 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting, Active Parenting, and Circle of Security Parenting

73 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



44 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through playgroups in Machias and Calais

24 parents/caregivers received support through parent support groups



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

2 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Washington County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

For every **1 FTE** providing direct services in Washington County, the coverage area is

1,282 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Washington County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

For every **1 FTE** providing direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Washington County, there were:

2,912 children

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

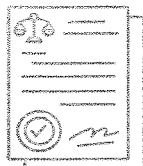
For more information, please contact:

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or find us here:



PREVENTION COUNCIL

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Waldo County Prevention Council is housed at Waldo Community Action Partners. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work.**

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.
All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



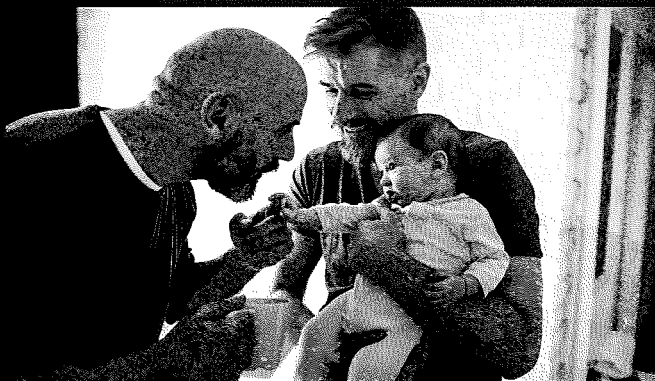
Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Waldo County:



386 individuals were reached through local informational community events

100 individuals were reached through Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) month awareness activities



15 members joined the Waldo County Prevention Council Advisory Board

Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

.63 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Waldo County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Waldo County's **.63 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

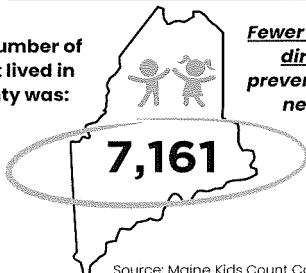
730 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Waldo County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

Fewer than 1 FTE provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Waldo County.

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

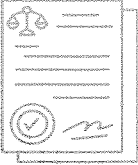
For more information, please contact:

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or find us here:



PREVENTION COUNCIL

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Somerset County Prevention Council is housed at Kennebec Valley Community Action Program's Family Enrichment Council (FEC). Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work**.

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.
All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Somerset County:



256 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting Through Recovery, Active Parenting, and Inside Out Dad

617 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



199 parents/caregivers built social connections through Circle of Parents groups, parent support groups Parent Cafes, and local playgroups

250 expectant and/or new caregivers received infant safety education, essential baby items, and connection to resources at our 5th annual Community Baby Shower



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

1.6 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Somerset County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

For every **1 FTE** providing direct services in Somerset County, the coverage area is

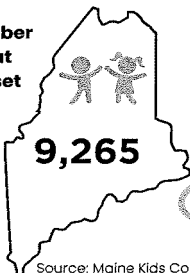
2,453 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Somerset County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

For every **1 FTE** providing direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Somerset County, there were:

5,790 children

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

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kristenp@kvcap.org
(207) 859-2520
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United Way



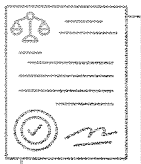
Maine Children's Trust

OXFORD COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL

CommunityConcepts



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Oxford County Prevention Council is housed at Community Concepts, Inc. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work.**

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.

All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Oxford County:



61 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting, Active Parenting, and 123 Magic

167 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



789 families attended our annual Touch-a-Truck event

\$13,716 was raised to purchase diapers to share with families in Oxford County



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

.35 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Oxford County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Oxford County's **.35 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

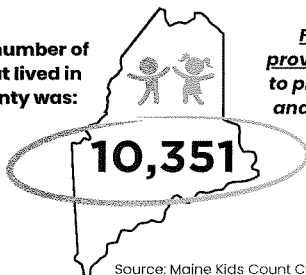
2,077 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Oxford County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

Fewer than 1 FTE provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Oxford County.

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

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mgreen@community-concepts.org

(207) 795-4065

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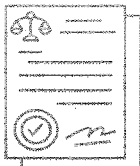




PENOBSCOT COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Penobscot County Prevention Council is housed at Penquis. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work**.

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.
All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Penobscot County:



252 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Fathers, Nurturing Parenting Through Recovery, and Active Parenting

241 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



216 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through local playgroups and storytimes

2,099 individuals were reached through community events and activities



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors

PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

1.8 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Penobscot County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

For every 1 FTE providing direct services in Penobscot County, the coverage area is

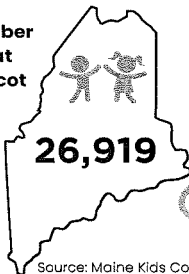
1,887 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Penobscot County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

For every 1 FTE providing direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Penobscot County, there were:

14,955 children

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

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or find us here:





Empowering Families. Engaging Communities.

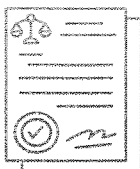
**FAMILIES
CAN!**

**SAGADAHOC
COUNTY**

PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



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MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

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All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.



By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Sagadahoc County:



117 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting, Active Parenting, and Circle of Security Parenting

208 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



295 families received Summer Passports with information about local activities and events

88 expectant and/or new expectant received infant safety education, essential baby items, and connection to resources at our Community Baby Shower and Resource Fair



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors

PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

.7 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Sagadahoc County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Sagadahoc County's **.7 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

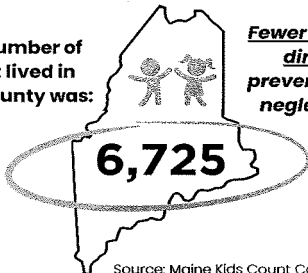
254 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Sagadahoc County was:



Fewer than 1 FTE provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Sagadahoc County.

Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

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or find us here:





PISCATAQUIS COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Piscataquis County Prevention Council is housed at Penquis. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work**.

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

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All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Piscataquis County:



116 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting and Active Parenting

116 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



576 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through local playgroups and storytimes

1,623 individuals were reached through community events and activities



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

.64 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Piscataquis County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Piscataquis County's **.64 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

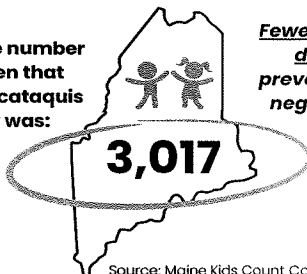
3,961 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Piscataquis County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

Fewer than 1 FTE provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Piscataquis County.

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

Christine McMillen
Prevention Council Coordinator
cmcmillen@penquis.org
(207) 974-2481

or find us here:





CUMBERLAND COUNTY

PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Cumberland County Prevention Council is housed at Kids Free to Grow. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention** strategies *that work*.

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.

All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families. .

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Cumberland County:



84 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting

84 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



68 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through Parent Cafe conversations

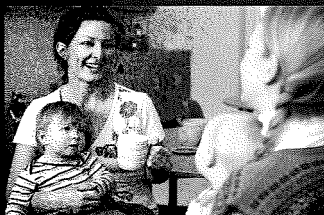
100 collaborative partners were reached through Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAP) awareness activities



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

1 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Cumberland County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Cumberland County's **1 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

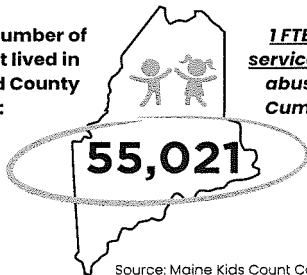
836 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Cumberland County was:



1 FTEs provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Cumberland County.

Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

Imogene Altnauer
Prevention Council Director
imogenea@kidsfreetogrow.org
(207) 317-1377

or find us here:



ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL

CommunityConcepts



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Androscoggin County Prevention Council is housed at Community Concepts, Inc. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work.**

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.
All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Androscoggin County:



85 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting, Active Parenting, and 123 Magic

367 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



225 parents/caregivers and children built social connections at local playgroups or parent support groups

92 expectant and/or new parents received infant safety education, essential baby items, and connection to resources at our local Community Baby Shower



Statewide:



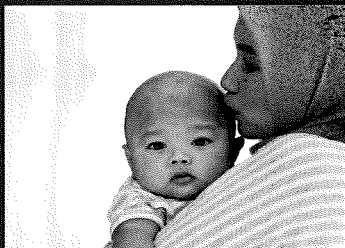
83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

1.5 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Androscoggin County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

For every **1 FTE** providing direct services in Androscoggin County, the coverage area is

312 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Androscoggin County was:



23,248

For every 1 FTE providing direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Androscoggin County, there were:

15,499 children

Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:
Melissa Green
Prevention Council Director
mgreen@community-concepts.org
(207) 795-4065
or find us here:

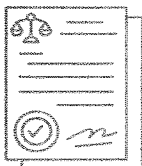




KNOX COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Knox County Prevention Council is housed at Healthy Kids. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work.**

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.

All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Knox County:



229 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through local playgroups

189 parents/caregivers, children, and professionals were reached through Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) month activities and events



102 families were reached through community events

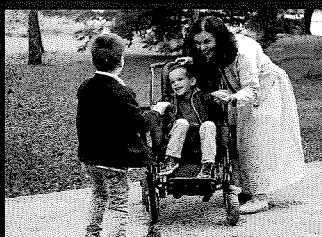
28 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

.38 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Knox County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Knox County's **.38 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

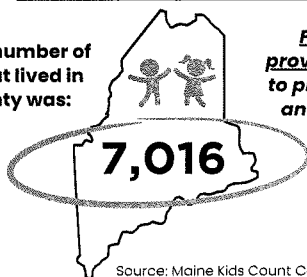
365 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Knox County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

Fewer than 1 FTE provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Knox County.

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

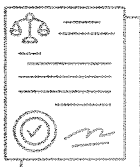
For more information, please contact:

Char Corbett
Prevention Council Director
ccorbett@tidewater.net
(207) 563-1818
or find us here:



PREVENTION COUNCIL

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Kennebec County Prevention Council is housed at Kennebec Valley Community Action Program's Family Enrichment Council (FEC). Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work.**

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.
All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Kennebec County:



186 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Fathers, Nurturing Parenting Through Recovery, and Active Parenting

369 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



94 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through local playgroups

57,396 diapers were distributed to families throughout Kennebec County



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

1.53 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Kennebec County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

For every 1 FTE providing direct services in Kennebec County, the coverage area is

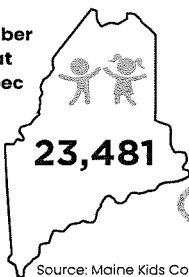
567 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Kennebec County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

For every 1 FTE providing direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Kennebec County, there were:

15,347 children

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

Erin Whitham
Prevention Council Director
ewhitham@kvcap.org
(207) 859-1577
or find us here:

United Way





HANCOCK COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Hancock County Prevention Council is housed at Sunrise Opportunities. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention** strategies that work.

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.

All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Hancock County:



73 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting, Active Parenting, and Circle of Security Parenting

107 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



47 parents/caregivers received support and built social connections through parent support groups or playgroups

310 individuals were reached through local community events



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors

PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

.5 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Hancock County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Hancock County's **.5 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

1,587 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Hancock County was:



Fewer than 1 FTE provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Hancock County.

Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

Mandie Pepperman
Prevention Council Director
mpepperman@sun-rise.org
(207) 255-4701
or find us here:





LINCOLN COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Lincoln County Prevention Council is housed at Healthy Kids. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work**.

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.

All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



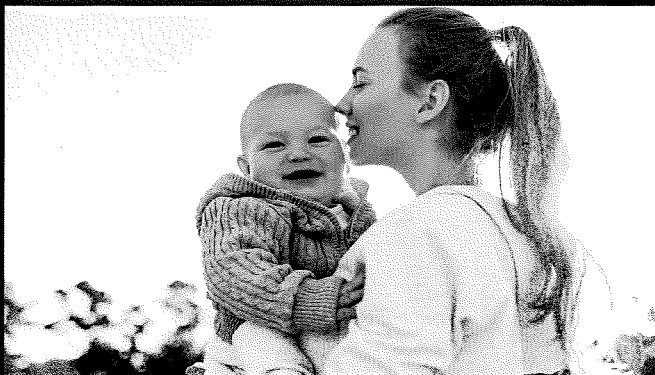
Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.



By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Lincoln County:



53 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting and Active Parenting

9,900 parents/caregivers received parenting tips



140 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through local playgroups

92 expectant and/or new parents received infant safety education, essential baby items, and connection to resources at our Community Baby Shower



Statewide:



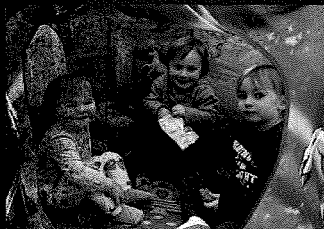
83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

.38 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Lincoln County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Lincoln County's **.38 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

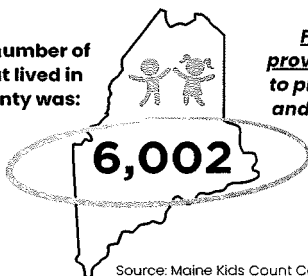
456 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Lincoln County was:



Fewer than 1 FTE provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Lincoln County.

Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:

Char Corbett
Prevention Council Director
ccorbett@tidewater.net
(207) 563-1818
or find us here:



PREVENTION COUNCIL

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Aroostook County Prevention Council is housed at Aroostook Council for Healthy Families. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work.**

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.
All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports In Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Aroostook County:



18 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting, Active Parenting, and 123 Magic

191 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



77 parents/caregivers and children built social connections at local playgroups

152 parents/caregivers and children were reached through Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) month activities and events



Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors



PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

.6 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Aroostook County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

Aroostook County's **.6 FTEs** providing direct services cover the entire county, which is

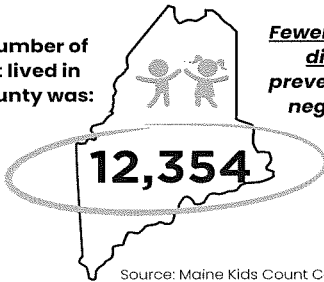
6,671 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Aroostook County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

Fewer than 1 FTE provide direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Aroostook County.

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:
Danielle Langley
Prevention Council Director
dlanglely@achf-me.org
(207) 532-1141
or find us here:

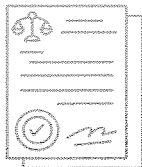




FRANKLIN COUNTY PREVENTION COUNCIL



MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL HISTORY



Created in Statute in 1985, Maine Prevention Councils are the state-designated entities in each county that encourage and maintain **coordinated community efforts** to **prevent child abuse and neglect** through the provision of family-strengthening programs. The Franklin County Prevention Council is housed at Franklin County Children's Task Force. Our Prevention Council is committed to implementing **data-informed strategies** to meet the needs of our community and deliver **evidence-based prevention strategies that work**.

MAINE PREVENTION COUNCIL SERVICES

The Prevention Councils offer a wide range of supports and services.

All support services are free.



Public Awareness & Outreach



Parenting Education Classes



Social Groups for Parents and Children



Partnership with Parents & Community Leaders



Family & Parenting Resources



Child Development Information



Training for Community Partners



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Prevention Councils aim to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maine using the **Strengthening Families Framework** to promote the **Protective Factors** below, among *all* families.

Parental Resilience

Supportive Social Connections

Concrete Supports in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social-Emotional Competence of Children

By supporting Maine families, we keep Maine children safe.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In Franklin County:



129 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting, Active Parenting, and Circle of Security Parenting

137 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting



6,069 concrete support items provided to families including diapers and Welcome Baby Bags

4,387 families attended our community events, including our local Community Baby Shower



440 youth served through school-based programming, including the Healthy Relationships project

Statewide:



83% of parenting education participants reported improvement in Protective Factors

PREVENTION COUNCIL STAFF

2 Full Time Employees (FTEs)

in direct service positions served Franklin County in FY24.



GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA

For every **1 FTE** providing direct services in Franklin County, the coverage area is

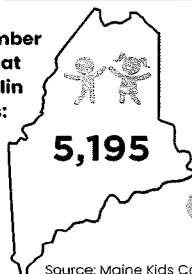
849 square miles



Source: US Census Bureau, County Profile

COUNTY POPULATION AND CAPACITY

In 2022, the number of children that lived in Franklin County was:



Source: Maine Kids Count County Profile 2024

For every 1 FTE providing direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Franklin County, there were:

2,598 children

UPSTREAM INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYS OFF

The **lifetime economic burden** of Maine's substantiated child abuse cases using 2018 data costs Maine **\$2,892,460,368.00.**



Similar prevention programs in Vermont **save an estimated \$210,000 per family**, including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/upstream-investment-pays-off/>

For more information, please contact:
Rileigh Blanchet
Prevention Council Director
rileigh@fctcf.org
(207) 778-6960
or find us here:



Testimony in Support of LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

Provided by: Rileigh Blanchet

April 4, 2025

Only allotted 3 Minutes

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Rileigh Blanchet and I am the Social Services Director at Franklin County Children's Task Force as well as the Director for the Franklin County Prevention Council. I am also a life-long resident of Franklin County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1061.

The Maine Prevention Councils provide coordinated community efforts in each county to prevent child abuse and neglect through the provision of family-strengthening programs.

Our Prevention Council is embedded and led by Franklin County Children's Task Force. Our Prevention Council was selected as one of the first demonstration sites in the state and I have been fortunate to have been involved since the beginning.

What is clear to me is that community members and families need a go-to resource for support.

Families need people and places they can go to when they need help (without judgement). If I were to have any parent with me today, they would say that the Prevention Council has been that place, and those people, for them.

We support mandated reporters with training for OCFS. These in person trainings are highly sought after in our communities.

Upstream, community-based efforts to support families are a critical (and less costly) way to strengthen families and prevent the need for downstream (child protective agency) involvement

Every community benefits from having an entity that is focused on creating community events – these are opportunities for connection that build relationships and knowledge about resources that are available. At our annual Children's Festival this year, we had a new dental agency attend and every parent and child that requested an appointment with them was able to get a scheduled. At our Father Daughter Dances, we saw Dads building connections with other Dads, shaking hands, and shaking it off on the dance floor. There is one group of three Dads who comes to the dance every year and they have an annual tradition of meeting up before the dance to have dinner together with their daughters.

Through our Community Based Spaces work, Prevention Councils have convened community members, parents and providers alike to discuss specific community and family needs to identify opportunities in these communities. One story that always comes to mind when I mention the Community Based Spaces work happened at our Community Dinner this fall. We had over 40 parents, providers, and children in attendance at a local restaurant and one child looked at his mother and said, "Mom, I'm having dinner with my principal!" It gives me goosebumps every time I remember that sweet moment.

Parents deserve places they can go to enrich their parenting free of judgement. We know parenting is hard. Our parenting education programs, support groups, and play groups are a safe space for parents to make new connections, learn something they may not have considered, and provide an opportunity for their children to play.

Support of Legislation:

LD 1061 would increase our capacity to provide universal community support for families to promote child

safety and family well-being.

Our community efforts are less costly than treatment and interventions.

We strengthen families and prevent the need for downstream child welfare involvement.

Every community benefits from having an entity that is focused on opportunities for connection that build relationships and parenting knowledge.

I would like to thank you for your time and thank you for supporting Maine's families through the Prevention Councils.

Testimony of Joe Whitmore
Penquis Prevention Council

In support, LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine
April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Joe Whitmore. I am testifying today in support of LD 1061.

The Maine Prevention Councils are the primary community entity that coordinates and provides support and services to strengthen families and keep children safe. This legislation would bolster their critical role and capacity to provide universal community support for families to promote child safety and family well-being.

As a parent, I have benefited from The Penquis Prevention Council in numerous ways. They were the only ones willing to help me find and take a parenting education class. We, as a family, didn't even know we were struggling. Although I recognized that my parents' parenting skills were not healthy, choosing to do the opposite was not enough. I was always there physically for my children, however, I struggled to be there emotionally. Penquis Prevention Council gave me resources, taught me healthy skills, and helped me understand how to be a responsible and Nurturing Father to my children. Without the support and help I received, I would not be the kind of Father I am today. I would not have the healthy connections, resources, or positive support system. I now belong to many local, State, and National organizations to lend my voice as a Parent with lived experiences to support and strengthen families. I have also maintained relationships with the Penquis Prevention Council. I continue to take parenting classes as my child grows, and I am the Parent Leadership team lead and help to co-facilitate the Nurturing Fathers Program, which allows me to give back to my community and state by supporting and promoting father involvement

Being a parent is hard, and families often feel alone. They need people and places they can go to when they need help (without judgment). When communities have resources, people, and places families can turn to, parents have opportunities to make healthy, strong connections and relationships that strengthen them and their families. Without the support and resources offered by the Prevention Councils, I would never have had the healthy, strong, and unbreakable bond that I have with my son or the bond I am working on with my daughter

Investing in the community's capacity to support families is so important to child safety and family well-being. An increased investment in the Prevention Councils represents an important opportunity to strengthen communities' ability to support families, to make sure they can get the help they need, when they need it – for parents and for their children.
Thank you.

Testimony of Erin Whitham

Regarding LD 1061: An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

Date: April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Erin Whitham. I am the Director of Social Services at Kennebec Valley Community Action Program in Waterville, Maine and serving all of Kennebec and Somerset Counties. The KVCAP Family Enrichment Councils in Kennebec and Somerset are part of Maine's statewide network of Child Abuse Prevention Councils, which coordinate county-level child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. The purpose of my testimony is to offer information about the important role Prevention Councils play coordinating support and prevention services to families in Maine.

Annually our Council leads a needs assessment process and develops a Prevention Plan that lays out our work for the next year with programming and supports that are responsive to our local communities' needs. In our area, that includes facilitating and leading parenting education, caregiver support groups, playgroups, family-friendly community events, distribution of concrete supports, and collaboration with a wide variety of community partners. The activities we carry out aim to strengthen protective factors among families and the community, the building blocks that help families thrive and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Prevention Councils are small—in Kennebec and Somerset, we are fortunate to have two Community Coordinators and two Community Educators, as well as a portion of my time as Director—and yet we have a unique and important role to play in strengthening systems of support for families. Through our broad network of partners we help connect families and providers to resources on a regular basis. Our team is knowledgeable about child development and parenting practices, and can help families troubleshoot parenting challenges or access more in depth information in the classes and workshops we facilitate on an ongoing basis. We are also committed to helping families meet their basic needs. A growing body of research shows that economic and concrete supports for families prevents child abuse and strengthens families, which is why we work with our network to distribute free diapers and wipes throughout both counties and connect families with other items, like cleaning supplies, clothing, strollers and car seats through free events like Community Baby Showers.

If you bring three people together in Kennebec and Somerset and ask them how the community can better support families, you will have five great ideas in about five minutes. Right now, the limiting factors for our Councils are staffing and funding. State funds make up the backbone of our program budgets, covering 90% of our personnel costs. Both counties have been flat funded since 2018 when funds were reduced from the previous year, while health insurance and salary expenses increase every year. While we have been successful in expanding our work through small grants, particularly

for concrete supports, which cannot be purchased with our state funds, it is rare to find a grant opportunity that will cover staff and operating expenses. In Somerset, we have one full time equivalent (FTE) for direct services for every 5,790 children in the county, and in Kennebec, it is one FTE per 15,347. Meanwhile, in 2023 Somerset had the highest rate of child maltreatment in the state, and Kennebec the third.

Here is a simple example of the network of community support we are trying to develop and strengthen. Last week, I took a call from a parent with a toddler referred to us by our local WIC office. The parent had reached out for food assistance, but her family was not eligible because they were over income. Still, between childcare, housing and utility costs the family was struggling to make ends meet after one parent had spent a few weeks out of work recovering from an injury. Each month they were trying to make \$200 stretch to cover food for a family of three, including a child on an expensive formula and transitioning to solid foods. Not only did they not have food for the weekend, they could not access food from their local foodbank because it is only open during both parents' working hours.

Fortunately, that local WIC staff person knew to connect the parent to us. We train WIC in Mandated Reporting, and collaborate throughout the year planning community events and referring families to one another's programs. WIC knows that right now we have a grant that allowed me to arrange a grocery store gift card for that parent, so that she would have food for the weekend. We also arranged a time when the parent could pick up diapers for her child and food that had been donated to us earlier in the week. After researching food resources with weekend and evening hours, I also connected the parent with Winslow Food Cupboard, a community rock star in our area, which distributes food at numerous locations at different times and days of the week.

This is child abuse prevention in action. It is parents reaching out for help, and providers partnering with them to knit supports together. Whether the ask is food or teething or isolation, Councils provide connective tissue to strengthen communities and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our work and the experiences of families in Kennebec and Somerset Counties.



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Testimony of Charlene C. Corbett, MDiv.
Healthy Kids! A Family Resource Network
Designated Member of Maine's Prevention Council Network,
Lincoln and Knox Counties

**In support, LD 1061,
An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine**
April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Charlene Corbett. I am the Executive Director of Healthy Kids! A Family Resource Network. Healthy Kids is the Designated Member of Maine's Prevention Council Network for Lincoln and Knox Counties. I am offering testimony today in support of LD 1061.

From our beginning in 1985, when the State designated the local network of parents and agency workers addressing child maltreatment issues in Lincoln County as one of Maine's child abuse and neglect councils, Healthy Kids has grown. Since 2023 we now serve both Lincoln and Knox Counties, providing families with concrete supports, parenting education classes, play groups, support groups, parent coaching, as well as offering professional training and a variety of community events, programs, resources and community referrals within our communities. We engage with all 37 towns in Lincoln and Knox counties, including 11 police departments, 8 school districts, 3 hospitals, 2 jails, the regional prison and multiple libraries, community centers and other area partners to support nearly 1,650 parents, children and professionals per month. We do all this with an active Board of nine members, 4.5 FTE staff, a legion of volunteers and ambassadors who are committed to the wellbeing of our communities, and strong, resilient parents who advocate for their families through our Parent Advisory Committee. We are collaborating with more community partners than ever before to address the multiple risk factors of child abuse and neglect in our area. We have also started an anti-stigma campaign through social media and local news outlets, encouraging parents to ask for help when it is needed, no matter the reason or barriers. All these efforts require community support and state investment in the safety of our children and wellbeing of families. We cannot do it alone.

Per Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) 2023 report, 3,633 Maine children between the ages of 0-17 were substantiated victims of maltreatment, 82 of which were children from Lincoln County and 84 of which were children from Knox County. Respectively, 34 of these children (41%) had a prior indicated/substantiated investigation in Lincoln County, while 47 children (56%) had a prior indicated/substantiated investigation in Knox County. Neglect and emotional or psychological abuse were the primary risk factors



found in Lincoln County, with 13 additional substantiated/indicated assessments of caretaker drug use. Additionally, 20 substance exposed Infant (SEI) notifications were submitted by medical personnel in Lincoln County in 2023. In Knox County, neglect, drug use and emotional/psychological abuse are the three primary risk factors, closely followed by physical abuse, alcohol use and domestic violence. Additionally, 18 substance exposed infant (SEI) notifications were submitted by medical personnel in Knox County in 2023. Again, all these statistics only account for substantiated victims of maltreatment. These numbers are discouraging and hard to hear. Yet, from monitoring previous years reports, we are seeing a slight downward trend in our region. This calls for us to work harder, to commit even more resources and invest more in our communities, to keep this positive trend going! Prevention WORKS!

2025 marks the 40th year that Healthy Kids has been supporting families, protecting children and serving our local communities. Our anniversary theme, *Healthy Kids! Healthy Future!* reflects the positive impact we have achieved over four decades while also assuring the community that we are here to stay as a parenting and community resource for *all* families and those who work with children in Lincoln and Knox counties.

Here's what one parent has said about our prevention council: *"I discovered Healthy Kids when I wanted to get my two-year-old some socialization. I was a stay-at-home mom and he mostly had adults for company. We began attending weekly playgroups and I immediately noticed positive changes in him. It was a good introduction and I decided to attend parenting classes. They've helped me gain knowledge and confidence as a parent. Healthy Kids! helps us to feel more connected to the community, which isn't always easy as a single parent of two toddlers."* Shannon, St. George

As has been shared by others, the Maine Prevention Councils are the primary community entity to coordinate and provide support and services to strengthen families to keep children safe. This legislation would bolster our critical role and capacity to provide universal community support for families to promote child safety and family well-being. Investing in the community capacity to support families is so important to child safety and family well-being. An increased investment in the Prevention Councils represents an important opportunity to strengthen communities' ability to support families, to make sure they can get the help they need, when they need it – for parents and for their children.

In these politically uncertain times and for the sake of child safety and family well-being throughout Maine, it is without hesitation that I ask you Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, members of the Health and Human Services Committee - and anybody else I can call upon - to support LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.



Executive Director



Written Testimony in Support of LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

Provided by: Mandie Pepperman, Sunrise Opportunities

April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Mandie Pepperman and I am the Senior Director of Community Support Services at Sunrise Opportunities as well as the Director for both the Washington and Hancock Prevention Councils. I am also a long-time resident of Washington County and the mother of two boys, 10 and 6. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of LD 1061.

Known formally and in statute as the Maine Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils, the purpose of the Maine Prevention Councils is to encourage and maintain coordinated community efforts in each county to prevent child abuse and neglect through the provision of family-strengthening programs.

Two of Maine's Prevention Councils are embedded and led by Sunrise Opportunities and each provides continuous year-round service as the counties primary agency that serves to encourage and coordinate community efforts to prevent child abuse from occurring. Sunrise Opportunities Prevention Councils provides a trusted, non-stigmatizing place for all parents and caregivers to receive the support all parents need from time to time.

Our Prevention Councils in Hancock and Washington counties offer a wide range of **free services and parenting education to parents** to include:

- Evidence-based and multi-week parenting education classes: Co-Parenting, Active Parenting, Circle of Security, and First Five Years.
- peer support groups
- playgroups
- concrete supports – Heating assistance, diapers, formula, winter clothing, boots, blankets, etc
- public awareness activities and community events [GIVE EXAMPLES]

We also offer **professional trainings** to family-serving providers in:

- Mandated Reporting – Prevention Councils deliver this OCFS-approved training and we would support updating to training to help participants understand the difference between a family who just needs support and child safety issues that should be reported to the child welfare. There is also a difference between poverty and neglect.
- Infant Safe Sleep
- Period of Purple Crying – Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Education
- Protective Factors – A Strength-based Approach in Working with Families

We also have 20 community leaders which include, but not limited to, Maine Families, Caring Community Collaborative, Downeast Community Partners- Head Start, DHHS, Watch Me Grow and WIC. on our local Advisory Board Committee in support of our work. There are over 300 members of these local committees statewide.

LD 1061 proposes to support the critical and statutory role the Maine Prevention Councils have as the primary community entity to coordinate and provide strategic support and services to prevent child abuse and neglect locally. This legislation would increase our capacity to provide universal community support for families to promote child safety and family well-being. Our community efforts use evidence-based and informed efforts to support families and are less costly than treatment and interventions. We strengthen families and prevent the need for downstream child welfare involvement. Every community benefits from having an entity that is focused

on opportunities for connection that build relationships and parenting knowledge. I strongly urge you to support this bill on behalf of Washington and Hancock children, families, and communities.

Testimony of Britney Yestramski

In support, LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

April 3, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Britney Yestramski. I am offering testimony today in support of LD 1061.

The Maine Prevention Councils are the primary community entity to coordinate and provide support and services to strengthen families to keep children safe. This legislation would bolster their critical role and capacity to provide universal community support for families to promote child safety and family well-being.

As a parent, I have benefited from many programs that the prevention council has to offer. First, I have been utilizing parenting classes for approximately two years now. I take these classes because I wanted to better myself as a mother, & as a person in general. These classes have helped prepare me to be more aware, & educated in offering awareness within, & outside of the prevention counsel & in my personal life.

As a single disabled mother, it is hard to find a community with like minded individuals who have the same goals. I feel this program benefits the members, as well as the community. It brings people together, & it educates those willing to listen. I would also like to bring attention to the activities that the prevention council holds for children & families. I want to highlight story time, & playgroups. These programs have brought communities together, giving parents a safe place to gather with their children to socialize.

I would also like to give "project play" a mention. This is a great event where people can have a great time with their families, & learn about Penquis prevention council, as well as some other programs.

The Penquis prevention council is an amazing group of leaders who are willing to help families without any judgement. They are always willing to lend a helping hand, & be an ear to listen.

I feel that without this counsel, smaller communities would suffer the most. As a person from a smaller town, there is minimal support, or gatherings for families, but the council works very hard to reach & support such areas.

Thanks to the prevention council, I have met some of the most kind-heart & generous people. Generous with their time, their knowledge, their smiles, their honesty, & so much more.

The Penquis prevention council has been an amazing organization that has helped many communities, & families including mine.

Thank you,

Britney Yestramski

Victoria Jordan
Penquis Prevention Council
In support, LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine
April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Victoria Jordan. I am offering testimony today in support of LD 1061.

The Maine Prevention Councils are the primary community entity to coordinate and provide support and services to strengthen families to keep children safe. This legislation would bolster their critical role and capacity to provide universal community support for families to promote child safety and family well-being.

As a parent, I have benefited from Penquis Prevention Council Parenting classes. I knew what I wanted to be for a parent but lacked the resources and knowledge to be that parent. Through Penquis Prevention Council I have learned to be an engaged, nurturing and healthy mom. I have gained confidence in my parenting skills for the benefit of my child. I am still involved with Penquis Prevention Council as a parent leader. I still take classes as my child grows or when I need a refresh when I feel I am struggling. The Prevention Council not only helps us with classes but resources I may need for my son and family. They were able to help my family become whole again and healthier by giving me the knowledge, support and resources I needed to be a better mom. Most parents are not bad parents, they just lack resources and knowledge to be the best parent they can be. Penquis Prevention Council offers many free services that are desperately needed. A lot of families are struggling financially and this is truly a beneficial program.

Being a parent is hard, and families often feel alone and have little support systems. They need people and places they can go to when they need help (without judgement). When communities have resources and people and places families can turn to, they have opportunities to make connections and relationships that can strengthen them and their families. It helps Maine families become stronger and reduces stress on them.

Investing in the community capacity to support families is so important to child safety and family well-being. An increased investment in the Prevention Councils represents an important opportunity to strengthen communities' ability to support families, to make sure they can get the help they need, when they need it – for parents and for their children.

Thank you.



Written Testimony in Support of LD 1061
Provided by: Wendy Pace, Penquis
April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Wendy Pace and I am the Division Manager for Penquis as well as the Director for both the Piscataquis and Penobscot Prevention Councils. I am also a long-time resident of Waldo County and mother of 3 small adopted children. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of LD 1061.

Known formally as the Maine Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Councils, the purpose of the Maine Prevention Councils is to encourage and maintain coordinated community efforts in each county to prevent child abuse and neglect through the provision of family-strengthening programs.

Two of Maine's Prevention Councils are embedded and lead by Penquis and each provides continuous year-round service as the counties primary agency that serves to encourage and coordinate community efforts to prevent child abuse from occurring. Penquis has supported two of the state's Prevention Councils for over 20 years and provides a trusted, non-stigmatizing place for all parents and caregivers to receive the support all parents need from time to time.

Our services include public awareness activities, child safety education, parent education, support and information for parents, referral to services and training for professionals.

In the last fiscal year in rural Piscataquis County served the following with **.64 total staff covering 3,961 miles**. In 2022, the number of children living in Piscataquis County was 3,017 children.

- **116 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting**
- **116 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting and Active Parenting**
- **576 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through local playgroups and story times**
- **1,623 individuals were reached through community events and activities**

In the last fiscal year Penobscot County served the following with **1.8 total staff covering 3396 miles**. In 2022, the number of children living in Penobscot County was 26,919 children.

- **241 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting**
- **252 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Parenting and Active Parenting**
- **216 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through local playgroups and story times**
- **2,099 individuals were reached through community events and activities**

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LD 1061 proposes to support the critical and statutory role the Maine Prevention Councils have as the primary community entity to coordinate and provide strategic support and services to prevent child abuse and neglect locally. This legislation would increase our capacity to provide universal community support for families to promote child safety and family well-being. Our community efforts use evidence-based and informed efforts to support families and are less costly than treatment and interventions. We strengthen families and prevent the need for downstream child welfare involvement. Every community benefits from having an entity that is focused on opportunities for connection that build relationships and parenting knowledge. I strongly urge you to support this bill on behalf of Penobscot and Piscataquis children, families, and communities.



Written Testimony in Support of LD 1061

Provided by: Kara Hay, Penquis

April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Kara Hay, and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer for Penquis, Maine's largest Community Action Agency. I am also a long-time resident of Penobscot County and a mother to my amazing son Sam. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of LD 1061.

Known formally as the Maine Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Councils, the purpose of the Maine Prevention Councils is to encourage and maintain coordinated community efforts in each county to prevent child abuse and neglect through the provision of family-strengthening programs.

Two of Maine's Prevention Councils have been embedded within and led by Penquis for over 20 years. Both the Penobscot and Piscataquis Prevention Council encourage and coordinate community efforts to prevent child abuse from occurring. Penquis's Prevention Councils provide a trusted, non-stigmatizing place for all parents and caregivers to receive the support all parents need from time to time.

Our Prevention services include public awareness activities, evidenced based parent education, child safety education, training for professionals, referrals to services and concrete support for families. Our Prevention Councils are committed to implementing data-informed strategies to meet the needs of our community and deliver evidence-based prevention strategies that work.

In this current program year in rural Piscataquis County with **.64 total staff** and in Penobscot County with **1.8 total staff** the following was served

- **346 professionals were trained in Protective Factors, Infant Safe Sleep, Period of PURPLE Crying, and Mandated Reporting**
- **439 parents/caregivers were reached through Parenting Education classes including Nurturing Fathers, Nurturing Parenting Through Recovery, Nurturing HOPE for Parents of Children with Special Needs and Active Parenting**
- **1200 parents/caregivers and children built social connections through local playgroups and story times**
- **5489 individuals were reached through community events and activities**

I am proud to say that our Prevention Councils have worked very hard over the years, building a very strong network within our communities.

- We partner with **7** local libraries to offer ongoing playgroups, Storytimes, and family fun nights
- We collaborate with **34** other programs and organizations to hold community events
- **37** organizations are represented on our Advisory Committee
- **20** businesses have sponsored the Prevention Council throughout the year
- **20** parents currently represent our Parent Leadership Team, volunteering over **200** hours this year in partnership with the Council attending meetings and events within their community.

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Every community benefit from having a local entity that is focused on creating spaces and services that build relationships and have knowledge about resources that are available. The Prevention Councils are that place that community members and families can go to for support without judgement.

LD 1061 proposes to support the critical and statutory role the Maine Prevention Councils have as the primary community entity to coordinate and provide strategic support and services to prevent child abuse and neglect locally. This legislation would increase our capacity to provide universal community support for families to promote child safety and family well-being.

Our community efforts use evidence-based and informed efforts to support families and are less costly than treatment and interventions. We strengthen families and prevent the need for downstream child welfare involvement. The upstream investment in children and families pays off.

I strongly urge you to support this bill on behalf of Penobscot and Piscataquis' children, families, and communities.



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**Testimony of James Martin, Community Concepts, Inc.
Androscoggin and Oxford Prevention Councils
In support, LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine
April 4, 2025**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is James Martin. I am offering written testimony today in support of LD 1061.

Community Concepts, Inc. (CCI) Prevention Councils serve Androscoggin and Oxford Counties with a wide range of supports and services, including public awareness and outreach, parenting education classes, social groups for parents and children, partnership with parents and community leaders, family and parenting resources, child development information, and training for community parents.

The Maine Prevention Councils are vital for coordinating community support to strengthen families and keep children safe. This legislation would enhance their ability to provide universal support, promoting child safety and family well-being.

Our organization has seen the positive impact of these services in the communities we serve. Families often face challenges and need accessible resources and supportive environments. Investing in the Prevention Councils will strengthen all Maine communities' capacity to support families, ensuring they get the help they need.

Annually, CCI's Prevention Councils support parenting education classes to nearly 100 parents and caregivers, playgroups with over 150 participants, and community provider trainings to more than 800 professionals. Support of the Maine State Legislature is crucial to ensuring these vital services are available to our community members. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**James Martin, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer, Community Concepts, Inc.**



Community Concepts, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Testimony in Support of LD 1061

Sheryl Peavey, Board Member, Franklin County Children's Task Force

April 2, 2024

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Sheryl Peavey, and I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of LD 1061. I have dedicated many years to community-based child abuse prevention efforts and currently serve on the Board of the Franklin County Children's Task Force. Throughout my work, I have seen firsthand the profound impact that early intervention and prevention programs have on the well-being of children, families, and entire communities.

The Economic Impact of Community Based Child Abuse Prevention:

- Child abuse and neglect cost Maine millions of dollars annually in medical care, legal proceedings, foster care, and lost future productivity. Investing in prevention reduces these long-term costs. Prevention programs strengthen families, reducing reliance on social services and increasing workforce participation. Every dollar spent on prevention saves multiple dollars in future expenditures on intervention and treatment.

The Social Benefits of Community Based Child Abuse Prevention:

- Children who grow up in safe, supportive environments are more likely to succeed academically, avoid criminal involvement, and contribute positively to society.
- Preventing abuse reduces the risk of lifelong physical and mental health challenges, which improves quality of life and reduces healthcare costs.
- Supporting families before a crisis occurs fosters resilience and stability, decreasing instances of domestic violence and substance abuse.

Why Community Well-Being Needs Community Based Supports:

- Strong, thriving families create strong, thriving communities. Prevention programs empower parents with education and resources to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children.
- Community-based approaches ensure that support is accessible, culturally appropriate, and tailored to the unique needs of families.
- When we invest in prevention, we build a future where every child in Maine has the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy, and ready to contribute to society.

LD 1061 represents a critical step to continue support of Maine's families and ensure that we prioritize the well-being of our children. I urge you to pass this bill and continue to invest in the future of our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration to protect Maine's children.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Peavey

Treasurer, Franklin County Children's Task Force

sheryl.peavey@gmail.com



March 27th, 2025

Written Testimony in Support of LD 1061, An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

Provided by: Imogene Altnauer – Director: Kids Free to Grow

April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Imogene Altnauer and I am the Director at Kids Free to Grow, overseeing and facilitating care giver and professional child abuse and neglect prevention programming for both York and Cumberland Prevention Councils. counties. Additionally, I am also a long-time resident of Cumberland County and mother. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of LD 1061.

Known formally and in statute as the Maine Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils, the purpose of the Maine Prevention Councils is to encourage and maintain coordinated community efforts in each county to prevent child abuse and neglect through the provision of family-strengthening programs.

Two of Maine's Prevention Councils are embedded in and led by Kids Free to Grow and each provides continuous year-round service as the counties primary agency that serves to encourage and coordinate community efforts to prevent child abuse from occurring. Kids Free to Grow's Prevention Councils provide a trusted, non-stigmatizing place for all parents and caregivers to receive the support all parents need from time to time.



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Our Prevention Councils in Cumberland and York counties offer a wide range of **free services to parents, the community, and professionals** to include:

- Evidence-based and multi-week parenting education classes include Nurturing Parents; Nurturing Fathers; Nurturing Parenting through Recovery; Circle of Security
- Organized Playgroups, Literacy Nights and Public awareness activities such as community events throughout York and Cumberland Counties.
- Mandated Reporting – Prevention Councils deliver this OCFS-approved training and we would support updating this training to help participants understand the difference between a family who just needs support and child safety issues that should be reported to the child welfare. There is also a difference between poverty and neglect.
- Infant Safe Sleep
- Period of Purple Crying – Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Education
- Protective Factors – A Strength-based Approach in Working with Families

We know that upstream, community-based efforts to support families are a cost-efficient way to strengthen families and prevent the need for involvement with the child welfare system. LD 1061 proposes to support the critical and statutory role the Maine Prevention Councils have as the primary community entity to coordinate and provide strategic support and services to prevent child abuse and neglect locally. This legislation would increase our capacity to provide universal community support for families and would promote child safety and family well-being. All communities benefit from having an entity that is focused on opportunities for connection and that builds relationships and parenting knowledge. I strongly urge you to support this bill on behalf of children, families, and communities in Cumberland and York counties.

Respectfully,

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Testimony in Support of LD 1061: An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

Heidi Aakjer, Executive Director, Maine Children's Trust

April 4, 2025

Good afternoon, Sen. Ingwerson, Rep. Meyer, and Distinguished Committee Members, my name is Heidi Aakjer and I'm the Executive Director of Maine Children's Trust. I am also a proud mother of two children under the age of 10 and have worked in child abuse prevention and child well-being efforts for over 20 years to include 9 of those years here in Maine working directly with the Maine Prevention Councils.

Maine Children's Trust was originally created by Statute in 1985 as a part of State Government. In 1994, legislation was enacted that transformed the Trust into a 501(c)3 non-profit governed by a Board of Directors. The Trust provides leadership and coordination of efforts throughout Maine to prevent child abuse and neglect. We provide funding and supports for prevention programming and awareness, as well as coordinates statewide collaborative initiatives to strengthen families. We are the only statewide organization solely focused on preventing child abuse and neglect before it occurs. Our mission is to strengthen families, promote healthy relationships, and support communities to prevent child abuse and neglect. Simply put - child abuse prevention means strengthening child and family well-being, which keeps children safe.

While the Trust does not provide direct service to families, these designations and our statute position us to expertly support direct service providers in national trends, innovations, best practices, education, public awareness, and professional development to meet families where they are and build upon their strengths.

Through contracts with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), we are responsible for providing the oversight and the system supports for the **Maine Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils** (informally known as the Maine Prevention Councils). This includes management, technical assistance, training, quality assurance and improvement, data collection, and reporting. Maine Children's Trust has supported the Maine Prevention Councils since the 1990s through grants, awareness, and technical assistance. Since 2008, DHHS has partnered with the Trust to lead and coordinate statewide child abuse prevention efforts. In 2015, DHHS provided funding to establish a formal statewide infrastructure for the Maine Prevention Councils, which statutorily serve as county-level coordinators for prevention programs and supports. Unfortunately, since that time funding has never increased and funding for counties has and is not equally distributed among counties.

The Maine Prevention Councils provide many support services to local families and communities and are in statute to provide these services countywide. They provide parenting education, which are evidence-based, multi-week classes, as well as peer support groups, and playgroups for parents to be with their children in a supportive and peer environment. They also provide concrete supports – things like diapers, wipes, formula, clothes for the winter, and they also hold community events such as community baby showers and other family gathering efforts. Additionally, they offer professional trainings such as Mandated Reporting along with Infant Safe Aleep, Abusive Head Trauma Prevention, and Protective Factor training.



Most recently, the Prevention Councils were selected to support a one-time budget initiative, as a part of the **Maine Child Safety and Family Well-Being Plan**. This effort was to partner with the community, parents, caregivers, and youth to locate Community Based-Spaces for families in every county and assess opportunities to enhance or expand these spaces locally. To maximize the efforts in support of child and family well-being, the development of a Maine-specific framework for community-based spaces for families informed by the National Family Support Network (NFSN), a national organization that supports family resource and success centers model nationally. (Maine Children's Trust is the state lead for NFSN.) The Maine Prevention Councils convened nearly 23,335 community partners, parents, caregivers, and youth. They also identified 698 community-based spaces for families that met the identified criteria, and an additional 399 that met some, but not all, criteria. During this process, the Maine Prevention Councils also identified unique opportunities in every county to enhance or expand these spaces and spark ongoing community collaboration.

It is important to note, that they conduct this county-wide work in partnership with families with a **total staff of 17.61 FTEs who are direct service staff that cover the state of Maine**. That is only .64FTE per county for a Community Educator who provides the parenting education and support directly to families and with .45FTE per county for a Community Coordinator who supports building partnership with their communities, professional trainings, and efforts like the community-based spaces. **In FY24, half of Maine counties received less than \$55,000 in total program support and staffing to prevent child abuse and neglect.**

LD 1061 would provide cost effective and equitable staffing support for every county in Maine. It would support and bolster alignment with the Child Safety and Family Well-Being Plan to meet the needs of families, support primary prevention, strengthening communities, and partner with parents and community members to join together to increase child and family well-being. With support from LD 1061, we can ensure that all children and families in Maine have a trusted local resource and staff for support and prevent costly interventions for child abuse in the future. I strongly urge you to support LD 1061 on behalf of children and families across Maine.