

**Community Needs Assessment**

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**Introduction**

**Purpose of the Community Needs Assessment**

Rural Community Action Ministry (RCAM) continues to follow its mandate to confront poverty on three levels— the individual, the family, and the community. Periodically RCAM completes a comprehensive community needs assessment, including a combination of consumer surveys, partner interviews, internal surveys, and key community stakeholder input. In addition, demographic data and statistics are updated to provide a “real time” picture of currently existing needs and challenges in the geographic area served by RCAM. Combined with data and information from other locally produced needs assessments, the RCAM Community Needs Assessment serves to connect RCAM’s corporate strategic goals and strategic planning priorities with emerging needs in the community.

**About Rural Community Action Ministry**

***“Rural Community Action Ministry reaches out to people in rural Maine who are in need and assists them to help themselves.”***

Rural Community Action Ministry is a private non-profit agency, incorporated in 1970 as a nonprofit 501(C)3 and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of residents of the 14 rural towns served by RCAM representing diverse occupations, sectors and perspectives. RCAM works with the support of diverse funders, community partners, elected officials, residents, community service providers, and private donors to achieve its mission.

The mission of the agency — “Rural Community Action Ministry reaches out to people in rural Maine who are in need and assists them to help themselves.” The Comprehensive Community Assessment provides an analysis of the complex community needs in Androscoggin, Kennebec and Oxford counties and describes the challenges for people to achieve economic security and well-being. RCAM was founded in 1970 by an ecumenical group of ministers from fifteen area churches. These ministers had a vision: churches that work together can do far more to help rural Mainers than can one church working alone. Now, a solely secular organization, that cooperative spirit is still the driving force behind delivering services to people in need in 14 towns of Androscoggin, Kennebec, and Oxford counties. Throughout its history, RCAM has formed partnerships and networks that created services to help people help themselves. Today, RCAM works with and is financially supported by other organizations, foundations, town, state and federal entities, and private individuals, as well as local and out-of-state churches. RCAM also receives funding from the United Ways of Androscoggin County, Kennebec Valley, and Tri-Valley; as well as the towns of Buckfield, Canton, Greene, Hartford, Leeds, Litchfield, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Monmouth, Sabattus, Sumner, Turner, Wales and Wayne.

**Rural Community Action Ministry Services**

During its almost 50 years of providing services and resources to people seeking to improve their quality of life, Rural Community Action Ministry has been stalwart in its desire to connect services to actual community needs, using the community needs assessment as a key part of its planning cycle to determine gaps in service, and to forecast emerging issues and trends.

Current efforts include services for housing repair and rehabilitation, homelessness prevention services, transportation for the elderly, self-sufficiency services for rural families and seniors, financial literacy education, gardening, support of food banks that are operated by churches and towns, and assistance for shelter and other needs. RCAM also provides clients with information and refers them to other organizations that offer key resources.

Volunteer support is vital in helping RCAM carry on its work. Local volunteers help clients directly and serve on the Board of Directors in assisting a small staff to plan and implement the services. Many churches and hundreds of volunteers have come during the summer months to repair houses and work with other RCAM services.

**Methodology—Assessment Process**

Methods used to conduct this assessment include review and citation of extensive statistical and credible research reports on the overall conditions for people in Androscoggin, Kennebec and Oxford counties and the State of Maine. Attention was given to research on the factors contributing to the well-being of people with low incomes and the conditions in the communities within the three counties. The process included a survey of consumers and phone and in-person interviews with program coordinators, RCAM Board of Directors, and community leaders, including those not in a formal partnership with RCAM. Comments of elder residents regarding issues of importance to them, a survey of phone and transportation needs of participants were also reviewed and incorporated.

**Executive Summary**

Each of the 14 rural Central/Western Maine towns served by Rural Community Action Ministry has its own unique challenges and opportunities. At the same time, each have several “needs indicators” or factors, in common, beyond rurality. Poverty has a disproportionate affect on residents in RCAM’s service area, preventing this vulnerable populations from realizing economic independence. Barriers to individual independence associated with poverty cannot and should not be minimized— food insecurity, access to reliable transportation and healthcare, homelessness, and lack of local living wage employment opportunities emerge as significant issues.

As data, stakeholder interviews, community surveys, and internal statistics were analyzed, a pattern emerged. In each town served by RCAM the needs identified locally clearly mesh with RCAM’s basic needs mission. Food insecurity, lack of affordable housing and transportation rank within the top five priority issues to be addressed in each town.

**Key Findings:** A majority of the rural towns served by RCAM face the same issues, all of which are associated with the degree to which residents are in poverty or are dealing with factors associated with rurality (i.e. lack of transportation or local employment).

The demographic and statistical profiles of each of the towns in RCAM’s service area reveal that most towns are vulnerable based on more than one health and well-being indicator. These indicators show the 14 rural towns are more vulnerable than the state overall.

Androscoggin County has the highest percentage of households in poverty, at 14.5%, higher than the state rate of 13.1% and the national rate of 13.8%, while Oxford County has the highest percentage of individuals in poverty at 13.5% and the highest percentage of child poverty at 20.2%. The U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year 2017 poverty estimates indicate that Oxford County’s percentage of the population in poverty is 15.21%.

When looking at family poverty rates by family type, the percentage of female head of households shows Androscoggin County highest at 59.9%, with Kennebec County ranking second at 45.5%. Kennebec County ranks highest in poverty rates for both our youngest and oldest population, at 26.9% for children ages 0 to 4 years old and 9.9% for seniors (ages 65 and older).

Oxford County experiences the highest unemployment rate at 4.2%. The unemployment rate is measured monthly and is one of the data points that fluctuates based on the job market, job openings and new employment opportunities.

The lack of affordable childcare in each of the three counties is an emerging issue that warrants a closer look.

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**Androscoggin County *Quick Facts:***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Androscoggin County** | | **Maine** |
| Land Area | 468 sq. miles | 35,385 sq. miles |
| Population | 107,651 | 1,331,497 |
| People per sq. mile | 230.2 | 43.1 |
| Overall Poverty Rate | 14.78% | 13.5% |
| Child Poverty Rate | 19.5% | 16.3% |
| Senior Poverty Rate (65+) | 9.6% | 8.9% |
| People 65 and over | 17.2% | 19.4% |
| Homeownership Rate | 70.1% | 71% |
| Median Household Income | $49,538 | $49,331 |
| High School Graduation Rate | 89.8% | 91.6% |
| Bachelor’s Degree & Higher | 22.1% | 29% |
| Households receiving SNAP | 19.76% | 16.26% |
| Households Unsafe/unsanitary (no plumbing) | 0.83% | 0.76% |
| Eviction Rate | 4.05% | 2.26% |
| No Health Insurance | 8.7% | 9.0% |

*Data Source: U.S. Census 2013-2017 Five Year Estimates: American Community Survey 2016-17*

**Profile:**

Androscoggin County, located in central Maine, is a landlocked county bordered by Franklin, Kennebec, Sagadahoc, Cumberland, and Oxford counties. Androscoggin County is a metropolitan county that is less rural than most of Maine. With the fourth smallest land area of any county in the state (468 square miles) and the fifth largest total population (107,651 residents), Androscoggin County has the third highest population density in the state (230.2 residents per square mile), behind Cumberland and York counties. The U.S. Census counts 43.4 percent of Androscoggin County residents as living in a rural area, which is the second lowest percentage among all Maine counties, behind only Cumberland County. Androscoggin County includes the city of Lewiston, the second largest city in Maine. Over half of Androscoggin County’s residents live in the adjoining cities of Lewiston and Auburn.

**Androscoggin County Population Trends by Town**

| **Androscoggin County Trends of Population Growth and Decline** | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Town** | **U.S. Census** | | | **Population projected** | | | |
|  | **2004** | **2009** | **2014** | **2019** | **2024** | **2029** | **2034** |
| **Androscoggin County** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Auburn | 23,451 | 23,158 | 22,902 | 22,930 | 22,874 | 22,727 | 22,475 |
| Durham | 3,636 | 3,831 | 3,906 | 4,011 | 4,099 | 4,172 | 4,224 |
| Greene | 4,251 | 4,348 | 4,356 | 4,394 | 4,418 | 4,426 | 4,413 |
| Leeds | 2,164 | 2,311 | 2,308 | 2,307 | 2,295 | 2,274 | 2,243 |
| Lewiston | 36,536 | 36,653 | 36,300 | 36,276 | 36,111 | 35,802 | 35,330 |
| Lisbon | 9,158 | 9,050 | 8,880 | 8,808 | 8,706 | 8,568 | 8,392 |
| Livermore | 2,130 | 2,105 | 2,101 | 2,118 | 2,132 | 2,138 | 2,134 |
| Livermore Falls | 3,248 | 3,202 | 3,143 | 3,125 | 3,093 | 3,049 | 2,991 |
| Mechanic Falls | 3,139 | 3,052 | 3,005 | 3,000 | 2,984 | 2,956 | 2,915 |
| Minot | 2,435 | 2,591 | 2,588 | 2,586 | 2,570 | 2,544 | 2,507 |
| Poland | 5,149 | 5,359 | 5,514 | 5,732 | 5,938 | 6,121 | 6,274 |
| Sabattus | 4,731 | 4,869 | 5,020 | 5,283 | 5,504 | 5,704 | 5,876 |
| Turner | 5,367 | 5,700 | 5,754 | 5,823 | 5,879 | 5,912 | 5,918 |
| Wales | 1,472 | 1,601 | 1,631 | 1,668 | 1,699 | 1,725 | 1,741 |

**Androscoggin County towns RCAM serves*:***

**Greene** is a town in Androscoggin County. The population was 4,356 at the 2010 census. It is included in both the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan New England City and Town Area. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 35.19 square miles, of which 32.28 square miles is land and 2.91 square miles is water.

**Leeds** is a town in Androscoggin County. The population was 2,326 at the 2010 census. It is included in both the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan New England City and Town Area. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 43.41 square miles, of which 40.05 square miles is land and 3.36 square miles is water.

**Livermore** is a town in Androscoggin County. Formerly in Oxford County, Maine. The population was 2,095 at the 2010 United States Census. It is included in both the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan New England City and Town Area. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 39.40 square miles, of which 37.62 square miles is land and 1.78 square miles is water.

**Livermore Falls** is a town in Androscoggin County. The population was 3,187 at the 2010 census. It is included in both the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan New England City and Town Area. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 20.42 square miles, of which 19.68 square miles is land and 0.74 square miles is water.

**Sabattus** is a town in Androscoggin County. The population was 4,876 at the 2010 census. It is included in both the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan New England City and Town Area. The town was formerly known as Webster, and changed its name to Sabattus in 1971, in honor of a former Anasagunticook Indian chief. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 26.91 square miles, of which 25.71 square miles is land and 1.20 square miles is water.

**Turner** is a town in Androscoggin County. The population was 5,734 at the 2010 census. Turner includes the villages of Turner Center and North Turner. The town is part of the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan New England City and Town Area. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 62.72 square miles, of which 59.26 square miles is land and 3.46 square miles is water. Bodies of water in Turner is include the Nezinscot River, Martin's Stream and the Androscoggin River, which forms the town's border to the east.

**Wales** is a town in Androscoggin County. The population was 1,616 at the 2010 census. It is included in both the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine Metropolitan New England City and Town Area. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 16.83 square miles, of which 15.95 square miles is land and 0.88 square miles is water.

**A Town by Town Snapshot— Comparison**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY** | **Median Age** | **Median Income** | **% High School grads or >** | **% Below Poverty** | **% Receiving Cash Benefits** | **% Receiving SNAP** | **% No Health Insurance** |
| Greene | 38.3 | $66,303 | 92.3% | 5.7% | 3.6% | 4.1% | 6.7% |
| Leeds | 40.2 | $53,705 | 93.4% | 15.4% | 7.1% | 20.8% | 7.1% |
| Livermore | 43.5 | $57,944 | 94% | 10.2% | 1.7% | 14% | 6% |
| Livermore Falls | 39.6 | $29,868 | 86% | 23.1% | 2.6% | 39% | 10% |
| Sabattus | 45.4 | $56,480 | 88.5% | 9.2% | 4.1% | 14.4% | 1.7% |
| Turner | 44.0 | $61,688 | 93.3% | 6.5% | 5.9% | 10% | 1.7% |
| Wales | 40.7 | $74,185 | 87% | 7.1% | 1% | 9.4% | 6.3% |

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*

**Kennebec County *Quick Facts:***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Kennebec County** | | **Maine** |
| Land Area | 868 sq. miles | 35,385 sq. miles |
| Population | 121,821 | 1,331,497 |
| People per sq. mile | 140.8 | 43.1 |
| Overall Poverty Rate | 12.4% | 13.5% |
| Child Poverty Rate | 14.2% | 16.3% |
| Senior Poverty Rate (65+) | 9.9% | 8.9% |
| People 65 and over | 21,262 | 19.4% |
| Homeownership Rate | 57.58% | 71% |
| Median Household Income | $50,116 | $49,331 |
| High School Graduation Rate | 91.3% | 91.6% |
| Bachelor’s Degree & Higher | 26.7% | 29% |
| Households receiving SNAP | 17.5% | 16.26% |
| Households Unsafe/unsanitary (no plumbing) | 0.48% | 0.76% |
| Eviction Rate | 3.72% | 2.26% |
| No Health Insurance | 7.62% | 9.0% |

*Data Source: U.S. Census 2013-2017 Five Year Estimates: American Community Survey 2016-17*

**Profile:**

Located in central Maine, Kennebec County is a landlocked county bordered by six other counties: Androscoggin, Franklin, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Somerset, and Waldo counties. With the seventh largest total land area of all Maine counties (868 square miles), and the fourth largest total population (121,821 residents), Kennebec County has the fourth highest population density (140.8 residents per square mile) in the state. Although Kennebec County is a nonmetropolitan county, it is more urban than most Maine counties. The U.S. Census counts 62.8 percent of Kennebec county residents as living in rural areas—the sixth lowest percentage of rural residents in the state. Kennebec County includes four cities: Gardiner, Hallowell, Waterville, and Augusta—the county seat and state capital.

**Kennebec County Population Trends by Town**

| **Kennebec County Trends of Population Growth and Decline** | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Town** | **U.S. Census** | | | **Population projected** | | | |
|  | **2004** | **2009** | **2014** | **2019** | **2024** | **2029** | **2034** |
| **Kennebec County** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Albion | 2,003 | 2,039 | 2,048 | 2,067 | 2,080 | 2,087 | 2,082 |
| Augusta | 18,980 | 19,143 | 18,712 | 18,346 | 17,945 | 17,494 | 16,962 |
| Belgrade | 3,103 | 3,182 | 3,151 | 3,120 | 3,084 | 3,038 | 2,977 |
| Benton | 2,696 | 2,732 | 2,681 | 2,647 | 2,605 | 2,556 | 2,494 |
| Chelsea | 2,651 | 2,716 | 2,717 | 2,733 | 2,742 | 2,742 | 2,727 |
| China | 4,240 | 4,322 | 4,276 | 4,247 | 4,204 | 4,149 | 4,074 |
| Clinton | 3,435 | 3,484 | 3,373 | 3,262 | 3,146 | 3,022 | 2,885 |
| Farmingdale | 2,888 | 2,951 | 2,911 | 2,865 | 2,813 | 2,752 | 2,678 |
| Fayette | 1,093 | 1,135 | 1,132 | 1,126 | 1,120 | 1,109 | 1,093 |
| Gardiner | 6,080 | 5,844 | 5,669 | 5,549 | 5,418 | 5,272 | 5,102 |
| Hallowell | 2,450 | 2,393 | 2,335 | 2,298 | 2,256 | 2,208 | 2,149 |
| Litchfield | 3,357 | 3,594 | 3,600 | 3,593 | 3,576 | 3,549 | 3,503 |
| Manchester | 2,555 | 2,580 | 2,554 | 2,537 | 2,511 | 2,478 | 2,432 |
| Monmouth | 3,968 | 4,092 | 4,066 | 4,038 | 4,000 | 3,950 | 3,880 |
| Mount Vernon | 1,585 | 1,634 | 1,637 | 1,638 | 1,637 | 1,630 | 1,615 |
| Oakland | 6,149 | 6,237 | 6,212 | 6,223 | 6,217 | 6,191 | 6,133 |
| Pittston | 2,625 | 2,664 | 2,629 | 2,587 | 2,541 | 2,487 | 2,421 |
| Randolph | 1,878 | 1,788 | 1,723 | 1,676 | 1,625 | 1,569 | 1,507 |
| Readfield | 2,489 | 2,587 | 2,544 | 2,498 | 2,447 | 2,390 | 2,321 |
| Rome | 999 | 1,010 | 996 | 989 | 978 | 964 | 946 |
| Sidney | 3,834 | 4,165 | 4,246 | 4,313 | 4,373 | 4,419 | 4,439 |
| Unity UT | 34 | 42 | 42 | 41 | 40 | 38 | 37 |
| Vassalboro | 4,207 | 4,328 | 4,303 | 4,286 | 4,247 | 4,196 | 4,123 |
| Vienna | 550 | 568 | 577 | 592 | 602 | 610 | 615 |
| Waterville | 15,655 | 15,743 | 16,147 | 16,694 | 17,258 | 17,758 | 18,151 |
| Wayne | 1,153 | 1,186 | 1,164 | 1,140 | 1,115 | 1,088 | 1,055 |
| West Gardiner | 3,183 | 3,441 | 3,405 | 3,348 | 3,285 | 3,212 | 3,124 |
| Windsor | 2,387 | 2,554 | 2,564 | 2,572 | 2,572 | 2,563 | 2,541 |
| Winslow | 7,851 | 7,812 | 7,632 | 7,493 | 7,340 | 7,166 | 6,959 |
| Winthrop | 6,225 | 6,118 | 5,980 | 5,888 | 5,779 | 5,654 | 5,502 |

**Kennebec County towns RCAM serves*:***

**Litchfield** is a town in Kennebec County. The population was 3,624 at the 2010 census. Litchfield is included in the Augusta, Maine micropolitan New England City and Town Area. Litchfield was incorporated in 1795 and was originally known as Smithtown Plantation. It is found in the 1790 census as Smithtown Plantation, Lincoln County, Maine. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 39.66 square miles, of which, 37.44 square miles of it is land and 2.22 square miles is water.

**Monmouth** is a town in Kennebec County. The population was 4,104 at the 2010 census. A popular summer resort area, with many lakeside cottages, Monmouth is part of the Winthrop Lakes Region. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 39.04 square miles, of which, 34.03 square miles of it is land and 5.01 square miles is water. Bodies of water in Monmouth include Jug Stream, Jock Stream, Mud Mills Stream and Wilson Stream. Monmouth has access to Lakes Cobbosseecontee, Annabessacook, and Cochnewagen.

**Wayne** is a town in Kennebec County. The population was 1,189 at the 2010 census. The town was named after Revolutionary War General Anthony Wayne. During the summer, Wayne is home to Camp Androscoggin. A popular recreation spot in central Maine, Wayne is part of the Winthrop Lakes Region. The town is included in the Augusta, Maine micropolitan New England City and Town Area. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 25.63 square miles, of which, 19.26 square miles is land and 6.37 square miles is water. The Androscoggin Yacht Club is located in Wayne on Androscoggin Lake, at the foot of the road over Morrison Heights.

**A Town by Town Snapshot— Comparison**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **KENNEBEC COUNTY** | **Median Age** | **Median Income** | **% High School grads or >** | **% Below Poverty** | **% Receiving Cash Benefits** | **% Receiving SNAP** | **% No Health Insurance** |
| Litchfield | 45.3 | $69,706 | 93.2% | 6.5% | 5.3% | 11.3% | 6.7% |
| Monmouth | 47.0 | $63,257 | 89.7% | 10.5% | 2.9% | 12.2% | 4.1% |
| Wayne | 54.7 | $65,139 | 97.8% | 8.5% | 1% | 5.4% | 7.4% |

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*

**Oxford County *Quick Facts:***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Oxford County** | | **Maine** |
| Land Area | 2,077 sq. miles | 35,385 sq. miles |
| Population | 57,439 | 1,331,497 |
| People per sq. mile | 27.8% | 43.1 |
| Overall Poverty Rate | 13.5% | 13.5% |
| Child Poverty Rate | 20.2% | 16.3% |
| Senior Poverty Rate (65+) | 7.9% | 8.9% |
| People 65 and over | 11,048 | 19.4% |
| Homeownership Rate | 79.9% | 71% |
| Median Household Income | $44,582 | $49,331 |
| High School Graduation Rate | 91.1% | 91.6% |
| Bachelor’s Degree & Higher | 18.8% | 29% |
| Households receiving SNAP | 19.17% | 16.26% |
| Households Unsafe/unsanitary (no plumbing) | 1.01% | 0.76% |
| Eviction Rate | 2.38% | 2.26% |
| No Health Insurance | 10.9%% | 9.0% |

*Data Source: U.S. Census 2013-2017 Five Year Estimates: American Community Survey 2016-17*

**Profile:**

Oxford County is located in western Maine, bordered by New Hampshire to the west, Canada to the north, Franklin and Androscoggin counties to the east, and Cumberland and York counties to the south. The county has a total land area of 2,176 square miles, a population of 57,657 residents, and a population density of 27.8 residents per square mile. The U.S. Census counts 83.1 percent of residents as living in rural areas, which is 35.5 percent higher than the state average. Oxford County is a non-metropolitan county and a portion of the county overlaps the White Mountain National Forest. There are three sparsely populated areas within Oxford County that are categorized as unorganized territories by the U.S. Census Bureau; the North Oxford, South Oxford, and Milton unorganized territories.

**Oxford County Population Trends by Town**

| **Oxford County Trends of Population Growth and Decline** | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Town** | **U.S. Census** | | | **Population projected** | | | |
|  | **2004** | **2009** | **2014** | **2019** | **2024** | **2029** | **2034** |
| **Oxford County** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Andover | 858 | 829 | 808 | 785 | 760 | 731 | 698 |
| Bethel | 2,532 | 2,608 | 2,634 | 2,643 | 2,650 | 2,639 | 2,608 |
| Brownfield | 1,418 | 1,580 | 1,609 | 1,613 | 1,611 | 1,599 | 1,576 |
| Buckfield | 1,864 | 1,998 | 2,001 | 1,973 | 1,942 | 1,900 | 1,846 |
| Byron | 133 | 144 | 144 | 143 | 141 | 137 | 134 |
| Canton | 1,074 | 1,005 | 978 | 958 | 937 | 911 | 879 |
| Denmark | 1,077 | 1,143 | 1,145 | 1,134 | 1,119 | 1,098 | 1,070 |
| Dixfield | 2,557 | 2,562 | 2,490 | 2,400 | 2,306 | 2,202 | 2,087 |
| Fryeburg | 3,275 | 3,439 | 3,401 | 3,320 | 3,233 | 3,130 | 3,010 |
| Gilead | 183 | 207 | 206 | 202 | 196 | 190 | 183 |
| Greenwood | 821 | 832 | 831 | 824 | 815 | 801 | 781 |
| Hanover | 249 | 240 | 249 | 257 | 264 | 270 | 273 |
| Hartford | 1,073 | 1,175 | 1,191 | 1,190 | 1,184 | 1,172 | 1,151 |
| Hebron | 1,221 | 1,395 | 1,400 | 1,365 | 1,331 | 1,290 | 1,242 |
| Hiram | 1,528 | 1,615 | 1,612 | 1,601 | 1,581 | 1,552 | 1,513 |
| Lincoln plantation | 46 | 45 | 44 | 43 | 42 | 40 | 39 |
| Lovell | 1,054 | 1,133 | 1,135 | 1,122 | 1,105 | 1,082 | 1,051 |
| Magalloway Plt | 41 | 46 | 45 | 43 | 42 | 40 | 37 |
| Mexico | 2,879 | 2,717 | 2,614 | 2,522 | 2,423 | 2,314 | 2,194 |
| Milton UT | 124 | 141 | 141 | 137 | 133 | 128 | 123 |
| Newry | 345 | 332 | 342 | 354 | 365 | 373 | 378 |
| North Oxford UT | 20 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 23 |
| Norway | 4,840 | 5,011 | 4,949 | 4,842 | 4,719 | 4,573 | 4,400 |
| Otisfield | 1,674 | 1,765 | 1,761 | 1,742 | 1,715 | 1,679 | 1,631 |
| Oxford | 4,075 | 4,122 | 4,057 | 3,971 | 3,873 | 3,755 | 3,616 |
| Paris | 5,031 | 5,183 | 5,118 | 5,018 | 4,902 | 4,759 | 4,589 |
| Peru | 1,540 | 1,547 | 1,516 | 1,480 | 1,439 | 1,390 | 1,334 |
| Porter | 1,481 | 1,502 | 1,486 | 1,464 | 1,437 | 1,402 | 1,359 |
| Roxbury | 382 | 372 | 363 | 352 | 339 | 326 | 310 |
| Rumford | 6,295 | 5,923 | 5,704 | 5,512 | 5,308 | 5,080 | 4,827 |
| South Oxford UT | 536 | 576 | 584 | 580 | 574 | 565 | 552 |
| Stoneham | 250 | 239 | 236 | 234 | 232 | 229 | 224 |
| Stow | 333 | 380 | 411 | 437 | 461 | 481 | 496 |
| Sumner | 899 | 938 | 938 | 929 | 917 | 900 | 878 |
| Sweden | 356 | 388 | 393 | 396 | 396 | 394 | 388 |
| Upton | 85 | 110 | 112 | 110 | 107 | 104 | 101 |
| Waterford | 1,522 | 1,555 | 1,549 | 1,532 | 1,514 | 1,487 | 1,450 |
| West Paris | 1,774 | 1,815 | 1,815 | 1,799 | 1,779 | 1,748 | 1,706 |
| Woodstock | 1,318 | 1,287 | 1,265 | 1,245 | 1,221 | 1,190 | 1,152 |

**Oxford County towns RCAM serves*:***

**Buckfield** is a town in Oxford County. Buckfield is included in the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine metropolitan New England City and Town Area. The town had a population of 2,009 as of the 2010 census. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 37.77 square miles, of which, 37.53 square miles of it is land and 0.24 square miles is water. Bodies of water in Buckfield include the Nezinscot River, a tributary of the Androscoggin River.

**Canton** is a town in Oxford County. The population was 990 at the 2010 census. Located beside Lake Anasagunticook, Canton is a summer recreational area. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 30.50 square miles of which, 29.12 square miles of it is land and 1.38 square miles is water.  Bodies of water in Canton include Lake Anasagunticook, Whitney Brook and the Androscoggin River.

**Hartford** is a town in Oxford County. Hartford is included in the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine metropolitan New England City and Town Area. The population was 1,185 at the 2010 census. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 45.08 square miles of which, 43.87 square miles of it is land and 1.21 square miles is water.

**Sumner** is a town in Oxford County. Sumner is included in the Lewiston-Auburn, Maine metropolitan New England city and town area. The population was 939 at the 2010 census. The town includes the villages of West Sumner and East Sumner. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 44.87 square miles, of which, 44.27 square miles of it is land and 0.60 square miles is water. Bodies of water in Sumner include the east and west branches of the Nezinscot River.

**A Town by Town Snapshot— Comparison**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OXFORD COUNTY** | **Median Age** | **Median Income** | **% High School grads or >** | **% Below Poverty** | **% Receiving Cash Benefits** | **% Receiving SNAP** | **% No Health Insurance** |
| Buckfield | 42.6 | $40,987 | 93.7% | 14.1% | 4.4% | 16.4% | 11.4% |
| Canton | 47.8 | $52,083 | 93.3% | 19.9% | 5.3% | 16.1% | 6.6% |
| Hartford | 42.8 | $50,139 | 93.9% | 8.6% | 5.3% | 16.1% | 13.5% |
| Sumner | 40.2 | $48,750 | 91.6% | 15.9% | 2.3% | 12.1% | 11.8% |

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*

**Painting the Picture— Why Does This Matter?**

Rural Community Action Ministry conducts periodic community needs assessments so that agency leadership, staff and its board have information and data to make strategic decisions about the agency’s programming and services, and how best to meet client needs and emerging trends. This report seeks to show— at a glance— areas of concern, areas of need that, if addressed appropriately, might have a positive and long-lasting impact on the health and well-being of residents living in the RCAM service area. As you read and review this needs assessment, be sure to look at the indicator “temperature gauge” to see if it is in the red. This dial measures the indicator compared to the state and national averages. This will help quickly identify specific community issues relevant to the mission where strategic planning and thoughtful action might become an agency priority. Take a critical look at feasibility, whether specific action is a mission fit, and whether there are other resources or potential partner organizations in the service area better suited to take the lead to address the indicator. It is also important to pay attention to the qualitative data— the subjective information gathered from community stakeholder and consumer surveys and interviews. Often, a critical issue of need will surface from this sort of information. These issues frequently are revealed before statistical data is gathered to demonstrate the need. This is especially true of emerging trends or needs.

**Demographics at a Glance— Population Data Indicators.**

# **Legend:** The “temperature gauge” accompanying some charts and data is designed to quickly identify those areas of potential concern by showing a red indicator line. A green indicator line translates to not a concern. This report also highlights counties and towns in red in the data charts to indicate potential risk areas.

# **Population Profile**

## Population Change. Population change within the report area from 2000‐2017 is shown below. During the sixteen‐year period, total population estimates for the report area grew by 3.69 percent, increasing from 275,662 persons in 2000 to 285,836 persons in 2017. Note that the change percentage puts this indicator in the red when compared to the state change percent.

**Percent Change in Population**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Population 2017 ACS** | **Total Population 2000 Census** | **Population Change 2000- 2017** | **Percent Change** |
| Report Location | 285,836 | 275,662 | 10,174 | **3.69%** |
| Androscoggin County | 107,317 | 103,793 | 3,524 | 3.4% |
| Kennebec County | 121,289 | 117,114 | 4,175 | 3.56% |
| Oxford County | 57,230 | 54,755 | 2,475 | 4.52% |
| Maine | 1,330,158 | 1,274,923 | 55,235 | 4.33% |
| United States | 321,004,407 | 281,421,906 | 39,582,501 | 14.07% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*.*

*US Census Bureau,* [*Decennial Census*](http://www.census.gov/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*

## Age and Gender Demographics. Population by gender within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2013‐2017 5- year population estimates for the report area, the female population comprised 51.44% of the report area, while the male population represented 48.56%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **0 to 4 Male** | **0 to 4 Female** | **5 to 17 Male** | **5 to 17 Female** | **18 to 64 Male** | **18 to 64 Female** | **Over 64 Male** | **Over 64 Female** |
| Report Location | 7,727 | 7,455 | 22,270 | 21,205 | 86,920 | 89,325 | 20,748 | 27,836 |
| Androscoggin County | 3,283 | 3,224 | 8,672 | 8,373 | 32,765 | 33,457 | 7,070 | 9,713 |
| Kennebec County | 3,123 | 2,987 | 9,104 | 8,707 | 37,003 | 38,299 | 8,951 | 12,121 |
| Oxford County | 1,321 | 1,244 | 4,494 | 4,125 | 17,152 | 17,569 | 4,727 | 6,002 |
| Maine | 33,005 | 31,389 | 98,868 | 93,565 | 405,943 | 417,257 | 101,894 | 136,907 |
| United States | 10,151,822 | 9,701,693 | 27,458,617 | 26,289,147 | 99,353,006 | 100,317,733 | 18,945,773 | 26,677,081 |

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*



**18 to 64**

**Male: 30.7%**

**18 to 64**

**Female: 31.5%**

**0 to 4 Female: 2.6%**

**5 to 17**

**Male: 7.9%**

**5 to 17**

**Female: 7.5%**

**Over 64**

**Male: 7.3%**

**0 to 4 Male: 2.7%**

**Over 64**

**Female: 9.8%**

**Age and Gender Demographics**

Report Location

**Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics**

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics show the number of veterans living in the report area. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), 10.59% of the adult population in the report area are veterans, which is more than the national average of 7.69%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Veterans Total** | **Vets Male** | **Vets Female** | **% Pop > 18 Total** | **% Pop > 18 Male** | **% Pop > 18 Female** |
| Report Location | 24,043 | 22,322 | 1,721 | 10.59% | 20.32% | 1.47% |
| Androscoggin County | 9,158 | 8,500 | 658 | 10.94% | 20.95% | 1.52% |
| Kennebec County | 10,108 | 9,358 | 750 | 10.4% | 19.99% | 1.49% |
| Oxford County | 4,777 | 4,464 | 313 | 10.38% | 19.87% | 1.33 |
| Maine | 110,362 | 103,163 | 7,199 | 10.3% | 19.94% | 1.3% |
| United States | 18,939,219 | 17,351,288 | 1,587,931 | 7.69% | 14.52% | 1.25% |

**Veterans by Age**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Veterans 18-34** | **Vets 35-54** | **Vets 55-64** | **Vets Over 65** |
| Report Location | 1,292 | 5,927 | 4,840 | 11,984 |
| Androscoggin County | 597 | 2,432 | 4,336 | 4,263 |
| Kennebec County | 545 | 2,454 | 5,080 | 5,087 |
| Oxford County | 150 | 1,041 | 2,569 | 2,634 |
| Maine | 6,434 | 24,860 | 57,274 | 57,599 |
| United States | 1,640,356 | 664,402 | 9,322,538 | 9,271,810 |

**Median Age.** Median age is the age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups - that is, half the people are younger than this age and half are older. It is a single index that summarizes the age distribution of a population. Data released in January 2017 confirms that Maine remains the oldest state in the nation based on median age. Maine’s median age is now at 44.6. In the area served by RCAM, Oxford County’s median age is the highest, at 46.3.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Median Age** |
| Report Location |  |
| Androscoggin County | 40.7 |
| Kennebec County | 44.2 |
| Oxford County | 46.3 |
| Maine | 44.6 |
| United States | 37.8 |

**Social and Economic Factors**

Economic and social insecurity often are associated with poor health. Poverty, unemployment, and lack of educational achievement affect access to care and a community’s ability to engage in healthy behaviors. Without a network of support and a safe community, families cannot thrive. Ensuring access to social and economic resources provides a foundation for a healthy community.

**Poverty**

2017 poverty estimates show a total of 35,318 persons living below the poverty level in the report area. Poverty information is at 100% of the federal poverty guidelines.

**All Ages**

**Poverty Rate**

**12.62%**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **All Ages #** | **All Ages Poverty Rate** | **Age 0-17**  **# Persons** | **Age 0-17 Poverty Rate** | **Age 5-17 # Persons** | **Age 5-17 Poverty Rate** |
| Report Location | 35,318 | **12.62%** | 9,017 | 15.95% | 5,955 | 14.42% |
| Androscoggin County | 12,975 | 12.4% | 3,632 | 15.8% | 2,310 | 13.9% |
| Kennebec County | 14,707 | 12.4% | 3,295 | 14.2% | 2,216 | 13% |
| Oxford County | 7,636 | **13.5%** | 2,090 | **20.2%** | 1,429 | 18.7% |
| Maine | 147,413 | 11.3% | 35,045 | 14.2% | 23,871 | 13.1% |
| United States | 42,583,651 | 13.40% | 13,353,202 | 18.4% | 9,120,503 | 17.30% |

Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2000 to 2017 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 2.07%, compared to a national increase of 2.1%.

**Change in Poverty Rate**

**2000—2017**

**-2.07%**

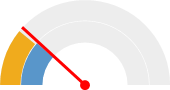
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **# in Poverty**  **2000** | **Poverty Rate**  **2000** | **# in Poverty**  **2017** | **Poverty Rate 2017** | **Change in Rate**  **2000—2017** |
| Report Location | 28,541 | 10.55% | 35,318 | 12.62% | **2.07%** |
| Androscoggin County | 10,526 | 10.4% | 12,975 | 12.4% | 2% |
| Kennebec County | 11,474 | 10% | 14,707 | 12.4% | 2.4% |
| Oxford County | 6,541 | 12% | 7,636 | 13.5% | 1.5% |
| Maine | 124,727 | 9.9% | 147,413 | 11.3% | 1.4% |
| United States | 31,581,086 | 11.3% | 42,583,651 | 13.4% | 2.1% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

## Households in Poverty

The number and percentage of households in poverty are shown in the report area. In 2017, it is estimated that there were 16,467 households, or 14.07%, living in poverty within the report area.



**Percent Households**

**in Poverty**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Households** | **Households in Poverty** | **% Households in Poverty** |
| Report Location | 117,074 | 16,467 | **14.07%** |
| Androscoggin County | 45,263 | 6,565 | **14.5%** |
| Kennebec County | 51,055 | 7,024 | 13.8% |
| Oxford County | 20,756 | 2,878 | 13.9% |
| Maine | 554,061 | 72,452 | 13.1% |
| United States | 118,825,921 | 16,390,109 | 13.8% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

Poverty Rate (ACS)

The following report section shows population estimates for all persons in poverty for report area. According to the American Community Survey 5 -year estimates, an average of 14.43 percent of all persons lived in a state of poverty during the 2013 ‐ 2017 period. The poverty rate for all persons living in the report area is less than the national average of 14.58%, however the rate is considered to be an area that needs to be addressed as it is significantly higher than the state average.

**Percent Population**

**in Poverty**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Population** | **Population in Poverty** | **% Population in Poverty** |
| Report Location | 278,089 | 40,121 | **14.43%** |
| Androscoggin County | 104,105 | 14,910 | 14.32% |
| Kennebec County | 117,507 | 16,623 | 14.15% |
| Oxford County | 56,477 | 8,588 | **15.21%** |
| Maine | 1,294,998 | 166,904 | 12.89% |
| United States | 313,048,563 | 45,650,345 | 14.58% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

**Population in Poverty by Gender**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Male** | **Total Female** | **Percent Male** | **Percent Female** |
| Report Location | 17,995 | 22,126 | 13.25% | 15.55% |
| Androscoggin County | 6,731 | 8,179 | 13.2% | 15.4% |
| Kennebec County | 7,646 | 8,977 | 13.4% | 14.85% |
| Oxford County | 3,618 | 4,970 | 13.01% | **17.33%** |
| Maine | 75,323 | 91,581 | 11.92% | 13.82% |
| United States | 20,408,626 | 25,241,719 | 13.31% | 15.8% |

**Families in Poverty by Family Type**

The number of families in poverty by type are shown in the report area. According to ACS 2013‐2017 5 - year estimates for the report area, there were 6,771 families living in poverty.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Families** | **Families in Poverty Total** | **Families in Poverty Married Couples** | **Families in Poverty Male Householder** | **Families in Poverty Female Householder** |
| Report Location | 73,181 | 6,771 | 2,403 | 953 | 3,415 |
| Androscoggin County | 27,608 | 2,621 | 777 | 275 | 1,569 |
| Kennebec County | 31,954 | 2,845 | 1,084 | 466 | 1,295 |
| Oxford County | 13,619 | 1,305 | 542 | 212 | 551 |
| Maine | 348,315 | 29,262 | 10,982 | 4,152 | 14,128 |
| United States | 78,298,703 | 8,253,388 | 3,023,580 | 880,989 | 4,348,819 |

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*

## Family Poverty Rate by Family Type

The percentage of households in poverty by household type are shown for the report area. It is estimated that 9.3% of all households were living in poverty within the report area, compared to the national average of 10.5%. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 4.7% of all households in poverty, compared to 3.3% and 1.3% of households headed by males and married couples, respectively. Note that Androscoggin County’s Female Household poverty rate exceeds both the state rate and the national rate. If this county were the only one measured the indicator would place it in the red—an issue of concern.

**Percent of Poverty**

**Female Household**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Poverty Rate All Types** | **% of Poverty Married couples** | **% of Poverty Male Household** | **% of Poverty Female Household** |
| Report Location | 9.3% | 3.3% | 1.3% | **4.7%** |
| Androscoggin County | 9.5% | 29.6% | 10.5% | **59.9%** |
| Kennebec County | 8.9% | 38.1% | 16.4% | 45.5% |
| Oxford County | 9.6% | 41.5% | 16.2% | 42.2% |
| Maine | 8.4% | 37.5% | 14.2% | 48.3% |
| United States | 10.5% | 36.6% | 10.7% | 52.7% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

## Poverty Rate Change (Age 0‐17)

The poverty rate change for all children in the report area from 2000 to 2017 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 2.1%, compared to a national increase of 2.2%. Note that both Androscoggin and Oxford Counties have a significantly higher change in childhood poverty rates when compared to the state and national averages. It is a potential issue of concern that Kennebec County’s childhood poverty rate increased from 13.1% to 14.2%, although the change in rate is below the percentage of change for Maine overall.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area**  **Poverty Rate Change**  **Age 0-17** | **Poverty 0-17 2000** | **Poverty Rate 0-17 2000** | **Poverty 0-17**  **2017** | **Poverty Rate 0-17 2017** | **Difference in Rate 0-17 2000-2017** |
| Report Location | 8,505 | 13.8% | 9,017 | 15.9% | **2.1%** |
| Androscoggin County | 3,119 | 13.3% | 3,632 | 15.8% | **2.5%** |
| Kennebec County | 3,415 | 13.1% | 3,295 | 14.2% | 1.1% |
| Oxford County | 1,971 | 16.1% | 2,090 | 20.2% | 4.1% |
| Maine | 73,080 | 12.9% | 70,091 | 14.2% | 1.3% |
| United States | 34,757,074 | 16.2% | 40,054,223 | 18.4% | 2.2% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

## Poverty Rate Change (Age 5‐17)

The poverty rate change for all children in the report area from 2000 to 2017 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 3%, compared to a national increase of 2.7%. All three counties served by RCAM have childhood poverty rates of concern.

**Poverty Rate Change**

**Age 5-17**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Poverty 5-17 2000** | **Poverty Rate 5-17 2000** | **Poverty 5-17**  **2017** | **Poverty Rate 5-17 2017** | **Difference in Rate 5-17 2000-2017** |
| Report Location | 5,271 | 11.4% | 5,955 | 14.4% | **3%** |
| Androscoggin County | 1,911 | 11.1% | 2,310 | 13.9% | 2.8% |
| Kennebec County | 2,111 | 10.7% | 2,216 | 13% | 2.3% |
| Oxford County | 1,249 | 13.4% | 1,429 | 18.7% | **5.3%** |
| Maine | 45,260 | 10.7% | 47,742 | 13.1% | 2.4% |
| United States | 22,606,876 | 14.6% | 27,357,967 | 17.3% | 2.7% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

## Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0‐17

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0‐17 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5- year data, an average of 20.3% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 20.3%. Oxford County’s child poverty rate is of concern.

**Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Ages 0-17**  **Total Population** | **Ages 0-17**  **In Poverty** | **Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate** |
| Report Location | 57,107 | 11,608 | **20.4%** |
| Androscoggin County | 23,048 | 4,556 | 19.8% |
| Kennebec County | 23,120 | 4,636 | 20.1% |
| Oxford County | 10,939 | 2,416 | 22.1% |
| Maine | 250,784 | 41,931 | 16.7% |
| United States | 72,430,017 | 14,710,485 | 20.3% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

**Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0‐4**

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0‐4 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5- year data, an average of 25.6% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 22.5%. Of serious concern is that each of the three counties served by RCAM are experiencing significantly higher poverty rates in this age group when compared to both state and national averages.

**Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Ages 0-4**  **Total Population** | **Ages 0-4**  **In Poverty** | **Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate** |
| Report Location | 14,794 | 3,791 | **25.6%** |
| Androscoggin County | 6,379 | 1,553 | 24.3% |
| Kennebec County | 5,925 | 1,596 | **26.9%** |
| Oxford County | 2,490 | 642 | 25.8% |
| Maine | 62,963 | 12,688 | 20.2% |
| United States | 19,532,877 | 4,390,252 | 22.5% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

**Seniors in Poverty**

Poverty rates for seniors (persons age 65 and over) are shown below. According to American Community Survey estimates, there were 4,493 seniors, or 9.1%, living in poverty within the report area. Note that in this comparison, Kennebec County has the highest poverty rate for this age group.

**Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate**



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Ages 65 and Up**  **Total Population** | **Ages 65 and Up**  **In Poverty** | **Ages 65 and Up**  **Poverty Rate** |
| Report Location | 49,195 | 4,493 | **9.1%** |
| Androscoggin County | 16,885 | 1,507 | 8.9% |
| Kennebec County | 21,262 | 2,109 | **9.9%** |
| Oxford County | 11,048 | 877 | 7.9% |
| Maine | 243,031 | 21,312 | 8.8% |
| United States | 46,424,881 | 4,317,192 | 9.3% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

Poverty by Gender: Ages 65 and Up

A comparison of poverty rates by gender indicates that there does not appear to be an area of statistical concern for males 65 and up as rates are lower than the Maine and national average with the exception of Kennebec County, which had a rate slightly higher than the state rate. However, the female population over the age of 65 in RCAM’s service area are experiencing significantly higher poverty rates in comparison, with the exception of Oxford County, where rates are below both state and national rates.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Male** | **Total Female** | **Percent Male** | **Percent Female** |
| Report Location | 1,456 | 3,037 | 6.54% | **11.27%** |
| Androscoggin County | 458 | 1,049 | 5.99% | 11.36% |
| Kennebec County | 658 | 1,451 | 6.97% | **12.28%** |
| Oxford County | 340 | 537 | 6.59% | 9.11% |
| Maine | 7,294 | 14,018 | 6.6% | 10.58% |
| United States | 1,524,034 | 2,793,158 | 7.39% | 10.82% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

**Employment**

**Current Unemployment**

Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for each county in the report area is provided in the table below. Overall, the report area experienced an average 3.4% percent unemployment rate in April 2019. While the overall report area’s average is not of concern, Oxford County’s unemployment rate of 4.2% for the time period reviewed is above the Maine average unemployment rate.

**Unemployment Rate**



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Labor Force** | **Number Employed** | **Number Unemployed** | **Unemployment Rate** |
| Report Location | 143,271 | 138,396 | 4,875 | **3.4%** |
| Androscoggin County | 55,553 | 53,744 | 1,809 | 3.3% |
| Kennebec County | 61,862 | 59,874 | 1,988 | 3.2% |
| Oxford County | 25,856 | 24,778 | 1,078 | **4.2%** |
| Maine | 686,235 | 662,422 | 23,813 | 3.5% |
| United States | 163,172,637 | 157,701,914 | 5,470,723 | 3.4% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Department of Labor,* [*Bureau of Labor Statistics*](http://www.bls.gov/)*. 2019 ‐ April. Source geography: County*

Unemployment Change

Unemployment change within the report area from April 2018 to April 2019 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this thirteen- month period fell from 3.47% to 3.4%.

**Rate Change**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Unemployment April 2018** | **Unemployment April 2019** | **Unemployment Rate April 2018** | **Unemployment Rate April 2019** | **Rate Change** |
| Report Location | 4,994 | 4,875 | 3.47% | 3.4% | **0.07%** |
| Androscoggin County | 1,852 | 1,809 | 3.33% | 3.26% | 0.08% |
| Kennebec County | 2,065 | 1,988 | 3.32% | 3.21% | 0.1% |
| Oxford County | 1,077 | 1,078 | 4.11% | 4.17% | ‐0.06% |
| Maine | 24,502 | 23,813 | 3.54% | 3.47% | 0.06% |
| United States | 6,016,833 | 5,470,723 | 3.72% | 3.35% | 0.36% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Department of Labor,* [*Bureau of Labor Statistics*](http://www.bls.gov/)*. 2019 ‐ April. Source geography: County*

## Commuter Travel Patterns

This table shows the method of transportation workers used to travel to work for the report area. Of the 134,142 workers in the report area, 79.9% drove to work alone while 10.2% carpooled. 0.2% of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 4% walking or riding bicycles, and 1.2% used taxicabs to travel to work. This measure often correlates to a deeper understanding of the barriers related to poverty, economic opportunity and the additional barriers to obtaining well-paying jobs for people living in rural areas where public transportation is limited or non-existent. Most households in the three counties have 1-2 vehicles, but for families who are financially insecure, the cost of vehicle maintenance, insurance, and the high price of gasoline can be prohibitive and often lesser priorities than housing, food, and health needs. Additionally, the long distances and huge geographic area make it extremely difficult to provide fixed routes community transportation. People cannot access food pantries, non-medical but important services, such as WIC and ASPIRE, without reliable transportation.

**Percent Drive Alone**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Workers 16 & Up** | **% Drive Alone** | **Percent Carpool** | **Percent Public Transportation** | **Percent Bike or Walk** | **Percent Taxi or Other** | **Percent work at home** |
| Report Location | 134,142 | **79.9%** | 10.2% | 0.2% | 4% | 1.2% | 4.6% |
| Androscoggin County | 52,083 | 78.8% | 11.2% | 0.2% | 4.3% | 1.4% | 4.1% |
| Kennebec County | 57,198 | 80.2% | 9.3% | 0.2% | 4.5% | 1% | 4.8% |
| Oxford County | 24,861 | 81.4% | 10% | 0.3% | 2.3% | 1% | 5% |
| Maine | 645,333 | 78.5% | 9.7% | 0.6% | 4.4% | 1.1% | 5.6% |
| United States | 148,432,042 | 76.4% | 9.2% | 5.1% | 3.3% | 1.2% | 4.7% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*

## Education

## Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in the report area. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an estimated average for the period from 2013 to 2017. For this indicator, while Androscoggin County has the highest percentage of residents with no high school diplomas, it has the second highest percentage of people with some college and those attaining a bachelor’s degree. Kennebec County has the highest percentage of individuals with some college and a bachelor’s degree.

**Percent No High School Diploma**



|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **% No high school diploma** | **% High School Only** | **% Some College** | **% Associates Degree** | **% Bachelor’s Degree** | **% Graduate or Professional Degree** |
| Report Location | **9.29%** | 36.76% | 20.19% | 10.38% | 14.94% | 8.45% |
| Androscoggin County | 10.21% | 37% | 20.2% | 10.4% | 14.8% | 7.3% |
| Kennebec County | 8.69% | 33.3% | 20.7% | 10.6% | 16.4% | 10.3% |
| Oxford County | 8.87% | 43.4% | 19.1% | 9.9% | 12.2% | 6.6% |
| Maine | 7.87% | 32.3% | 19.5% | 10% | 19.3% | 11% |
| United States | 12.69% | 27.3% | 20.8% | 8.3% | 19.1% | 11.8% |

## Adult Literacy

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) produces estimates for adult literacy based on educational attainment, poverty, and other factors in each county. This indicator is of particular concern for both Androscoggin and Oxford counties.

**Percent of Adults Lacking Literacy Skills**



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Estimated Population over 16** | **Percent Lacking Literacy Skills** |
| Report Location | 221,741 | **8.13%** |
| Androscoggin County | 82,357 | 9% |
| Kennebec County | 94,333 | 7% |
| Oxford County | 45,051 | **9%** |
| Maine | 1,036,269 | 7% |
| United States | 219,016,209 | 14.64% |

**Child Care**

**Child Care Resources**

The availability of affordable childcare in a community is a critically important factor as it has a significant impact on the ability of families to obtain or maintain employment, a key component in achieving economic independence. In Maine there is considerable need for more high-quality affordable early care and education programs. As of 2017, 73% of children under the age of six lived in families with all available parents in the workforce and were likely in need of full-time child care. Only 40% of children ages 0-5 who are income-eligible are enrolled in Head Start. Looking at public pre-school, 43% of Maine’s four-year-olds are attending preschool programs. There is wide variation in the availability of preschool by county.

| **Androscoggin County Child Care Resources** | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Town** | **# Family Day Care** | **Capacity** | **# Centers** | **Capacity** | **Total Capacity** | **# Children < 10 yr. old** |
| Greene | 7 | 84 | 2 | 132 | 216 | 494 |
| Leeds | 3 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 277 |
| Livermore | 2 | 32 | 2 | 100 | 132 | 208 |
| Livermore Falls | 5 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 438 |
| Sabattus | 6 | 72 | 3 | 100 | 172 | 523 |
| Turner | 5 | 60 | 3 | 233 | 293 | 694 |
| Wales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 136 |
| **Total** | **28** | **338** | **10** | **565** | **903** | **2,770** |
|  | | | | | |  |
| **Kennebec County Child Care Resources** | | | | | | |
| **Town** | **# Family Day Care** | **Capacity** | **# Centers** | **Capacity** | **Total Capacity** | **# Children < 10 yr. old** |
| Litchfield | 3 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 403 |
| Monmouth | 5 | 60 | 2 | 69 | 129 | 443 |
| Wayne | 1 | 12 | 1 | 20 | 32 | 113 |
| **Total** | **9** | **102** | **3** | **89** | **191** | **959** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Oxford County Child Care Resources** | | | | | | |
| **Town** | **# Family Day Care** | **Capacity** | **# Centers** | **Capacity** | **Total Capacity** | **# Children < 10 yr. old** |
| Buckfield | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 241 |
| Canton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 83 |
| Hartford | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 121 |
| Sumner | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96 |
| **Total** | **2** | **24** | **0** | **0** | **24** | **541** |

**Housing**

## Housing Age

Total housing units, median year built and median age in 2017 for the report area are shown below. Housing units used in housing age include only those where the year built is known.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Housing Units** | **Median Year Built** | **Median Age from 2017** |
| Report Location | 148,525 | No data | No data |
| Androscoggin County | 49,616 | 1966 | **51** |
| Kennebec County | 62,225 | 1973 | 44 |
| Oxford County | 36,684 | 1975 | 42 |
| Maine | 735,711 | 1975 | 42 |
| United States | 135,393,564 | 1977 | 40 |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html)*. 2017. Source geography: county*

## Homeowners

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 77,736 homeowners in the report area in 2000, and 69.39% owner occupied homes in the report area for the 5 -year estimated period from 2013 ‐ 2017. For this indicator, only Oxford County is below the state average.

**Owner Occupied Homes 2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Owner Occupied Home 2000** | **% Occupied 2000** | **Owner Occupied Homes 2017** | **% Occupied 2017** |
| Report Location | 77,736 | 69.39% | 81,373 | **54.79%** |
| Androscoggin County | 26,631 | 63.36% | 28,953 | **58.35%** |
| Kennebec County | 33,933 | 71.16% | 35,827 | 57.58% |
| Oxford County | 17,172 | 76.96% | 16,593 | 45.23% |
| Maine | 370,905 | 71.58% | 399,142 | 54.25% |
| United States | 69,815,753 | 66.19% | 75,833,135 | 56.01% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Department of Labor,* [*Bureau of Labor Statistics*](http://www.bls.gov/)*. 2019 ‐ April. Source geography: County*

## Vacancy Rates

The U.S. Postal Service provided information quarterly to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on addresses identified as vacant in the previous quarter. Residential and business vacancy rates for the report area in the third quarter of 2018 are reported. For this reporting period, a total of 2,605 residential addresses were identified as vacant in the report area, a vacancy rate of 3%, and 709 business addresses were also reported as vacant, a rate of 9.7.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area**  **Residential Vacancy Rate** | **Residential Addresses** | **Vacant Addresses** | **Vacancy Rate** | **Business Addresses** | **Vacant Businesses** | **Business Vacancy Rate** |
| Report Location | 86,879 | 2,605 | **3%** | 7,329 | 709 | 9.7 |
| Androscoggin County | 41,532 | 1,139 | 2.7% | 3,745 | 317 | 8.5 |
| Kennebec County | 31,219 | 1,239 | 4% | 2,767 | 318 | 11.5 |
| Oxford County | 14,128 | 227 | 1.6% | 817 | 74 | 9.1 |
| Maine | 389,386 | 8,422 | 2.2% | 31,752 | 2,631 | 8.3 |
| United States | 72,838,881 | 1,859,314 | 2.6% | 6,777,910 | 614,541 | 9.1 |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source:* [*US Department of Housing and Urban Development*](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD)*. 2016‐Q4. Source geography: County*

## Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes

The number and percentage of occupied housing units without plumbing are shown for the report area. U.S. Census data shows 854 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2000 and ACS five- year estimates show 834 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2017. Both Androscoggin and Oxford counties have rates that are higher than the state average, representing an area of concern.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Occupied Units 2000** | **Units without Plumbing 2000** | **% without Plumbing 2000** | **Occupied Units 2017** | **Units without Plumbing 2017** | **% without Plumbing 2017** |
| Report Location | 112,025 | 854 | 0.76% | 117,074 | 834 | **0.71%** |
| Androscoggin County | 42,028 | 228 | 0.5% | 45,263 | 381 | 0.84% |
| Kennebec County | 47,683 | 332 | 0.59% | 51,055 | 243 | 0.48% |
| Oxford County | 22,314 | 294 | 0.91% | 20,756 | 210 | **1.01%** |
| Maine | 518,200 | 4,468 | 0.69% | 554,061 | 4,000 | 0.72% |
| United States | 106,741,426 | 736,626 | 0.69% | 118,815,922 | 460,775 | 0.39% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. US Census Bureau,* [*Decennial Census*](http://www.census.gov/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*

## Evictions

The number evictions and eviction filings within the report area is shown in below. For the year 2016, the Eviction Lab reports that 1,477 of the 1,572 eviction filings ended in an eviction, for an eviction rate of 3.64%.

**Eviction Rate**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Renter Occupied Households** | **Eviction Filings** | **Evictions** | **Eviction Filing Rate** | **Eviction Rate** |
| Report Location | 40,544 | 1,572 | 1,477 | 3.88% | **3.64%** |
| Androscoggin County | 17,364 | 753 | 703 | 4.34% | **4.05%** |
| Kennebec County | 16,624 | 654 | 618 | 3.93% | 3.72% |
| Oxford County | 6,554 | 165 | 156 | 2.52% | 2.38% |
| Maine | 181,713 | 4,381 | 4,113 | 2.41% | 2.26% |
| United States | 38,372,860 | 2,350,042 | 898,042 | 6.12% | 2.34% |

*Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source:* [*Eviction Lab*](http://www.evictionlab.org/)*. 2016. Source geography: County*

Income

## Income Levels

Two common measures of income are Median Household Income and Per Capita Income. Both measures are below Maine’s average for all three counties served by RCAM, with Oxford County ranking lowest by a significant degree.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Median Household Income** | **Per Capita Income** |
| Report Location | No data | $26,042.48 |
| Androscoggin County | $49,538.00 | $26,276.00 |
| Kennebec County | $50,116.00 | $27,336.00 |
| Oxford County | **$44,582.00** | **$22,862.00** |
| Maine | $53,024.00 | $29,886.00 |
| United States | $57,652.00 | $31,177.00 |

## Household Income

Median annual household incomes in the report area for 2017 are shown in the table below. Since this reports a median amount, a "Report Area" value is not able to be calculated. Note that all three counties served by RCAM have median incomes lower than both the state and national averages, with Androscoggin County’s median income lowest of the three.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Estimated Population** | **Median Household Income** |
| Androscoggin County | 104,637 | $48,446.00 |
| Kennebec County | 118,605 | $52,265.00 |
| Oxford County | 56,563 | $50,367.00 |
| Maine | 1,304,540 | $55,980.00 |
| United States | 317,788,440 | $60,336.00 |

**Family Economic Security—**

**Families with Children 5 and under Receiving TANF**

Maine’s income supports are serving significantly fewer children and families than before the 2012 implementation of a 60-month lifetime limit on the program and a stricter sanction policy that covers the entire family. As of December 2018, there were just 7,014 children receiving TANF, yet as of 2017, more than 14,000 children were living in deep poverty. The reduction in the number of children with TANF has also meant there are less than half as many childcare vouchers for families working towards finding a job and transitioning off TANF.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY—FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN < 5 RECEIVING TANF** | | | | |
| **TOWN** | **AVG # TANF< 5** | **TOWN %** | **COUNTY %** | **STATEWIDE %** |
| Greene | 19 | 9% | 5.4% | 3% |
| Leeds | 6 | 4% | 5.4% | 3% |
| Livermore | 9 | 9% | 5.4% | 3% |
| Livermore Falls | 35 | 16% | 5.4% | 3% |
| Sabattus | 23 | 9% | 5.4% | 3% |
| Turner | 14 | 5% | 5.4% | 3% |
| Wales | 3 | 3% | 5.4% | 3% |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **KENNEBEC COUNTY—FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN < 5 RECEIVING TANF** | | | | |
| **TOWN** | **AVG # TANF< 5** | **TOWN %** | **COUNTY %** | **STATEWIDE %** |
| Litchfield | 13 | 7% | 3.9% | 3% |
| Monmouth | 10 | 5% | 3.9% | 3% |
| Wayne | 1 | 2% | 3.9% | 3% |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OXFORD COUNTY—FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN < 5 RECEIVING TANF** | | | | |
| **TOWN** | **AVG # TANF< 5** | **TOWN %** | **COUNTY %** | **STATEWIDE %** |
| Buckfield | 11 | 9% | 3.4% | 3% |
| Canton | 8 | 21% | 3.4% | 3% |
| Hartford | 5 | 7% | 3.4% | 3% |
| Sumner | 3 | 7% | 3.4% | 3% |

# **Nutrition**

## Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The following report shows that 22,315 students (or 54.45 percent) were eligible for free or reduced -price lunches during the 2013 ‐ 2014 school year, which is more than the national average of 49.21%.

**Percent Students Eligible**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Students** | **# Eligible Free-Reduced Price** | **Percent Eligible** |
| Report Location | 40,983 | 22,315 | **54.45%** |
| Androscoggin County | 16,087 | 9,088 | 56.49% |
| Kennebec County | 16,572 | 8,152 | 49.19% |
| Oxford County | 8,324 | 5,075 | 60.97% |
| Maine | 175,402 | 79,819 | 45.51% |
| United States | 50,737,716 | 24,970,187 | 49.21% |

*Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics,* [*NCES ‐ Common Core of Data*](http://nces.ed.gov/)*. 2016‐17. Source geography: Address*

**Percentage of Students Participating in Free and Reduced Lunch Program**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Androscoggin** | **Free Lunch** | **Reduced Lunch** | **% Eligible** |
| **MSAD 52— Serves Greene, Leeds, Turner**  Greene Central School  Leeds Central School  Turner Primary School  Turner Elementary School  Tripp Middle School  Leavitt Area High School | 28.93%  34.03%  21.27%  25.35%  25.75%  20.26% | 9.64%  14.14%  4.85%  9.15%  5.99%  8.36% | 38.58%  48.17%  26.12%  34.51%  31.74%  28.62% |
| **RSU 73— Serves Livermore, Livermore Falls**  Spruce Mtn. Primary School  Spruce Mtn. Middle School  Spruce Mtn. High School | 48.99%  48%  40% | 8.33%  8%  8% | **57.32%**  57%  41.9% |
| **RSU 4— Serves Sabattus, Wales**  Sabattus Primary School  Oak Hill Middle School  Oak Hill High School | 30%  42.04%  42.40% | 9.48%  10.53%  10.70% | 40.09%  52.74%  52.92% |

| **Kennebec** | **Free Lunch** | **Reduced Lunch** | **% Eligible** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **RSU4—Serves Litchfield**  Carrie Ricker  Libby Tozier  Oak Hill Middle School  Oak Hill High School | 42.00%  45.26%  42.04%  42.40% | 8.86%  5.79%  10.53%  10.70% | 50.86%  51.05%  52.74%  **52.92%** |
| **RSU2—Serves Monmouth**  Henry L. Cottrell  Monmouth Middle School  Monmouth Academy | 36.32%  28.09%  19.27% | 5.79%  8.94%  3.65% | 42.11%  37.02%  22.92% |
| **RSU38—Serves Wayne**  Wayne Elementary  Maranacook Middle School  Maranacook High School | 23.88%  18.62%  17.66% | 2.99%  5.52%  6.84% | 26.87%  24.14%  24.50% |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Oxford County** | **Free Lunch** | **Reduced Lunch** | **% Eligible** |
| **RSU10—Serves Buckfield, Hartford, Sumner**  Hartford-Sumner Elementary School  Buckfield Jr. Sr. High School  Hartford-Sumner Elementary School | 34.49%  31.17%  34.49% | 6.01%  6.06%  6.01% | 40.51%  37.23%  40.51% |
| **RSU56—Serves Canton**  Dirigo Elementary School  Dirigo Middle School  Dirigo High School | 50.00%  56.32%  42.34% | 11.73%  23.56%  10.81% | 61.73%  53.15%  **79.89%** |

## Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)

The below table shows that according to the American Community Survey (ACS), 21,907 households (or 18.7%) received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments during 2017— food stamps. During this same period there were 6,006 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total SNAP** | **% SNAP** | **Total SNAP Below Poverty** | **% SNAP Below Poverty** | **# Below Poverty No SNAP** | **% Below Poverty No SNAP** |
| Report Location | 21,907 | 18.7% | 10,461 | **47.8%** | 6,006 | **6.3%** |
| Androscoggin County | 8,994 | 19.87% | 4,443 | 49.4% | 2,122 | 5.6% |
| Kennebec County | 8,934 | 17.5% | 4,223 | 47.3% | 2,801 | 6.7% |
| Oxford County | 3,979 | 19.17% | 1,795 | 45.1% | 1,083 | 6.5% |
| Maine | 84,863 | 15.32% | 40,702 | 48% | 31,750 | **6.8%** |
| United States | 15,029,498 | 12.65% | 7,420,946 | 49.4% | 8,969,163 | 8.6% |

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. 2013‐17. Source geography: County*

**Food Insecurity Indicator**

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)— Food Stamps**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Androscoggin** | **Total Population** | **# SNAP (Year Avg)** | **% SNAP** |
| Greene | 4,356 | 393 | 9.02% |
| Leeds | 2,308 | 308 | 13.3% |
| Livermore | 2,101 | 297 | 14.1% |
| Livermore Falls | 3,143 | 808 | **25.7%** |
| Sabattus | 5,020 | 608 | 12.1% |
| Turner | 5,754 | 458 | 8% |
| Wales | 1,631 | 138 | 8.5% |
| **Kennebec** | **Total Population** | **# SNAP (Year Avg)** | **% SNAP** |
| Litchfield | 3,600 | 374 | **10.4%** |
| Monmouth | 4,066 | 382 | 9.4% |
| Wayne | 1,164 | 77 | 6.6% |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Oxford County** | **Total Population** | **# SNAP (Year Avg)** | **% SNAP** |
| Buckfield | 2,001 | 300 | 15% |
| Canton | 978 | 174 | **18%** |
| Hartford | 1,191 | 171 | 14.4% |
| Sumner | 938 | 141 | 15% |

# **Health Care**

## Medicare and Medicaid Providers

Total institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, federally- qualified health centers, rural health clinics and community mental health centers for the report area are shown. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 73 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in the report area in the fourth quarter of 2018. This measure is relevant as it provides information used to assess the degree to which access to care may be a barrier preventing the ability for individuals to maintain good health.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Total Providers** | **Hospitals** | **Nursing Facilities** | **FQHC’s** | **Rural Health Clinics** | **Community Mental Health Clinics** |
| Report Location | 73 | 7 | 20 | 23 | 5 | 0 |
| Androscoggin County | 39 | 2 | 6 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Kennebec County | 20 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Oxford County | 14 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Maine | 386 | 39 | 95 | 117 | 38 | 0 |
| United States | 74,192 | 7,120 | 15,581 | 8,789 | 4,386 | 144 |

*Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services,* [*Provider of Services File*](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Downloadable-Public-Use-Files/Provider-of-Services/index.html)*. December 2018. Source geography: County*

## Persons Receiving Medicare

The total number of persons receiving Medicare is shown, broken down by number over 65 and number of disabled persons receiving Medicare for the report area. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that a total of 71,087 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in the report area in 2018. A large number of individuals in our society are aware that persons over 65 years of age receive Medicare; however, many of them are unaware that disabled persons also receive Medicare benefits. A total of 15,389 disabled persons in the report area received Medicare benefits in 2018.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **# Over 65 Medicare** | **# Disabled Medicare** | **Total Receiving Medicare** |
| Report Location | 55,698 | 15,389 | 71,087 |
| Androscoggin County | 18,948 | 5,428 | 24,376 |
| Kennebec County | 24,670 | 6,654 | 31,324 |
| Oxford County | 12,080 | 3,307 | 15,387 |
| Maine | 546,730 | 115,443 | 662,173 |
| United States | 55,698 | 15,389 | 71,087 |

## Uninsured Population

The uninsured population is calculated by estimating the number of persons eligible for insurance (generally those under 65) minus the estimated number of insured persons. Note that Oxford County has the highest rate of uninsured of the three counties served by RCAM and its uninsured rate is higher than the Maine average.

**Percent Uninsured**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report Area** | **Insurance Population 2017 estimate** | **Number Insured** | **Number Uninsured** | **Percent Uninsured** |
| Report Location | 285,836 | 204,101 | 22,428 | **7.85%** |
| Androscoggin County | 107,317 | 78,153 | 8,153 | 7.6% |
| Kennebec County | 121,289 | 86,468 | 9,241 | 7.62% |
| Oxford County | 57,230 | 39,480 | 5,034 | **8.8%** |
| Maine | 1,330,158 | 936,157 | 106,863 | 8.03% |
| United States | 317,787,650 | 238,424,195 | 27,237,587 | 8.57% |

*This indicator is compared to the state average.*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau,* [*American Community Survey*](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)*. US Census Bureau,* [*Small Area Health Insurance Estimates*](http://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/)*. 2016. Source geography: County*

**County Health Profiles**

**Androscoggin County**

**Health Status:** Androscoggin County is generally less healthy than other Maine counties and the state as a whole. Health challenges include: higher than average rates of overall mortality and heart disease mortality compared to the rest of the state; higher rates of hospitalization due to diabetes and long-term complications of diabetes; higher rate of obesity; and, higher than average rates of emergency department use for mental health, unintentional fall-related injuries, and asthma.

**Health Resources:** The supply of most health facilities, services, and workforce is comparable to state averages. More Alzheimer’s facilities, hospice providers, and home health agencies per capita compared to the statewide average.

**Access and Insurance:** Lowest percent of uninsured individuals under 18 years of age in the state. Higher than average percentage of residents who have had a checkup or mammogram compared to the state as a whole.

**Health Care Economy**: The health care sector is the largest source of jobs, employing 18 percent of workers and accounting for 22 percent of wages. Health care workers are paid annual wages 25 percent higher than the average for all employment in Androscoggin County.

**Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment—Androscoggin County**

Health priorities were developed through community engagement participation and voting at community forums. Participants had the opportunity to review county health profiles, discuss community needs, and set community health priorities. In Androscoggin County, 25% of forum participants established social determinants of health as the highest priority. Mental Health was second with 19%, followed by Substance Use with 14%. Access to care ranked fourth with 12%, with tobacco use at 9% rounding out the list of top five health priorities.

**Social determinants of health** are the conditions in which people live, work, learn, and play that affect their health. Factors include socioeconomic status—education, income, poverty— housing, transportation, social norms and attitudes, crime and violence, literacy, and availability of resources. These conditions influence an individuals’ health and define the quality of life for many segments of the population, specifically those that are most vulnerable.

In Androscoggin County, a dominant theme from key informant interviews and community forums was the tremendous impact that the underlying social determinants have on residents. Housing and transportation were needs identified in all engagement activities. Participants called out the need for housing that is environmentally safe. Exposure to lead is an issue of concern for children. Access to affordable and reliable transportation is problematic, especially outside of Lewiston/Auburn. Many older adults and individuals without access to transportation have difficulty accessing health services and employment. Transportation challenges families’ ability to access stores and markets. Food insecurity is a primary concern for youth.

**Mental health** affects all segments of the population, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity or gender. More than 25% of adults with a mental health disorder also have a substance use disorder, and while mental health conditions may lead to drug or alcohol use, the reverse may also be true—the use of certain substances may cause individuals to experience symptoms of a mental health disorder.

Androscoggin County forum participants cited depression/homelessness, stress, isolation, trauma, family separation, and suicidality as issues and conditions of note. The need for more behavioral health services and inpatient services/psychiatry were identified as specific gaps in the spectrum of care. Community forum participants identified youth, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community as segments of the community who are at-risk for poor mental health or as segments who have unique mental health needs. Social isolation was also identified as a critical determinant of mental health conditions. In Androscoggin County, the percentage of adults who have ever been told by a healthcare provider that they have a depressive disorder was significantly higher than the Maine average—26.6% vs. 22.8%. Similarly, adults told they had an anxiety disorder was significantly higher as well—25.4% vs. 20.7%. The percentage of adults receiving outpatient mental health treatment was also significantly higher—21.3% vs. 17.6%. The percentage of high school students who reported feeling sad/hopeless for more than two weeks in a row increased between 2011 and 2o17, from 23.3% to 26.7%. The percentage of middle school students who reported having seriously considered suicide increased significantly during the same time period, from 14.5% to 18.8%.

**Substance Use.** Opioid use was the leading substance use issue discussed in Androscoggin County community forums. Participants discussed the need for more comprehensive, accessible, and affordable services to help those in need. In Androscoggin County substance use hospitalizations were higher than the state overall—39.4 vs. 18.1 per 10,000 population. The rate of overdose deaths increased between 2007 and 2016 from 12.5 to 18.3 per 100,000. The rate of overdose emergency medical service responses decreased between 2013 and 2017, from 132.6 to 112.5 per 10,000 population, yet the rate is significantly higher than the state overall (93 per 10,000 population. Past 30-day alcohol use among high school students was slightly lower than the state overall— 20.4% vs. 22.5% in 2017.

**Access to Care**. In Androscoggin County, the percentage of the population who were uninsured was lower than the state overall—8.6% vs. 9.5%, while the percentage of individuals unable to obtain healthcare due to cost was significantly higher compared to the state overall—14.5% vs. 10.3%.

**Tobacco Use.** In Androscoggin County the percentage of adults who currently smoke was higher than the state overall—25% vs. 19.8%. Past-30-day e-cigarette use among high school students increased over time, from 13.2% to 14.1% in 2017. The percentage of women who smoked during pregnancy was significantly higher than the state overall—17.8% vs. 14.5%.

**Kennebec County**

**Health Status:**  Higher than average overall mortality rate, as well as higher rates of all cancer, coronary heart disease, and diabetes mortality, compared with the state overall.

**Health Resources:** Home to Maine VA Medical Center, Maine’s only VA hospital. More behavioral health treatment and long-term services and support services available per capita compared to the state overall.

**Access and Insurance:** Second highest percentage of residents who have visited a dental provider in the past year. Higher rate of insurance coverage compared to the state as a whole.

**Health Care Economy:** The health care sector is the largest source of jobs, employing 17 percent of workers. Health care workers are paid annual wages 23 percent higher than the average for all employment in Kennebec County.

**Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment—Kennebec County**

Health priorities were developed through community engagement participation and voting at community forums. Participants had the opportunity to review county health profiles, discuss community needs, and set community health priorities. In Kennebec County, 19% of forum participants established Mental Health as the top priority. Substance use was second at 18%, followed by social determinants of health at 14% ranking third. The fourth priority established was physical activity, nutrition and weight with older adult health/healthy aging and access to care tying at 11% to round out the top five priorities.

**Mental Health.** Kennebec County forum participants cited depression/homelessness, stress, and suicidality as major mental health issues. The need for more behavioral health services and inpatient services/psychiatry were identified as specific gaps in the spectrum of care. Community forum participants identified youth, older adults, and the LGBTQ community as segments of the community who are at-risk for poor mental health or as segments who have unique mental health needs. Several forum participants identified stigma or the disapproval or discrimination against a person based on a particular circumstance as a major barrier to care. In Kennebec County, the percentage of high school students who reported that they had been sad/hopeless for more than two weeks in a row increased between 2011 and 2017, from 21.3$ to 26.2%. The percentage of high school students who reported having seriously considered suicide increased between 2011 and 2017, from 12.2% to 14.6%. The percentage of adults who have ever been told by a healthcare provider that they have an anxiety disorder increased between 2011 and 2016 from 19.0% to 20.9%.

**Substance Use.** Opioid use was the leading substance use issue discussed in Androscoggin County community forums. Participants discussed the need for more comprehensive, accessible, and affordable services to help those in need. In Kennebec County, the rate of overdose deaths increased significantly between 2007 and 2016 from 11.7 to 20.7 per 100,000. The rate of overdose emergency medical service responses per 10,000 were significantly higher compared to the state overall between 2013 and 2017, from 131.7 vs. 93.0. Alcohol-induced deaths per 100,000 increased between 2007 and 2016, from 7.6 to 9.8.

**Social Determinants of Health**. Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people live, work, learn, and play that affect their health. Factors include socioeconomic status—education, income, poverty— housing, transportation, social norms and attitudes, crime and violence, literacy, and availability of resources. These conditions influence an individuals’ health and define the quality of life for many segments of the population, specifically those that are most vulnerable. In Kennebec County, a dominant theme from key informant interviews and community forums was the tremendous impact that the underlying social determinants, particularly housing and transportation, have on residents. Affordable housing, especially for older adults who may no longer be able to stay in their homes for financial or safety reasons, and food insecurity for youth and low-income families was a concern. In Kennebec County, the percentage of adults over 65 living alone was higher than the state overall—46.1% vs. 45.3%. the percentage of households lacking enough food to maintain healthy, active lifestyles for all household members was similar to the state overall—14.7% vs. 15.1%.

**Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Weight.** Lack of physical fitness and poor nutrition are among the leading risk factors associated with obesity and chronic health issues. Adequate nutrition helps prevent disease and is essential for the healthy growth and development of children and adolescents, while overall fitness and the extent to which people are physically active reduces the risk for many chronic conditions and is linked to good emotional health. In Kennebec County, the percentage of high school students who are obese was higher than the state overall—16.4% vs. 15.0%. The percentage of high school students who reported eating five or more fruits and vegetables a day decreased between 2011 and 2017, from 17.1% to 14.5%. The percentage of adults who live a sedentary lifestyle with no leisure-time physical activity in the last month was higher than the state overall—22.1% vs. 20.6%.

**Older Adult Health/Healthy Aging.** Forum participants and key informants identified a need for education and services to address depression and isolation amongst older adults. Older adults experience loneliness for many reasons; it may come as a result of living alone, limited connections with family, friends, or communities, and/or impediments to living independently. Limited access to transportation was identified as a key barrier to accessing health care for older adults but also hinders their ability to access other needed goods and services (groceries, prescriptions, e.g., physical activity). The rising cost of care and prescriptions was a key theme in discussions around older adults. The need for affordable and safe housing was another critical issue. While “aging in place” or aging in the home is a popular concept, this may be impossible for some older residents, for financial, medical, or safety reasons. With aging in place as a preferred lifestyle, concerns around isolation become more significant. In Kennebec County, the percentage of adults over 65 living alone was higher than the state overall—46.1% vs. 45.3%. The percentage of adults age 45 or older with cognitive decline was higher than the state overall—13.2% vs. 10.3%. Fall-related deaths per 100,000 increased significantly from 2007 to 2016, from 4.7 to 8.5. The fall-related injury (unintentional) emergency department rate per 10,000 was significantly higher than the state overall — 365.6 vs. 340.9.

**Oxford County**

**Health Status:** Health challenges include higher than average rates of unhealthy eating,

residents that are overweight and obese, and emergency department visits due to asthma, pneumonia, diabetes, and unintentional falls.

**Health Resources:** More emergency medical services per 1,000 residents than the state average. Fewer total physicians and primary care physicians per capita compared with the

state average.

**Access and Insurance:** Second highest percentage of residents who did not receive needed medical care due to cost in the past year in the state. Second lowest percentage of residents

under age 18 without health insurance in the state.

**Health Care Economy:** The health care sector is the second largest source of jobs, employing 14 percent of workers. Health care workers are paid annual wages five percent higher than the average annual wage for all employment in Oxford County.

**Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment—Oxford County**

Health priorities were developed through community engagement participation and voting at community forums. Participants had the opportunity to review county health profiles, discuss community needs, and set community health priorities. In Oxford County, 22% of forum participants established Mental Health as the top priority. Substance use was second at 20%, followed by social determinants of health at 19% ranking third. The fourth priority established was Access to care, at 17%.

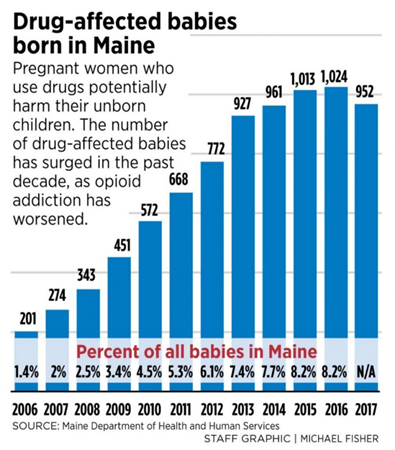
**Mental Health.** Depression and anxiety were identified as the two leading concerns amongst community forum participants. Participants offered many ideas on the reason community members feel depressed or anxious, including isolation, stigma, lack of providers, lack of education, and bullying. One challenge identified by many participants was the mental health effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences, commonly referred to as ACEs. ACEs are stressful or traumatic events, such as abuse, neglect, and substance abuse or mental illness within the household, that are strongly correlated to the development of physical and mental health conditions for those who are exposed. A final key theme from discussions on mental health was lack of community cohesion. Several forum participants identified social isolation as a critical determinant of poor mental health. In Oxford County, the percentage of adults with current symptoms of depression was 10.1% in 2016, slightly higher than the state overall at 8.4%. The percentage of high school students who reported being sad or hopeless for more than two weeks in a row increased between 2011 and 2017, from 25.2% to 28.2%. The percentage of high school students who reported having seriously considered suicide increased between 2011 and 2017, from 13.3% to 16.2%.

**Substance Use.** Opioid use was the leading substance use issue discussed in Oxford County community forums. Participants discussed the need for more comprehensive, accessible, and affordable services to help those in need. Some participants identified marijuana use as an emerging issue—there is a lack of clarity on health effects, recreational vs. medicinal use, and the short-term and long-term impacts on both individuals and communities. In Oxford County, the opiate poisoning emergency department rate per 10,000 population more than doubles between 2010 and 2014, from 2.5 to 5.2. Past-30-day cigarette smoking among high school students was significantly higher than the state overall—10.6 % vs. 8.8%. Environmental tobacco smoke exposure was higher among both high school (39.1%) and middle school (29.0% students compared to the state overall— 31.1% and 22.8% respectively in 2017.

**Social Determinants of Health.** Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people live, work, learn, and play that affect their health. Factors include socioeconomic status—education, income, poverty— housing, transportation, social norms and attitudes, crime and violence, literacy, and availability of resources. These conditions influence an individuals’ health and define the quality of life for many segments of the population, specifically those that are most vulnerable. A dominant theme from community forums was the tremendous impact that the underlying social determinants, such as transportation, poverty, job loss, social interaction/community cohesion, food access, and ACEs have on residents in Oxford County.

Poverty and financial instability are inextricably linked to poor health. Those who are uninsured or underinsured and lack the ability to pay for co-pays, treatment, and/or medications often avoid or delay care, which can cause minor issues to escalate. Those in poverty often face unique challenges in maintaining healthy behaviors; financial hardship is associated with physical inactivity, substance misuse, cardiovascular disease, and mental health issues. Transportation was a need identified in all Oxford engagement activities. Participants called out the need for access to affordable and reliable forms of transportation and identified this as a critical barrier to receiving health care.

Access to Care. Many forum participants and key informants identified the social determinants of health—particularly inability to access reliable and affordable forms of transportation and poverty/low wages—as significant barriers to accessing care. In Oxford County, the percentage of the population that was uninsured was higher than the state overall—11.0% vs. 9.5% in 2016. The percentage of the population who reported being unable to obtain health care due to cost was higher than the state overall—12.1% vs. 10.3% in 2016.

**Child Health — Drug-affected Babies**

According to a report released January 10, 2018, for the first time in over a decade, the number of babies born to drug-addicted mothers in Maine dropped in 2017. At its peak, one in 12 births in Maine were affected by the mother’s substance abuse. The number climbed from 165 drug-affected births in 2005 to 1,2024 in 2016 and dropped statewide for the first time to 952 in 2017. The total number of births in Maine has remained relatively steady, at roughly 12,500 per year since 2011. Data on the total births in 2017 was not available at the time of this report, so it is not possible to determine if the actual rate of drug-affected babies also declined. County-level data was not available. Source data: Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

**Maine 2-1-1**

The Maine 2-1-1 call system is a “one-stop” directory assistance telephone number for Maine consumers seeking to connect to needed resources. It is a hotline established to help residents find answers to a wide range of issues. Callers are given contact information for organizations that provide specific services, based on the need they are trying to address. Maine 2-1-1 keeps a list of all calls statewide and at the county level and provides information about the top 20 categories for which information is sought.

For the period beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, Maine 2-1-1 received a total of 3,530 calls from Androscoggin County residents; Kennebec County residents called 3,540 times and residents of Oxford County called 1,402 times.

**Top 10 Call Categories by County**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Androscoggin** | | **Kennebec** | | **Oxford** | |
| Heating Assistance | **21%** | Heating Assistance | **19%** | Utility Assistance | **24%** |
| Utility Assistance | **12%** | Utility Assistance | **16%** | Heating Assistance | **24%** |
| Basic Needs—Food | **7%** | Financial Assistance—Rent | **7%** | Basic Needs—Food | **7%** |
| Homeless —Shelter Need | **6%** | Basic Needs—Food | **7%** | Financial Assistance—Rent | **5%** |
| Financial Assistance—Rent | **5%** | Homeless—Shelter Need | **6%** | Health Care | **4%** |
| Mental Health | **5%** | Housing—Shelter Search | **4%** | Homeless—Shelter Need | **3%** |
| Health Care | **4%** | Substance Use Services | **4%** | Housing—Shelter Search | **3%** |
| Substance Use Services | **4%** | Financial Assistance-Temp Aid | **3%** | Financial Assistance—Temporary Aid | **3%** |
| Housing—Shelter Search | **3%** | Health Care | **2%** | Transportation | **2%** |
| Financial Assistance—Temporary Aid | **3%** | Mental Health | **2%** | Substance Use Services | **2%** |

The top three needs are consistent across each of the counties, although the order changes slightly. It is clear heating and utility assistance are issues, followed by food insecurity and help with rent.

**RCAM Service Breakdown for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 (FY19)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ANDROSCOGGIN** | | **KENNEBEC** | | **OXFORD** | |
| Homeless Prevention | **166** | Homeless Prevention | **56** | Homeless Prevention | 24 |
| Housing Services | 59 | Housing Services | 9 | Housing Services | 28 |
| Hunger Prevention | 130 | Hunger Prevention | 39 | Hunger Prevention | **55** |
| Senior Transportation | 26 | Senior Transportation | 7 | Senior Transportation | 4 |
| Holiday Gift | 115 | Holiday Gift | 23 | Holiday Gift | 18 |
| Information/Referral | 52 | Information/Referral | 17 | Information/Referral | 4 |
| Volunteer | 26 | Volunteer | 10 | Volunteer | 8 |
| **TOTAL** | **574** | **TOTAL** | **184** | **TOTAL** | **141** |
| **TOTAL ALL SERVICES —ALL TOWNS** | | | | | **899** |

RCAM’s Homeless Prevention services ranked as the highest demand for both Androscoggin and Kennebec counties, while Hunger Prevention services ranked highest in Oxford County. This is consistent with feedback analyzed from both surveys and interviews conducted with community members. This data also aligns with the 2-1-1 Maine data in the previous chart.

**Community Resources and Partners**

Over its nearly 50- year history of working to alleviate the conditions of poverty in its service area, RCAM has established a rich and vibrant network of community partners and collaborations. The agency can document over 100 partnership relationships and has three formal Memoranda of Understanding with partner organizations. These collaborations and partners are at the heart of the agency’s efforts to provide the highest quality services to the residents of the 14 rural towns in the three counties it serves. These relationships serve as a linchpin for a network of effective and efficient communication between and among community providers. RCAM sees these partnerships as a strong factor in its ability to meet its mission and address unmet community needs as they emerge.

**And the Surveys Said…**

“Really, one of the biggest issues we’re seeing in Sumner is food insecurity”.

“I rely on RCAM to provide rides for my cancer treatments and follow-up visits to my doctors. I can’t drive myself and other transportation providers I’ve tried haven’t been able to work with my schedule”.

“I think the best thing about Hartford is the sense of community and its rural character, but housing for seniors is a real need that’s not being met.”

“I live in Hartford and some services I need aren’t available to me. Residents here are independent and proud of it, rarely ask for help. When the town’s GA can’t help, RCAM has been great! There is no shelter in our town (except for pets) and very few rentals are open.”

“I’d like more WiFi availability…it’s difficult to research resources that could help me.”

“Greene has pockets of what I’d call poverty, but so many other areas where wealth shows. We need more affordable rentals or more landlords willing to accept low-income people.”

“Sometimes it’s hard to figure out where to turn and what to pay for first—food, rent, heat? How do I decide?”

“I’m recently disabled and can’t drive anymore. I hate begging friends and family for rides to my medical appointments. There is no public transportation here and that’s a huge issue for me now.”

“For the most part I can find the help I need to make ends meet but the real problem I have is I can’t find daycare for my 12-month -old I can afford. I would spend more than I make so it doesn’t make sense to even try to get a job…but I hate depending on welfare.”

“RCAM is a Godsend…but not many people know about it in my town. I wish the transportation program for us older people could expand though— that’s really a big issue for me.”

“I feel like I’m constantly living paycheck to paycheck. I can’t find daycare near me and adding miles and time to get my kids to my daycare just seems to create a vicious cycle.”

“I didn’t even know RCAM existed until I picked this survey up at an event where you had a table. I guess I need to let some of my older friends know about your transportation program…it’s hard sometimes to find time to help them get places and I feel guilty.”

“Yes, I’ve called you for help with my fuel before. Don’t know how I would have stayed warm without you.”

“Is there any way RCAM could have volunteers help with things like taking off storm windows in the spring and putting them back in the fall? Or helping with yard work — things like that?”

|  |
| --- |
| **Data Sources and Source Material** |

One of the primary data sources used for this report, particularly its tables and graphs is from a national and state data clearinghouse called CARES. Working in partnership with the national Community Action Partnership, a Community Action Partnership hub was created specifically dedicated to addressing the federal requirement for community action agencies to conduct a community needs assessment. The Community Action Partnership Hub has a needs assessment tool that serves as a template for collecting data necessary to fulfill the federal requirement. For this report data was collected specific to Androscoggin, Kennebec and Oxford counties in Maine. The link to this data resource is <https://cap.engagementnetwork.org/assessment-tool/>.

Tables and graphs used in this report have source citation information included. In every case, the most up-to-date data information is used, the majority of which is from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey over the most recent five-year period, or the recently released 2017 update.

American Community Survey: The ACS is an annual survey of approximately three million households in the United States. It is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, and it is the largest survey other than the decennial census that is administered by the Census Bureau. The data are weighted to be representative of Maine’s population, and a method developed by the University of Missouri yields county-level estimates. The survey includes a breadth of topics that are helpful in understanding the characteristics of communities.

2019 Maine Kids Count Data Book produced by the Maine Children’s Alliance

<https://www.mekids.org/site/assets/files/1241/kidscount_2019.pdf>

2019 Measures of Growth produced by the Maine Development Foundation

<https://www.mdf.org/economic-policy-research/maine-economic-growth-council/2019-measures-of-growth-report/>

MaineHousing website data reports and interviews with MaineHousing staff: Housing Affordability Index for Androscoggin, Kennebec and Oxford counties; Homelessness 2018 Point in time Report,

<http://www.mainehousing.org/policy-research/housing-facts>

Wikipedia, Androscoggin County, Maine. Kennebec County, Maine. Oxford County, Maine. August 2019

Maine Department of Labor Center for Workforce Research

Maine Office of Policy & Management Town Population Projections

Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention, Shared Community Health Needs Assessments for Androscoggin, Kennebec and Oxford counties.

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/phdata/MaineCHNA/final-CHNA-reports.shtml>

**For questions about this report:** Please contact Janice E. Daku, Executive Director, Rural Community Action Ministry, by email: [janice@rcam.net](mailto:janice@rcam.net), or by phone at 207-524-1041 (direct line).

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