Statistics & Source Bibliography

1. Maine Child Welfare Ombudsman

2023: 49 of 82 reviewed cases had "substantial issues" — 59.8% (about 60%).

2023 Annual Report for Maine Child Welfare Ombudsman — Maine Child Welfare Services Ombudsman. Source link

> Report p. 9: 49 of 82 surveyed cases had substantial issues. The report defines these as deviations from best practice or policy that materially affected child safety/best interests or parents' rights.

2024: 44 of 80 reviewed cases had "substantial issues" — 55%.

2024 Annual Report - Maine Child Welfare Ombudsman — Maine Child Welfare Services Ombudsman. Source link

> Report p. 9: 44 of 80 surveyed cases had substantial issues. The report also said the Department continued to struggle in initial investigations and reunification safety decisions.

2025: 36 of 76 reviewed cases had "substantial issues" — 47.4% (about 47%).

2025 Annual Report - Maine Child Welfare Ombudsman — Maine Child Welfare Services Ombudsman. Source link

> Report p. 9: 36 of 76 surveyed cases had substantial issues. The Ombudsman also reported that 2025 showed practice improvement and halted a years-long decline.

Case example: a Preliminary Protection Order was obtained 3 months and 12 days after the initial report.

2025 Annual Report - Investigation Case Summary — Maine Child Welfare Services Ombudsman. Source link

> Report p. 14: the Ombudsman wrote that children were left unsafe with parents over three months; the case included domestic violence, admitted crack cocaine and methamphetamine use, and repeated unsafe-behavior reports. A PPO was finally obtained three months and twelve days after the initial report.

2. U.S. Department of Justice - Children with Behavioral Health Disabilities

June 22, 2022: DOJ notified Maine that it found the state in violation of Title II of the ADA.

September 9, 2024: DOJ filed suit against Maine.

November 25-26, 2024: DOJ filed/announced a settlement requiring significant changes.

U.S. v. Maine - case overview — U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. Source link

> DOJ states that its investigation found Maine failed to provide sufficient community-based behavioral health services, contributing to unnecessary institutionalization in hospitals, residential facilities, and juvenile detention. The case page provides the 2022 findings, 2024 lawsuit, and 2024 settlement timeline.

Justice Department Finds Maine in Violation of ADA for Over-Institutionalization of Children with Disabilities — U.S. Department of Justice. Source link

Justice Department Sues Maine for Violating the Americans with Disabilities Act — U.S. Department of Justice. Source link

Justice Department Secures Agreement with Maine to Ensure Children with Behavioral Health Disabilities Can Live at Home — U.S. Department of Justice. Source link

3. Education Statistics

Maine fourth-grade reading: 26% at or above NAEP Proficient in 2024, down from 36% in 2019.

NAEP State Profile - Maine, Grade 4 Reading, 2024 — National Center for Education Statistics / Nation's Report Card. Source link

> The 2024 federal state profile reports Maine's grade-4 reading average score of 210 and 26% at or above NAEP Proficient. NCES 2019 state tables report 36% for Maine in 2019.

2019 Reading Grades 4 and 8 - State Achievement-Level Results — National Center for Education Statistics / Nation's Report Card. Source link

2025 KIDS COUNT: Maine ranked 41st in the nation in the Education domain.

Education - KIDS COUNT Data Center — Annie E. Casey Foundation. Source link

> The KIDS COUNT state education ranking table lists Maine at 41st for the 2025 Data Book.

2026 KIDS COUNT: Maine again ranked 41st in Education and had the largest overall decline in child well-being since 2019.

2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book — Annie E. Casey Foundation. Source link

> The 2026 report states: "Maine saw the biggest drop in child well-being since 2019." It also says Maine was among the states with the steepest education losses since 2019.

2026 Interactive Data Book - Education: Maine — Annie E. Casey Foundation. Source link

> The interactive 2026 profile lists Maine's Education rank as 41.

4. MaineCare / Autism-Service Audit

HHS-OIG estimated at least $45.6 million in improper Maine Medicaid payments for autism-related RCS services.

The estimated federal share was $28.7 million; OIG recommended Maine refund $28,796,366.

All 100 sampled enrollee-months included at least one improper or potentially improper claim line.

Maine Made at Least $45.6 Million in Improper Fee-for-Service Medicaid Payments… — U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. Source link

> Issued January 16, 2026. OIG examined 2023 fee-for-service payments and characterized the $45.6 million as improper payments.

5. Maine DHHS Program-Integrity Actions

By June 2026: 5 provider payment suspensions based on credible allegations of fraud; 2 emergency provider terminations tied to credible serious health-and-safety complaints; 28 agencies disenrolled for failing to submit a claim within one year.

Program Integrity in Action: Recent MaineCare Oversight Activities — Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Source link

> Published August 5, 2026. These are enforcement actions described by Maine DHHS. A credible allegation of fraud is not the same as a criminal conviction.