

## State of the Districts 2021:

# House District 79

Albion, Benton (part) and China, plus Unity Township

Population		
Your District		Statewide
8,500	Total population	1,335,000
2%	Population who identify as people of color.	7%

Economic Growth & Employment		
Your District		Statewide
5.7%	Growth in taxable retail sales between 2019 and 2020. This is one indicator of economic growth.	4.9%
5.9%	Estimated unemployment in December 2020.	6.1%
85%	Adults age 25 to 54 who were working or looking for work in 2019. In the past, this rate has been as high as 90% statewide.	83%

Poverty & the Safety Net		
Your District		Statewide
7%	Children who live in poverty. Children in poverty have worse health and educational outcomes.	15%
8%	People who live in poverty. Mainers in poverty don't have the resources to meet their most basic needs.	12%
614	Households that claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit in 2018. The EITC boosts income for poor working families.	97,020
36%	Households that receive Social Security. The average monthly payment in this district is \$1574 per household.	37%
2%	Households that receive some cash assistance during the year. This includes TANF and General Assistance. The average TANF payment in Maine was \$202 per household per month in 2019.	3.0%

Food Security		
Your District		Statewide
14%	Households that were food insecure in 2020, meaning they could not afford enough nutritious food on a regular basis.	15%
14%	Households that received food assistance (SNAP) in 2019. The average monthly payment in Maine is \$109 per person.	14%

Education		
Your District		Statewide
5%	Working-age adults (age 25 to 64) who did not complete high school. Nearly three out of four jobs require a high school diploma.	5.8%
25%	Working-age adults who have a bachelor's degree. The national average is just over 32%.	32%

Health Care		
Your District		Statewide
12%	Nonelderly adults (age 19 to 64) who don't have health insurance.	11%
1%	Children who don't have health insurance. Children need access to health care to thrive in school and beyond.	5.2%
38% of people are enrolled one of the major public health care programs, including:		
22%	People enrolled in Medicare.	23%
20%	People enrolled in Medicaid (MaineCare)	19%
4%	People enrolled in coverage through the Veterans' Administration.	3.5%

## Notes

Except as noted below, data is from the United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey. The figures represent five-year estimates averaging the period from 2015 through 2019.

Taxable retail sales estimates are based on data from Maine Revenue Services. Change in sales compares total taxable sales in a six-month period from June through November 2019 with the equivalent 12-month period ending November 2020. Sales data are collected by "economic summary areas," which do not align exactly with legislative districts. For some districts, data were combined from multiple ESAs.

Unemployment estimates were calculated using ZIP code-level data on unemployment insurance claims from the Maine Department of Labor.

EITC data are from the United States Internal Revenue Service, as compiled by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Counts are for tax year 2018 (the most recent available). See [http://apps.cbpp.org/program\\_participation/](http://apps.cbpp.org/program_participation/)

Rates of food insecurity in 2020 were estimated using American Community Survey data on district demographics and economic condition, following a methodology used by *Feeding America*. See [feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data](https://feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data).

For more information and to compare legislative districts, visit [mecep.org/districtdata](https://mecep.org/districtdata).