

Good Public Policies = A Brighter Future for Kentucky Kids

A 25 Year Retrospective

## **SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: DATA SOURCES & DEFINITIONS**



### Children in Poverty

#### *Source Information:*

The U.S. Census Bureau's 1990 Decennial Census was used for the 1990 data point because it is the most reliable source of data for that year.

The U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates were used for 1995 to 2014 data because they provide consistently reliable data for Kentucky across that time period. The model estimates are created by combining survey data with population estimates and administrative records. Beginning with the 2005 estimates, the American Community Survey was used in the estimation procedure; all prior years used data from the Annual Social and Economic Supplements of the Current Population Survey.

#### *Definition:*

The percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. A family's poverty status is determined using inflation-adjusted income and household size and composition. The surveys do not determine the poverty status of children living in institutional group quarters or of children under the age of 15 who are living with unrelated caregivers, such as children in foster care. The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey response.

### Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment

#### *Source Information:*

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey was used for 2008 to 2014 data because it provides consistently reliable data for Kentucky across that time period. Pre-2008 data from the American Community Survey is not comparable due to substantial changes made in 2008 to the survey questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked.

To provide comparable pre-2008 data, the Kentucky State Data Center used the microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. The 1990 to 2007 data are provided as three-year averages to increase the reliability of the microdata, which is a subset of the survey data.

#### *Definition:*

The percentage of all children under age 18 living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment. For children living in single-parent families, this means the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. For children living in married-couple families, this means neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. Children living with neither parent were listed as not having secure parental employment because those children are likely to be economically vulnerable. Children under

age 18 who are householders, spouses of householders, or unmarried partners of householders were excluded from the analysis.

#### Fourth Graders Not Proficient in Reading

##### *Source Information:*

The U.S. Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) was used because it provides consistently reliable data for Kentucky across the past 25 years, whereas the assessment used by the Kentucky Department of Education has repeatedly changed over that time period. The NAEP is not administered every year. In Kentucky, the NAEP is taken by students from a large sample of public schools. In 2015, 107 of Kentucky's 173 school districts participated in the NAEP.

##### *Definition:*

The percentage of public school fourth grade students who scored below the proficient level in reading, as measured and defined by the NAEP. The NAEP uses a higher standard for proficiency than Kentucky's assessment; for example, the NAEP defines fourth grade reading proficiency as a score of at least 238, whereas the equivalent threshold for proficiency on Kentucky's assessment test is a score of at least 227.

#### Eighth Graders Not Proficient in Math

##### *Source Information:*

The U.S. Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) was used because it provides consistently reliable data for Kentucky across the past 25 years, whereas the assessment used by the Kentucky Department of Education has repeatedly changed over that time period. The NAEP is not administered every year. In Kentucky, the NAEP is taken by students from a large sample of public schools. In 2015, 107 of Kentucky's 173 school districts participated in the NAEP.

##### *Definition:*

The percentage of public school eighth grade students who scored below the proficient level in math, as measured and defined by the NAEP. The NAEP uses a higher standard for proficiency than Kentucky's assessment; for example, the NAEP defines eighth grade math proficiency as a score of at least 299, whereas the equivalent threshold for proficiency on Kentucky's assessment test is a score of at least 286.

#### Low-Birthweight Babies

##### *Source Information:*

Data were provided by the Kentucky Department for Public Health's Office of Vital Statistics and processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. The data include babies born out of state to mothers who were Kentucky residents. When the information for this variable (birthweight) was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births in the denominator.

##### *Definition:*

The percentage of all infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds.

## Children without Health Insurance

### *Source Information:*

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey was used for 2008 to 2014 data because it provides consistently reliable data for Kentucky across that time period. The American Community Survey did not collect data on this topic before 2008.

To provide comparable pre-2008 data, the Kentucky State Data Center used the microdata from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. The 1990 to 2007 data are provided as three-year averages to increase the reliability of the microdata, which is a subset of the survey data.

### *Definition:*

The percentage of children under age 18 not covered by any health insurance at the time the survey was taken. Children receiving health insurance through any private or public sources were counted as having health insurance.

## Teen Births

### *Source Information:*

Data were provided by the Kentucky Department for Public Health's Office of Vital Statistics and processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. The data include babies born out of state to mothers who were Kentucky residents. The U.S. Census Bureau's National Center for Health Statistics is the source of the female teen population data for the denominator in the rate calculation.

### *Definition:*

The number of births to females ages 15-19 per 1,000 females in this age group.

## Child and Teen Deaths

### *Source Information:*

Data were provided by the Kentucky Department for Public Health's Office of Vital Statistics and processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. The data include deaths of Kentucky youth that occurred out of state. The U.S. Census Bureau's National Center for Health Statistics is the source of the child and teen population data for the denominator in the rate calculation.

### *Definition:*

The number of deaths of youth ages 1-19 per 100,000 youth in this age group.