Tips and Tricks for Using the KIDS COUNT Data Center
If you’re looking for data for Kentucky’s counties or school districts...

• Skip a step by going straight to the Kentucky landing page at www.datacenter.kidscount.org/KY

• This is where Kentucky Youth Advocates has all the data we collect posted, but you’ll also be able to access all the Kentucky data the Annie E. Casey Foundation collects for the state as a whole, for Kentucky’s Congressional districts, and for Louisville (as one of the 50 most populous cities)
If you’re looking for data on a different state or for the nation as a whole...

• You’ll need to start at the home page or click on the BY LOCATION button; then click on a state in the map, or click on the VIEW U.S. DATA button
Don’t use the Search box!

• The Search box is not the best way to find the data you’re looking for because there is so much variation in how indicators of well-being are named.

• Example: “food stamps” versus “SNAP” and “poor” versus “in poverty”
How to find the data you need – Part 1

• Use the Locations toolbox to narrow down the data available for the geographic type you’re interested in

• KYA has approximately 100 indicators for Kentucky’s 120 counties and 173 public school districts

• Choose “By Council” if you live in Louisville to see data by Metro Council districts
How to find the data you need – Part 2

• Use the Topics toolbox to narrow down the data available for the issue area you’re interested in

• When you choose an issue area, subcategories will appear
Want to see data for more than one indicator at a time for your geographic area?

• Create a customized profile by clicking on the link to build a custom indicator report

• Use the series of check boxes to create your profile

• Don’t forget to create a report for both your county and your school district(s) to get the full picture of how children are faring in your community
Navigating an indicator page – Part 1

The default view is to portray the data in a table that shows the 5 most recent years of data available.

To quickly see which geography is doing best or worst on an indicator click on Sort/Rank.

Use the Locations toolbox to choose which counties you want to see data on.

Don’t forget to check the Compare to Kentucky box so you can see how a county is doing compared to the state as a whole.
Navigating an indicator page – Part 2

To download a spreadsheet for all the available years of data for an indicator click on Raw Data.

This is helpful if you want to assess long-term trends because this site will only show you up to 5 years of data at a time in the table view.

Always read the Definitions & Sources so you know exactly what you’re looking at.
Navigating an indicator page – Part 3

Tip:
Take advantage of the data visualization options!

Create a Kentucky map that shows you which regions are faring better than others and how your county is doing compared to your neighboring counties.

Create a line graph to compare up to 7 locations for up to 10 years of data to see how things have changed over time.

Create a bar graph to compare up to 5 locations for one year of data.
Navigating an indicator page – Part 3 ½

When using one of the 3 visualization options, you get a couple new options in your toolbox

You can embed the image you created into your website or blog

And you can save the image you created as a file so you can insert into a report or PowerPoint

When you embed an image on a site, it automatically updates itself when newer data is posted to the Data Center
Navigating an indicator page – Part 4

Use these options to share the data in old and new ways:

- Print it,
- Email a link to a specific page, or
- Share it through social networks like Facebook and Twitter and nearly 200 other options.
QUESTIONS?

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