



Kentucky *youth* Advocates  
**Kya**

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2017  
county  
data book



A PROJECT OF KENTUCKY YOUTH ADVOCATES AND THE KENTUCKY STATE DATA CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE



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# 2017 COUNTY DATA BOOK



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or place an order at [kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/](http://kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/).

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2017 Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* is the 27th annual report of both state and county data to measure and improve on child well-being. Many individuals and organizations devote significant time, energy, and ideas to the creation of this book. In particular, we would like to extend special thanks to Sarah Ehresman and Thomas Sawyer of the Kentucky State Data Center at the University of Louisville for their dedicated work collecting and processing some of the data featured in this book and online. Kentucky Youth Advocates also thanks graphic designer Rob Gorstein for his contributions.

The following Kentucky Youth Advocates staff and interns contributed to the production of this book: Debbie Abreu, Tina Agonva, Terry Brooks, Paul Colwell, Kelsey Dimar, Tammy Donoho, Cortney Downs, Tara Grieshop-Goodwin, Rebecca Hollis, Dale Ike, Mahak Kalra, Harper Kelly, Clarissa Mobley, Shannon Moody, Carli Jo Mosby, Mara Powell, Zak Roussel, Terrance Sullivan, Amy Swann, Patricia Tennen, DeWayne Westmoreland and Jessie Whitish.

## KIDS COUNT Data Partners

The following KIDS COUNT data partners make this project possible through special data runs, and Kentucky Youth Advocates is particularly grateful for their support:

Administrative Office of the Courts,  
Division of Juvenile Services

Council on Postsecondary Education

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family  
Services

Department for Community Based  
Services

Division of Child Care

Division of Family Support

Division of Protection and  
Permanency

Department for Income Support

Department for Medicaid Services

Department for Public Health

Childhood Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program

Nutrition Services Branch

Vital Statistics Branch

Office of Health Policy

Kentucky Department of Education

Office of Education Technology

Division of School Data Services

Office of Continuous Improvement  
and Support

Division of Student Success

Office of Teaching and Learning

Division of Program Standards

Kentucky Justice and Public Safety  
Cabinet, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Louisville Metro, Youth Detention Services

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## Featured Photographs

The photographs featured on the cover and throughout the book were provided by residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to celebrate the children in their lives. Photographers include:

Tina Agonva

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Harper Kelly

Jennifer Nettles

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Jessie Whitish

Kentucky KIDS COUNT is part of a nationwide initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich the local, state, and national discussion about how to secure better futures for all children. For more information on the KIDS COUNT initiative, visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation web site at [aecf.org](http://aecf.org).





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# foreword





Regular users of our annual County Data Book will notice a shift in how we present data on child well-being. In past years, we created an index of child well-being based on 16 key indicators and then ranked counties from top to bottom. This was a good way to show how children in one county were faring compared to other counties. It also made for great headlines in news coverage or tweets.

However, the tool was limited because it was simply a snapshot – kind of like an end of the year group photo of a Kindergarten classroom standing tallest to shortest. You can easily identify the tallest kid in the class, but how do you know whether it's a class full of short kids? Wouldn't it be more meaningful to look at those Kindergarteners and be able to answer questions like, how tall were they at the beginning of the year? Who grew the most? Who needs an extra helping of green beans?

Snapshots are great at capturing moments, but they fail to tell the story of change over time and don't offer us a vision for moving forward. In this year's book we are introducing a more holistic approach, looking at the past, the present, and the future. We share the most recent data on kids in their community along with data from five years prior, so users can answer the question: are we moving forward? What areas are we making progress on, and which areas need focused attention?

In addition, we offer a vision for what incremental progress would look like. We estimate how many children would be impacted if the state or the county improved by 10 percent on each measure.

For example, our state data trends show we made progress over the past five years in decreasing the percent of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, reducing them by 13 percent. To achieve another

10 percent reduction, we would need to help approximately 3,500 pregnant mothers quit smoking. Local communities can do their part to help reach this collective goal – whether through raising awareness of smoking cessation resources or adopting local comprehensive smokefree policies. Visit our website at [kyyouth.org](http://kyyouth.org) to find the new detailed profiles for your county.

### **Moving Forward for Kids: Investments in Our Future**

The message behind the KIDS COUNT data are clear: giving children opportunities to succeed is essential if our state is to reach its potential. These data illuminate the areas that demand our attention – both good and bad.

They show that 12 percent of children in Kentucky live in deep poverty. To put this in perspective, that equates to an annual income of \$12,000 or less for a family of four. They show a troubling trend of more children being placed in out-of-home care, with rate increases in 88 of Kentucky's 120 counties over the past five years.

They show that we have made progress in serving kids who get in trouble in communities instead of sending them to detention centers, with a 57 percent decrease in youth incarceration rates. Unnecessary detention exposes kids to trauma which can disrupt their healthy brain development. We need to celebrate this progress and protect it moving forward.

As this book goes to print, state agencies that serve children and families are preparing their requests for the next biennial state budget, and there is a lot at stake.

Kentucky kids and their families currently benefit from state investments in their education, health, economic security, and safety. Parents who earn limited incomes rely on the Child Care Assistance Program so their children are cared for safely while they work. Kids rely on the Department for Community Based Services to protect them if abuse and neglect is suspected and to invest in programs that keep families together safely. Children and communities rely on the Department of Juvenile Justice for programs that are effective at reaching the goals of getting youth on track to become productive members of their community.

Budgets are about making tough choices and setting priorities. Our children must be at the top of the list. Kentucky's children are counting on our state leaders to make the tough choices – whether that be raising revenue or protecting programs – to build a budget for kids. Our communities and the economy can only win when Kentucky kids and their families succeed.

Terry I. Brooks, Ed.D.  
*Executive Director  
Kentucky Youth Advocates*





# USING THE DATA BOOK AND KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

For 27 years, Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) has produced an annual Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* providing data on child well-being for professionals, policymakers, and community members working to improve the lives of children and families in the Commonwealth.

## A New Approach: Past, Present, Future

This year's *County Data Book* introduces a new approach for using data on child well-being to better inform efforts to help children. In addition to offering the most recent data, this Data Book portrays whether outcomes have improved, worsened, or stayed the same since five years prior (or as close as possible) for 17 key indicators – or points of measurement – of child well-being. It also offers a target for improvement, by calculating how many children would be impacted if the state improved its current rate by 10 percent.

Supplemental County Profiles, available on Kentucky Youth Advocates' website at [kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/](http://kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/), provide additional information for each county, including the baseline rates used for comparison and how many children would be impacted if the county improved by 10 percent. Taken together, these pieces of information enable communities to assess whether they are moving in the right direction for children and provide an incremental goal to work toward.

There is a major change to this year's book that past readers might notice. Rankings are no longer calculated for counties. Rankings allow comparisons between counties at a specific point in time, but a high rank does not necessarily mean a county is doing very well, or as well as desired – it simply means a


county is doing better than most other counties. Similarly, the changes in a county's rank from one year to the next could have more to do with how the data has changed in other counties than its own. Counties, and public school districts, can still be ranked on individual indicators of child well-being using the [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#).

As always, the Data Book provides a variety of important indicators of well-being that span childhood, from birth to adolescence, using the latest and strongest available data from federal and state agencies for Kentucky's communities. Indicators not portrayed in the Data Book can still be accessed on the [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#).

For a complete description of the definitions and data sources for each indicator, see page 50.


## A Continued Focus: How Place, Income, and Race Matter

This year's Data Book once again examines how children fare based on place, income, and race for key indicators of child well-being. As executive director Dr. Terry Brooks wrote last year, "The discomfiting truth is that the zip code in which Kentucky children live, the amount of money their family earns, and the color of their skin are pervasive and powerful influences on the childhood they will have and the future they can embrace." Policymakers and community members are encouraged to use the data showing disparities among Kentucky youth to engage in difficult but necessary conversations on these "discomfiting truths" and act to create pathways to success for all children, especially those who have historically been blocked from reaching their full potential.




### HOW PLACE MATTERS

A child growing up in a rural county, like Owsley County, will have different opportunities than a child growing up in an urban county, like Jefferson County.



### HOW INCOME MATTERS

A child whose family is living in poverty will have different life experiences than a child whose family is financially secure.



### HOW RACE MATTERS

A Black child will have different experiences in the classroom than a White child.

## Important Data Reminders

- Data are based on different timeframes (i.e., calendar year, school year, three-year aggregates, and five-year aggregates). Readers should check each indicator, definition, and data source to determine the reported time period.
- When there are only a small number of incidents representing a particular indicator, the original data source or Kentucky Youth Advocates may choose to not provide (i.e. suppress) that data, either to protect confidentiality – individuals may be easy to identify when there are a very small number of incidents in a county – or because reporting a small number of intermittent incidents would create an inaccurate picture. When this occurs, rates cannot be calculated.
- Data are portrayed as rates to account for varying population sizes – that is, the data identifies the number of instances something occurred per a fixed number of people. Percentages and rates were calculated using standard mathematical formulas. Check each indicator, definition, and data source to determine the denominator used in the rate calculation and whether the rate is per 100 or per 1,000.

## The KIDS COUNT Data Center

The KIDS COUNT Data Center provides easy access to county and school district data for the approximately one hundred indicators tracked by the Kentucky KIDS COUNT project. To access the data, go to [datacenter.kidscount.org/KY](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/KY). Use the navigation tools on the left side of the page to choose the desired level of geography and hone in on topics of interest. The KIDS COUNT Data Center also contains national and state data provided by the National KIDS COUNT project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The KIDS COUNT Data Center allows users to:

- Rank states, Kentucky counties, and Kentucky school districts on key indicators of child well-being;
- Create a customized profile of data for a selected county or school district including any or all of the indicators

in the Kentucky KIDS COUNT project;

- Generate customized maps for presentations and publications that show how children are faring across communities; and
- Embed automatically updated maps and graphs in websites or blogs.

### KIDS COUNT data center

[datacenter.kidscount.org/ky](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ky)

Hundreds of child well-being indicators at your fingertips to support smart decision making and good policies for children and families.



Compare Kentucky to other states, or compare Kentucky counties and school districts, on hundreds of statistics relevant to your community.

Now search by characteristic



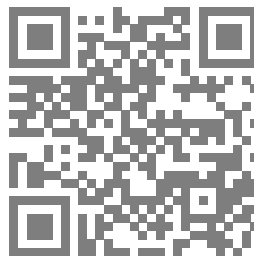
Search by age



Search by family nativity



Search by race and ethnicity



Create custom profiles, maps, line graphs and bar charts with the data that you find.



Post data visualizations on Facebook, add custom graphics to Tumblr and tweet about how the well-being of your state's children compares with the region and nation.

## SIGNATURE SPONSOR



Passport Health Plan is pleased to sponsor the latest edition of the KIDS COUNT *County Data Book*. As the Commonwealth's only nonprofit community-based Medicaid health plan, we understand the importance of utilizing quality data to help build healthier communities and we realize that in order to be successful, we must start with our future – our children.

At Passport, our mission is to improve the health and quality of life of our members, and we have been committed to helping all Kentuckians live healthier lives for two decades. The data compiled by Kentucky Youth Advocates and presented in this report demonstrates that healthy choices and access to quality healthcare are paramount to a child's success.

At Passport, we work closely with our provider partners, schools, and community agencies to ensure that all kids get the services they need to live healthier, happier lives.

We commend Kentucky Youth Advocates for their work on behalf of Kentucky's children, and we are pleased to partner with them on this endeavor.

Together, we can make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark Carter  
*CEO, Passport Health Plan*



## DIAMOND SPONSOR



Since 1923 Kosair Charities® has had one primary mission – helping children in need. Kosair Charities knows that the quality of a child’s tomorrow depends largely on the quality of health and opportunities a child receives today.

As the largest children’s charity in the history of this region, we have stepped up to ensure children have what they need to thrive and are proud to support over 100 pediatric agencies in our community with funding for child advocacy, research, and care every year. We’ve always been there. We’ll always be here.

Because we are determined that the next generation of children will not experience the same problems as they experience today, we rely on quality data to help us make decisions and drive change. Data helps us know where we are and what needs to happen to make circumstances better for all children. Data can ensure we target resources where there is the greatest need.

The Kentucky KIDS COUNT project utilizes quality data to provide a report card on how kids are doing across Kentucky. It helps us see where the greatest challenges exist and, just as importantly, highlights progress made. Kosair Charities is proud to sponsor Kentucky Youth Advocates’ 2017 Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book*. This valuable resource provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates is essential to each of us and to the children of the Commonwealth. The data in this book can truly help us make changes with a lasting impact for Kentucky kids.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerry Ward".

Jerry Ward  
*Chairman of the Board, Kosair Charities*

## DIAMOND SPONSOR



Delta Dental of Kentucky is the largest and oldest dental benefits administrator in Kentucky. As a local, not-for-profit organization, our core purpose is advancing oral health care for the Commonwealth through our dental benefit programs and philanthropic efforts. We currently serve over 690,000 members, approximately 220,000 of which are children, and have a vested interest in improving the oral health of all children in the state. Statistics point to a wealth of advantages for those with good oral hygiene and early dental care. According to the American Dental Association, children with healthy teeth miss fewer school days and visit emergency rooms less frequently, which translates into better overall health as adults. Unfortunately the status of children's oral health in Kentucky is less than optimal.

That is why we decided to partner with Kentucky Youth Advocates and the University of Louisville School Of Dentistry through our Making Smiles Happen® initiative to launch the first statewide survey of children's oral health conducted since 2001. Data was collected from examinations of more than 2,000 third and sixth graders over the 2015-16 school year. The resulting surveillance report outlines several recommendations that, when put into action, can move the needle forward on the oral health status of Kentucky children.

That's why Delta Dental of Kentucky has taken action by providing \$1 million to launch five regional networks across the state. These networks are engaging diverse partners and are currently developing local, data-driven oral health solutions for the children of Kentucky.

As a sponsor of the KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* and as a member of the Kentucky Oral Health Coalition through Kentucky Youth Advocates, we feel very strongly that the best way to achieve our goals is through planning, prevention, and collaboration. The KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* results will be the report card for how we measure our progress in our quest to improve oral health.

The well-being of our children is the key to the future success of our families, communities, and businesses. We are proud to support this publication and Kentucky Youth Advocates as the truly independent voice for children in the Commonwealth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Jude Thompson", written in a cursive style.

J. Jude Thompson


*Chief Executive Officer, Delta Dental of Kentucky*

# KENTUCKY COUNTIES





# STATE DATA TRENDS

		BASELINE DATA	LATEST DATA	CHANGE SINCE BASELINE*	TO ACHIEVE 10 PERCENT IMPROVEMENT
<b>ECONOMIC SECURITY</b> 	<b>CHILDREN IN DEEP POVERTY</b> (below 50% of the federal poverty level) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 120,857	12% 2006-10	12% 2011-15	=	13,510 FEWER CHILDREN
	<b>CHILDREN IN POVERTY</b> (below 100% of the federal poverty level) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 250,180	26.1% 2010	25.3% 2015	✓	24,720 FEWER CHILDREN
	<b>CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES</b> (below 200% of the federal poverty level) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 481,060	47% 2006-10	48% 2011-15	✗	51,660 FEWER CHILDREN
	<b>CHILDREN LIVING IN FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS</b> NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 202,050	22.4% 2011	20.0% 2015	✓	20,150 FEWER CHILDREN
<b>EDUCATION</b> 	<b>KINDERGARTENERS READY TO LEARN</b> NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 23,338	49.0% SY 2013-14	50.1% SY 2016-17	✓	2,329 MORE CHILDREN
	<b>FOURTH GRADERS PROFICIENT IN READING</b> NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 26,148	47.1% SY 2011-12	49.9% SY 2016-17	✓	2,620 MORE CHILDREN
	<b>EIGHTH GRADERS PROFICIENT IN MATH</b> NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 24,268	41.6% SY 2011-12	48.7% SY 2016-17	✓	2,442 MORE CHILDREN
	<b>HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATING ON TIME</b> NUMBER OF TEENS: 43,837	86.1% SY 2012-13	89.8% SY 2016-17	✓	4,382 MORE TEENS

## HEALTH



	BASELINE DATA	LATEST DATA	CHANGE SINCE BASELINE*	TO ACHIEVE 10 PERCENT IMPROVEMENT
<b>SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY</b>	<b>23.8%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>		<b>3,533</b>
NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 34,535	2008-10	2013-15		FEWER BIRTHS
<b>LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>		<b>1,524</b>
NUMBER OF BABIES: 14,598	2008-10	2013-15		FEWER BABIES
<b>CHILDREN UNDER 19 WITH HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	<b>93.3%</b>	<b>95.7%</b>		<b>44,560</b>
NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 993,257	2010	2015		MORE CHILDREN
<b>YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 19-25) WITH HEALTH INSURANCE</b>		<b>77%</b>		<b>29,900</b>
NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS: 316,583		2011-15		MORE YOUNG ADULTS
<b>TEEN BIRTHS</b> (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	<b>48.9</b>	<b>34.6</b>		<b>1,459</b>
NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 14,430	2008-10	2013-15		FEWER BIRTHS

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY



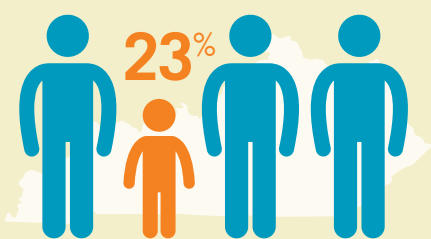
<b>BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>14.6%</b>		<b>2,566</b>
NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 24,362	2008-10	2013-15		FEWER BIRTHS
<b>CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE</b> (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)	<b>35.3</b>	<b>41.1</b>		<b>4,131</b>
NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 41,553	2011-13	2014-16		FEWER CHILDREN
<b>YOUTH INCARCERATED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM</b> (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	<b>61.7</b>	<b>26.4</b>		<b>1,218</b>
NUMBER OF YOUTH: 12,012	2008-10	2014-16		FEWER YOUTH
<b>CHILDREN LIVING IN HIGH-POVERTY AREAS</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>41%</b>		<b>46,490</b>
NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 421,414	2006-10	2011-15		FEWER CHILDREN

Better
 No Change
 Worse
 Baseline data not available for this indicator

\*Changes were not tested for statistical significance

# CHILD POPULATION AGES 0-4 AND AGES 0-17

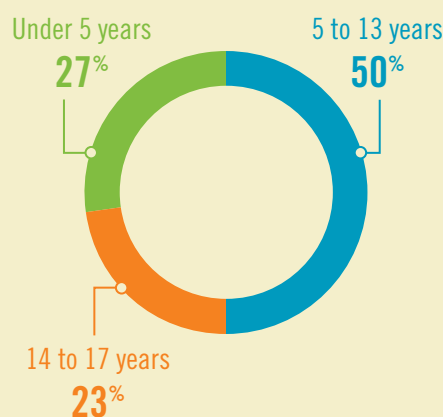
Nearly 1 in 4 Kentuckians are children.



Percentage of Kentucky Population Under Age 18: 2016

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Population Estimates.

Child population by age groups: 2016



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Population Estimates.

	2016			2016	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17		Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Kentucky	275,753	1,010,629	Daviess	6,762	24,335
Adair	1,020	3,948	Edmonson	569	2,306
Allen	1,296	4,929	Elliott	352	1,379
Anderson	1,311	5,248	Estill	801	3,110
Ballard	407	1,747	Fayette	19,899	67,167
Barren	2,889	10,444	Fleming	962	3,573
Bath	860	3,127	Floyd	2,279	8,070
Bell	1,648	5,748	Franklin	2,893	10,628
Boone	8,784	34,579	Fulton	374	1,298
Bourbon	1,212	4,536	Gallatin	512	2,123
Boyd	2,946	10,332	Garrard	954	3,808
Boyle	1,640	6,115	Grant	1,839	6,773
Bracken	546	2,051	Graves	2,457	8,985
Breathitt	821	2,808	Grayson	1,695	6,203
Breckinridge	1,142	4,597	Green	573	2,348
Bullitt	4,189	17,848	Greenup	1,954	7,823
Butler	762	2,891	Hancock	606	2,253
Caldwell	750	2,808	Hardin	7,200	26,465
Calloway	1,962	6,922	Harlan	1,773	6,076
Campbell	5,454	19,697	Harrison	1,087	4,297
Carlisle	327	1,089	Hart	1,250	4,463
Carroll	806	2,731	Henderson	2,827	10,798
Carter	1,732	6,100	Henry	879	3,735
Casey	1,017	3,619	Hickman	228	921
Christian	6,930	19,823	Hopkins	2,791	10,532
Clark	2,113	8,011	Jackson	800	3,009
Clay	1,303	4,453	Jefferson	48,616	171,635
Clinton	617	2,354	Jessamine	3,517	12,868
Crittenden	563	2,133	Johnson	1,409	5,167
Cumberland	411	1,455	Kenton	11,096	39,777

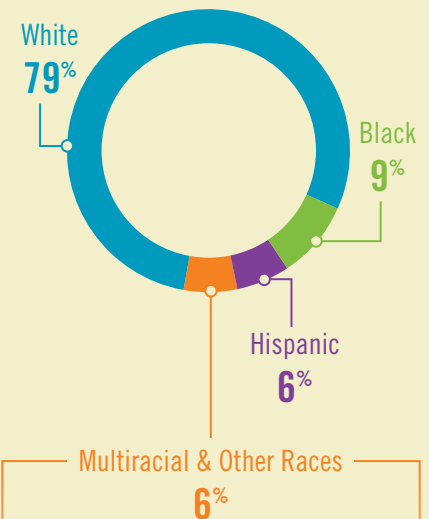
Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Population Estimates.



	2016	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Knott	898	3,231
Knox	2,054	7,445
LaRue	779	3,087
Laurel	3,652	13,938
Lawrence	1,066	3,799
Lee	360	1,343
Leslie	639	2,278
Letcher	1,351	4,961
Lewis	757	2,943
Lincoln	1,507	5,634
Livingston	517	1,881
Logan	1,688	6,296
Lyon	258	1,185
McCracken	3,853	14,307
McCreary	1,043	3,818
McLean	557	2,261
Madison	5,109	18,778
Magoffin	761	2,881
Marion	1,252	4,724
Marshall	1,695	6,547
Martin	591	2,415
Mason	1,040	4,027
Meade	1,419	6,536
Menifee	338	1,256
Mercer	1,258	4,761
Metcalfe	631	2,358
Monroe	667	2,402
Montgomery	1,845	6,647
Morgan	672	2,516
Muhlenberg	1,658	6,426

	2016	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Nelson	2,937	11,085
Nicholas	435	1,672
Ohio	1,406	5,913
Oldham	3,314	16,704
Owen	537	2,409
Owsley	267	985
Pendleton	868	3,333
Perry	1,827	6,059
Pike	3,323	12,526
Powell	821	2,960
Pulaski	3,649	14,289
Robertson	115	425
Rockcastle	917	3,680
Rowan	1,325	4,623
Russell	1,103	4,003
Scott	3,483	13,614
Shelby	3,088	11,102
Simpson	1,137	4,389
Spencer	1,045	4,302
Taylor	1,593	5,644
Todd	857	3,273
Trigg	741	3,063
Trimble	487	1,938
Union	803	2,868
Warren	8,033	28,324
Washington	751	2,811
Wayne	1,133	4,311
Webster	848	3,116
Whitley	2,692	8,945
Wolfe	413	1,669
Woodford	1,478	5,845

## Child population by race/ethnicity: 2016



American Indian & Alaska Native.....	1,713
Asian.....	16,574
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islanders...	713
Two or More Races.....	40,766

**SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Population Estimates.

Find county-level estimates for race/ethnicity at [datacenter.kidscount.org/ky](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ky).





## ECONOMIC SECURITY

Children fare better when their families can pay their bills and buy what they need. Robust local economies strengthen Kentucky's financial health, and those economies rely upon stable working families. Economic security refers to a family's ability to meet its needs in a way that promotes the health and well-being of parents and addresses the physical, emotional, and educational needs of children. A family's earnings and its poverty status, the level of poverty in its neighborhood, and the affordability of housing can all affect how a child grows, learns, and ultimately succeeds as an adult.

### EXPLORE

Find additional county-level data at [datacenter.kidscount.org/ky](https://datacenter.kidscount.org/ky) for economic security indicators including:



Employment, income, and poverty

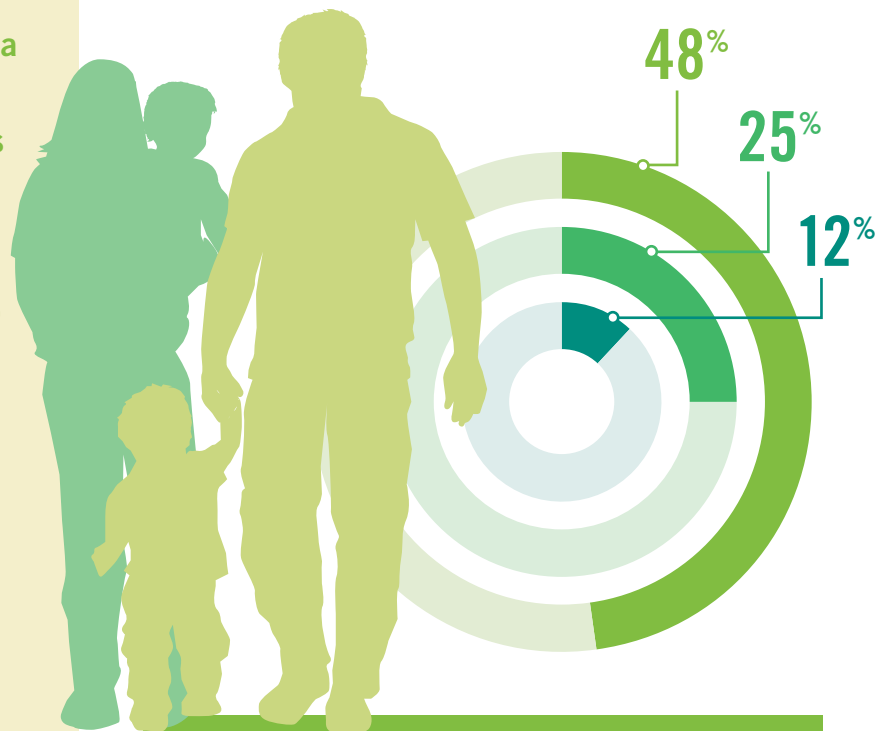


Housing affordability



Family supports and tax credits

A family of four in rural Kentucky needs \$58,005 per year to adequately support itself, yet many families fall short.



#### PERCENT OF KENTUCKY CHILDREN

48%

##### IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Annual income of \$48,072 or less for a family of 4

25%

##### IN POVERTY

Annual income of \$24,036 or less for a family of 4

12%

##### IN DEEP POVERTY

Annual income of \$12,018 or less for a family of 4

SOURCES: Economic Policy Institute's Family Budget Calculator and the U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Thresholds.



## Place, Income, and Race Matter for Childhood Food Security

### *A deeper look at childhood food insecurity*

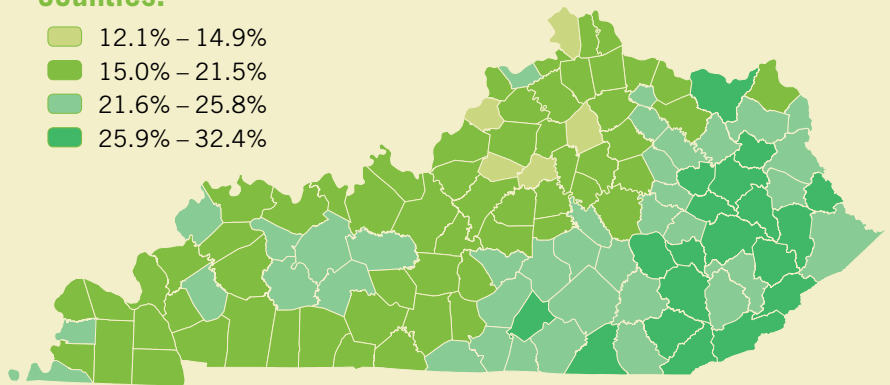
Adequate nutrition is essential for children's physical growth and brain development, yet hundreds of thousands of Kentucky children must worry about when their next meal will be. Children experiencing food insecurity are more likely than others to have poorer physical and oral health, cognitive problems, behavioral problems, and anxiety.<sup>1</sup> We know it is possible to reduce the rate of children living in food insecure households; after the national rate jumped at the start of the Great Recession, it has been gradually declining.<sup>2</sup>

### How Place Matters

A child's likelihood of living in a food insecure household varies greatly across Kentucky's counties (see map), with only five counties having less than 15 percent of children in food insecure households and 24 counties having at least one in every four children living in a food insecure household. Counties that have had persistently high poverty rates over the past few decades also have high rates of child food insecurity.<sup>3</sup> Eighteen Kentucky counties are in the top 10 percent of U.S. counties with the highest rates of child food insecurity, and all of them are rural counties.<sup>4,5</sup>

### Childhood food insecurity is higher in Kentucky's rural counties.

- 12.1% – 14.9%
- 15.0% – 21.5%
- 21.6% – 25.8%
- 25.9% – 32.4%



Percent of children Living in Food Insecure Households, 2015

SOURCE: Feeding America's 2017 Map the Meal Gap.

Nationwide, rural counties are disproportionately more likely to have high rates of child food insecurity than metropolitan counties.<sup>6</sup> Several factors contribute to this disproportionality. Employment in rural areas is more concentrated in low-wage industries, unemployment and underemployment rates are higher in rural areas, and public transportation is frequently unavailable.<sup>7</sup>

### How Income Matters

Though related, food insecurity and poverty are not the same. Nationally, it is estimated that less than half of households with children in poverty (44 percent) are food insecure.<sup>8</sup> However, most children in food insecure households live in low-income families. In Kentucky, 26 percent of food insecure children are estimated to have household incomes too high to be eligible for federal nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called food stamps), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and free/reduced-price school meals.<sup>9</sup>

### Most Kentucky children in food insecure households are eligible for federal nutrition programs.

- Incomes at or below 185% federal poverty level



Estimated Eligibility for Federal Nutrition Programs among Food Insecure Children in Kentucky, 2015

SOURCE: Feeding America's 2017 Map the Meal Gap.





## Achieving Food Security for All Children

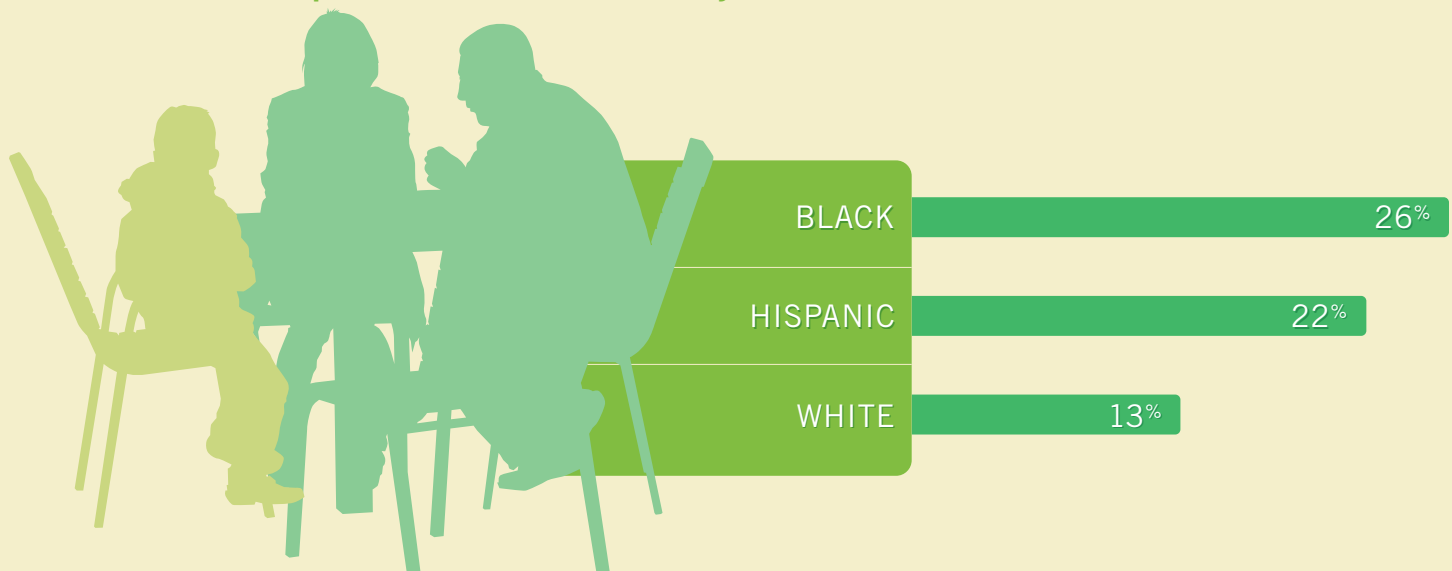
Kentucky can achieve food security for all children, in part, by increasing the participation rates of children and families in all food assistance programs for which they are eligible.<sup>16</sup> Innovative delivery models can overcome transportation barriers. For example, the summer meals program could deliver food into low-income neighborhoods instead of requiring families to travel to a site.<sup>17</sup> Adopting a state refundable Earned Income Tax Credit would allow low-income working parents to keep more of their hard-earned income to provide nutritious food for their children.<sup>18</sup> Also, localities can use economic and land-use policies to allow and incentivize the development of grocery stores in low-income neighborhoods.<sup>19</sup>

## How Race Matters

The historical and ongoing discrimination faced by people in color in employment decisions and banking and lending services has contributed to the disproportionately high rates of poverty and unemployment as well as lower homeownership rates in Black and Hispanic communities. These economic factors are associated with increased risk of food insecurity among households with children.<sup>10</sup> Nationally, Black children are twice as likely as non-Hispanic White children to live in a food insecure household (26 percent versus 13 percent, respectively), and Hispanic children also have a higher rate at 22 percent.<sup>11</sup>

Environmental factors also influence racial disparities in food security. Black and Hispanic families are disproportionately located in low-income communities, which have fewer supermarkets and less access to healthy and affordable foods.<sup>12,13</sup> Even when controlling for factors such as income, one nationwide study found that Blacks had half as much access to chain supermarkets as Whites, and Hispanics had one-third the access to chain supermarkets as non-Hispanics.<sup>14</sup> This is important, as access to supermarkets can reduce food insecurity, especially among households with children.<sup>15</sup>

**Black and Hispanic children are more likely to live in food insecure households.**



Percent of U.S. Food Insecure Households with Children, by Race and Ethnicity, 2016

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Household Food Security in the United States in 2016*.

# ECONOMIC SECURITY



	Children in deep poverty (below 50% of the federal poverty level)		Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		Children living in food insecure households	
	2011-15	Change since 2006-10	2015	Change since 2010	2011-15	Change since 2006-10	2015	Change since 2011
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>✗</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>✓</b>
Adair	11%	✗	41.0%	✗	53%	✓	22.8%	✗
Allen	S	N/A	30.2%	✓	51%	✓	18.5%	✓
Anderson	S	N/A	16.8%	✓	34%	✗	14.9%	✓
Ballard	9%	N/A	24.5%	✗	48%	=	20.6%	✗
Barren	13%	✓	28.7%	✓	58%	✗	20.3%	✓
Bath	15%	✓	37.8%	✓	65%	✓	24.2%	✓
Bell	30%	✗	56.8%	✗	75%	✗	29.7%	✗
Boone	3%	✓	10.5%	✓	27%	✗	13.7%	✗
Bourbon	8%	=	24.4%	✓	45%	✗	17.9%	✓
Boyd	16%	✗	29.4%	✗	52%	✗	22.5%	✗
Boyle	7%	✓	24.9%	✗	46%	✓	18.0%	✓
Bracken	10%	=	24.7%	=	45%	✓	20.5%	✓
Breathitt	16%	✓	42.9%	✗	72%	✗	27.8%	✗
Breckinridge	7%	✓	25.6%	✓	50%	✓	18.6%	✓
Bullitt	3%	✓	14.5%	✓	34%	✓	15.6%	✓
Butler	16%	✗	31.3%	✗	72%	✗	25.8%	✗
Caldwell	23%	N/A	29.4%	✗	50%	✗	21.9%	✓
Calloway	10%	✗	24.1%	✗	43%	✗	18.1%	✗
Campbell	11%	✗	17.8%	✗	37%	✗	16.7%	✓
Carlisle	S	N/A	25.2%	✗	61%	✗	23.5%	✗
Carroll	25%	✗	28.7%	✓	56%	✗	24.2%	✓
Carter	14%	✗	29.4%	✓	54%	✓	22.4%	✓
Casey	16%	✓	38.2%	✓	60%	✓	22.0%	✓
Christian	11%	✓	28.9%	✓	60%	✓	20.0%	✓
Clark	8%	✓	23.9%	✓	43%	✓	17.8%	✓
Clay	18%	✓	53.0%	✗	66%	✗	30.2%	✗
Clinton	8%	✓	39.6%	✗	69%	✓	22.6%	✓
Crittenden	10%	N/A	31.3%	✓	49%	✓	20.8%	✗
Cumberland	17%	✗	36.2%	✓	67%	✗	22.6%	✓



	Children in deep poverty (below 50% of the federal poverty level)		Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		Children living in food insecure households	
	2011-15	Change since 2006-10	2015	Change since 2010	2011-15	Change since 2006-10	2015	Change since 2011
Daviess	13%	✗	20.9%	✓	49%	✗	18.1%	✓
Edmonson	6%	N/A	28.6%	✓	46%	✓	17.8%	✓
Elliott	26%	✗	40.3%	✗	67%	✓	27.5%	✓
Estill	16%	✓	38.8%	✓	71%	✗	25.3%	✓
Fayette	10%	✗	22.6%	✓	43%	✗	16.0%	✓
Fleming	15%	✗	31.8%	✗	58%	✓	20.3%	✗
Floyd	25%	=	43.1%	✓	64%	✓	28.0%	✗
Franklin	13%	✗	22.5%	✓	43%	✓	17.8%	✓
Fulton	17%	✓	47.6%	✗	59%	✓	22.4%	✓
Gallatin	8%	✓	23.8%	✓	52%	✓	18.6%	✓
Garrard	11%	✗	24.3%	✓	54%	✗	21.7%	✓
Grant	20%	✗	27.0%	✗	53%	=	20.6%	✓
Graves	12%	=	27.4%	✓	47%	✓	18.4%	✓
Grayson	13%	✓	32.5%	✗	59%	✗	23.6%	✓
Green	9%	✓	29.1%	✓	52%	✗	18.8%	✓
Greenup	13%	=	23.5%	✓	46%	✗	20.9%	✗
Hancock	14%	✗	20.0%	✓	46%	✗	19.9%	✗
Hardin	10%	✗	21.6%	✓	45%	✓	18.0%	✓
Harlan	19%	✓	47.7%	✗	64%	=	29.1%	✗
Harrison	11%	=	24.4%	=	44%	✓	19.8%	✓
Hart	12%	✗	31.1%	✓	62%	✗	21.5%	✓
Henderson	12%	✗	24.2%	✗	49%	✓	20.1%	✗
Henry	17%	✗	26.5%	✗	52%	✓	20.2%	✓
Hickman	S	N/A	29.9%	✓	70%	✗	18.8%	✗
Hopkins	14%	✗	26.6%	✓	45%	✓	20.0%	✓
Jackson	19%	✗	41.0%	✗	72%	✗	27.2%	✓
Jefferson	11%	✓	22.4%	✓	46%	✗	17.0%	✓
Jessamine	15%	✗	23.8%	✗	47%	✗	19.5%	✓
Johnson	18%	✗	34.4%	✗	61%	✗	24.1%	✗
Kenton	12%	✗	18.2%	✓	41%	✗	17.9%	✗

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

S = Data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression.

# ECONOMIC SECURITY



	Children in deep poverty (below 50% of the federal poverty level)		Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		Children living in food insecure households	
	2011-15	Change since 2006-10	2015	Change since 2010	2011-15	Change since 2006-10	2015	Change since 2011
Knott	21%	✓	46.4%	✗	60%	✓	27.4%	✗
Knox	20%	✓	45.2%	✓	77%	✗	29.1%	✓
LaRue	13%	✓	27.7%	✓	62%	✗	20.6%	✓
Laurel	20%	✗	33.1%	✓	59%	✗	23.1%	✓
Lawrence	8%	✓	34.3%	✗	53%	✓	22.8%	✓
Lee	18%	✓	50.2%	✓	61%	✓	24.8%	✓
Leslie	14%	N/A	39.4%	✗	51%	✓	25.4%	✗
Letcher	24%	✗	41.9%	✗	61%	✗	28.3%	✗
Lewis	23%	✗	35.6%	✓	68%	✗	27.2%	✓
Lincoln	17%	✗	31.4%	✓	62%	✗	23.3%	✓
Livingston	S	N/A	25.0%	✗	50%	✗	18.0%	✓
Logan	14%	✓	24.3%	✓	52%	=	19.7%	✓
Lyon	11%	N/A	22.4%	✗	47%	✗	20.6%	✓
McCracken	13%	✗	24.6%	✓	47%	✗	19.4%	✗
McCreary	31%	✗	51.9%	✗	75%	✗	29.1%	✓
McLean	15%	✗	26.0%	✗	56%	✓	22.7%	✗
Madison	9%	=	20.1%	✓	41%	✓	17.7%	✓
Magoffin	20%	✓	45.1%	✗	60%	✗	30.7%	✓
Marion	16%	✗	27.6%	✗	57%	✗	19.3%	✗
Marshall	8%	✗	19.5%	✗	41%	=	16.6%	✓
Martin	21%	=	45.3%	✗	73%	✗	28.5%	✓
Mason	8%	✓	29.3%	✓	53%	✗	20.2%	✓
Meade	11%	✗	20.3%	✓	50%	✗	19.0%	✓
Menifee	33%	N/A	43.5%	✗	67%	=	28.7%	✓
Mercer	14%	N/A	21.9%	✓	50%	✗	19.6%	✗
Metcalfe	14%	✗	38.4%	✗	67%	✗	21.4%	✓
Monroe	19%	✓	37.8%	✓	65%	✓	23.7%	✓
Montgomery	13%	✓	29.9%	✗	58%	✗	23.6%	✓
Morgan	17%	✓	40.9%	✗	66%	✗	26.1%	✓
Muhlenberg	14%	=	26.2%	✓	56%	✗	21.8%	✓
Nelson	14%	✗	18.8%	✓	47%	✗	18.6%	✓





	Children in deep poverty (below 50% of the federal poverty level)		Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		Children living in food insecure households	
	2011-15	Change since 2006-10	2015	Change since 2010	2011-15	Change since 2006-10	2015	Change since 2011
Nicholas	S	N/A	34.3%	✗	61%	✗	23.6%	✗
Ohio	18%	✗	27.5%	✓	61%	✗	22.9%	=
Oldham	2%	✓	6.7%	✓	17%	✗	12.1%	✓
Owen	S	N/A	25.4%	✗	52%	✗	18.0%	✓
Owsley	S	N/A	61.6%	✗	62%	✓	27.1%	✓
Pendleton	11%	✓	23.5%	✗	40%	✓	18.7%	✓
Perry	15%	✓	37.2%	✓	57%	✓	23.3%	✓
Pike	12%	=	32.0%	✓	55%	✗	23.8%	✗
Powell	11%	✓	39.3%	✓	45%	✓	22.7%	✓
Pulaski	21%	✗	31.7%	✗	56%	✗	23.2%	✓
Robertson	S	N/A	36.7%	✗	61%	✗	25.4%	✓
Rockcastle	17%	✓	32.4%	✓	63%	✗	22.5%	✓
Rowan	13%	✓	32.4%	✗	53%	✗	22.9%	✓
Russell	18%	✗	35.8%	✓	58%	✗	27.2%	✗
Scott	7%	✓	18.1%	✗	32%	✓	14.9%	✓
Shelby	8%	✗	17.1%	✓	40%	✗	15.1%	✓
Simpson	S	N/A	26.2%	✗	49%	✗	20.2%	✗
Spencer	S	N/A	11.9%	✓	32%	✗	13.2%	✓
Taylor	14%	✓	33.8%	✓	67%	✗	24.2%	✗
Todd	5%	✓	28.1%	✓	55%	✓	18.0%	✓
Trigg	S	N/A	26.5%	✗	54%	✗	20.7%	✓
Trimble	S	N/A	22.3%	✗	38%	✗	18.7%	✗
Union	13%	✗	20.7%	✓	54%	✗	22.1%	✗
Warren	10%	=	22.9%	✓	47%	=	17.9%	✓
Washington	9%	N/A	23.6%	✓	43%	✓	16.8%	✓
Wayne	24%	✗	40.3%	✓	66%	✓	25.2%	✓
Webster	8%	✓	24.9%	✗	51%	✗	19.7%	✗
Whitley	19%	✗	38.9%	✗	69%	✗	24.2%	✓
Wolfe	38%	✓	50.4%	✗	72%	=	32.4%	✓
Woodford	8%	✓	17.0%	✗	35%	✓	15.6%	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

S = Data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression.





## EDUCATION

The quality of our state's future workforce depends on the educational achievement of our children. Early academic success paves the road to higher education, better paying jobs, and stable careers, ultimately contributing to a more prosperous Commonwealth. Education begins at home, starting in infancy, and continues throughout childhood and adolescence with instruction and support from the schools, family, and community. The entire state benefits when we help kids grow into educated young adults who contribute to the community.

### EXPLORE

Find additional county and school district data at [datacenter.kidscount.org/ky](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ky) for education indicators including:



Early childhood care, education, and school preparedness



Student and school district demographics



Attendance, absenteeism, and discipline



School district funding and student ratios




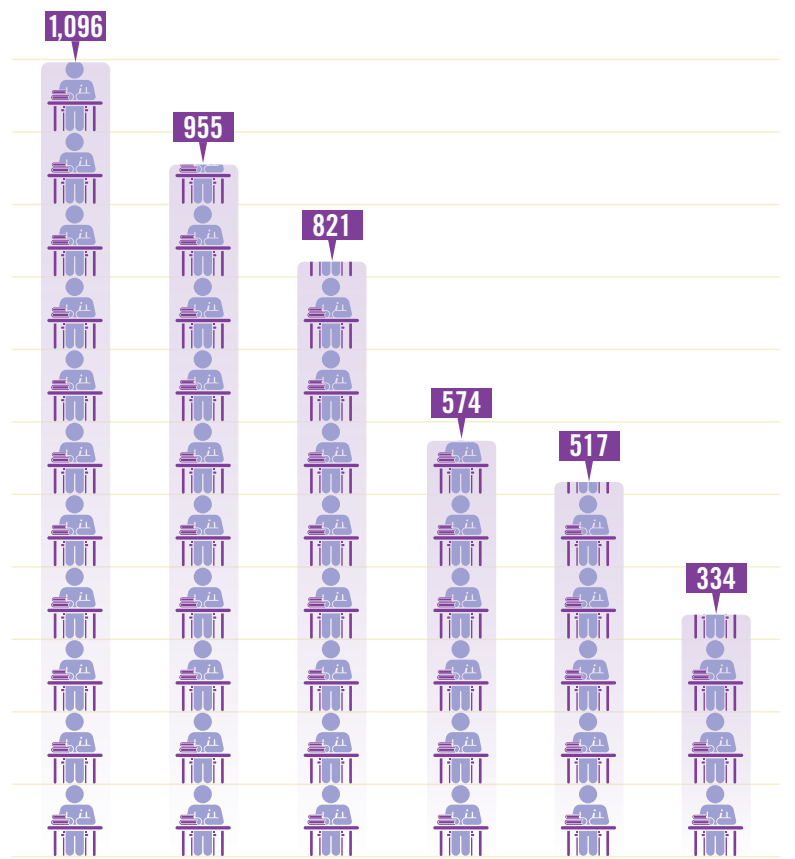
Academic proficiency and graduation rates



Young adult college and career readiness and transitions

Although the use of corporal punishment has declined over time, the practice still remains in some Kentucky schools

 = 100 Students



SY 2011-2012 SY 2012-2013 SY 2013-2014 SY 2014-2015 SY 2015-2016 SY 2016-2017

Number of Corporal Punishment Incidents, SY 2011-2012 through SY 2016-2017

SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Safety.





## Place, Income, and Race Matter for Educational Success

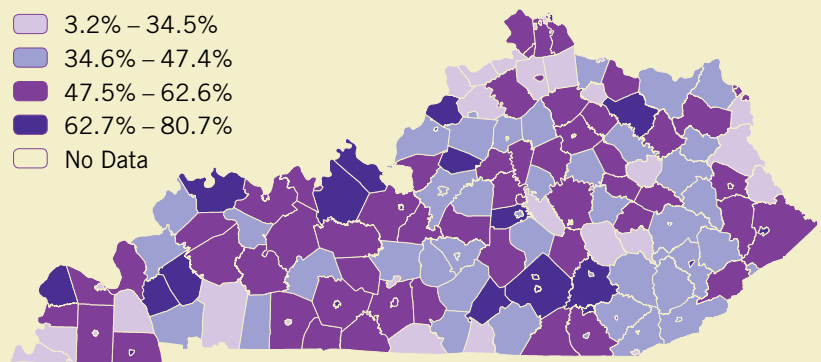
### *A deeper look at 8th grade math proficiency*

We need all children to receive a strong education so they can succeed in life. Basic math skills are essential for everyday decision making and competency in math is increasingly necessary for success in the workplace.<sup>1</sup> Students who have a strong mastery of math fundamentals by eighth grade are better prepared to take advanced math and science courses in high school, which makes them more likely to attend and complete college, find a job, and earn more over time.<sup>2</sup> According to national measures, between 2000 and 2015, Kentucky experienced an overall improvement on the percent of eighth graders who are proficient in math, though a downward trend began in 2011.<sup>3</sup>

### How Place Matters

All children should have access to a high-quality public education, yet some school districts are performing much better than others in ensuring students are proficient in math by the end of eighth grade. Less than half (48.7 percent) of Kentucky's eighth graders scored proficient or distinguished on the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) math test in school year 2016-2017. Rates vary widely across Kentucky's school districts (see map).

### Less than 50% of eighth graders are proficient in math in more than half of Kentucky school districts.



**Percent of 8th Graders Scoring Proficient or Above in Math on K-PREP, SY 2016-2017**

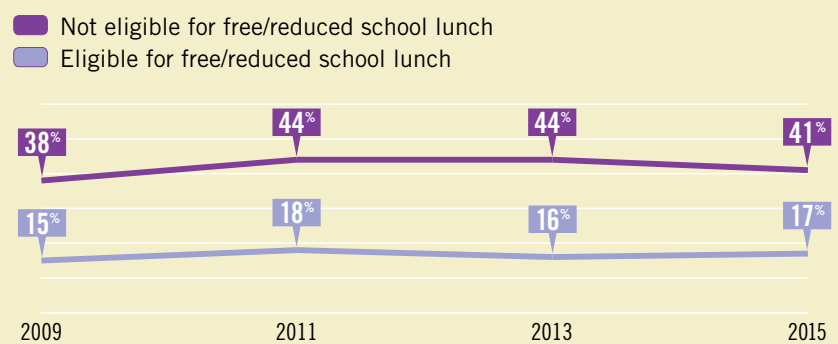
SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Accountability.

Nationally, rural students are less likely to take and be offered advanced math courses (such as precalculus, calculus, and statistics) than those in urban or suburban schools. This discrepancy between urban and rural students holds true even after accounting for previous math achievement.<sup>4</sup> Rural schools may find it impractical to provide advanced courses for small numbers of students and have difficulty recruiting teachers certified to teach them. Perhaps due to these reasons, rural school districts are nearly twice as likely as urban and suburban districts to provide students opportunities via distance education, often for advanced math.<sup>5</sup>

### How Income Matters

In Kentucky, eighth graders eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch (due to low household income) are half as likely as their higher-income peers to attain math proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (see chart). While 8th grade math proficiency increased overall in Kentucky between 2000 and 2015, the gap in math scores between lower income and higher income students has not significantly changed.<sup>6</sup>

### Low-income children are over 50 percent less likely than their higher income peers to be proficient in math.



**Percent of Kentucky 8th Graders Scoring Proficient or Above in Math on NAEP**

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, Eighth Grade Mathematics Assessment.



## Ensuring Educational Success for All Children

High-poverty schools can close middle school achievement gaps in math through reforms that simultaneously address classroom, teacher, and student factors. In addition to improving classroom instruction through high-quality curricula, successful schools have stable, knowledgeable teachers and provide them the supports they need to be effective. School climates that reward positive behavior, improve attendance, and have clear consequences for negative behaviors are more likely to be successful.<sup>14</sup> Students of color improve in math when teachers expect and challenge all students to achieve, view students' community and cultural background as strengths to draw from, and use culturally relevant instruction.<sup>15</sup>

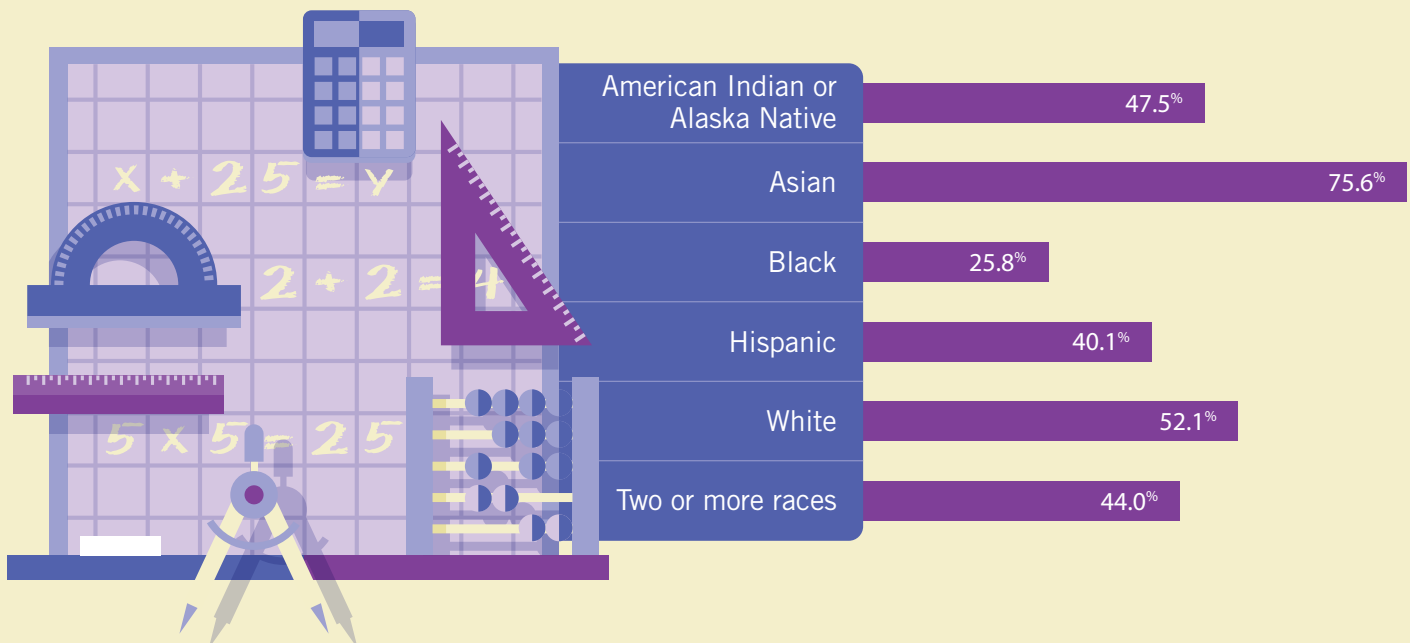


Having a teacher who is fully certified and has a major in mathematics are the most consistent and powerful predictors of student achievement in math.<sup>7</sup> Yet, nationally in high-poverty secondary schools, one in every four math classes is taught by teachers with neither certification nor a major in the subject.<sup>8</sup> Low-income students are disproportionately overrepresented in high-poverty schools.<sup>9</sup>

### How Race Matters

In Kentucky, Black and Hispanic students face greater barriers to math proficiency than White and Asian students (see chart). Even among low-income children, Black eighth graders are less likely to score at or above proficient in math than their White peers.<sup>10</sup> One contributor to this disparity is the overrepresentation of Black students in high-poverty schools, as attending a high-poverty school lowers the math achievement of students.<sup>11,12</sup> After controlling for socioeconomic status, Black children are still much more likely to attend high-poverty schools than White students.<sup>13</sup>

### Many students of color face greater barriers to math proficiency in Kentucky.



Percent of Kentucky 8th Graders Scoring Proficient or Above in Math on K-PREP by Race and Ethnicity, SY 2016-2017

SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Accountability.



School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth graders proficient in reading		Eighth graders proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2016-17	Change since 2013-14	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2012-13
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	✓	<b>49.9%</b>	✓	<b>48.7%</b>	✓	<b>89.8%</b>	✓
Adair County	42.8%	✓	48.3%	✗	43.7%	✗	97.3%	✓
Allen County	48.7%	✓	57.9%	✓	60.7%	✓	91.6%	✓
Anderson County	55.2%	✓	52.0%	✓	51.3%	✓	97.8%	✓
Ballard County	60.8%	✗	61.4%	✓	64.5%	✗	92.2%	✗
Barren County	60.8%	✓	54.1%	✓	48.9%	✗	89.2%	✓
<i>Caverna Independent</i>	49.0%	✓	33.3%	✗	29.3%	✓	85.7%	✓
<i>Glasgow Independent</i>	58.4%	✓	41.1%	✗	59.7%	✗	89.6%	✗
Bath County	29.3%	✗	50.6%	✓	37.2%	✓	91.4%	✓
Bell County	38.0%	✓	51.7%	✓	36.9%	✓	95.4%	✓
<i>Middlesboro Independent</i>	34.8%	✓	40.8%	✓	34.1%	✓	91.2%	✓
<i>Pineville Independent</i>	39.5%	✗	41.2%	✓	29.7%	✓	100%	✓
Boone County	57.1%	✓	53.0%	✗	51.7%	✓	95.2%	✓
<i>Walton-Verona Independent</i>	55.3%	✗	46.2%	✗	61.5%	✓	97.6%	✗
Bourbon County	43.9%	✓	49.8%	✗	49.2%	✗	91.3%	✓
<i>Paris Independent</i>	23.8%	✗	26.0%	✓	45.1%	✓	100%	✓
Boyd County	56.1%	✓	45.9%	✗	32.0%	✗	96.2%	✓
<i>Ashland Independent</i>	42.9%	✓	52.3%	✗	56.1%	✓	92.1%	✗
<i>Fairview Independent</i>	35.4%	✗	29.1%	✗	22.0%	✗	89.7%	✗
Boyle County	56.5%	✗	75.1%	✓	67.5%	✓	97.4%	✓
<i>Danville Independent</i>	37.1%	✓	46.9%	✗	37.7%	✓	96.7%	✓
Bracken County	44.7%	✗	47.2%	✓	47.0%	✓	94.2%	✗
<i>Augusta Independent</i>	91.7%	✓	34.6%	✓	30.8%	✗	95.7%	✗
Breathitt County	48.7%	✗	38.5%	✗	36.5%	✗	84.6%	✗
<i>Jackson Independent</i>	40.9%	✗	55.0%	✓	78.6%	✗	100%	✓
Breckinridge County	50.4%	✓	68.5%	✓	63.8%	✓	93.8%	✓
<i>Cloverport Independent</i>	50.0%	✗	37.0%	✗	55.9%	✓	100%	✓
Bullitt County	49.4%	✗	48.7%	✓	49.4%	✓	90.6%	✓
Butler County	47.4%	✓	34.2%	✗	35.9%	✓	91.0%	✗



School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth graders proficient in reading		Eighth graders proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2016-17	Change since 2013-14	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2012-13
Caldwell County	63.2%	✓	62.5%	✓	66.4%	✓	94.3%	✓
Calloway County	44.1%	✗	50.9%	✗	57.7%	✓	95.4%	✓
<i>Murray Independent</i>	57.0%	✗	78.9%	✓	80.7%	✓	96.5%	✓
Campbell County	51.9%	✗	60.4%	✓	58.5%	✗	97.3%	✓
<i>Bellevue Independent</i>	39.5%	✗	27.8%	✗	28.8%	✓	98.3%	✓
<i>Dayton Independent</i>	42.1%	✓	46.0%	✓	56.7%	✓	92.8%	✓
<i>Fort Thomas Independent</i>	79.1%	✗	70.1%	=	79.4%	✓	98.8%	✓
<i>Newport Independent</i>	42.1%	✓	29.4%	✓	49.0%	✓	91.4%	✓
<i>Silver Grove Independent</i>	56.3%	✓	8.3%	✗	**	N/A	93.8%	✓
<i>Southgate Independent</i>	27.3%	✗	60.0%	N/A	55.6%	✓	~	~
Carlisle County	62.5%	✓	41.5%	✓	51.0%	✓	95.2%	✗
Carroll County	35.0%	✗	34.5%	✗	29.1%	✗	97.6%	✓
Carter County	55.3%	✓	55.2%	✓	58.8%	✓	100%	✓
Casey County	41.3%	✓	58.9%	✓	51.1%	✓	98.7%	✓
Christian County	46.2%	✓	40.1%	✗	33.9%	✓	91.4%	✓
Clark County	55.8%	✗	50.4%	✗	43.9%	✗	96.2%	✓
Clay County	32.9%	✓	52.3%	✓	45.8%	✓	78.5%	✗
Clinton County	34.2%	✗	36.2%	✓	28.0%	✓	97.7%	✓
Crittenden County	46.6%	✓	49.5%	=	36.5%	✗	79.6%	✗
Cumberland County	38.0%	✗	48.6%	✓	42.6%	✗	98.5%	✓
Daviess County	53.6%	✗	54.3%	✓	53.1%	✓	90.1%	✗
<i>Owensboro Independent</i>	43.2%	✗	47.3%	✗	55.5%	✓	86.3%	✗
Edmonson County	53.2%	✓	57.4%	✓	58.2%	✓	94.0%	✓
Elliott County	30.8%	✗	29.3%	✗	35.6%	✓	97.5%	✓
Estill County	65.9%	✓	39.8%	✓	40.1%	✓	95.1%	✗
Fayette County	50.5%	✗	48.7%	✗	52.8%	✓	84.2%	✓
Fleming County	50.3%	✓	43.4%	✓	68.3%	✓	94.9%	✓
Floyd County	59.0%	✓	71.6%	✓	57.3%	✓	94.9%	✓
Franklin County	49.9%	✓	45.2%	✓	35.9%	✓	86.9%	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

\*\* = Data suppressed by the source. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression.

~ = School district has no high school.



School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth graders proficient in reading		Eighth graders proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2016-17	Change since 2013-14	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2012-13
<i>Frankfort Independent</i>	47.1%	✓	33.3%	✗	33.3%	✓	83.6%	✗
Fulton County	63.2%	✗	34.1%	✓	32.0%	✓	94.7%	✗
<i>Fulton Independent</i>	69.2%	✓	15.8%	✗	3.2%	✗	100%	✓
Gallatin County	37.0%	✓	46.4%	✓	33.3%	✓	95.0%	✓
Garrard County	58.3%	✓	54.7%	✓	34.1%	✗	94.8%	✓
Grant County	38.1%	✗	36.7%	✓	30.3%	✗	88.5%	✗
<i>Williamstown Independent</i>	60.7%	✓	39.1%	✓	51.4%	✓	91.2%	✗
Graves County	68.2%	✓	63.6%	✓	48.6%	✗	92.1%	✓
<i>Mayfield Independent</i>	53.6%	✓	50.4%	✓	34.2%	✗	96.8%	✓
Grayson County	40.7%	✗	51.5%	✓	56.2%	✓	84.9%	✗
Green County	59.2%	✓	63.1%	✓	38.0%	✓	95.6%	✓
Greenup County	67.2%	✓	50.8%	✓	46.7%	✓	96.5%	✓
<i>Raceland-Worthington Independent</i>	55.6%	✗	40.3%	✗	61.4%	✓	95.9%	✗
<i>Russell Independent</i>	67.9%	✗	57.8%	✓	53.6%	✗	96.2%	✗
Hancock County	42.7%	✗	52.6%	✗	57.9%	✓	95.1%	✗
Hardin County	50.0%	✓	43.9%	=	48.7%	✓	90.1%	✓
<i>Elizabethtown Independent</i>	54.0%	✓	43.5%	✗	71.5%	✓	95.6%	✓
<i>West Point Independent</i>	45.5%	✓	31.3%	N/A	38.9%	N/A	~	~
Harlan County	36.3%	✗	51.6%	✓	42.0%	✓	95.2%	✓
<i>Harlan Independent</i>	62.7%	✓	74.6%	✓	41.9%	✗	100%	✓
Harrison County	53.0%	✓	48.9%	✓	62.6%	✓	92.2%	✓
Hart County	42.6%	✗	45.0%	✓	37.9%	✗	96.7%	✓
Henderson County	50.0%	✓	55.0%	✓	72.1%	✓	89.8%	✓
Henry County	63.7%	✓	37.6%	✓	25.9%	✗	94.1%	✓
<i>Eminence Independent</i>	58.9%	✓	44.4%	✓	36.5%	✗	90.4%	✓
Hickman County	64.3%	✓	51.6%	✓	17.8%	✗	97.8%	✗
Hopkins County	59.6%	✓	54.6%	✓	51.4%	✓	87.3%	✗
<i>Dawson Springs Independent</i>	63.6%	✓	29.2%	✗	34.5%	✗	96.1%	✗
Jackson County	41.7%	✗	51.4%	✓	32.6%	✓	90.2%	✓





School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth graders proficient in reading		Eighth graders proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2016-17	Change since 2013-14	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2012-13
Jefferson County	51.6%	✗	43.7%	✓	40.9%	✓	80.6%	✓
Anchorage Independent	83.3%	✗	80.6%	✓	75.0%	✗	~	~
Jessamine County	50.7%	✗	50.5%	✓	43.6%	✓	91.1%	✓
Johnson County	37.0%	✗	64.2%	✓	56.9%	✓	96.7%	✓
Paintsville Independent	65.2%	✓	63.2%	✓	61.8%	✓	91.1%	✗
Kenton County	52.1%	✗	60.0%	✓	59.1%	✓	92.2%	✓
Beechwood Independent	75.0%	✓	69.8%	✗	69.0%	✓	97.2%	✗
Covington Independent	40.0%	✗	42.1%	✓	34.3%	✓	76.2%	✗
Erlanger-Elsmere Independent	40.5%	✓	42.9%	✗	29.7%	✓	92.8%	✓
Ludlow Independent	50.0%	✗	53.1%	✓	26.1%	✗	95.2%	✓
Knott County	49.7%	✓	54.3%	✓	44.1%	✗	97.5%	✓
Knox County	41.7%	✓	40.7%	✓	42.9%	✓	93.2%	✓
Barbourville Independent	81.6%	✓	45.6%	✓	57.1%	✓	98.1%	✓
LaRue County	36.5%	✗	48.7%	✓	53.4%	✗	98.9%	✓
Laurel County	39.9%	✓	65.2%	✓	63.5%	✓	84.9%	✓
East Bernstadt Independent	66.0%	✓	53.7%	✓	41.3%	✓	~	~
Lawrence County	45.5%	✓	45.3%	✓	25.0%	✓	93.7%	✗
Lee County	31.7%	✗	54.4%	✓	57.1%	✓	95.5%	✓
Leslie County	55.5%	✓	51.1%	✓	42.5%	✓	98.4%	✗
Letcher County	29.7%	✗	45.3%	✓	54.8%	✓	98.6%	✓
Jenkins Independent	14.8%	✗	60.0%	✓	46.4%	✓	91.3%	✗
Lewis County	29.0%	✗	40.8%	✓	43.6%	✓	100%	✓
Lincoln County	42.8%	✗	38.1%	✗	38.1%	✗	93.1%	✓
Livingston County	48.7%	✓	49.4%	✓	58.4%	✓	94.0%	✗
Logan County	48.0%	✓	48.0%	✗	62.0%	✓	90.7%	✗
Russellville Independent	44.8%	✗	40.8%	✓	33.8%	✓	90.5%	✓
Lyon County	57.9%	✓	51.7%	✓	67.1%	✗	98.4%	✓
McCracken County	61.4%	✓	59.0%	✓	61.8%	✓	94.4%	✓
Paducah Independent	49.0%	⚖	43.2%	✓	32.2%	✗	78.3%	✗

✓ Better ⚖ No Change ✗ Worse

N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression.

~ = School district has no high school.



School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth graders proficient in reading		Eighth graders proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2016-17	Change since 2013-14	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2012-13
McCreary County	40.7%	✓	49.0%	✓	57.4%	✓	90.8%	✗
McLean County	36.0%	✗	50.4%	✓	36.3%	✗	92.2%	✓
Madison County	49.7%	✓	51.7%	✓	52.6%	✓	95.4%	✓
<i>Berea Independent</i>	67.1%	✓	43.4%	✓	27.1%	✗	97.8%	✓
Magoffin County	54.4%	✓	48.4%	✓	45.1%	✓	94.6%	✓
Marion County	52.3%	✗	50.8%	✗	52.6%	✓	92.8%	✗
Marshall County	50.2%	✗	55.1%	✓	32.5%	✗	93.3%	✓
Martin County	38.2%	✗	44.4%	✓	26.3%	✗	98.3%	✓
Mason County	46.7%	✓	45.2%	✗	51.3%	✓	94.0%	✓
Meade County	49.4%	✓	56.2%	✗	72.2%	✓	94.9%	✓
Menifee County	23.8%	✗	36.2%	✓	28.1%	✗	97.2%	✓
Mercer County	36.7%	✓	42.2%	✗	51.0%	✓	95.5%	✗
<i>Burgin Independent</i>	27.6%	✗	57.6%	✓	53.8%	✓	85.3%	✗
Metcalfe County	51.6%	✓	36.8%	✗	57.1%	✗	93.6%	✓
Monroe County	65.7%	✓	63.2%	✓	26.2%	✓	98.6%	✓
Montgomery County	41.6%	✗	51.8%	✗	55.7%	✓	92.5%	✓
Morgan County	27.9%	✗	75.2%	✓	42.8%	✓	93.0%	✓
Muhlenberg County	50.0%	✓	57.1%	✓	51.7%	✓	88.1%	✓
Nelson County	55.9%	✗	49.1%	✓	36.2%	✓	94.5%	✓
<i>Bardstown Independent</i>	66.5%	✓	51.5%	✓	38.5%	✓	90.0%	✓
Nicholas County	32.9%	✗	50.0%	✓	56.0%	✓	96.8%	✓
Ohio County	52.5%	✓	43.0%	✓	49.6%	✗	92.4%	✓
Oldham County	70.0%	✗	59.9%	✗	65.3%	✓	96.3%	✓
Owen County	71.3%	✓	51.9%	✓	52.9%	✓	94.8%	✓
Owsley County	31.7%	✗	39.2%	✓	18.0%	✗	85.5%	✗
Pendleton County	46.2%	✓	55.7%	✓	33.7%	✗	96.6%	✓
Perry County	46.9%	✓	47.7%	✓	45.0%	✓	94.5%	✓
<i>Hazard Independent</i>	65.7%	✓	82.9%	✓	71.8%	✗	96.4%	✓
Pike County	47.2%	✗	62.5%	✓	54.9%	✓	93.8%	✓



School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth graders proficient in reading		Eighth graders proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2016-17	Change since 2013-14	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2011-12	2016-17	Change since 2012-13
<i>Pikeville Independent</i>	81.1%	✓	65.9%	✗	72.0%	✓	96.3%	✓
Powell County	32.2%	✗	43.9%	✓	50.9%	✓	88.3%	✗
Pulaski County	45.5%	✓	65.1%	✓	65.4%	✓	97.9%	✓
<i>Science Hill Independent</i>	61.1%	✓	59.0%	✓	70.2%	✓	~	~
<i>Somerset Independent</i>	42.6%	✓	50.9%	✓	74.6%	✓	86.3%	✗
Robertson County	50.0%	✓	54.5%	✓	31.0%	✓	100%	✓
Rockcastle County	38.2%	✓	54.2%	✓	53.0%	✓	97.9%	✓
Rowan County	37.9%	✓	44.9%	✗	59.4%	✓	96.8%	✓
Russell County	37.0%	✓	44.0%	✗	69.6%	✓	96.8%	✓
Scott County	49.2%	✗	52.2%	✗	39.4%	✗	92.3%	✓
Shelby County	53.3%	✗	39.2%	✗	35.3%	✓	92.8%	✓
Simpson County	59.4%	✓	44.0%	✗	56.6%	✓	91.1%	✗
Spencer County	53.1%	✓	56.6%	✓	65.2%	✓	94.7%	✓
Taylor County	53.6%	✓	53.8%	✓	46.4%	✗	97.1%	✗
<i>Campbellsville Independent</i>	26.5%	✗	44.6%	✗	37.8%	✗	93.8%	=
Todd County	41.2%	✓	37.6%	✗	44.4%	✓	98.5%	✓
Trigg County	40.9%	✗	44.8%	✗	38.2%	✗	91.5%	✗
Trimble County	61.8%	✓	40.6%	✗	34.1%	✗	93.3%	✓
Union County	49.6%	✓	43.9%	✗	38.0%	✗	91.4%	✓
Warren County	51.7%	✓	53.8%	✓	56.5%	✓	95.2%	✓
<i>Bowling Green Independent</i>	58.8%	✓	50.2%	✗	76.3%	✓	93.2%	✗
Washington County	42.6%	✗	46.8%	✓	47.4%	✓	98.5%	=
Wayne County	42.5%	✗	40.5%	✗	39.7%	✓	94.5%	✓
Webster County	37.8%	✗	45.9%	✓	50.6%	✓	88.5%	✓
Whitley County	46.7%	✗	63.8%	✓	55.3%	✓	92.9%	✓
<i>Corbin Independent</i>	48.2%	✗	55.0%	✗	71.0%	✓	97.6%	✓
<i>Williamsburg Independent</i>	39.0%	✗	45.3%	✓	38.6%	✓	90.7%	✓
Wolfe County	33.3%	✓	46.5%	✓	52.1%	✓	93.0%	✓
Woodford County	49.6%	✗	61.4%	✓	62.4%	✓	97.3%	✓

✓ Better    = No Change    ✗ Worse

~ = School district has no high school.

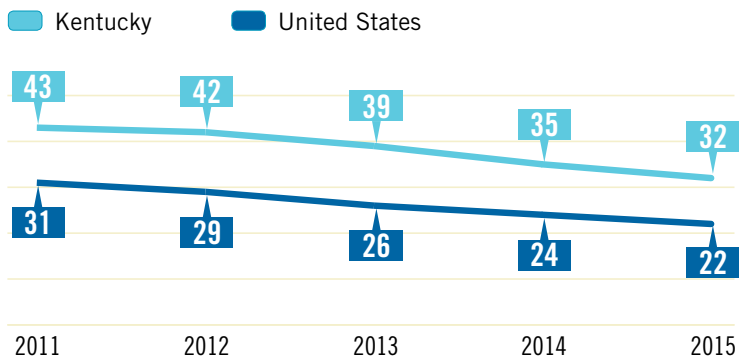




## HEALTH

Health impacts every aspect of a child's life and is one of the most important components of overall child well-being. A healthy start in life begins during pregnancy and early infancy. For optimal health, children need access to health coverage that allows them to receive high-quality care addressing their physical, behavioral, oral, and vision health needs. Children also thrive in environments where they have clean air to breathe, opportunities for physical activity, and access to healthy food.

### Kentucky's teen birth rate mirrors the national downward trend.



Rate of Births to Teens Per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19: 2011 to 2015

SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, National KIDS COUNT project, Teen Birth Rate.

## EXPLORE

Find additional county-level data at [datacenter.kidscount.org/ky](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ky) for health indicators including:



Prenatal care, births to teens, and birth outcomes



Infant, child, and teen mortality



Health insurance coverage



Childhood obesity, lead poisoning, and asthma





## Place, Income, and Race Matter for Children's Health

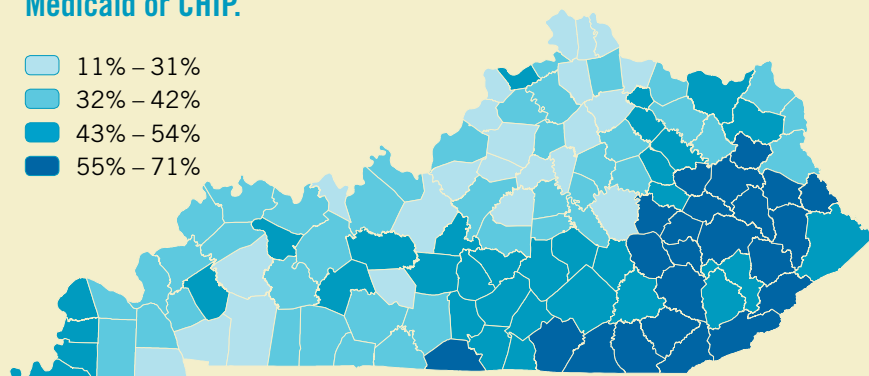
### *A deeper look at childhood health insurance coverage*

Health impacts every aspect of a child's life and is one of the most important components of overall child well-being. For optimal health, children need access to health coverage that allows them to receive high-quality care addressing their physical, behavioral, oral, and vision health needs. Children with health coverage are more likely to receive regular preventive care, such as well-child exams, and to stay connected to a primary care doctor.<sup>1</sup> Continuous health coverage for children has been linked to reduced child mortality rates and increased health status of children.<sup>2</sup> After decades of progress, Kentucky's rate of uninsured children has reached an all-time low.

### How Place Matters

In the past, rural areas had higher uninsured rates than urban areas, largely due to less access to employer-sponsored insurance, but expanded access to public health coverage has narrowed the difference in rates.<sup>3,4</sup> Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for low-income youth cover a larger share of children in rural and small-town areas than in metropolitan areas due to factors such as lower household incomes and higher unemployment rates.<sup>5</sup> Changes to these public coverage programs – in the form of expanded eligibility, streamlined applications, and improved outreach and marketing – have resulted in a gap of only one percentage point between Kentucky's uninsured rate for children in metropolitan areas versus non-metropolitan areas.<sup>6</sup>

#### In every Kentucky county at least 1 in 10 children are covered by Medicaid or CHIP.



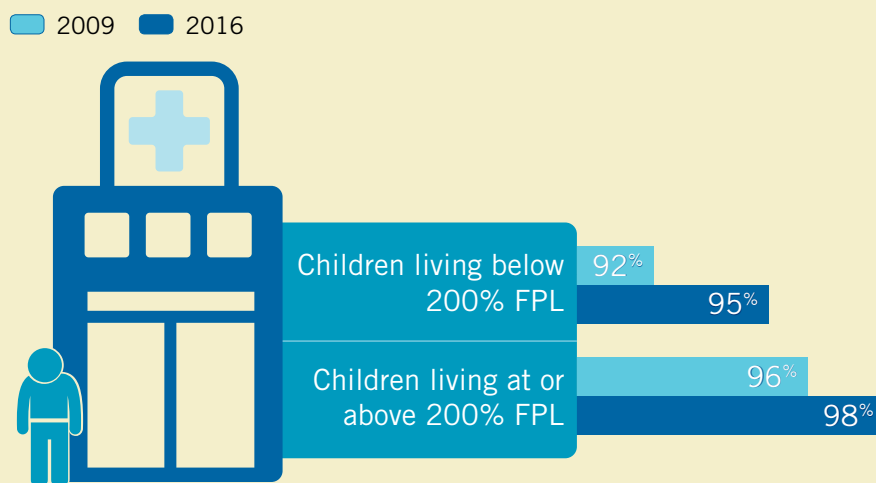
#### Percent of Children under 18 Covered by Medicaid or CHIP Only, 2011-2015

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B27010.

### How Income Matters

The higher a family's income is, the more likely their children are to have health coverage, but coverage rates for children in poor families have grown the most,<sup>7</sup> due to the policy and practice changes mentioned above. Though Medicaid and CHIP provide coverage for most low-income youth in Kentucky, these children are still less likely to have health coverage than their wealthier peers (see chart). Public health coverage for children boosts family financial stability due to reduced out-of-pocket costs for health care and increased participation in other supports for which they are eligible, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.<sup>8</sup>

#### Low-income children remain less likely to have health coverage.



#### Percent of Kentucky Children with Health Insurance by Income Level, 2009 and 2016

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year Estimates, Table C27016.



## Securing Health Coverage for All Children

Kentucky can build upon its impressive track record of ensuring children have health coverage by protecting investments in and achieving long-term sustainability for Medicaid and CHIP. Public coverage must remain easy for families to find out about, enroll in, and use to access health care, and culturally responsive marketing campaigns can target children who remain uninsured. Kentucky should stop the automatic disenrollment of children receiving Medicaid and CHIP due to incorrect or missing addresses so homeless and transient children have continued access to health care and medication. Since children are more likely to have health coverage when their parents do,<sup>15</sup> maintaining expanded Medicaid for low-income parents is crucial to preventing a backslide of the progress made.

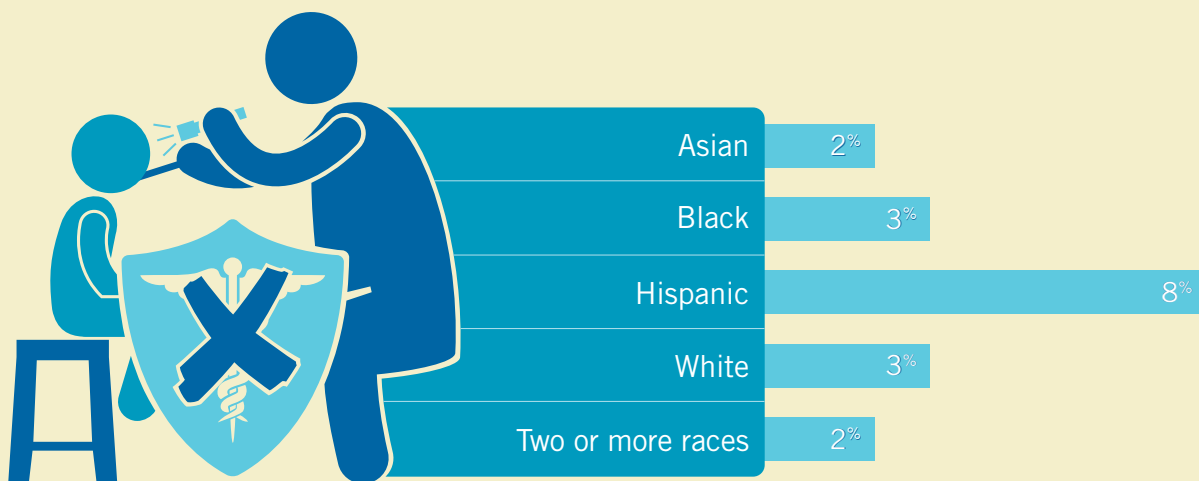
Most uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, but are not enrolled<sup>9</sup> — pointing to the need for more outreach and enrollment efforts. Signing up eligible parents for Medicaid is one way to find and enroll more eligible children. Between 2013 and 2015—when many more parents enrolled in benefits through Medicaid expansion—Kentucky saw a 28 percent drop in the number of uninsured children.<sup>10</sup> Those children were already eligible for coverage, but parents may not have known about their child's eligibility until they signed up for coverage themselves.

### How Race Matters

Children of color are more likely to live in low-income families that are unable to afford private health insurance, making Medicaid and CHIP particularly important for their access to health care. Although the provision of employer-sponsored health insurance is declining, and most parents with low-wage or part-time work lack coverage through their employer,<sup>11</sup> public health insurance has closed the coverage gaps between Kentucky's non-Hispanic children.

In Kentucky, Hispanic children have the highest uninsured rate (see chart). This could be due, in part, to Hispanic parents being less likely to work for employers who offer private health insurance plans. Families with eligible children may be less likely to access public coverage for them due to a lack of awareness of Medicaid and CHIP or misunderstanding of the eligibility criteria, language barriers, or fear of repercussions against an undocumented family member.<sup>12,13,14</sup>

**Kentucky's Hispanic children have uninsured rates more than double that of other racial/ethnic groups.**



Percent of Kentucky Children without Health Insurance by Race and Ethnicity, 2016

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year Estimates, Table C27001 (B,D,G,H and I).



	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance <sup>A</sup>	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2015	Change since 2010	2011-15	2013-15	Change since 2008-10
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	✓	<b>8.7%</b>	✓	<b>95.7%</b>	✓	<b>77%</b>	<b>34.6</b>	✓
Adair	27.1%	✓	7.8%	✗	94.8%	✓	87%	24.9	✓
Allen	23.7%	✓	11.2%	✗	95.2%	✓	70%	39.2	✓
Anderson	23.0%	✓	7.5%	✓	95.7%	✓	84%	39.1	✓
Ballard	15.0%	✓	10.4%	✓	94.4%	✓	82%	36.4	✓
Barren	22.1%	✓	8.6%	✓	95.5%	✓	73%	51.7	✓
Bath	27.7%	✓	8.7%	✓	94.8%	✓	65%	60.4	✓
Bell	35.7%	✓	10.2%	✗	96.3%	✓	67%	60.6	✓
Boone	14.7%	✓	7.2%	✓	96.2%	✓	82%	21.4	✓
Bourbon	25.6%	✓	8.2%	✓	93.1%	✓	70%	22.0	✓
Boyd	29.4%	✓	10.4%	✓	96.0%	✓	71%	41.1	✓
Boyle	26.7%	✓	8.3%	✗	96.0%	✓	77%	32.4	✓
Bracken	33.0%	✓	9.9%	✗	95.0%	✓	82%	36.3	✓
Breathitt	34.7%	✓	11.9%	✗	95.9%	✓	70%	61.4	✗
Breckinridge	24.9%	✓	7.4%	✓	93.7%	✓	75%	30.1	✓
Bullitt	17.6%	✓	7.0%	✓	96.3%	✓	87%	25.3	✓
Butler	24.7%	✓	7.8%	✓	93.8%	✓	77%	51.2	✓
Caldwell	24.4%	✓	8.6%	✓	95.1%	✓	75%	55.6	✓
Calloway	17.0%	✓	6.6%	✓	94.7%	✓	87%	17.3	✓
Campbell	19.8%	✓	8.4%	⚖	96.2%	✓	82%	25.0	✓
Carlisle	18.3%	✓	5.6%	✓	93.4%	✓	65%	42.4	✗
Carroll	31.6%	✗	7.3%	✗	94.6%	✓	56%	58.5	✓
Carter	31.5%	✓	8.5%	✓	95.7%	✓	69%	50.7	✗
Casey	28.3%	✓	9.1%	✗	94.5%	✓	70%	54.0	✓
Christian	15.1%	✓	9.2%	✗	95.6%	✓	77%	40.1	✓
Clark	24.6%	✓	9.1%	✓	95.7%	✓	78%	45.2	✓
Clay	42.6%	✗	12.2%	✗	95.8%	✓	70%	62.5	✓
Clinton	30.3%	✗	8.7%	✓	93.9%	✓	81%	47.5	✓
Crittenden	19.9%	✓	9.3%	✓	94.9%	✓	84%	52.0	✗
Cumberland	24.6%	✓	8.3%	✓	94.2%	✓	51%	45.9	✓



	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance <sup>Δ</sup>	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2015	Change since 2010	2011-15	2013-15	Change since 2008-10
Daviess	16.6%	✓	7.3%	✓	96.4%	✓	81%	39.7	✓
Edmonson	25.2%	✓	6.5%	✓	93.0%	✓	69%	33.1	✓
Elliott	38.4%	✓	10.4%	✓	95.4%	✓	63%	65.9	✓
Estill	38.6%	✗	9.1%	✗	95.5%	✓	65%	45.0	✓
Fayette	12.1%	✓	8.3%	✓	95.2%	✓	84%	20.1	✓
Fleming	29.3%	✓	8.2%	✗	93.0%	✓	66%	33.0	✓
Floyd	29.2%	✓	10.5%	✓	95.8%	✓	63%	62.8	✓
Franklin	21.4%	✓	9.8%	✓	95.0%	✓	75%	35.8	✓
Fulton	29.5%	✗	9.9%	✓	96.1%	✓	59%	46.9	✓
Gallatin	30.7%	✓	9.8%	✗	94.3%	✓	57%	40.2	✓
Garrard	28.3%	✓	10.0%	✓	94.3%	✓	65%	40.7	✓
Grant	34.0%	✓	8.1%	✓	95.3%	✓	79%	46.5	✓
Graves	19.1%	✓	6.7%	✓	94.1%	✓	75%	46.7	✓
Grayson	29.7%	✓	9.0%	✗	95.4%	✓	63%	46.2	✓
Green	23.3%	✓	7.8%	✗	93.9%	✓	74%	57.4	✗
Greenup	25.0%	✓	8.3%	✓	95.6%	✓	73%	44.1	✗
Hancock	16.1%	✓	7.6%	✓	95.6%	✓	87%	55.8	✗
Hardin	17.9%	✓	7.5%	✗	96.3%	✓	77%	34.1	✓
Harlan	35.7%	✓	10.8%	✓	95.7%	✓	80%	62.8	✓
Harrison	33.7%	✓	7.4%	✓	95.1%	✓	62%	34.1	✓
Hart	20.2%	✓	7.4%	✓	95.1%	✓	74%	43.2	✓
Henderson	21.5%	✗	10.2%	✓	96.0%	✓	75%	44.7	✓
Henry	27.1%	✓	7.7%	✗	94.7%	✓	67%	41.0	✓
Hickman	19.7%	✓	8.2%	✗	94.0%	✓	60%	22.7	✓
Hopkins	26.2%	✓	8.5%	✓	94.9%	✓	71%	50.0	✓
Jackson	41.2%	✓	11.3%	✗	95.3%	✓	70%	62.7	✗
Jefferson	11.7%	✓	9.0%	✓	96.9%	✓	78%	30.5	✓
Jessamine	23.3%	✗	8.5%	✗	95.0%	✓	81%	25.5	✓
Johnson	27.0%	✓	10.6%	✓	95.3%	✓	66%	46.8	✓
Kenton	22.7%	✓	8.6%	✗	96.6%	✓	82%	30.8	✓

✓ Better    = No Change    ✗ Worse

Δ = Baseline data not available for this indicator.



	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance <sup>A</sup>	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2015	Change since 2010	2011-15	2013-15	Change since 2008-10
Knott	31.3%	✓	11.1%	✓	94.7%	✓	77%	41.6	✓
Knox	34.4%	✓	10.2%	✗	96.3%	✓	67%	59.5	✓
LaRue	19.8%	✓	6.8%	✗	94.4%	✓	85%	35.6	✓
Laurel	30.2%	✓	9.2%	✗	95.8%	✓	69%	46.9	✓
Lawrence	28.1%	✓	10.3%	✓	95.3%	✓	64%	49.4	✗
Lee	47.7%	✓	12.2%	✓	95.6%	✓	41%	48.7	✓
Leslie	39.5%	✗	11.9%	✗	95.1%	✓	76%	61.1	✓
Letcher	30.8%	✓	12.5%	✗	95.2%	✓	68%	52.4	✓
Lewis	34.3%	✗	7.8%	✓	95.1%	✓	72%	45.2	✓
Lincoln	28.1%	✓	9.1%	✗	95.3%	✓	63%	44.9	✓
Livingston	18.5%	✓	8.2%	✗	94.8%	✓	83%	40.4	✓
Logan	20.6%	✓	8.1%	✓	94.8%	✓	69%	36.3	✓
Lyon	24.7%	✓	8.0%	⚖	93.3%	✓	77%	27.2	✓
McCracken	15.8%	✓	8.7%	⚖	95.8%	✓	74%	42.0	✓
McCreary	32.1%	✓	10.2%	✗	95.3%	✓	74%	72.4	✓
McLean	20.5%	✓	11.4%	✗	94.4%	✓	81%	50.1	✓
Madison	21.4%	✓	8.5%	✓	96.3%	✓	82%	21.1	✓
Magoffin	33.9%	✗	10.1%	✓	94.4%	✓	75%	73.9	✗
Marion	28.9%	✓	7.8%	✓	95.6%	✓	79%	39.2	✓
Marshall	22.6%	✓	6.4%	✓	95.3%	✓	80%	34.1	✓
Martin	35.2%	✓	11.2%	✓	94.8%	✓	70%	41.3	✓
Mason	30.5%	✓	8.5%	✓	95.1%	✓	80%	33.5	✓
Meade	23.6%	⚖	7.9%	✓	95.1%	✓	74%	25.9	✓
Menifee	38.2%	✓	6.1%	✓	94.1%	✓	71%	59.6	✗
Mercer	25.9%	✓	8.6%	✗	95.6%	✓	78%	37.9	✓
Metcalfe	25.2%	✓	6.5%	✓	94.7%	✓	70%	62.0	✗
Monroe	23.9%	✓	8.1%	✓	93.0%	✓	84%	43.0	✓
Montgomery	26.7%	✓	9.7%	✗	95.8%	✓	63%	51.8	✓
Morgan	30.5%	✓	11.5%	✗	94.7%	✓	73%	41.8	✗
Muhlenberg	24.7%	✓	7.5%	✓	94.8%	✓	77%	49.1	✓
Nelson	21.2%	✓	8.4%	✓	95.6%	✓	79%	33.0	✓



	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance <sup>Δ</sup>	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2015	Change since 2010	2011-15	2013-15	Change since 2008-10
Nicholas	32.6%	✓	10.2%	✗	93.2%	✓	73%	51.4	✓
Ohio	22.2%	✓	8.5%	✓	95.8%	✓	79%	58.5	✓
Oldham	10.2%	✓	7.4%	✓	96.7%	✓	90%	8.2	✓
Owen	31.2%	✓	10.5%	✓	94.7%	✓	78%	36.9	✓
Owsley	45.8%	✓	9.0%	✗	95.3%	✓	70%	58.4	✓
Pendleton	27.5%	✓	6.9%	✓	95.0%	✓	78%	47.2	✓
Perry	33.6%	✓	10.7%	✓	95.7%	✓	67%	58.3	✓
Pike	27.3%	✓	10.6%	✓	95.4%	✓	76%	44.5	✓
Powell	32.6%	✓	8.9%	✓	95.6%	✓	79%	64.6	✓
Pulaski	26.4%	✓	7.7%	✓	95.8%	✓	69%	45.0	✓
Robertson	38.6%	✗	12.9%	N/A	94.4%	✓	91%	38.0	✗
Rockcastle	29.6%	✓	11.0%	✗	95.6%	✓	79%	42.3	✓
Rowan	31.8%	✓	10.3%	✗	95.7%	✓	83%	16.0	✓
Russell	33.1%	✓	9.6%	✗	93.2%	✓	68%	60.1	✓
Scott	18.7%	✓	8.7%	✗	96.0%	✓	79%	24.2	✓
Shelby	21.0%	✗	6.6%	✓	93.7%	✓	71%	22.0	✓
Simpson	23.1%	✓	10.0%	✗	95.8%	✓	69%	35.1	✓
Spencer	14.8%	✓	9.0%	✗	94.6%	✓	85%	23.4	✓
Taylor	27.3%	✓	7.6%	✓	95.7%	✓	76%	39.7	✓
Todd	21.2%	✓	8.9%	✗	93.7%	✓	64%	32.0	✓
Trigg	23.7%	✓	5.1%	✓	93.8%	✓	79%	43.6	✗
Trimble	27.1%	✓	6.6%	✓	95.3%	✓	75%	37.8	✓
Union	22.0%	✗	9.8%	✓	95.2%	✓	67%	50.1	✓
Warren	12.8%	✓	8.9%	✓	95.4%	✓	79%	19.1	✓
Washington	24.8%	✗	8.7%	✗	91.0%	⚖	82%	34.7	✓
Wayne	29.7%	✗	8.0%	✗	95.7%	✓	74%	60.5	✓
Webster	19.5%	✓	8.4%	✗	93.2%	✓	82%	42.0	✓
Whitley	32.5%	✓	10.3%	✓	96.1%	✓	73%	51.1	✓
Wolfe	35.2%	✓	11.1%	✓	95.2%	✓	78%	80.9	✗
Woodford	15.4%	✓	7.5%	✓	93.9%	✓	83%	15.8	✓

✓ Better ⚖ No Change ✗ Worse

Δ = Baseline data not available for this indicator. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression.





## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Both family and community shape the developing child. In the best circumstances, the child has nurturing role models and positive opportunities to become a healthy, productive member of society. Stable families, caring professionals, and supportive communities provide that foundation. But as important as strong family relationships are to a child's success, families are not immune from problems in their communities. When communities provide safe surroundings and foster interventions that help families resolve challenges, children are most likely to thrive.

### EXPLORE

Find additional county-level data at [datacenter.kidscount.org/ky](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/ky) for family and community indicators including:



Child population demographics



Family structure



Juvenile justice system involvement



Child protection and foster care system involvement

7% of Kentucky children are being raised by grandparents and other relatives — the highest rate in the nation.



SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, National KIDS COUNT Project, Children in Kinship Care, 2014-2016.

NOTE: Data exclude children living with relatives licensed as foster parents.





## Place, Income, and Race Matter for Family Stability

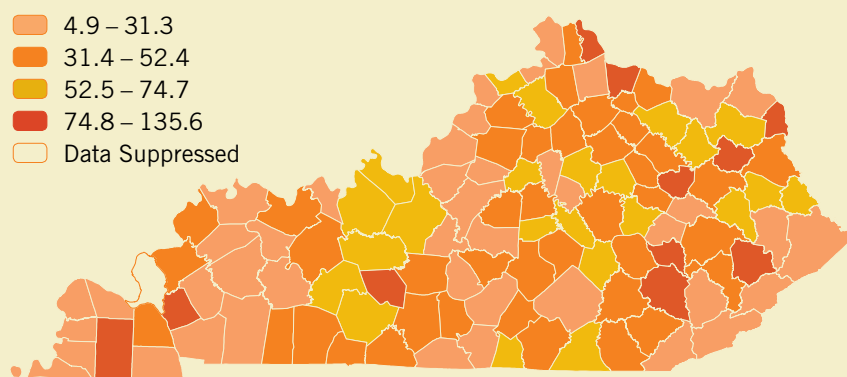
*A deeper look at children in out-of-home care*

All children need safe homes and loving families to thrive. When a child cannot safely remain with their parents due to abuse or neglect, relatives and close family friends or foster families can provide a vital, loving safety net. These family settings are preferable to group homes and institutions, as children need at least one trusted, committed parental figure for healthy and successful development.<sup>1</sup> Kinship care is the optimal situation for children placed in out-of-home care as it enables children to maintain familial bonds and cultural connections.<sup>2</sup> Kentucky recently made it easier, through a change in law, for children to be placed with close family friends when out-of-home care is needed.<sup>3</sup>

### How Place Matters

A county's rate of placing children in out-of-home care can be driven by several factors including demographics and poverty rates, but also by the availability of mental and behavioral health services, judicial practices, and the caseload sizes of child protection workers.<sup>4,5,6</sup> The latest out-of-home care data show no discernable geographic trends (see map), however, one study found that across the U.S., remote rural counties have higher rates of out-of-home care placements.<sup>7</sup> Family preservation programs – aimed at preventing the need for out-of-home care – are provided in each region, but inadequate funding has resulted in some areas resorting to waiting lists.

### Out-of-home care placement rates vary greatly across counties.



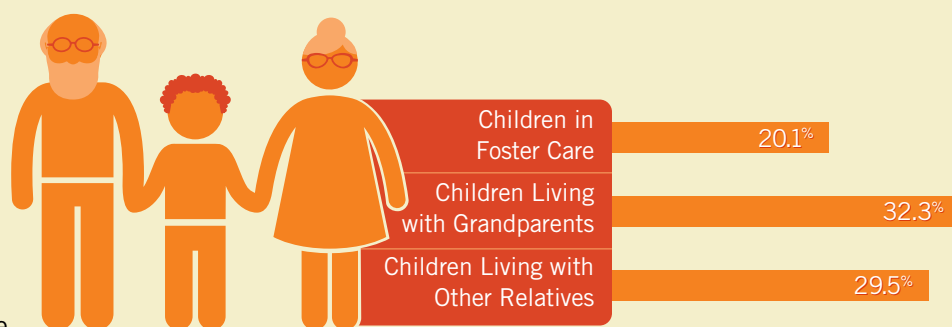
**Rate of Children in Out-of-home Care (Per 1,000 Children Ages 0-17), 2014-2016**

SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

### How Income Matters

Among children brought to the attention of the child welfare system, those from families with low socioeconomic status are more likely to be removed from their home and placed in out-of-home care.<sup>8,9</sup> One study found that in urban areas very poor children were significantly more likely to be placed in out-of-home care than their counterparts who are more well-off, but this difference was not found within nonurban areas.<sup>10</sup> Children living with grandparents or other relatives are more likely to live in poverty than those living with non-relative foster families when poverty calculations take into account government assistance programs (see chart). This is mostly due to the financial subsidies foster parents receive but most relative caregivers do not.<sup>11</sup>

### Children living with grandparents and other relatives are more likely to live in poverty than their peers in foster care due to unequal access to financial subsidies.



**Supplemental Poverty Measure Rates by Children's Living Situation, 1991-2012**

SOURCE: "Poverty Among Foster Children: Estimates Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure." (2017). Social Service Review, vol. 91, no. 1.

## Providing Family Stability for Vulnerable Children

Many children can stay safely in their own homes with the appropriate support of the child protective system, community- and faith-based organizations. Family preservation programs (FPP) help keep families together by teaching life-skills and positive parenting, reduce the need for and time spent in out-of-home care, and increase the odds of parental reunification.<sup>17</sup> Kentucky should increase FPP funding and broaden eligibility criteria to serve more at-risk families. When children must be removed, Kentucky can better support kinship and foster families to provide stable placements. These improvements will not happen without an adequate, stable, and well-resourced child protection workforce with caseload sizes that allow workers to give each family the attention they need.



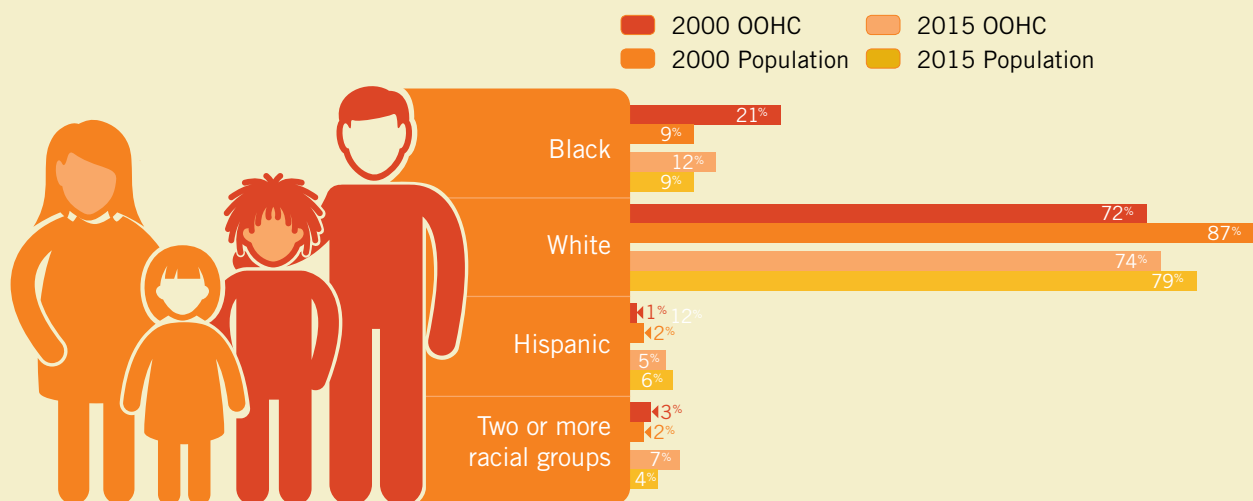
Allegations of child neglect are frequently related to the consequences of poverty, though poverty itself is not a cause of maltreatment.<sup>12</sup> Parents with limited income may be unable to afford child care and leave their child at home unattended while they work, live in housing deemed insufficiently safe and habitable, or not have proper clothing for their children – all circumstances that could result in a report or investigation of child neglect.

## How Race Matters

Numerous studies have found that once involved in the child welfare system, Black children are much more likely to be removed from their homes than their White peers.<sup>13</sup> Nationally, African-American children are at greatest risk of placement into out-of-home care in urban areas.<sup>14</sup> The disproportionate representation of children of color in the foster care system is driven by a number of factors, including socioeconomic status and family structure, as well as bias and structural inequities.<sup>15</sup> However, poverty in and of itself does not account for the racial disparities in foster care.<sup>16</sup>

In Kentucky, Black children are overrepresented in foster care compared to their proportion of the child population (12 percent versus 9 percent), but the disproportionality has decreased over the years (see chart). Child protective services and community groups across the state have collaboratively focused on reducing the disproportional experiences of children of color.

**The overrepresentation of Black children in foster care has improved as rates for White and Hispanic children more closely align with their proportion of the child population.**



Percent of Kentucky Children in Foster Care Compared to Proportion of the Child Population, 2000 and 2015

SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, National KIDS COUNT Project, Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin, and Child Population by Race.



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in out-of-home care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)		Children living in high-poverty areas	
	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2014-16	Change since 2011-13	2014-16	Change since 2008-10	2011-15	Change since 2006-10
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	✓	<b>41.1</b>	✗	<b>26.4</b>	✓	<b>41%</b>	✗
Adair	12.5%	✓	25.4	✓	13.9	✓	45%	✓
Allen	19.6%	✓	48.8	✗	15.2	✓	23%	✓
Anderson	7.5%	✓	71.4	✗	21.9	✓	0%	=
Ballard	6.7%	✓	18.8	✗	24.4	✓	21%	✗
Barren	21.6%	✓	48.4	✓	21.4	✓	60%	✗
Bath	25.1%	✗	41.7	✗	14.9	✓	100%	=
Bell	26.0%	✗	12.4	✗	36.5	✓	95%	✗
Boone	8.2%	✓	7.3	✗	12.6	✓	5%	✓
Bourbon	12.9%	✓	43.9	✗	19.0	✓	30%	=
Boyd	11.1%	✓	95.6	✗	25.0	✓	50%	✗
Boyle	13.1%	✓	68.6	✗	13.1	✓	24%	✓
Bracken	14.5%	✓	102.6	✗	22.1	✗	29%	✓
Breathitt	20.0%	✓	36.7	✗	48.2	✓	100%	=
Breckinridge	24.0%	✓	56.0	✗	40.7	✗	8%	✓
Bullitt	8.5%	✓	24.5	✗	25.2	✓	15%	✓
Butler	21.4%	✓	68.9	✗	31.0	✓	90%	✗
Caldwell	12.9%	✓	4.9	✓	19.8	✓	51%	✗
Calloway	8.3%	✓	29.2	✗	21.1	✓	36%	✗
Campbell	10.3%	✓	97.8	✗	27.9	✓	21%	✗
Carlisle	10.8%	✓	14.9	N/A	13.0	✓	74%	✗
Carroll	23.1%	✓	71.0	✗	25.6	✓	73%	✗
Carter	15.4%	✓	63.9	✗	32.6	✓	27%	✓
Casey	31.9%	✗	32.3	✗	15.5	✓	84%	✗
Christian	14.5%	✓	30.9	✗	60.5	✓	44%	✓
Clark	15.0%	✓	60.7	✗	42.3	✓	29%	✓
Clay	26.1%	✓	104.0	✓	9.3	✓	100%	=
Clinton	21.8%	✓	56.2	✓	5.4	✓	69%	✓
Crittenden	26.8%	✓	46.9	✗	24.1	✓	78%	✗
Cumberland	18.4%	✓	25.2	✗	26.2	✓	100%	✗



	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in out-of-home care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)		Children living in high-poverty areas	
	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2014-16	Change since 2011-13	2014-16	Change since 2008-10	2011-15	Change since 2006-10
Daviess	12.6%	✓	34.8	✗	36.9	✓	22%	✓
Edmonson	11.9%	✓	98.9	✗	10.9	✓	50%	✗
Elliott	25.9%	✓	135.6	✗	*	N/A	100%	=
Estill	16.9%	✓	66.9	✗	17.5	✓	100%	✗
Fayette	13.2%	✓	53.5	✗	35.6	✓	34%	✗
Fleming	27.0%	=	66.3	✓	17.2	✓	74%	✗
Floyd	23.1%	✓	31.3	✗	10.4	✓	100%	✗
Franklin	12.4%	✓	38.4	✗	55.6	✗	19%	✗
Fulton	10.7%	✓	18.8	✗	37.5	✓	100%	=
Gallatin	21.1%	✓	22.0	✗	22.8	✓	0%	✓
Garrard	14.2%	✓	71.8	✗	24.9	✗	62%	✗
Grant	16.8%	✓	38.2	✗	29.7	✓	27%	✗
Graves	20.4%	✓	102.4	✓	26.1	✓	30%	✓
Grayson	15.1%	✓	67.9	✓	45.7	✓	54%	✗
Green	15.3%	✓	20.2	✗	9.8	✓	86%	✗
Greenup	10.5%	✓	25.0	✓	8.4	✓	45%	✗
Hancock	9.1%	✓	17.8	✗	12.2	✓	0%	✓
Hardin	9.1%	✓	61.3	✗	37.6	✓	22%	✗
Harlan	24.7%	✓	19.6	✓	14.4	✓	91%	✓
Harrison	15.8%	✓	52.4	✗	15.9	✓	63%	✗
Hart	37.3%	✓	35.9	✗	27.1	✓	69%	✗
Henderson	14.9%	✓	25.1	✓	51.5	✓	35%	✗
Henry	15.7%	✓	49.1	✓	6.7	✓	49%	✗
Hickman	14.0%	✓	13.3	N/A	30.6	✓	0%	=
Hopkins	15.7%	✓	20.1	✗	28.4	✓	31%	✓
Jackson	24.6%	✓	42.4	✗	5.7	✓	100%	=
Jefferson	13.8%	✓	29.0	✗	26.4	✓	31%	✗
Jessamine	12.4%	✓	22.3	✗	59.5	✓	51%	✗
Johnson	16.6%	✓	64.6	✓	2.5	✓	73%	✗
Kenton	13.5%	✓	49.3	✗	29.6	✓	22%	✗

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

\*Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression.



	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in out-of-home care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)		Children living in high-poverty areas	
	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2014-16	Change since 2011-13	2014-16	Change since 2008-10	2011-15	Change since 2006-10
Knott	26.5%	✓	123.0	✗	11.3	✓	100%	✗
Knox	23.9%	✓	41.4	✗	32.4	✓	95%	✓
LaRue	11.5%	✓	30.1	✗	40.5	✓	37%	✗
Laurel	19.7%	✓	36.2	✗	39.3	✓	78%	✗
Lawrence	17.7%	✓	37.3	✗	7.5	✓	58%	✓
Lee	24.3%	✓	23.7	✗	41.2	✓	100%	⚖
Leslie	25.4%	✓	23.2	✓	8.0	✓	100%	⚖
Letcher	21.7%	✓	24.2	⚖	30.7	✓	92%	✗
Lewis	19.3%	✗	8.3	✗	26.1	✓	100%	⚖
Lincoln	20.6%	✓	32.6	✗	21.2	✓	60%	✓
Livingston	15.1%	✓	*	N/A	11.7	✓	0%	⚖
Logan	15.4%	✓	46.3	✗	25.3	✓	31%	✓
Lyon	11.3%	✓	92.1	✓	11.4	✓	0%	⚖
McCracken	11.2%	✓	28.7	✓	52.7	✓	26%	✗
McCreary	15.5%	✓	70.6	✓	13.0	✓	100%	⚖
McLean	12.1%	✓	15.9	✗	17.1	✓	75%	✗
Madison	11.5%	✓	51.3	✗	24.4	✓	46%	✗
Magoffin	27.1%	✓	55.0	✓	12.2	✓	100%	⚖
Marion	13.7%	✓	28.8	✗	30.3	✓	71%	✗
Marshall	9.6%	✓	40.4	✗	20.9	✓	0%	⚖
Martin	24.3%	✓	58.4	✗	18.7	✓	100%	⚖
Mason	17.2%	✓	46.3	✗	29.7	✓	41%	✓
Meade	9.3%	✓	55.3	✗	37.1	✓	41%	✗
Menifee	22.1%	✗	91.3	✓	*	N/A	100%	✗
Mercer	10.2%	✓	39.8	✗	21.7	✓	48%	✗
Metcalfe	20.0%	✓	38.6	✗	12.3	✓	81%	✗
Monroe	15.1%	✓	30.2	✗	20.5	✗	85%	✓
Montgomery	15.8%	✓	38.6	✗	21.2	✓	79%	✗
Morgan	16.7%	✓	46.2	✗	9.8	✓	100%	✗
Muhlenberg	13.9%	✓	18.6	✗	17.3	✓	35%	✓
Nelson	8.2%	✓	9.8	✓	16.9	✗	17%	✗



	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in out-of-home care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)		Children living in high-poverty areas	
	2013-15	Change since 2008-10	2014-16	Change since 2011-13	2014-16	Change since 2008-10	2011-15	Change since 2006-10
Nicholas	27.2%	✗	43.6	✗	13.2	✓	100%	✗
Ohio	17.9%	✓	48.7	✗	23.9	✓	68%	✗
Oldham	6.4%	✓	13.6	✗	1.9	✓	7%	✗
Owen	16.4%	✓	65.1	✗	19.0	✓	24%	✗
Owsley	16.7%	✓	120.5	✗	44.3	✓	100%	=
Pendleton	8.8%	✓	23.6	✗	34.4	✓	31%	✓
Perry	20.8%	✓	48.6	✓	17.7	✓	73%	✓
Pike	16.4%	✓	22.7	✗	7.0	✓	63%	✗
Powell	21.2%	✓	40.2	✗	54.8	✓	100%	=
Pulaski	13.8%	✓	30.2	✗	17.6	✓	72%	✗
Robertson	18.6%	✓	43.4	✓	*	N/A	100%	=
Rockcastle	14.6%	✓	74.7	✗	11.7	✓	84%	✗
Rowan	11.8%	✓	61.3	✗	32.2	✓	78%	✓
Russell	19.3%	✓	35.9	✗	17.4	✓	75%	✓
Scott	11.2%	✓	42.8	✗	18.4	✓	18%	✓
Shelby	18.0%	✓	50.4	✓	20.9	✓	22%	=
Simpson	11.9%	✓	38.1	✗	20.9	✓	63%	✗
Spencer	6.8%	✓	20.9	✗	9.4	✓	0%	=
Taylor	13.0%	✓	37.9	✓	18.8	✓	89%	✗
Todd	31.8%	✓	36.4	✗	13.9	✓	34%	✓
Trigg	26.2%	✗	26.1	✗	14.1	✓	61%	✗
Trimble	15.2%	✓	25.9	✗	*	N/A	63%	✗
Union	13.8%	✓	39.9	✗	41.2	✓	77%	✗
Warren	12.7%	✓	60.5	✗	32.7	✓	36%	✓
Washington	9.7%	✓	44.5	✓	6.2	✓	0%	=
Wayne	22.0%	✓	33.2	✗	28.2	✗	79%	=
Webster	22.2%	✓	28.0	✗	25.9	✓	30%	✗
Whitley	18.2%	✓	42.5	✓	20.0	✓	73%	✓
Wolfe	20.6%	✓	11.2	✓	40.5	✓	100%	=
Woodford	14.0%	✓	24.1	✓	16.5	✓	14%	✗

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

\*Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events. N/A = no change calculated due to data suppression.

# DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

## Economic Security

**CHILDREN IN DEEP POVERTY** is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 50 percent of the federal poverty line. A family's poverty status is determined using inflation-adjusted income and household size. For example, 50 percent of the poverty threshold in 2015 for a family with two adults and two children was \$12,018. The report does not determine the poverty status of children living in 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. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Table B17024. The most recent available estimates were processed on March 14, 2017.**

**CHILDREN IN POVERTY** is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty line. The data reflect model-based estimates which combine data from administrative records, population estimates, and estimates from the American Community Survey to produce single-year data for all counties. For context, the poverty threshold in 2015 for a family with two adults and two children was \$24,036. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. The most recent available estimates were processed on February 10, 2017.**

**CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES** is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. A family's poverty status is determined using inflation-adjusted income and household size. For example, 200 percent of the poverty threshold in

2015 for a family with two adults and two children was \$48,072. The report does not determine the poverty status of children living in 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. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Table B17024. The most recent available estimates were processed on March 9, 2017.**

**CHILDREN LIVING IN FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS** is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in households that at times lack access to enough food for a healthy life and experience limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. The data reflect model-based estimates derived from: Current Population Survey data on children under 18 years old in food insecure households; data from the American Community Survey on median family incomes for households with children, child poverty rates, home ownership, and racial and ethnic demographics among children; and unemployment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. **SOURCE: Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap project. The most recent available estimates were processed on September 12, 2017.**

## Education

**KINDERGARTENERS READY TO LEARN** is the percentage of all screened incoming public school Kindergarten students who meet readiness-to-learn standards. The standards include adaptive, cognitive, motor, communication, and social-emotional skills. The Kentucky Department of Education chose the BRIGANCE Kindergarten Screen as its school-readiness screener. However, BRIGANCE scores are not used to determine school eligibility; all Kentucky children who meet the legal age

requirement are entitled to enter public school. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, Supplemental Data. The most recent available data were processed on September 28, 2017.**

**FOURTH GRADERS PROFICIENT IN READING** is the percentage of tested public school fourth graders, for whom the district is accountable, who earned a score of "proficient" or "distinguished" on the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) reading test. The assessment for fourth grade consists of multiple-choice, extended-response, and short answer items. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Accountability. The most recent available data were processed on September 28, 2017.**

**EIGHTH GRADERS PROFICIENT IN MATH** is the percentage of tested public school eighth graders, for whom the district is accountable, who earned a score "proficient" or "distinguished" on the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) math test. The assessment for eighth grade consists of multiple-choice, extended-response, and short answer items. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Accountability. The most recent available data were processed on September 28, 2017.**

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATING ON TIME** is the percentage of high school students who graduated within four years. The percentage is derived using the four-year cohort method, which tracks students over a four-year period and controls for student population changes within the cohort. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card. The most recent available data were processed on September 28, 2017.**

## Health

**SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY** is the percentage of births to mothers who reported smoking at any point during



pregnancy. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. When the information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. *The data are as of September 17, 2017.*

**LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES** is the percentage of all infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. When the information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. *The data are as of September 17, 2017.*

**CHILDREN UNDER 19 WITH HEALTH INSURANCE** is the percentage of children under age 19 covered by any health insurance. The data reflect model-based estimates enhanced by administrative data to produce single-year data for all counties. Primary data included in the model derive from, but are not limited to, inputs such as the American Community Survey, federal tax returns, the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid/CHIP participation, and population estimates. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. *The most recent available estimates were processed on September 17, 2017.*

**YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 19-25) WITH HEALTH INSURANCE** is the percentage of young adults ages 19 to 25 covered by any health insurance. The data represent health insurance coverage at the time of the survey; interviews are conducted throughout the year. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census

Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Table S2701. *The most recent available estimates were processed on September 17, 2017.*

**TEEN BIRTHS** is the number of births to teenagers ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. The denominator for the rate calculation is the summation of the population estimates for the same three-year time period. **SOURCES:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. Teen population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. *The data are as of September 19, 2017.*

## Family and Community

**BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE** is the percentage of all live births to women with no high school degree or its equivalent. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. When information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. *The data are as of September 17, 2017.*

**CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE** is the number of children under age 18 per 1,000 children in this age group who lived in out-of-home care due to abuse or neglect. Out-of-home care includes placements in licensed foster homes with relatives or unrelated caregivers, or institutional placements such as group homes or residential treatment facilities. Data are collected to reflect the county of the case manager's office, which usually

corresponds with the county in which a family is being served. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. The denominator for the rate calculation is the population estimate for the midpoint year of the three-year time period. **SOURCES:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services. Child population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. *The data are as of September 18, 2017.*

**YOUTH INCARCERATED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM** is the number of children per 1,000 children ages 10 to 17 booked into a secure juvenile detention facility. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. A child may have been booked more than once during those years. The denominator for the rate calculation is the population estimate for the midpoint year of the three-year time period. **SOURCES:** Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice and Louisville Metro Youth Detention Services, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. Child population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. *The data are as of September 18, 2017.*

**CHILDREN LIVING IN HIGH-POVERTY AREAS** is calculated by determining the percentage of children under age 18 who live in census tracts in which 20 percent or more of the population have incomes below the poverty line. Poverty status is determined by using the inflation-adjusted income and household size. For example, the poverty threshold in 2015 for a family with two adults and two children was \$24,036. The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey response. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Tables B01001, B17001 and S1701. *The most recent available estimates were processed on March 15, 2017.*

# ENDNOTES

## Economic Security

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- 2 Coleman-Jensen, A., Rabbitt, M.P., Gregory, C.A., and Singh, A. (2017). *Household Food Security in the United States in 2016*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. Available at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/84973/err-237.pdf?v=42979>. Accessed October 2017.
- 3 Feeding America (2017). *Map the Meal Gap 2017: Highlights of Findings for Overall and Child Food Insecurity*. Available at <http://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/2015/2015-mapthemealgap-exec-summary.pdf>. Accessed October 2017.
- 4 Feeding America (2017). *Map the Meal Gap 2017: Highlights of Findings for Overall and Child Food Insecurity and 2015 Child Food Insecurity: Data by County & Congressional District in Each State*. Available at <http://map.feedingamerica.org/>. Accessed October 2017.
- 5 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (2017). *2015 County Typology Codes*. Available at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/county-typology-codes/>. Accessed October 2017.
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