2019 COUNTY DATA BOOK

Kentucky youth Advocates

Kentucky kids count

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

PASSPORT HEALTH PLAN

Get a good look at Passport Health Plan

Passport covers eyeglasses for children and teens up to age 21 at NO COST TO YOU!

Visit www.passporthealthplan.com/choose
Or call 1-800-578-0603, Monday – Friday, 7 am – 7 pm.

MARK02068 | APP_8/28/2018

2019 COUNTY DATA BOOK

Content and research by Kentucky Youth Advocates. Data collection and processing by the Kentucky State Data Center at the University of Louisville and by Kentucky Youth Advocates.

Kentucky Youth Advocates thanks the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its funding of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT project, and also thanks the book's sponsors. Any findings and conclusions presented in this report are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Casey Foundation or other supporters.

For additional copies, call (502) 895-8167 or place an order at kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/.

Learn more about Kentucky Youth Advocates at kyyouth.org.
Please consider making a secure, online tax-deductible donation to help us continue our work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2019 Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book is the 29th 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 Matthew Ruther 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 members contributed to the production of this project: Tina Agonva, Terry Brooks, Paul Colwell, Kelsey Dimar, Tammy Donoho, Cortney Downs, Benjamin Gies, Tara Grieshop-Goodwin, Mahak Kalra, Harper Kelly, Shannon Moody, Amy Muth, Mara Powell, Courtney Rasche, Zak Roussel, Amy Swann, Patricia Tennen, 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
  - Nutrition Services Branch
  - Vital Statistics Branch

Kentucky Department of Education

- Office of Education Technology
  - Division of School Data Services

Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Department of Juvenile Justice

Louisville Metro, Youth Detention Services

Kentucky Youth Advocates Board of Directors

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.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

AS THIS BOOK GOES TO PRINT, Kentuckians are preparing to make their selections for our governor and constitutional officers. For months we have been awash in commercials, sound bites, and social media posts that seemed like a game of political ping-pong. With these races so contested—especially the gubernatorial race—we actually considered delaying the production of this *County Data Book* until Kentucky knew who its next governor would be.

But when we asked ourselves, "Does that matter?" we realized, surprisingly, that it didn't. Regardless of the outcome of the election, we know that the governor will care about this annual report card for child well-being and use it to gauge how our commonwealth is caring for our children. And we know that the governor will believe that every Kentucky kid deserves all the tools and opportunities that we as a commonwealth can provide.

How can we be so presumptuous? Because time and time again, from the Capitol to the Governor's Mansion, kids' issues are the common ground that unite our state's decision-makers. As we enter the 2020 General Assembly, we expect that leaders will advance a far-ranging, smart, and budget-sensitive agenda when it comes to kids. Because we at Kentucky Youth Advocates believe that what gets measured, gets changed, we hope this KIDS COUNT data will serve as a catalyst for that agenda.

So how are we doing? As you will see in this year's KIDS COUNT *County Data Book*, there continues to be positive movement in data trends around families' economic security. Fewer children—an outstanding improvement from more than 26% of Kentucky kids to just over 21%—are living in poverty compared to 2012. In addition, fewer Kentucky kids are left wondering where their next meal will come from due to food insecurity.

While tens of thousands of children may be experiencing more stability due to their families' economic situation, tens of thousands of other children are experiencing significant disruption due to living in foster care. Last year we reported that the trend around the rate of children in foster care was moving in the wrong direction, and sadly that hasn't improved for this year's edition of the book.

You will also find a new data indicator, the percent of children who are reunified with their parent or primary caretaker when they exit foster care. Kentucky's recent Child Welfare Transformation, bolstered with funding from the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, includes a commitment to provide families facing challenges with the services they need to either stay safely together or be safely reunited. Currently, this data is trending in the wrong direction; the percentage of children reunited with their families has decreased from 41% in 2011-2013 to only 36% in 2016-2018. When children cannot remain safely in their home, we hope that services provided to families will allow those children to return home soon and turn this data in the right direction.

The KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* is a flagship publication for child well-being data, so in this year's essay we are highlighting our nation's largest data collection effort, the decennial census. More than 12,000 Kentucky kids under age 5 were not counted in the 2010 census—an omission that cost our commonwealth and our kids more than $12 million per year. All of us can help ensure that every Kentucky kid is counted in the 2020 census, and the essay includes action items that we must begin working on immediately.

More than 1 million children in Kentucky are relying on us—all of us, from the statehouse to your house—to put Kentucky kids first. At the time you are reading this, the dust from the election will hopefully have settled. Commercials are off the air, and sound bites have silenced.

Now we can all get back to work on the common ground, common sense, and common good agenda that is the future of Kentucky's kids.

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

COMMON GROUND, COMMON SENSE, and COMMON GOOD

USING THE DATA BOOK AND KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

For 29 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.

New to this year's Data Book is an indicator measuring how many children leaving foster care are reunified with their parent(s) or other primary caregiver. With record high numbers of Kentucky children in foster care, it is important to track where youth are placed when they exit the child welfare system. Research shows that, when appropriate, returning to family is often the best option to meet children's social-emotional needs. This indicator replaces the measure of children living in high-poverty areas, though that data is still available at the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Using the Data Book

Data are portrayed as rates (which account for differences in population size), so each county can easily compare their situation to that of the state as a whole or surrounding counties. In addition to offering the most recent data, this Data Book shows whether outcomes have improved, worsened, or stayed the same since five years prior (or as close as possible). This information enables communities to see whether they are moving in the right direction on improving child well-being.

Supplemental County Profiles, available on our website at kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count, provide additional information for each county, including the baseline rates used for comparison and county rankings for the 17 indicators in the Data Book. The indicator-specific rankings represent a comparison 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, on that indicator; it simply means a county is doing better than most other counties.

Check out the interactive KIDS COUNT Data Dashboard at kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/data for additional information on the 17 indicators in the Data Book. The latest feature includes data broken out by race and ethnicity to show how children fare often differs greatly across racial groups.

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. Use the navigation tools on the left side of the page to choose the desired level of geography and home 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.

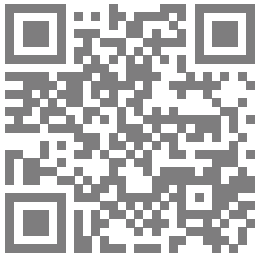
KIDS COUNT data center datacenter.kidscount.org/ky

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.

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

Passport Health Plan serves over 300,000 Medicaid members across Kentucky, more than 40% of whom are under the age of 18 and often among our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Statistics show a wide range of health implications for social determinants such as economic security and education, among others explored in the Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book*. To ensure our children's wellbeing, it is crucial to know where our communities stand today and where we need to go. This important tool helps us all continually reevaluate both our progress and our shortcomings – so we can collectively make course corrections to support our kids. The annual data book presents us with such a narrative and contains vital data that, if used well, can help shape the lives of our young people and the future of our state.

Passport Health Plan shares Kentucky Youth Advocates' goal to help Kentucky children live happier, healthier lives and we are proud to once again sponsor the KIDS COUNT *County Data Book*.

—Scott A. Bowers,
President & Chief Executive Officer,
Passport Health Plan

PRESENTING SPONSOR

KOSAIR CHARITIES®

Since 1923, Kosair Charities has shown children their potential instead of their obstacles. By advancing child advocacy services, clinical research, childhood education, pediatric healthcare, and social services, our focus is on what children need to succeed. As we and our partner organizations work to help kids in our community become healthy and successful, we rely on Kentucky KIDS COUNT data. The KIDS COUNT data on child well-being highlights the progress we have all made for kids and identifies gaps where we still have work to do. We are honored to work alongside Kentucky Youth Advocates to elevate the futures of our kids and community.

—Keith Inman, *President, Kosair Charities*

KENTUCKY COUNTIES

Notes from the Field:

What we've learned about the 2020 census over the past two years

The philosophy behind the KIDS COUNT project is that what gets measured gets changed. That by counting kids – in poverty, without health insurance, or not graduating high school – and putting that data into the hands of our elected officials and policymakers, child-serving professionals and concerned Kentuckians, we can create public accountability for those outcomes and spur data-based decision-making.

In 2010, 12,568 KY kids under age 5 were missed in the census.

As such, accurate data is the keystone to our work. So, you can imagine our surprise and concern when we learned that more than 10,000 Kentucky kids were not counted in this nation's largest data collection effort – the decennial census. Over the past two years, we have learned a lot about how this undercount impacts communities and children across the Commonwealth and how we can work together to prevent it from happening again.

The U.S. must count all residents every ten years.

The consequences can be summarized as effecting dollars, data, and democracy.

Dollars

Outside of the mere existence of the undercount, the most shocking revelation was the amount of federal funding affected by it. More than 300 federal programs use census-derived data for allocating more than $600 billion to states, localities, and households. Put simply, each person missed in the census results in less funding sent to our state, our towns, and our school districts.

These programs span every age group, from infants receiving nutrition through WIC to seniors receiving nutrition from Special Programs for the Aging (Title III, Part C). These are funding streams all of us benefit from (highway construction, homeland security, and waste disposal systems) and supports for those struggling to meet their families' basic needs (subsidized housing and food assistance). And there are programs designed specifically to address children's health (CHIP), education (Head Start, Title I and special education grants), and nutrition (the school lunch and breakfast programs).

MORE PROGRAMS
- Pell Grants
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Crime Victim Assistance

For most programs it is difficult to calculate exactly how much we lose for each person missed in the census. However, there are five programs for which we can: Medicaid, CHIP, foster care (Title IV-E), adoption assistance, and a portion of the Child Care Block Grant. The young children missed in Kentucky in the 2010 census cost our state $12.2 million per year in funding for those programs. Imagine how many more millions of dollars our state unwittingly surrendered if we could only calculate the per person expenditure for all the other programs.

Data

In addition to determining funding allocations, there are many other ways decennial census data are used. Communities use the data to plan for the future needs of its residents. School buildings are an excellent example of this. When young children are missed in the census, school districts underestimate whether their current school buildings will have the capacity to house those missed children. This lack of information can result in overcrowded schools.

A 4-year-old missed in the 2020 census will have entered high school by the time the next census is conducted.

The population data from the census can help towns decide whether and where to build new bridges, hospitals, and health clinics. Census data tells us whether a rural county has become a suburban or urban county. And the data is used by businesses to decide where to open new stores and locate distribution centers.

The 2010 census showed population growth was largely in Northern and Central Kentucky.

Of particular interest to the KIDS COUNT project is how the decennial census – the only time the U.S. attempts to count every person residing here – is used by the Census Bureau to design the many other surveys they conduct throughout the year. For example, the decennial census no longer asks about household income, but the American Community Survey does. Should the Census Bureau be sending that survey to more Kentucky households in order to get a clearer picture of how many children live in poor families? These are the kinds of questions raised by an inaccurate count in the decennial census.

See Article I, Section 2

Democracy

The decennial census is foundational to our democracy in the truest sense of the word. Our founders wrote into the U.S. Constitution the requirement to count every resident every ten years in order to determine how many seats each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives. When states experience enough population growth they receive an additional Representative to ensure Congressional districts are comparable in size. If population shrinks enough, or too many people are missed in the census, a state can lose a seat in Congress, as happened to Kentucky after the 1990 census.

Census data is similarly used by state and local governments to determine how many state legislative districts or town council districts are needed. The Census Bureau does not determine where district boundaries should be drawn, but elected officials can use the data to make sure each legislator or council member has equivalent sized constituencies to answer to. The data is also used to define voting precincts.

New opportunities and challenges

For the first time in history, households will be able to complete the decennial census online. This could prove to be a popular option for younger people who are used to conducting business on a smartphone and for households that have a good internet connection. However, it could prove challenging for others, like seniors – who are repeatedly advised not to disclose personal information online – and Kentucky's many rural areas with poor internet access. Households will continue to have the option of completing the census by phone or on paper, but most addresses will not receive a paper copy of the form in the mail until almost a month after the request to go online. This is problematic because people are less likely to complete surveys the longer they wait to respond.

23% of Kentucky households have either no internet subscription or dial-up only.

This is also the first time respondents can complete the census via phone without having to use the unique ID included in the packet their household received from the Census Bureau. The ability to complete the census online and by phone using your household address, instead of the unique ID, will make it much easier for those helping families navigate the census. Now school personnel, a pastor, or a food bank can immediately help a family without internet access or someone who doesn't speak English well without that family needing to have their packet with them.

Spanish speakers with questions about the census can call the Hágase Contar toll-free bilingual hotline at 877-EL-CENSO

Safety and security concerns

The push to complete the census online comes amid fears about data privacy and security. The best way to ease those fears is to provide people the facts. The Census Bureau is designing its IT infrastructure to defend against and contain any cyberthreats. To protect individuals from scams, the Bureau is advertising that they never ask for your Social Security number, your mother's maiden name, bank account or credit card numbers, money or donations, or any information on behalf of a political party.

If you suspect fraud, call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.

Many people have concerns on what the Bureau is allowed to do with the data collected from them. It is vital people understand that the Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about an individual or their family or household, even to law enforcement agencies. It is illegal for:

- The Census Bureau to disclose census responses in any way that would personally identify a respondent;
- Anyone to see census responses except for employees of the Census Bureau, who are sworn to secrecy under the threat of criminal punishment;
- The Census Bureau to disclose census responses to other government agencies;
- Data collected for the census to be used for any nonstatistical purpose, such as immigration regulation or other law enforcement; and
- The Census Bureau or any other federal agency to use census data to the detriment of the person to whom the information pertains.

Census records can only be released 72 years after collection.

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect everyone's answers and keep them strictly confidential. In fact, every employee of the Bureau takes an oath to protect that personal information for life. Violating that oath is a serious crime that can result in a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to $250,000, or both.

We all have a role to play to get out the count!

You can:

- Spread the word on social media
- Engage local newspapers, radio, and TV stations
- Create or join a local Complete Count Committee

K-12 schools can:

- Use Census Bureau's Statistics in Schools materials
- Host an after-school event for families
  - Provide computers, food, and interpreters
- Put reminder stickers on students April 1st

Early childhood providers can:

- Remind parents that ALL children should be counted (even newborns)
- Use Census Bureau materials to answer questions about
  - Split custody
  - Multi-family households
  - Families without a permanent address

Organizations serving kinship/ foster/adoptive families can:

- Explain children in the home should be counted regardless of anticipated length of stay or legal custody
- Stress that responses CANNOT be shared with landlords, child protective services, food stamp offices, etc.

Those working with immigrant/refugee/migrant families can:

- Emphasize that their information CANNOT be shared with law enforcement or immigration agencies, or used to determine eligibility for government benefits or naturalization
- Encourage ESL speakers to use the phone or online options available in 13 languages
- Use the Census Bureau's language assistance guides (available in 59 languages)

State Data Trends

ECONOMIC SECURITY

	BASELINE DATA	LATEST DATA	CHANGE SINCE BASELINE*
CHILDREN IN DEEP POVERTY (below 50% of the federal poverty level) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 114,000	12% 2008-12	12% 2013-17	=
CHILDREN IN POVERTY (below 100% of the federal poverty level) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 219,000	26.5% 2012	22.1% 2017	✓
CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES (below 200% of the federal poverty level) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 464,000	48% 2008-12	47% 2013-17	✓
CHILDREN LIVING IN FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 187,000	21.7% 2013	18.4% 2017	✓

EDUCATION

KINDERGARTENERS READY TO LEARN NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 24,480	49.0% SY 2013-14	51.1% SY 2018-19	✓
FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS PROFICIENT IN READING NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 27,128	54.0% SY 2013-14	53.0% SY 2018-19	✗
EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS PROFICIENT IN MATH NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 22,575	45.2% SY 2013-14	45.3% SY 2018-19	✓
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATING ON TIME NUMBER OF TEENS: 45,349	87.5% SY 2013-14	90.6% SY 2018-19	✓

HEALTH

	BASELINE DATA	LATEST DATA	CHANGE SINCE BASELINE*
SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 30,621	20.7% 2010-12	18.7% 2015-17	✓
LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES NUMBER OF BABIES: 14,579	9.0% 2010-12	8.8% 2015-17	✓
CHILDREN UNDER 19 WITH HEALTH INSURANCE NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 999,000	94.0% 2012	96.3% 2017	✓
YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 19-25) WITH HEALTH INSURANCE NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS: 353,000	–	85% 2013-17	–
TEEN BIRTHS (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19) NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 12,462	42.9 2010-12	29.7 2015-17	✓

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

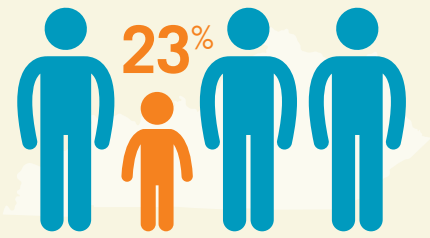
BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 22,854	17.5% 2010-12	14.0% 2015-17	✓
CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 47,845	35.3 2011-13	47.3 2016-18	✗
CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE TO REUNIFICATION NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 6,343	41% 2011-13	36% 2016-18	✗
YOUTH INCARCERATED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (rate per 1,000 youth ages 10-17) NUMBER OF YOUTH: 12,138	45.1 2011-13	26.6 2016-18	✓

✓ 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

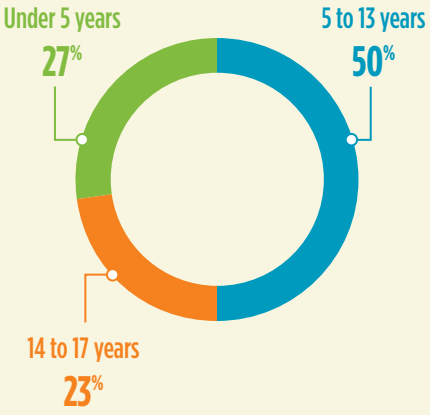
Nearly 1 in 4 Kentuckians are children.



Percentage of Kentucky Population Under Age 18: 2018

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Population Estimates.

Child population by age groups: 2018



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Population Estimates.

	2018	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Kentucky	**275,412**	**1,008,829**
Adair	1,059	3,906
Allen	1,253	4,858
Anderson	1,384	5,335
Ballard	396	1,691
Barren	2,905	10,386
Bath	828	3,111
Bell	1,565	5,646
Boone	8,606	34,210
Bourbon	1,226	4,634
Boyd	2,631	10,048
Boyle	1,605	6,015
Bracken	491	1,924
Breathitt	747	2,597
Breckinridge	1,270	4,654
Bullitt	4,328	17,795
Butler	798	2,876
Caldwell	738	2,845
Calloway	2,022	7,089
Campbell	5,431	19,395
Carlisle	321	1,086
Carroll	789	2,798
Carter	1,724	6,077
Casey	1,036	3,645
Christian	6,882	19,263
Clark	2,202	8,087
Clay	1,184	4,242
Clinton	612	2,293
Crittenden	471	1,966
Cumberland	404	1,441

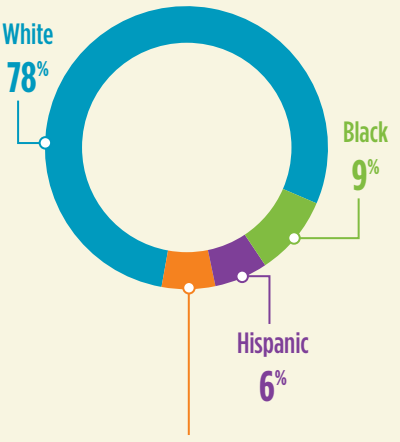
	2018	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Daviess	6,827	24,735
Edmonson	584	2,253
Elliott	344	1,370
Estill	765	3,045
Fayette	19,525	67,639
Fleming	907	3,475
Floyd	2,092	7,829
Franklin	2,842	10,589
Fulton	402	1,342
Gallatin	565	2,139
Garrard	974	3,841
Grant	1,884	6,661
Graves	2,516	8,941
Grayson	1,598	6,154
Green	609	2,310
Greenup	1,876	7,535
Hancock	601	2,238
Hardin	7,362	27,155
Harlan	1,735	6,055
Harrison	1,164	4,228
Hart	1,324	4,633
Henderson	2,758	10,568
Henry	949	3,804
Hickman	205	842
Hopkins	2,650	10,188
Jackson	860	3,052
Jefferson	48,326	170,791
Jessamine	3,481	12,999
Johnson	1,203	4,881
Kenton	11,218	39,533

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Population Estimates.

	2018	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Knott	841	3,046
Knox	1,962	7,316
LaRue	804	3,183
Laurel	3,739	14,052
Lawrence	974	3,692
Lee	406	1,351
Leslie	599	2,192
Letcher	1,318	4,739
Lewis	737	2,853
Lincoln	1,658	5,877
Livingston	508	1,883
Logan	1,739	6,305
Lyon	290	1,164
McCracken	3,973	14,650
McCreary	1,036	3,783
McLean	530	2,205
Madison	5,218	19,144
Magoffin	729	2,760
Marion	1,219	4,692
Marshall	1,687	6,423
Martin	533	2,220
Mason	1,054	4,007
Meade	1,519	6,425
Menifee	338	1,193
Mercer	1,284	4,787
Metcalfe	625	2,363
Monroe	675	2,420
Montgomery	1,869	6,690
Morgan	654	2,438
Muhlenberg	1,729	6,357

	2018	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Nelson	2,844	10,814
Nicholas	463	1,708
Ohio	1,464	5,886
Oldham	3,370	16,937
Owen	551	2,404
Owsley	299	1,009
Pendleton	862	3,268
Perry	1,754	5,984
Pike	3,071	12,021
Powell	837	3,000
Pulaski	3,698	14,373
Robertson	108	440
Rockcastle	897	3,600
Rowan	1,339	4,762
Russell	1,082	4,039
Scott	3,672	14,108
Shelby	3,006	11,172
Simpson	1,206	4,466
Spencer	1,032	4,262
Taylor	1,624	5,665
Todd	861	3,290
Trigg	793	3,206
Trimble	485	1,889
Union	744	2,695
Warren	8,460	30,099
Washington	799	2,878
Wayne	1,118	4,175
Webster	872	3,083
Whitley	2,824	9,150
Wolfe	442	1,650
Woodford	1,534	5,848

Child population by race/ethnicity: 2018



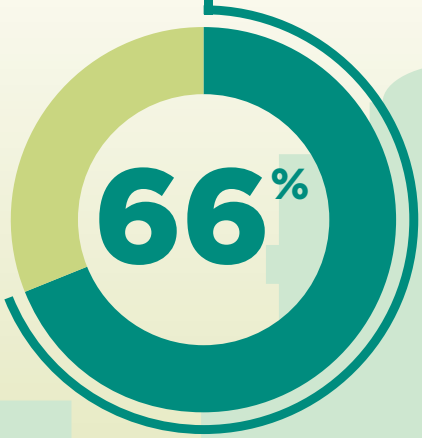
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Population Estimates.

Find county-level estimates for race/ethnicity at datacenter.kidscount.org/ky.

Economic Security

Children fare better when their families can pay their bills and buy what they need. In order to enter and remain in the workforce, parents need access to reliable child care. They also need the ability to take time off to care for sick children or recover from childbirth, without losing their financial stability.

66% of Kentucky children under age 6 have all available parents in the labor force



SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, 2018.

Access to high-quality, affordable child care yields benefits for parents, children, and their communities:

- Parents can get and keep a job knowing their children are safe with licensed caregivers.
- Early childhood education sets children up for success in school and life.
- Local economies are boosted when more parents can enter the workforce.

Access to paid family leave enables people to care for their families without losing their financial stability, yet only 19 percent of civilian workers receive it.

- Parents can take time off to care for a sick child or recover from childbirth.
- Workers can care for their aging parents.

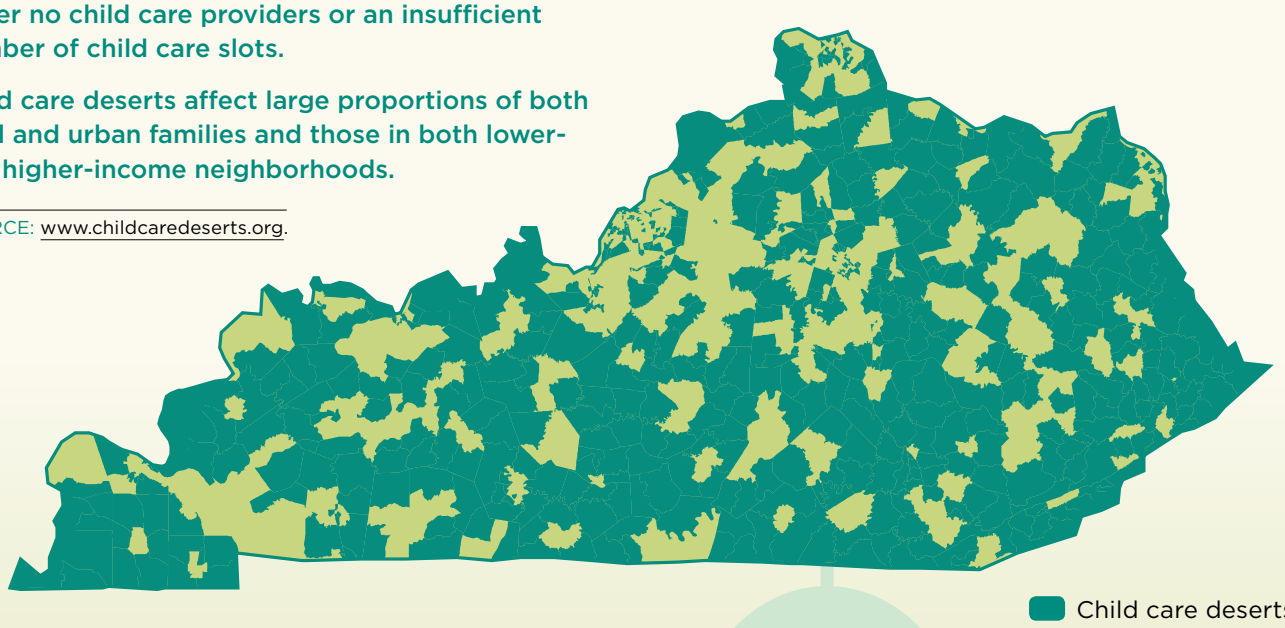
SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey, March 2019.

Half of all Kentuckians live in a child care desert

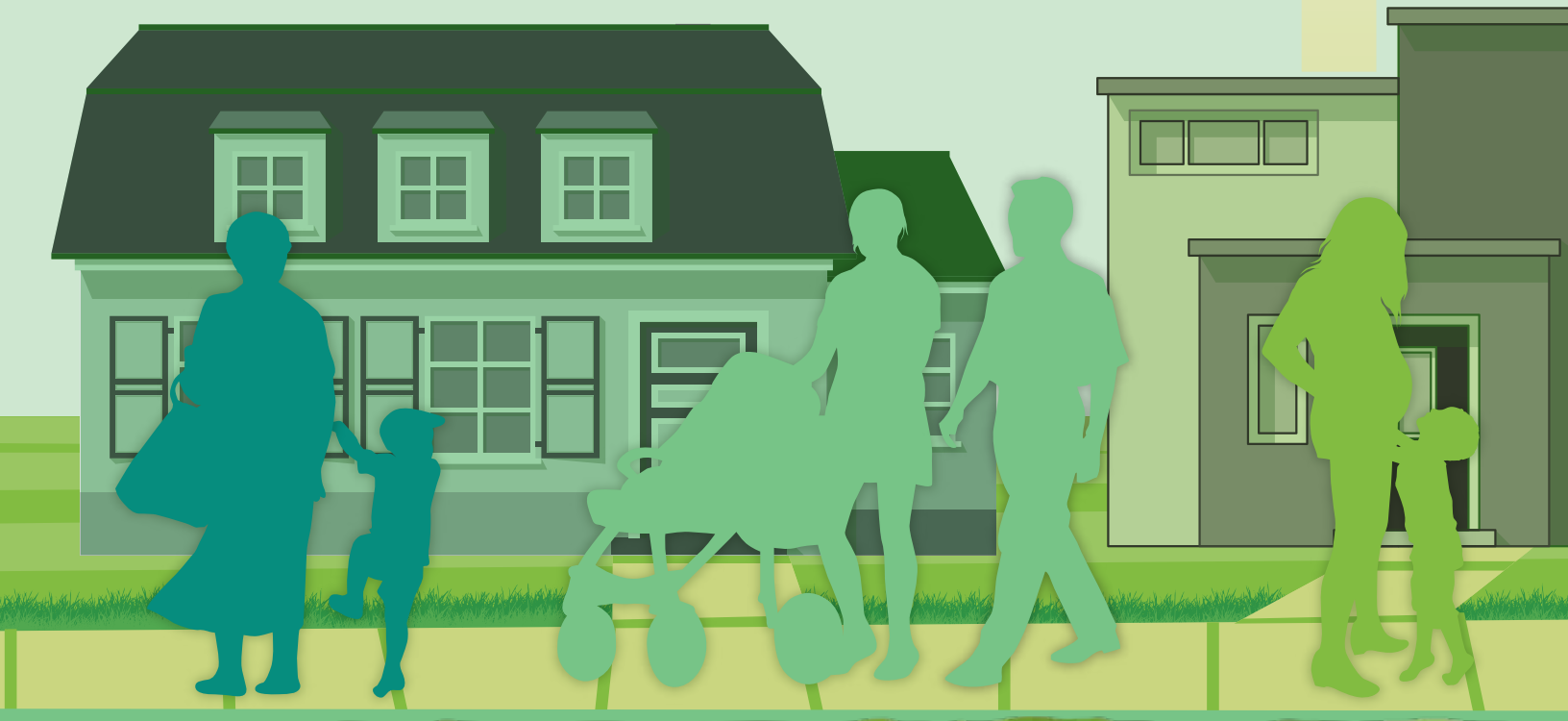
A child care desert is a census tract that contains either no child care providers or an insufficient number of child care slots.

Child care deserts affect large proportions of both rural and urban families and those in both lower- and higher-income neighborhoods.

SOURCE: www.childcaredeserts.org.



Kentucky can improve the financial stability of families through **increased state funding for child care assistance** and **enacting a state refundable Earned Income Tax Credit** that enables families to keep more of their hard-earned income. **Raising payment rates for child care providers** accepting families with subsidized child care would stem the tide of child care closures, incentivize new child care businesses, and make it easier to recruit and retain teachers. **Advancing paid family leave** would allow Kentuckians to care for their families during difficult times while maintaining stable employment.



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	
	2013-17	Change since 2008-12	2017	Change since 2012	2013-17	Change since 2008-12	2017	Change since 2013
Kentucky	**12%**	=	**22.1%**	✓	**47%**	✓	**18.4%**	✓
Adair	10%	✗	33.5%	✓	56%	✗	20.7%	✓
Allen	9%	✓	30.2%	✓	56%	=	19.2%	✓
Anderson	8%	=	14.1%	✓	36%	✗	15.4%	✓
Ballard	11%	N/A	23.7%	✓	54%	✗	22.2%	✗
Barren	18%	✗	32.8%	✗	64%	✗	21.2%	✓
Bath	14%	✓	34.0%	✓	65%	✓	23.3%	✓
Bell	30%	✗	45.5%	✓	70%	✗	28.3%	✓
Boone	4%	✗	8.7%	✓	27%	✗	13.6%	✓
Bourbon	11%	✗	23.0%	✓	45%	✓	17.8%	✓
Boyd	14%	✓	28.5%	✗	48%	✗	21.6%	✓
Boyle	4%	✓	19.5%	✓	45%	✓	17.0%	✓
Bracken	11%	✓	20.7%	✓	41%	✓	20.0%	✓
Breathitt	24%	✗	44.5%	✗	78%	✗	28.5%	✓
Breckinridge	9%	✓	25.5%	✓	50%	✓	18.9%	✓
Bullitt	4%	✓	12.2%	✓	31%	✓	14.7%	✓
Butler	13%	✓	23.0%	✓	69%	✗	22.6%	✓
Caldwell	14%	✓	24.6%	✓	39%	✓	18.4%	✓
Calloway	11%	✗	20.6%	✓	41%	✓	18.2%	✓
Campbell	10%	✗	11.7%	✓	35%	✓	16.0%	✓
Carlisle	S	N/A	22.4%	✓	65%	✗	22.1%	✓
Carroll	29%	✗	31.3%	✓	54%	✓	23.9%	✓
Carter	14%	=	33.9%	✓	59%	✗	23.9%	✓
Casey	13%	✓	33.2%	✓	65%	=	20.9%	✓
Christian	14%	=	27.4%	✓	57%	✓	19.7%	✓
Clark	7%	✓	20.0%	✓	42%	✓	17.5%	✓
Clay	23%	✓	55.7%	✗	70%	✗	29.6%	✓
Clinton	8%	✓	35.4%	✓	63%	✓	20.1%	✓
Crittenden	8%	✓	28.6%	✓	51%	✓	19.4%	✓
Cumberland	S	N/A	33.0%	✓	46%	✓	17.8%	✓

	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	
	2013-17	Change since 2008-12	2017	Change since 2012	2013-17	Change since 2008-12	2017	Change since 2013
Daviess	12%	✗	21.7%	✓	48%	✗	17.7%	✓
Edmonson	S	N/A	24.5%	✓	52%	✓	20.0%	✓
Elliott	24%	✗	35.0%	✓	72%	✗	29.2%	✗
Estill	18%	✓	29.8%	✓	67%	=	24.5%	✓
Fayette	10%	=	17.1%	✓	43%	✗	16.2%	✓
Fleming	13%	✗	25.4%	✓	53%	✓	20.4%	✓
Floyd	25%	✗	39.0%	✓	63%	✓	26.8%	✓
Franklin	10%	✓	19.2%	✓	35%	✓	16.5%	✓
Fulton	18%	✓	42.8%	✓	61%	✓	23.9%	✓
Gallatin	7%	✓	21.8%	✓	62%	✗	17.1%	✓
Garrard	12%	✗	23.8%	✓	46%	✓	19.4%	✓
Grant	23%	✗	20.7%	✓	61%	✗	21.7%	✗
Graves	11%	=	24.9%	✓	48%	✓	19.2%	✓
Grayson	9%	✓	29.6%	✓	61%	✗	23.3%	✓
Green	S	N/A	26.2%	✓	46%	✓	17.4%	✓
Greenup	13%	✗	22.2%	✓	44%	✗	21.2%	✓
Hancock	17%	✗	17.2%	✓	47%	✗	18.9%	✓
Hardin	8%	✓	16.8%	✓	42%	✓	17.2%	✓
Harlan	21%	✓	49.2%	✗	71%	✗	28.3%	✓
Harrison	6%	✓	21.1%	✓	39%	✓	17.5%	✓
Hart	8%	✓	26.2%	✓	56%	✓	19.4%	✓
Henderson	11%	✗	20.6%	✓	49%	✗	19.5%	✓
Henry	14%	✓	20.3%	✓	47%	✓	18.6%	✓
Hickman	S	N/A	27.6%	✓	71%	✗	17.6%	✓
Hopkins	15%	✓	25.2%	✓	50%	✓	18.8%	✓
Jackson	16%	✓	38.9%	✓	65%	✓	27.5%	✓
Jefferson	10%	✓	19.8%	✓	43%	✓	16.7%	✓
Jessamine	14%	✗	20.3%	✓	43%	✓	18.3%	✓
Johnson	15%	✓	29.7%	✓	45%	✓	21.9%	✓
Kenton	11%	✗	14.3%	✓	38%	✓	16.3%	✓

✓ 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	
	2013-17	Change since 2008-12	2017	Change since 2012	2013-17	Change since 2008-12	2017	Change since 2013
Knott	21%	✗	42.0%	✗	73%	✗	28.4%	✓
Knox	23%	✗	37.4%	✓	74%	✗	27.2%	✓
LaRue	13%	✓	21.4%	✓	53%	=	18.3%	✓
Laurel	23%	✗	30.4%	✗	59%	✗	23.1%	✓
Lawrence	12%	✓	38.9%	✗	61%	✓	23.3%	✓
Lee	28%	✓	48.0%	✓	71%	✗	27.5%	✓
Leslie	18%	N/A	37.3%	✗	53%	✗	26.6%	✓
Letcher	28%	✗	38.3%	✗	64%	✗	27.6%	✓
Lewis	17%	✓	35.3%	✓	60%	✓	24.7%	✓
Lincoln	13%	✓	28.2%	✓	58%	✓	21.1%	✓
Livingston	S	N/A	23.4%	✗	45%	✓	20.2%	✓
Logan	9%	✓	24.4%	✓	48%	✓	17.2%	✓
Lyon	S	N/A	20.2%	✓	46%	✓	18.5%	✓
McCracken	12%	✗	21.2%	✓	46%	=	19.2%	✓
McCreary	31%	✗	45.6%	✓	75%	✗	27.4%	✓
McLean	14%	✓	21.3%	✓	52%	✓	20.9%	✓
Madison	7%	✓	17.6%	✓	39%	✓	16.9%	✓
Magoffin	22%	✓	39.3%	✓	63%	✓	31.5%	✓
Marion	9%	✓	19.9%	✓	56%	✗	17.8%	✓
Marshall	6%	N/A	16.9%	✓	38%	✓	16.8%	✓
Martin	21%	=	45.9%	✗	63%	✓	23.7%	✓
Mason	12%	✗	26.3%	✓	49%	✓	20.2%	✓
Meade	9%	=	15.1%	✓	43%	✓	16.8%	✓
Menifee	24%	✓	39.1%	✓	55%	✓	24.5%	✓
Mercer	7%	✓	19.3%	✓	47%	✗	18.0%	✓
Metcalfe	11%	✗	34.7%	✓	65%	✗	20.3%	✓
Monroe	21%	✗	33.1%	✓	60%	✓	20.6%	✓
Montgomery	9%	✓	22.3%	✓	57%	=	21.5%	✓
Morgan	18%	✓	34.4%	✓	61%	✓	24.5%	✓
Muhlenberg	12%	✓	24.9%	✓	55%	✗	21.3%	✓
Nelson	8%	✓	15.1%	✓	36%	✓	15.2%	✓

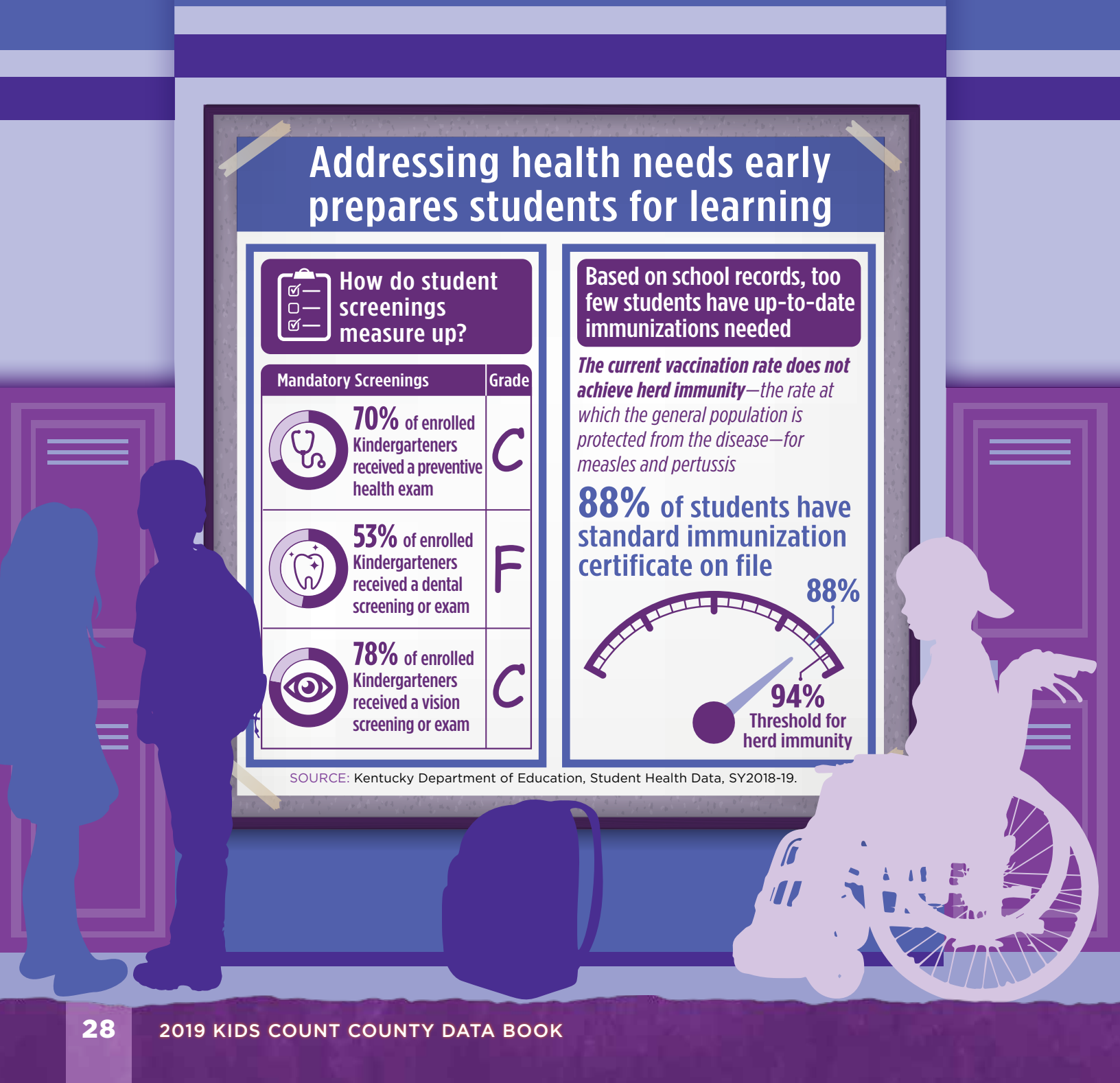
	Children in deep poverty (below 50% of the federal poverty level)		Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		Children living in food insecure households	
	2013-17	Change since 2008-12	2017	Change since 2012	2013-17	Change since 2008-12	2017	Change since 2013
Nicholas	20%	N/A	27.6%	✓	68%	✗	26.1%	✗
Ohio	14%	✓	23.7%	✓	55%	✓	22.9%	✓
Oldham	3%	=	4.8%	✓	15%	✓	11.7%	✓
Owen	S	N/A	20.9%	✓	59%	✗	16.5%	✓
Owsley	S	N/A	49.2%	✓	65%	✓	24.2%	✓
Pendleton	10%	✓	21.7%	✓	37%	✓	18.0%	✓
Perry	14%	✓	33.4%	✓	60%	✗	23.4%	✓
Pike	19%	✗	35.8%	✗	59%	✗	24.4%	✓
Powell	10%	✓	35.0%	✓	50%	✓	21.7%	✓
Pulaski	18%	✗	29.4%	✓	50%	✓	21.3%	✓
Robertson	23%	✓	29.2%	✓	72%	✗	28.6%	✗
Rockcastle	15%	✓	28.5%	✓	54%	✓	20.9%	✓
Rowan	10%	✓	26.7%	✓	60%	✗	22.1%	✓
Russell	15%	=	32.1%	✓	57%	✗	23.3%	✓
Scott	5%	✓	12.7%	✓	35%	✓	14.9%	✓
Shelby	10%	✗	13.6%	✓	42%	✗	15.0%	✓
Simpson	S	N/A	21.3%	✓	49%	✗	19.7%	✓
Spencer	S	N/A	9.2%	✓	23%	✓	13.1%	✓
Taylor	15%	✓	25.6%	✓	65%	✗	22.2%	✓
Todd	8%	✗	24.6%	✓	59%	✗	18.2%	✓
Trigg	S	N/A	22.6%	✓	46%	✓	19.9%	✓
Trimble	S	N/A	19.1%	✓	43%	✗	18.8%	✓
Union	12%	✗	21.9%	✓	50%	✓	20.0%	✓
Warren	8%	✓	19.4%	✓	48%	=	17.3%	✓
Washington	S	N/A	20.4%	✓	38%	✓	16.4%	✓
Wayne	13%	✓	35.4%	✓	61%	✓	22.6%	✓
Webster	9%	=	20.0%	✓	60%	✗	22.1%	✗
Whitley	19%	✗	36.2%	✓	65%	✓	22.0%	✓
Wolfe	23%	✓	43.3%	✓	70%	✓	28.0%	✓
Woodford	12%	✗	13.2%	✓	41%	✗	17.7%	✗

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

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

Education

Children whose health needs are met can focus better in class and are less likely to miss school. Yet too many Kentucky students are not receiving required health checks which could identify early any issues that can interfere with learning. Providing quality health services, along with healthy learning environments, can help address students' immediate and long-term health needs and lead to lifelong success.



We can create stronger health partnerships that will improve kids' overall health and educational success. **Partnerships between school districts and local health providers** can expand healthcare for students and their families. Family Resource and Youth Services Centers within schools can **help families enroll** in Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) and Medicaid. And **telehealth services and school-based health centers** can provide treatment right where kids are learning.

Education

School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth grade students proficient in reading		Eighth grade students proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14
Kentucky	**51.1%**	✓	**53.0%**	✗	**45.3%**	✓	**90.6%**	✓
Adair County	43.4%	✓	55.6%	✓	49.2%	✓	96.0%	✓
Allen County	61.5%	✓	58.6%	✓	52.4%	✗	96.2%	✓
Anderson County	42.5%	✗	50.7%	✗	38.0%	✗	92.5%	✗
Ballard County	44.2%	✗	46.2%	✗	49.2%	✗	94.4%	✓
Barren County	65.3%	✓	61.6%	✓	46.1%	✗	91.6%	✓
Caverna Independent	48.8%	✓	31.1%	✗	54.3%	✓	86.8%	✓
Glasgow Independent	41.4%	✗	52.3%	✗	74.6%	✓	87.0%	✗
Bath County	36.2%	✗	54.4%	✓	25.0%	✗	93.0%	✓
Bell County	49.0%	✓	51.5%	✓	44.8%	✓	95.1%	✓
Middlesboro Independent	42.6%	✓	59.7%	✓	31.7%	✓	97.2%	✓
Pineville Independent	59.4%	✗	53.3%	✓	37.5%	✓	94.9%	✓
Boone County	55.4%	✗	55.3%	✗	50.5%	✗	94.2%	✓
Walton-Verona Independent	63.2%	✗	58.8%	✗	58.7%	✓	95.3%	✗
Bourbon County	66.3%	✓	45.5%	✗	45.2%	✗	90.2%	✗
Paris Independent	53.7%	✓	32.8%	✗	38.6%	✓	100.0%	✓
Boyd County	53.9%	✓	48.8%	✗	42.8%	✗	94.6%	✓
Ashland Independent	40.2%	✓	59.4%	✓	48.8%	✓	94.6%	✓
Fairview Independent	37.5%	✗	30.9%	✗	6.9%	✗	94.2%	✓
Boyle County	62.7%	✓	79.4%	✓	62.1%	✓	98.2%	✓
Danville Independent	33.1%	=	52.5%	✗	29.2%	✗	91.2%	✓
Bracken County	39.6%	✗	32.0%	✗	62.1%	✓	92.9%	✗
Augusta Independent	33.3%	✓	36.4%	✓	19.4%	✗	88.2%	✗
Breathitt County	50.0%	✗	54.6%	✓	19.2%	✗	88.9%	✓
Jackson Independent	25.9%	✗	57.1%	✗	44.0%	✗	81.8%	✗
Breckinridge County	50.3%	✓	59.0%	✓	59.6%	✓	89.4%	✗
Cloverport Independent	30.0%	✗	57.5%	✓	27.6%	✗	100.0%	=
Bullitt County	44.9%	✗	52.2%	✗	44.2%	✓	92.3%	✓
Butler County	47.1%	✓	40.4%	✗	55.6%	✓	92.3%	✓

School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn 2018-19	Change since 2013-14	Fourth grade students proficient in reading 2018-19	Change since 2013-14	Eighth grade students proficient in math 2018-19	Change since 2013-14	High school students graduating on time 2018-19	Change since 2013-14
Caldwell County	56.8%	✓	52.5%	✗	65.5%	✓	96.5%	✓
Calloway County	46.2%	✓	60.7%	✗	64.5%	✓	94.0%	✗
Murray Independent	71.5%	✗	72.7%	✗	63.2%	✗	94.8%	✗
Campbell County	50.5%	✗	59.6%	✗	36.9%	✗	97.2%	✓
Bellevue Independent	51.1%	✗	56.8%	✓	38.1%	✓	100.0%	✓
Dayton Independent	52.5%	✓	32.8%	✗	48.5%	✓	93.0%	✓
Fort Thomas Independent	80.6%	✗	71.8%	✗	69.4%	✓	98.8%	✓
Newport Independent	34.6%	✓	21.6%	✗	37.1%	✗	93.3%	✓
Silver Grove Independent	**	N/A	40.0%	✓	23.1%	✗	88.9%	✗
Southgate Independent	37.5%	✗	64.3%	✗	40.0%	✗	~	~
Carlisle County	68.2%	✓	53.1%	✓	31.3%	✓	90.9%	✓
Carroll County	47.3%	✓	31.2%	✗	34.8%	✓	85.1%	✗
Carter County	60.2%	✓	60.1%	✓	61.1%	✓	97.4%	✗
Casey County	34.2%	✗	56.4%	✓	57.0%	✓	96.2%	✓
Christian County	45.9%	✓	39.6%	✗	28.6%	✗	90.6%	✓
Clark County	54.8%	✗	53.9%	✓	47.9%	✓	96.9%	✓
Clay County	56.7%	✓	64.3%	✓	42.0%	✓	86.2%	✗
Clinton County	43.3%	✓	42.3%	✗	40.0%	✓	94.2%	✓
Crittenden County	51.0%	✓	50.5%	✗	43.3%	✗	89.5%	✓
Cumberland County	40.5%	✗	50.8%	✓	39.3%	✓	100.0%	✓
Daviess County	56.7%	✓	59.5%	✗	48.4%	✗	92.3%	✗
Owensboro Independent	42.8%	✗	48.1%	✗	47.2%	✓	84.1%	✗
Edmonson County	51.1%	✓	65.8%	✓	65.6%	✓	94.9%	✓
Elliott County	27.9%	✗	57.5%	✓	21.6%	✗	92.2%	✗
Estill County	62.0%	✓	35.1%	✗	55.9%	✓	97.1%	✓
Fayette County	51.3%	✗	53.2%	✗	50.8%	✗	87.5%	✓
Fleming County	39.7%	✗	52.6%	✓	56.5%	✓	98.1%	✓
Floyd County	64.2%	✓	56.6%	✗	35.7%	✗	93.5%	✓
Franklin County	48.1%	✗	43.1%	✗	38.0%	✓	90.5%	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

** = Data suppressed by the source. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. ~ = School district has no high school.

Education

School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth grade students proficient in reading		Eighth grade students proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14
Frankfort Independent	44.4%	✓	44.6%	✓	52.6%	✓	91.1%	✗
Fulton County	50.0%	✗	31.7%	✗	24.3%	✗	100.0%	=
Fulton Independent	19.2%	✗	35.5%	✗	29.4%	✗	89.5%	✗
Gallatin County	28.2%	✗	36.0%	✗	43.9%	✓	89.9%	✓
Garrard County	49.7%	✓	61.6%	✓	28.7%	✗	93.7%	✓
Grant County	44.3%	✗	39.5%	✗	39.1%	✓	91.8%	✓
Williamstown Independent	53.2%	✓	44.2%	✗	30.9%	✗	96.2%	✓
Graves County	64.8%	✓	64.4%	✓	49.6%	✗	93.6%	✓
Mayfield Independent	58.8%	✓	47.9%	✓	34.4%	✓	96.0%	✗
Grayson County	41.3%	✗	58.4%	✓	58.3%	✓	89.6%	✓
Green County	57.7%	✓	68.7%	✓	60.5%	✓	97.6%	✓
Greenup County	65.9%	✓	55.9%	✓	42.7%	✗	94.9%	✓
Raceland-Worthington Independent	40.5%	✗	48.6%	✗	34.7%	✓	97.6%	✗
Russell Independent	67.1%	✗	60.9%	✗	53.0%	✓	98.8%	✓
Hancock County	37.0%	✗	60.7%	✗	64.5%	✓	92.9%	✗
Hardin County	52.6%	✓	52.9%	✓	43.3%	✗	89.7%	✗
Elizabethtown Independent	52.1%	✓	51.7%	✗	56.7%	✓	95.3%	✓
West Point Independent	56.3%	✓	8.3%	✗	30.8%	✗	~	~
Harlan County	43.3%	✗	60.4%	✓	44.4%	✗	96.4%	✓
Harlan Independent	43.4%	✓	78.8%	✓	57.9%	✓	96.1%	✗
Harrison County	52.8%	✓	40.3%	✗	51.7%	✓	92.6%	✓
Hart County	56.9%	✓	56.3%	✓	38.1%	✗	95.9%	✗
Henderson County	52.8%	✓	51.7%	✗	60.4%	✓	90.7%	✓
Henry County	63.8%	✓	34.2%	✗	41.3%	✓	93.0%	✗
Eminence Independent	55.8%	✓	37.0%	✗	37.3%	=	70.5%	✗
Hickman County	84.6%	✓	43.1%	✗	44.3%	✓	94.6%	✗
Hopkins County	56.4%	✓	60.9%	✓	40.5%	✗	90.1%	✗
Dawson Springs Independent	52.3%	✗	35.6%	✗	21.7%	✗	97.8%	✓
Jackson County	52.6%	✓	66.7%	✓	36.5%	✓	93.5%	✓

School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn 2018-19	Change since 2013-14	Fourth grade students proficient in reading 2018-19	Change since 2013-14	Eighth grade students proficient in math 2018-19	Change since 2013-14	High school students graduating on time 2018-19	Change since 2013-14
Jefferson County	52.5%	✓	44.8%	✗	35.4%	✗	82.3%	✓
Anchorage Independent	93.9%	✓	84.8%	✗	69.0%	✗	~	~
Jessamine County	47.6%	✗	53.1%	✗	40.3%	✗	92.6%	✓
Johnson County	45.9%	✓	65.8%	✗	52.4%	✓	95.5%	✓
Paintsville Independent	62.3%	✗	59.3%	✓	58.5%	✓	100.0%	✓
Kenton County	57.7%	✓	60.9%	✗	52.6%	✗	94.6%	✓
Beechwood Independent	82.8%	✓	72.7%	✗	65.5%	✓	99.0%	✓
Covington Independent	36.2%	✗	44.2%	✓	24.2%	✗	78.8%	✗
Erlanger-Elsmere Independent	39.2%	✓	45.1%	✗	23.2%	✗	88.8%	✓
Ludlow Independent	50.8%	✗	58.5%	✓	34.4%	✓	98.4%	✓
Knott County	51.7%	✓	63.6%	✓	29.4%	✗	95.3%	✓
Knox County	34.9%	✓	53.2%	✓	42.1%	✓	87.8%	✗
Barbourville Independent	55.4%	✗	67.3%	✓	66.7%	=	95.5%	✓
LaRue County	41.3%	✗	55.2%	✓	63.1%	✓	94.8%	✗
Laurel County	45.9%	✓	68.4%	✓	59.6%	✓	83.8%	✓
East Bernstadt Independent	59.7%	✓	63.6%	✗	41.2%	✓	~	~
Lawrence County	40.1%	✓	66.8%	✓	40.1%	✓	94.7%	=
Lee County	21.2%	✗	40.6%	✗	42.9%	✓	93.8%	✓
Leslie County	47.2%	✓	54.9%	✓	44.4%	✓	95.0%	✗
Letcher County	42.4%	✗	52.0%	✗	47.8%	✓	95.9%	✓
Jenkins Independent	16.1%	✗	37.1%	=	30.0%	✓	94.4%	✓
Lewis County	49.4%	✓	40.7%	✗	54.2%	✓	97.8%	✗
Lincoln County	37.8%	✗	45.4%	✗	28.3%	✗	88.1%	✗
Livingston County	42.9%	✓	47.3%	✗	65.1%	✓	94.6%	✗
Logan County	46.4%	✓	57.7%	✓	54.4%	✗	92.3%	✗
Russellville Independent	42.0%	✗	33.8%	✓	24.4%	✓	89.3%	✗
Lyon County	55.2%	✓	61.8%	✓	72.2%	✗	98.4%	✓
McCracken County	62.4%	✓	67.3%	✓	44.4%	✗	94.4%	✓
Paducah Independent	53.6%	✓	56.9%	✓	33.8%	✓	82.6%	✗

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

** = Data suppressed by the source. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. ~ = School district has no high school.

Education

	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth grade students proficient in reading		Eighth grade students proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
School Year	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14
McCreary County	61.8%	✓	63.4%	✓	48.2%	✓	94.0%	✓
McLean County	39.1%	✗	65.2%	✓	50.5%	✗	94.0%	✓
Madison County	48.7%	✗	56.3%	✗	46.5%	✓	92.6%	✗
Berea Independent	51.6%	✓	42.0%	✗	30.9%	✗	94.5%	✓
Magoffin County	59.3%	✓	67.4%	✓	41.3%	✗	95.0%	✓
Marion County	59.1%	✓	49.8%	✗	46.5%	✗	93.9%	✓
Marshall County	51.4%	✗	53.0%	✗	29.2%	✗	94.1%	✓
Martin County	55.6%	✓	49.7%	✓	27.1%	✓	90.3%	✓
Mason County	40.9%	✓	45.9%	✗	53.5%	✓	93.6%	✓
Meade County	49.3%	✓	57.4%	✗	53.1%	✗	93.5%	✓
Menifee County	23.3%	✗	42.1%	✗	36.1%	✓	95.3%	✓
Mercer County	41.4%	✓	51.2%	✓	41.6%	✓	99.5%	✓
Burgin Independent	33.3%	✗	82.2%	✓	48.9%	✓	100.0%	✓
Metcalfe County	50.0%	✗	45.8%	✗	23.5%	✗	91.4%	✓
Monroe County	67.9%	✓	83.1%	✓	35.8%	✓	99.1%	✗
Montgomery County	43.9%	✓	56.3%	✗	49.5%	✗	94.0%	✓
Morgan County	29.1%	✗	52.4%	✗	45.3%	✓	92.8%	✓
Muhlenberg County	35.4%	✓	56.5%	✗	49.0%	✓	89.6%	✓
Nelson County	51.2%	✗	47.3%	✗	37.4%	✗	91.8%	✓
Bardstown Independent	63.6%	=	47.2%	✗	37.5%	✓	91.8%	✓
Nicholas County	**	N/A	46.3%	✓	61.6%	✓	94.8%	✗
Ohio County	55.3%	✓	53.3%	✓	53.5%	✗	95.3%	✓
Oldham County	71.2%	✓	63.8%	✗	67.0%	✓	96.9%	✓
Owen County	61.0%	✗	54.0%	✓	46.5%	✓	95.1%	✓
Owsley County	53.8%	✓	32.1%	✗	23.1%	✓	85.7%	✗
Pendleton County	30.5%	✗	51.0%	✓	19.5%	✗	99.5%	✓
Perry County	50.5%	✓	54.7%	✓	45.2%	✓	96.0%	✓
Hazard Independent	54.7%	✓	70.3%	✓	50.9%	✗	96.6%	✗
Pike County	44.8%	✗	57.4%	✓	49.6%	✓	95.4%	✓

School Year	Kindergarteners ready to learn		Fourth grade students proficient in reading		Eighth grade students proficient in math		High school students graduating on time	
	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2018-19	Change since 2013-14
Pikeville Independent	70.4%	✓	74.7%	✓	67.1%	✗	100.0%	✓
Powell County	44.0%	✓	50.3%	✗	46.7%	✓	86.6%	✗
Pulaski County	44.3%	✓	70.1%	✓	64.6%	✓	98.0%	✓
Science Hill Independent	62.5%	✓	77.1%	✓	53.3%	✗	~	~
Somerset Independent	47.0%	✓	61.7%	✓	74.4%	✓	89.9%	✗
Robertson County	48.3%	✓	60.7%	✓	24.1%	✓	92.0%	✓
Rockcastle County	41.7%	✓	59.4%	✗	44.0%	✓	98.1%	✓
Rowan County	44.7%	✓	53.1%	✗	42.7%	✓	96.6%	✓
Russell County	38.6%	✓	50.9%	✗	66.4%	✓	98.1%	✓
Scott County	47.5%	✗	54.6%	✗	41.2%	=	92.4%	✓
Shelby County	53.0%	✗	39.8%	✗	36.0%	✗	91.2%	✓
Simpson County	63.4%	✓	45.9%	✓	45.8%	✗	96.6%	✓
Spencer County	46.4%	✗	64.9%	✓	44.6%	✓	97.0%	✓
Taylor County	65.7%	✓	52.0%	✓	43.7%	✗	99.0%	✗
Campbellsville Independent	32.3%	✗	46.0%	✓	37.7%	✗	94.9%	✓
Todd County	41.6%	✓	47.8%	✗	19.2%	✗	96.8%	✓
Trigg County	64.1%	✓	53.1%	✓	51.5%	✓	94.0%	✓
Trimble County	42.7%	✗	27.3%	✗	28.4%	✗	94.9%	✓
Union County	48.5%	✓	52.9%	✓	47.7%	✓	94.7%	✓
Warren County	49.4%	=	56.1%	✓	60.5%	✓	97.0%	✓
Bowling Green Independent	62.9%	✓	51.4%	✗	59.7%	✗	97.6%	✓
Washington County	46.3%	✗	58.7%	✓	51.9%	✓	98.4%	✗
Wayne County	45.5%	✗	61.8%	✓	41.5%	✓	93.5%	✓
Webster County	39.1%	✗	49.7%	✓	41.7%	✗	92.3%	✓
Whitley County	48.1%	✓	65.8%	✓	51.8%	✓	96.2%	✓
Corbin Independent	53.2%	✓	56.5%	✗	56.0%	✗	98.5%	✓
Williamsburg Independent	46.2%	✓	65.6%	✓	33.3%	✗	93.1%	✗
Wolfe County	36.6%	✓	52.6%	✓	34.0%	✗	94.7%	✓
Woodford County	56.2%	✗	61.5%	✗	69.1%	✓	98.2%	=

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

** = Data suppressed by the source. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. ~ = School district has no high school.

Health

Schools are safer when they connect students with caring adults and address students' behavioral health needs. While alcohol and illicit drug use by youth has been declining, too many Kentucky youth face challenges to their learning due to bullying, unhealthy dating relationships, or poor mental health.

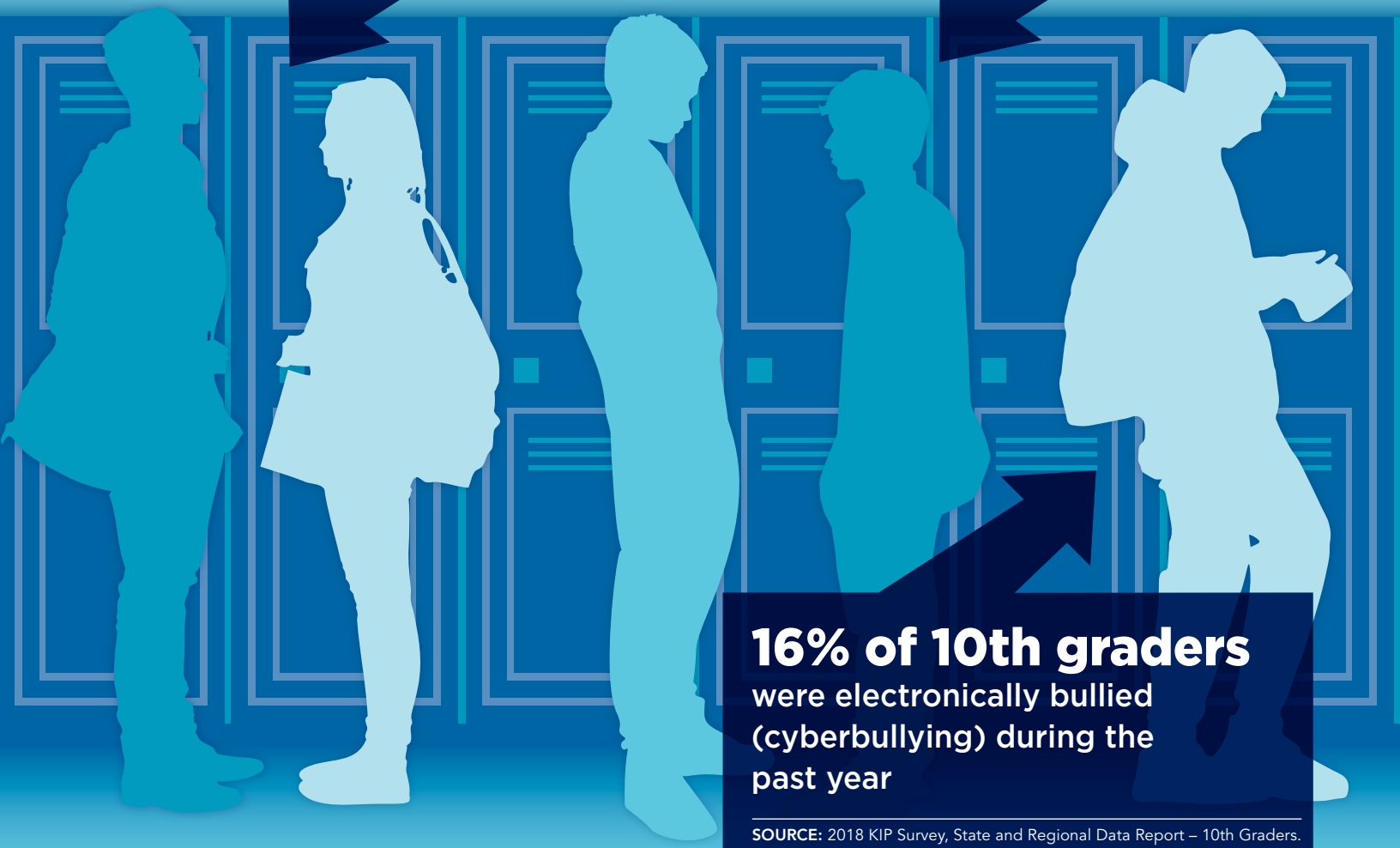
12% of 10th graders
were emotionally harmed by a boyfriend or girlfriend during the last school year*

***Note:** Emotional harm is defined as being threatened, called names, harassed online, or receiving threatening phone calls/texts.

SOURCE: 2018 KIP Survey, State and Regional Data Report – 10th Graders.

21% of 10th graders
were bullied on school property during the past year

SOURCE: 2018 KIP Survey, State and Regional Data Report – 10th Graders.



16% of 10th graders
were electronically bullied (cyberbullying) during the past year

SOURCE: 2018 KIP Survey, State and Regional Data Report – 10th Graders.

The School Safety and Resiliency Act, passed in 2019, will increase opportunities for optimal student health and success through **expanded suicide awareness and prevention trainings**, along with the implementation of **trauma-informed approaches**. Kentucky schools should also include a focus on **healthy relationships in health curricula** and leverage the new **Free Care policy** to hire or contract with health professionals, including licensed psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, and nurses. **Strong partnerships** between schools, community services, and healthcare providers can help address the behavioral needs of students and their families.

Suicide is an increasing cause of death for Kentucky kids

- **16% of 10th graders** seriously considered attempting suicide
- **12% of 10th graders** made a plan for how they would attempt suicide
- **8% of 10th graders** actually attempted suicide

- **44% of Kentucky youth** ages 11-14 who died by suicide had experienced problems at school
- **20% of Kentucky youth** ages 15-19 who died by suicide had cited problems with an intimate partner

SOURCE: 2018 KIP Survey, State and Regional Data Report – 10th Graders; Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center.

20% of 10th graders have cut or harmed themselves on purpose at least once in their lifetime

SOURCE: 2018 KIP Survey, State and Regional Data Report – 10th Graders.

Health

	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance[Δ]	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2017	Change since 2012	2013-17	2015-17	Change since 2010-12
Kentucky	**18.7%**	✓	**8.8%**	✓	**96.3%**	✓	**85%**	**29.7**	✓
Adair	29.8%	✗	8.8%	✗	96.0%	✓	88%	21.7	✓
Allen	21.6%	✓	10.8%	✗	95.4%	✓	78%	27.8	✓
Anderson	19.1%	✓	8.0%	✓	96.7%	✓	87%	36.3	✓
Ballard	18.1%	✓	6.8%	✓	95.5%	✓	89%	38.4	✓
Barren	19.9%	✓	8.1%	✗	95.7%	✓	82%	42.2	✓
Bath	27.9%	✓	8.9%	✓	94.9%	✓	74%	42.3	✓
Bell	33.4%	✓	10.0%	✓	96.8%	✓	81%	56.9	✓
Boone	13.2%	✓	7.0%	✓	97.3%	✓	88%	16.1	✓
Bourbon	25.2%	=	7.6%	✓	94.5%	✓	82%	32.0	✓
Boyd	25.5%	✓	9.5%	✓	96.7%	✓	79%	41.6	✓
Boyle	22.6%	✓	8.1%	✗	96.6%	✓	84%	29.6	✓
Bracken	30.2%	✗	10.3%	✓	95.3%	✓	90%	30.5	✓
Breathitt	34.9%	✓	10.8%	✗	96.7%	✓	83%	57.5	✗
Breckinridge	22.2%	✓	7.7%	✓	94.2%	✓	79%	32.6	✓
Bullitt	15.7%	✓	7.9%	✓	97.1%	✓	92%	20.5	✓
Butler	19.3%	✓	6.7%	✓	94.4%	✓	82%	41.7	✓
Caldwell	27.5%	✓	9.1%	=	95.9%	✓	79%	48.6	✓
Calloway	15.4%	✓	6.9%	✓	94.7%	✓	90%	16.6	✓
Campbell	18.6%	✓	7.8%	✓	97.4%	✓	89%	24.1	✓
Carlisle	16.5%	✓	6.7%	✗	94.9%	✓	78%	35.9	✓
Carroll	30.7%	✗	9.2%	✗	95.6%	✓	82%	49.6	✓
Carter	28.8%	✗	8.1%	✓	96.4%	✓	77%	46.2	✓
Casey	24.3%	✓	8.5%	✓	94.4%	✓	76%	45.2	✓
Christian	15.0%	✓	9.7%	✗	96.5%	✓	81%	30.7	✓
Clark	22.5%	✓	9.2%	✓	96.7%	✓	84%	40.8	✓
Clay	37.4%	✓	9.3%	✓	96.1%	✓	75%	56.2	✓
Clinton	26.5%	✓	7.9%	✓	95.1%	✓	86%	35.6	✓
Crittenden	22.9%	✗	6.1%	✓	95.7%	✓	78%	32.8	✓
Cumberland	24.3%	✓	8.3%	✗	95.1%	✓	64%	36.1	✓

	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance△	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2017	Change since 2012	2013-17	2015-17	Change since 2010-12
Daviess	11.2%	✓	7.8%	✓	96.8%	✓	91%	36.4	✓
Edmonson	23.5%	✗	7.4%	✓	95.2%	✓	86%	36.5	✗
Elliott	31.6%	✓	9.9%	✓	96.4%	✓	80%	73.6	✗
Estill	31.7%	✓	7.9%	✓	95.9%	✓	79%	39.0	✓
Fayette	10.7%	✓	8.3%	✓	95.9%	✓	89%	17.1	✓
Fleming	21.3%	✓	5.5%	✓	95.1%	✓	71%	32.2	✓
Floyd	26.7%	✓	10.2%	✓	96.5%	✓	81%	55.9	✓
Franklin	21.5%	✗	9.4%	✓	96.0%	✓	79%	29.2	✓
Fulton	28.2%	✗	10.5%	✗	97.0%	✓	73%	23.3	✓
Gallatin	30.6%	✗	8.2%	✓	94.5%	✓	80%	42.3	✓
Garrard	26.4%	✗	9.7%	✓	95.6%	✓	76%	40.4	=
Grant	30.5%	✓	9.4%	✗	96.4%	✓	90%	43.1	✓
Graves	20.6%	✗	7.6%	✗	95.8%	✓	83%	40.4	✓
Grayson	28.3%	✗	9.2%	✗	95.8%	✓	78%	44.4	✓
Green	18.4%	✓	8.0%	✗	94.2%	✓	82%	34.6	✗
Greenup	24.2%	✗	7.5%	✓	97.0%	✓	85%	39.2	✗
Hancock	10.7%	✓	7.0%	✓	96.9%	✓	96%	43.2	✓
Hardin	17.7%	✗	8.2%	✗	96.5%	✓	84%	30.4	✓
Harlan	34.9%	✓	11.4%	✗	96.7%	✓	87%	50.0	✓
Harrison	29.3%	✓	8.0%	✓	95.7%	✓	77%	37.1	✓
Hart	18.3%	✓	8.3%	✓	95.3%	✓	80%	45.8	✓
Henderson	20.7%	✗	11.0%	✗	96.8%	✓	85%	34.2	✓
Henry	22.8%	✗	9.4%	✗	94.9%	✓	71%	37.3	✓
Hickman	19.5%	✓	9.0%	✗	95.6%	✓	94%	23.1	✓
Hopkins	25.2%	✗	8.1%	✓	96.5%	✓	79%	42.6	✓
Jackson	36.4%	✓	10.1%	=	95.2%	✓	88%	57.7	✗
Jefferson	10.6%	✓	9.3%	✗	97.1%	✓	86%	24.3	✓
Jessamine	20.7%	✓	9.4%	✗	95.2%	✓	90%	23.1	✓
Johnson	23.7%	✓	9.6%	✓	96.2%	✓	82%	30.3	✓
Kenton	20.6%	=	9.1%	✗	96.6%	✓	89%	26.5	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

* = Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. Δ = Baseline data not available for this indicator.

Health

	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance[Δ]	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2017	Change since 2012	2013-17	2015-17	Change since 2010-12
Knott	31.1%	✓	7.9%	✓	95.6%	✓	79%	37.4	✓
Knox	31.2%	✓	11.4%	✗	97.0%	✓	78%	47.0	✓
LaRue	20.4%	✓	10.4%	✗	95.8%	✓	89%	39.2	✓
Laurel	26.9%	✓	7.8%	✓	96.4%	✓	83%	46.6	✓
Lawrence	26.1%	✓	8.3%	✓	96.4%	✓	82%	35.3	✓
Lee	42.7%	✓	8.2%	✓	96.7%	✓	69%	48.7	✗
Leslie	34.0%	✓	9.9%	✓	95.6%	✓	74%	38.5	✓
Letcher	29.6%	✓	10.9%	✗	96.3%	✓	84%	38.3	✓
Lewis	29.9%	✓	9.4%	✓	95.8%	✓	87%	41.8	✓
Lincoln	24.9%	✓	9.5%	✓	95.3%	✓	77%	49.9	✓
Livingston	24.2%	✓	6.9%	✓	95.9%	✓	91%	33.6	✓
Logan	16.8%	✓	6.1%	✓	95.7%	✓	83%	31.0	✓
Lyon	26.8%	✗	5.1%	✓	95.1%	✓	81%	20.9	✓
McCracken	17.1%	✓	8.8%	=	96.4%	✓	87%	35.9	✓
McCreary	29.2%	✓	10.1%	✓	96.3%	✓	80%	50.4	✓
McLean	18.4%	✓	12.1%	✗	94.9%	✓	89%	31.1	✓
Madison	19.1%	✓	9.8%	✗	96.3%	✓	87%	18.1	✓
Magoffin	30.6%	✗	11.9%	✗	95.6%	✓	81%	57.3	✓
Marion	28.4%	✓	7.9%	✓	96.0%	✓	90%	36.3	✓
Marshall	22.4%	✗	9.4%	✗	96.0%	✓	88%	31.1	✓
Martin	34.3%	✓	10.6%	✓	95.4%	✓	83%	50.7	✓
Mason	29.4%	✓	8.5%	✗	95.6%	✓	83%	36.6	✓
Meade	23.3%	✗	7.3%	=	96.4%	✓	78%	19.9	✓
Menifee	32.9%	✓	8.9%	✓	95.5%	✓	89%	51.5	✓
Mercer	20.1%	✓	8.9%	✗	95.5%	✓	79%	32.0	✓
Metcalfe	22.7%	✓	8.3%	✓	95.8%	✓	88%	41.5	✓
Monroe	26.7%	=	10.8%	✗	94.4%	✓	89%	36.3	✗
Montgomery	21.5%	✗	9.9%	✗	96.0%	✓	81%	48.6	✓
Morgan	28.8%	✓	10.6%	✗	94.7%	✓	85%	40.0	✓
Muhlenberg	20.8%	✓	7.9%	✓	96.2%	✓	88%	42.7	✓
Nelson	19.2%	✓	7.4%	✓	96.5%	✓	89%	26.5	✓

	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance Δ	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2017	Change since 2012	2013-17	2015-17	Change since 2010-12
Nicholas	31.4%	✓	10.1%	✓	94.0%	✓	88%	47.8	✗
Ohio	15.8%	✓	8.3%	✓	96.6%	✓	88%	48.5	✓
Oldham	9.0%	✓	6.5%	✓	97.5%	✓	93%	8.5	✓
Owen	24.9%	✓	8.9%	✓	95.4%	✓	85%	27.7	✓
Owsley	45.3%	✗	7.8%	✓	96.8%	✓	87%	45.5	✓
Pendleton	31.1%	✗	8.9%	✓	95.7%	✓	85%	36.3	✓
Perry	33.6%	✓	10.4%	✓	96.5%	✓	77%	50.7	✓
Pike	25.6%	✓	10.1%	✓	95.7%	✓	82%	38.2	✓
Powell	30.6%	✓	9.4%	✗	96.5%	✓	81%	68.4	✓
Pulaski	24.7%	✓	9.0%	✗	96.1%	✓	83%	44.5	✓
Robertson	34.7%	✗	*	N/A	94.5%	✓	87%	38.2	✓
Rockcastle	25.4%	✓	10.4%	✓	96.4%	✓	85%	31.7	✓
Rowan	25.6%	✓	9.9%	✗	95.9%	✓	91%	15.1	✓
Russell	30.2%	✓	8.8%	✓	94.7%	✓	82%	53.7	✓
Scott	15.1%	✓	8.5%	✗	96.5%	✓	88%	22.3	✓
Shelby	16.0%	✗	8.4%	✗	94.9%	✓	79%	19.6	✓
Simpson	17.1%	✓	8.9%	✓	96.4%	✓	80%	27.1	✓
Spencer	16.1%	✗	8.0%	✓	95.9%	✓	92%	21.8	✓
Taylor	25.2%	✓	9.6%	✗	96.1%	✓	80%	34.1	✓
Todd	18.7%	✓	9.8%	✗	93.1%	✓	68%	34.2	✓
Trigg	18.2%	✓	6.6%	=	93.3%	✓	87%	37.3	✓
Trimble	22.4%	✓	8.0%	✓	95.8%	✓	91%	25.5	✓
Union	19.4%	✓	12.9%	✗	95.4%	✓	84%	36.5	✓
Warren	9.9%	✓	8.6%	✓	96.0%	✓	87%	17.7	✓
Washington	22.7%	✗	7.8%	=	94.4%	✓	82%	20.1	✓
Wayne	29.6%	✗	9.9%	✗	96.0%	✓	77%	47.4	✓
Webster	19.6%	✓	12.4%	✗	94.5%	✓	86%	44.8	✓
Whitley	27.5%	✓	11.3%	✗	96.6%	✓	85%	44.4	✓
Wolfe	34.5%	✓	9.9%	✓	96.3%	✓	84%	55.5	✓
Woodford	14.4%	✓	8.5%	✓	94.4%	✓	86%	17.4	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

* = Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. Δ = Baseline data not available for this indicator.

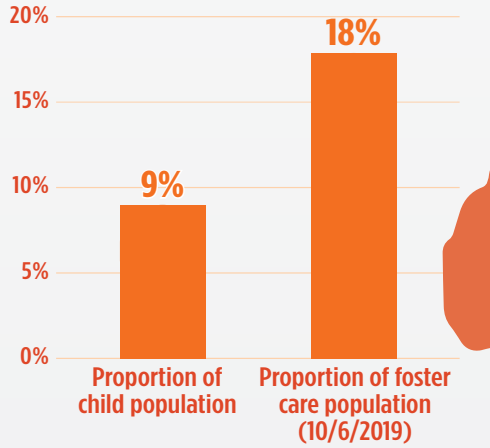
Family & Community

All children need safe homes and loving families to thrive. Yet 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. 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. Poverty in and of itself does not account for the racial disparities in foster care.

Black children have historically been overrepresented in the foster care population compared to their proportion of the overall child population. While this disproportionality has improved somewhat over time**, Black children continue to be significantly overrepresented** in the foster care system.

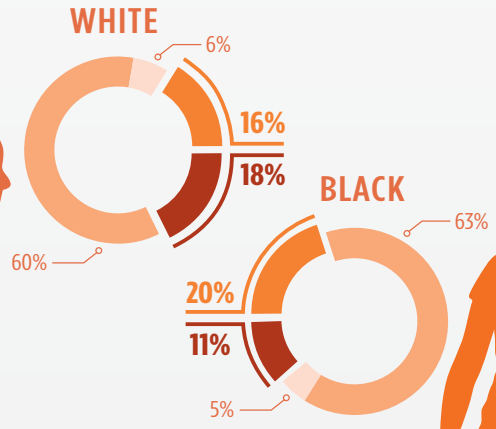
In Kentucky's foster care system, **Black children are more likely to be placed in institutional placements** (such as group homes or residential treatment facilities) than their White peers. This is troubling because these group settings often exacerbate the trauma youth experience from being separated from their parents. **Black children are less likely than their White counterparts to be placed with a relative (kin) or close family friend (fictive kin)** for foster care, though research shows kinship care helps minimize the trauma of removal, maintain vital connections, and often keeps sibling groups together.

Proportion of Non-Hispanic Black Children in Kentucky's Child Population vs. Foster Care Population

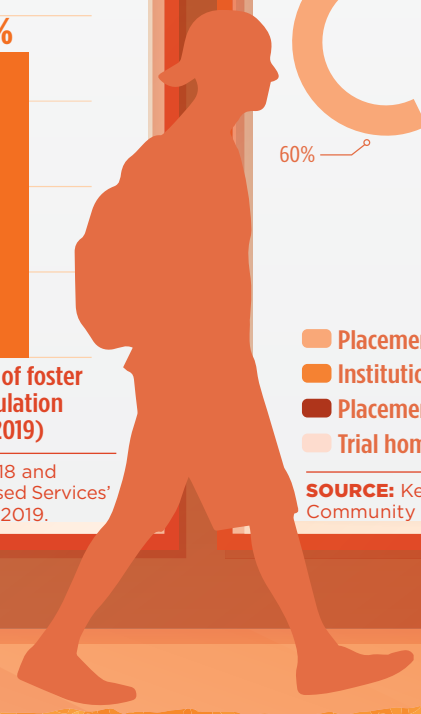


SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, 2018 and Kentucky Department for Community Based Services' Statewide Foster Care FACTS, October 2019.

Children in Kentucky's Foster Care System, by Placement type



SOURCE: Kentucky Department for Community Based Services, CY 2018.



We can decrease the overrepresentation of Black children in foster care and improve the foster care experience for youth who need to be removed from their parents. Through the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, Kentucky can **expand the use of family preservation services** to safely keep more children with their families instead of in foster care. **Targeted recruitment of Black foster parents** can help keep foster youth in their local community and maintain connections to their culture. To ensure all possible efforts have been taken to place a child with a relative, Kentucky's foster care agency could **require approval by the director for non-relative placements**. Before allowing a youth to age out of foster care, there should be **comprehensive planning for their transition**, including how to navigate relationships with their biological family and other supportive adults.

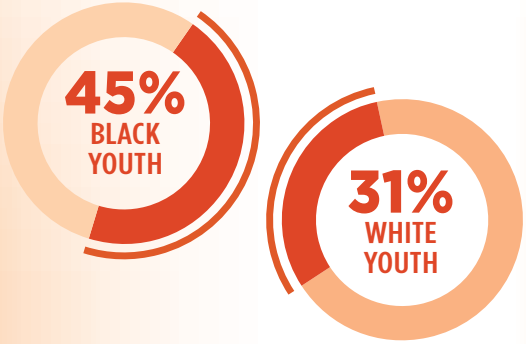
Bus Stop

When children exit the foster care system, they are either reunified with their parent(s) or other primary caretaker, adopted, permanently placed with a relative or fictive kin, or they "age out" of the system without a connection to a trusted adult they can rely on for stability. **In Kentucky, Black youth are more likely to age out of the system** and are overrepresented within the population that aged out.

Children in Foster Care with More Than Two Placements

45% of Non-Hispanic Black youth in foster care in Kentucky had experienced more than two placements compared to 31% of Non-Hispanic White youth.

With each additional placement move, educational and social connections erode, creating instability for the child.

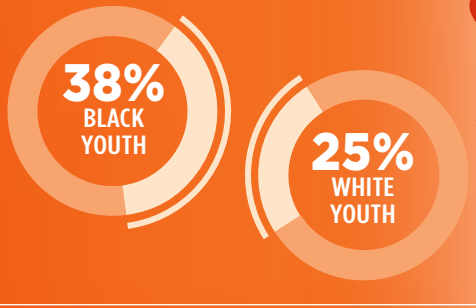


SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, FY 2017.

10% of the White youth who exited care in 2018 aged out, while **15% of the Black youth** exiting care aged out.

SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, FY 2017.

At age 19, **Black youth who had transitioned out of care in Kentucky were more likely to have experienced homelessness** in the past two years than White youth.



SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, FY 2017.

Family & Community

	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in foster care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Children exiting foster care to reunification with parent/primary caretaker		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	
	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2016-18	Change since 2011-13
Kentucky	**14.0%**	✓	**47.3**	✗	**36%**	✗	**26.6**	✓
Adair	12.8%	✓	49.3	✗	53%	✓	5.3	✓
Allen	19.0%	✓	54.1	✗	45%	✗	18.3	✓
Anderson	7.8%	✓	58.8	✗	25%	✗	23.8	✓
Ballard	11.4%	✓	39.8	✗	43%	✗	33.0	✗
Barren	22.5%	✓	62.7	✗	51%	✗	20.4	✓
Bath	28.1%	✗	57.1	✗	36%	✓	6.9	✓
Bell	22.4%	✓	23.8	✗	12%	✗	41.5	✓
Boone	8.1%	✓	23.0	✗	42%	✗	13.1	✓
Bourbon	14.2%	✓	51.2	✗	35%	✗	21.5	✓
Boyd	10.9%	✓	107.0	✗	39%	✗	21.3	✓
Boyle	14.8%	✓	62.2	✗	29%	✗	12.1	✓
Bracken	9.0%	✓	82.5	✓	20%	=	*	N/A
Breathitt	17.6%	✓	44.3	✗	46%	✗	24.5	✓
Breckinridge	20.4%	✓	62.4	✗	43%	✗	41.4	✓
Bullitt	8.3%	✓	30.9	✗	44%	✗	32.9	✓
Butler	22.5%	✓	84.3	✗	25%	✗	20.8	✓
Caldwell	14.9%	✓	41.1	✗	14%	✓	14.6	✓
Calloway	6.9%	✓	50.0	✗	43%	✗	14.5	✓
Campbell	9.0%	✓	74.1	✓	31%	✓	28.2	✓
Carlisle	8.8%	✓	44.5	N/A	72%	N/A	16.3	✗
Carroll	21.5%	✓	75.6	✗	31%	✗	40.5	✓
Carter	15.1%	✓	71.6	✗	34%	✗	20.4	✓
Casey	30.2%	✓	29.0	✗	31%	✗	10.8	✓
Christian	14.6%	✓	39.0	✗	53%	✗	68.3	✓
Clark	12.3%	✓	60.0	✗	41%	✓	35.7	✓
Clay	25.6%	✓	93.4	✓	56%	✓	10.4	✓
Clinton	20.8%	✓	47.7	✓	39%	✓	15.2	✗
Crittenden	25.2%	✓	48.6	✗	32%	✗	23.9	✓
Cumberland	17.6%	✓	29.6	✗	*	N/A	22.7	✓

	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in foster care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Children exiting foster care to reunification with parent/primary caretaker		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	
	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2016-18	Change since 2011-13
Daviess	12.7%	✓	43.6	✗	43%	✓	45.0	✗
Edmonson	14.2%	✗	96.8	✗	37%	✗	7.1	✓
Elliott	22.4%	✓	101.4	✓	16%	✗	0.0	✓
Estill	14.6%	✓	58.7	✓	21%	✓	29.5	✓
Fayette	12.3%	✓	52.4	✗	29%	✗	31.1	✓
Fleming	29.5%	✗	47.6	✓	22%	✗	9.2	✓
Floyd	19.7%	✓	39.3	✗	38%	✗	9.8	✓
Franklin	12.3%	✓	56.5	✗	42%	✓	48.1	✗
Fulton	10.6%	✓	42.6	✗	78%	N/A	22.1	✓
Gallatin	17.6%	✓	43.0	✗	66%	N/A	22.9	✓
Garrard	13.4%	✓	60.3	✗	21%	✗	21.2	✓
Grant	15.3%	✓	55.0	✗	45%	=	33.7	✓
Graves	19.9%	✓	77.6	✓	20%	✗	41.2	✗
Grayson	16.0%	✓	85.7	✗	36%	✗	13.1	✓
Green	11.0%	✓	28.8	✗	38%	✗	16.1	✓
Greenup	10.7%	✓	30.8	✗	45%	✓	7.7	✓
Hancock	8.7%	✓	24.6	✗	26%	N/A	5.5	✓
Hardin	8.1%	✓	71.7	✗	36%	✗	22.4	✓
Harlan	24.9%	✓	20.3	✓	*	N/A	16.5	✗
Harrison	15.4%	✓	70.0	✗	32%	✗	20.6	✓
Hart	36.5%	✓	43.2	✗	32%	✓	14.4	✓
Henderson	13.3%	✓	25.4	✓	35%	✗	59.4	✗
Henry	14.3%	✓	33.9	✓	40%	✗	12.7	✗
Hickman	14.3%	✓	7.8	N/A	*	N/A	22.9	✓
Hopkins	14.7%	✓	23.4	✗	53%	✗	46.3	✓
Jackson	24.2%	✓	64.8	✗	29%	✗	12.9	✓
Jefferson	13.7%	✓	33.6	✗	32%	✗	38.4	✓
Jessamine	10.8%	✓	33.7	✗	26%	✗	38.4	✓
Johnson	15.5%	✓	48.1	✓	40%	✓	5.6	✓
Kenton	12.9%	✓	55.8	✗	44%	✓	20.8	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

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

Family & Community

	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in foster care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Children exiting foster care to reunification with parent/primary caretaker		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	
	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2016-18	Change since 2011-13
Knott	25.9%	✓	50.2	✓	30%	✓	9.4	✓
Knox	21.9%	✓	57.4	✗	29%	✗	23.4	✓
LaRue	12.6%	✓	45.3	✗	37%	✗	34.6	✓
Laurel	19.4%	✓	43.7	✗	31%	✗	26.4	✓
Lawrence	15.5%	✓	42.4	✗	38%	✗	9.1	✓
Lee	19.0%	✓	39.5	✗	42%	✗	39.5	✓
Leslie	18.7%	✓	39.3	✗	47%	✗	*	N/A
Letcher	19.5%	✓	23.0	✓	29%	✗	17.2	✓
Lewis	18.2%	✗	26.1	✗	51%	✗	19.4	✓
Lincoln	20.0%	✓	49.5	✗	36%	✗	22.2	✓
Livingston	10.7%	✓	28.5	N/A	21%	N/A	13.9	N/A
Logan	15.4%	✓	46.1	✗	55%	✓	30.1	✓
Lyon	10.9%	✓	92.8	✓	41%	=	11.7	✓
McCracken	10.9%	✓	43.2	✗	44%	✗	59.9	✓
McCreary	13.3%	✓	90.9	✓	30%	✗	8.2	✓
McLean	12.8%	✓	29.8	✗	15%	N/A	15.1	✓
Madison	10.5%	✓	53.0	✗	27%	=	23.1	✓
Magoffin	21.5%	✓	61.2	✓	17%	✗	18.9	✓
Marion	12.2%	✓	36.8	✗	44%	=	20.5	✓
Marshall	10.0%	✓	57.0	✗	28%	✗	29.8	✓
Martin	23.9%	✓	75.3	✗	57%	✓	8.2	✓
Mason	14.1%	✓	62.5	✗	48%	✗	14.3	✓
Meade	9.0%	✗	76.9	✗	32%	✗	21.9	✓
Menifee	16.7%	✓	66.0	✓	17%	✗	40.9	✓
Mercer	8.6%	✓	45.1	✗	45%	✓	9.2	✓
Metcalfe	15.4%	✓	47.9	✗	43%	✓	9.6	✓
Monroe	12.1%	✓	41.0	✗	41%	✗	10.2	✓
Montgomery	14.3%	✓	76.1	✗	40%	✗	13.7	✓
Morgan	16.4%	✓	71.3	✗	30%	✓	14.7	✓
Muhlenberg	15.0%	✓	27.6	✗	61%	✓	9.9	✓
Nelson	8.3%	✓	18.8	✗	30%	✗	15.6	✓

	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in foster care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Children exiting foster care to reunification with parent/primary caretaker		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	
	2015-17	Change since 2010-12	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2016-18	Change since 2011-13
Nicholas	27.3%	✗	44.1	✗	55%	N/A	36.1	✗
Ohio	14.7%	✓	65.7	✗	55%	✓	21.2	✓
Oldham	6.1%	✓	13.9	✗	34%	✗	7.6	✗
Owen	13.7%	✓	63.7	✗	26%	✗	12.5	✓
Owsley	16.9%	✓	92.6	✗	53%	✓	55.2	✓
Pendleton	10.4%	✓	28.9	✗	47%	N/A	36.6	✓
Perry	17.6%	✓	82.7	✗	36%	✗	18.1	✓
Pike	14.4%	✓	33.4	✗	27%	✗	5.0	✓
Powell	18.9%	✓	53.1	✗	28%	✗	63.0	✓
Pulaski	12.6%	✓	60.5	✗	35%	✗	16.7	✓
Robertson	18.1%	✓	30.9	✓	0%	=	*	N/A
Rockcastle	13.6%	✓	70.8	✗	29%	✗	18.2	✗
Rowan	9.6%	✓	107.8	✗	30%	✗	12.8	✓
Russell	16.2%	✓	54.2	✗	36%	✗	13.1	✓
Scott	10.6%	✓	34.4	✓	23%	✗	21.5	✓
Shelby	15.7%	✓	47.9	✓	33%	✗	15.1	✓
Simpson	11.2%	✓	41.8	✗	24%	✗	23.9	✓
Spencer	7.9%	✓	40.4	✗	31%	N/A	10.6	✓
Taylor	10.7%	✓	36.3	✓	49%	✗	8.0	✓
Todd	32.0%	✗	37.7	✗	54%	✗	13.4	✓
Trigg	29.0%	✗	26.8	✗	55%	✗	17.0	✓
Trimble	16.1%	✓	53.7	✗	42%	✓	6.8	N/A
Union	10.7%	✓	42.4	✗	33%	✗	52.9	✓
Warren	13.6%	✓	66.9	✗	35%	✗	14.5	✓
Washington	12.2%	✗	24.8	✓	33%	✗	15.2	✗
Wayne	21.7%	✓	40.4	✗	41%	✓	30.6	✓
Webster	24.1%	✗	25.5	✗	35%	✗	47.1	✗
Whitley	18.2%	✓	68.7	✗	32%	✗	12.1	✓
Wolfe	17.3%	✓	70.7	✗	25%	✗	51.5	✓
Woodford	11.6%	✓	24.8	✗	38%	✗	15.1	✓

✓ 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 2017 for a family with two adults and two children was $12,429. 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 May 15, 2019.*

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 2017 for a family with two adults and two children was $24,858. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates**. *The most recent available estimates were processed on May 15, 2019.*

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 2017 for a family with two adults and two children was $49,716. 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 May 15, 2019.*

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 May 14, 2019.*

Education

KINDERGARTENERS READY TO LEARN is the percentage of all screened incoming public school Kindergarteners 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 May 17, 2019.*

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. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Accountability**. *The most recent available data were processed on October 1, 2019.*

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. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Accountability**. *The most recent available data were processed on October 1, 2019.*

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 October 1, 2019.*

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 9, 2019.*

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. Th 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 9, 2019.

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 Supplemental 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 May 14, 2019.*

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 May 16, 2019.

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, Population Division, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center**. *The data are as of September 9, 2019*.

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 9, 2019*.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE is the number of children under age 18 per 1,000 children in this age group who lived in foster care due to abuse or neglect. Foster 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, Population Division, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates**. *The data are as of August 10, 2019*.

CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE TO REUNIFICATION is the percentage of children exiting foster care who are reunified with their parents or primary caretakers. 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 and denominator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. **SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services**. *The data are as of September 27, 2019*.

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 July 26, 2019*.

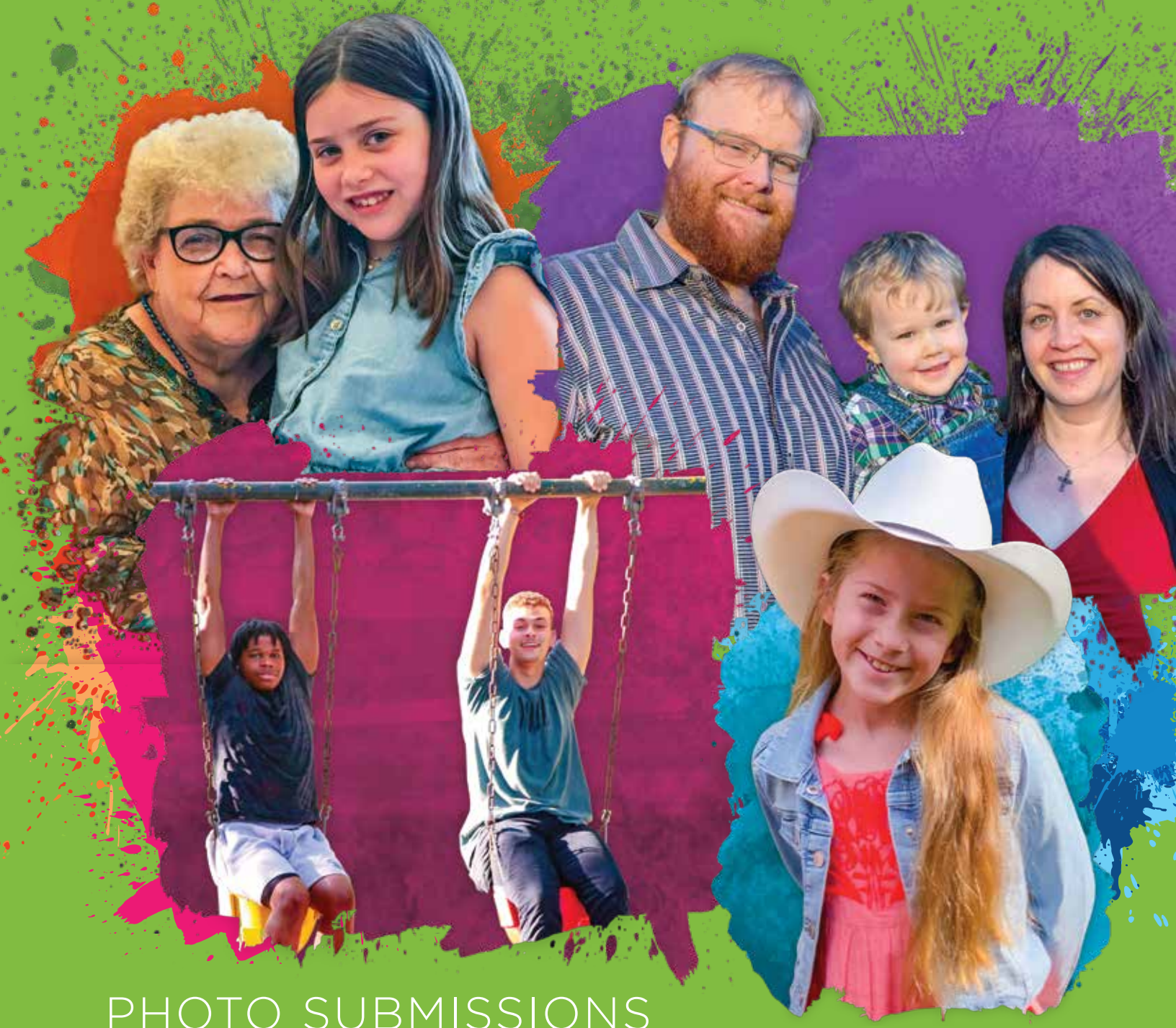


PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Angie Boggs

Melissa Carson

Crystal Dillard

Kelly Dollinger

Janell Early

Will Goodman

Bonnie Logsdon

Ann Lopez

Sarah Michals

Mandy Munich

Amy Muth

Whitney Neal

Pastor Edward L. Palmer

Courtney Rasche

Patricia Tennen

Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS)

Jessie Whitish

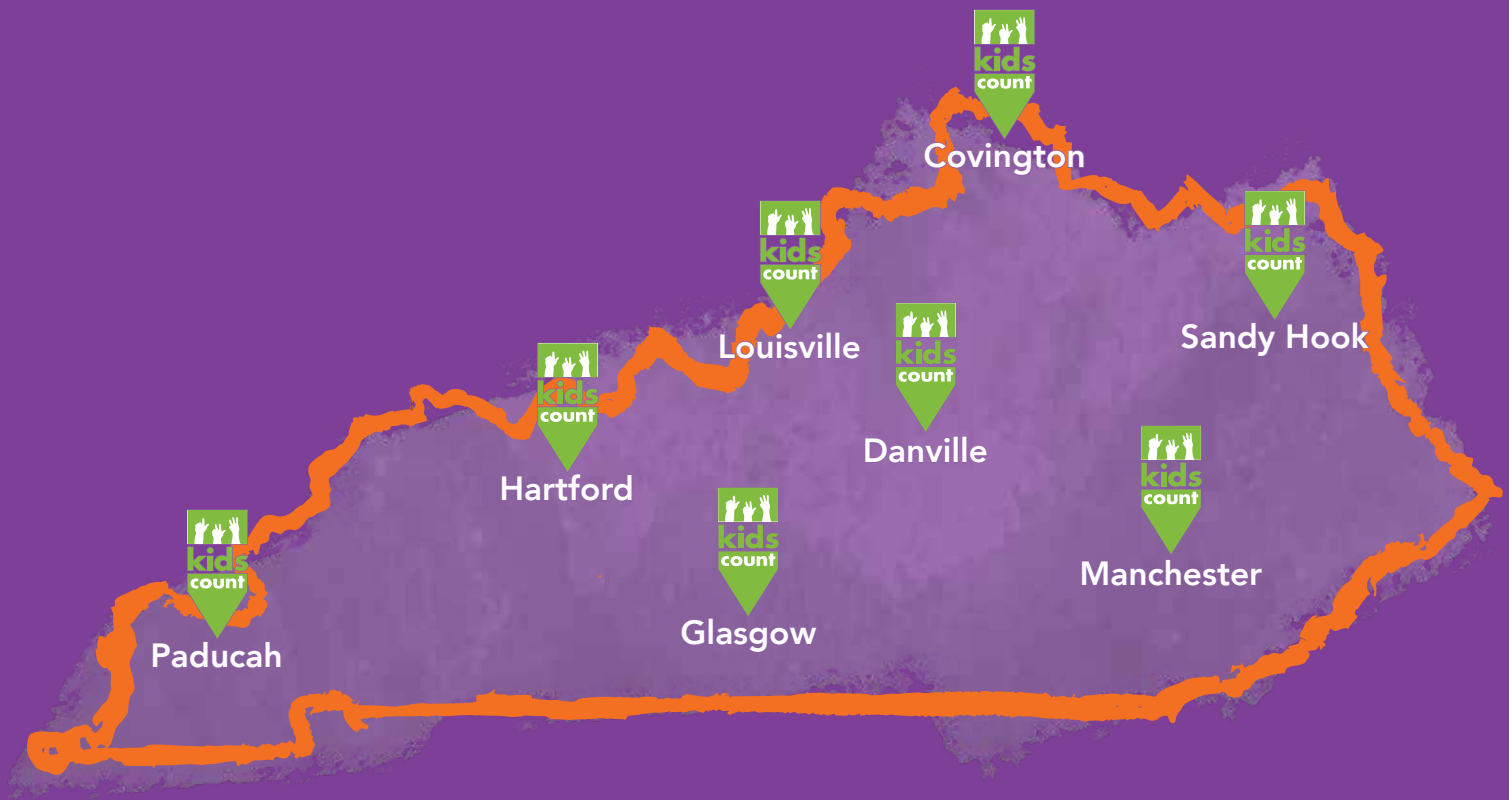
Tanna Woodward

KIDS COUNT in YOUR Community

We know that what gets measured gets changed. With support from UnitedHealthcare and local partners, Kentucky Youth Advocates held KIDS COUNT Conversations in eight communities throughout 2018 and 2019. These forums will help community leaders use local data to inform action for kids in their area.

Learn more and download a toolkit for hosting a KIDS COUNT conversation at kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/conversations.

Would you like to bring us to your community? Contact us at kidscount@kyyouth.org.



EXPLORE THE KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

Visit datacenter.kidscount.org/ky for hundreds of additional data points on the KIDS COUNT Data Center, including:

ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Employment, income, and poverty
- Housing affordability
- Family supports and tax credits

EDUCATION

- 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

HEALTH

- Prenatal care, births to teens, and birth outcomes
- Infant, child, and teen mortality
- Health insurance coverage
- Childhood obesity, lead poisoning, and asthma

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

- Child population demographics
- Family structure
- Juvenile justice system involvement
- Child protection and foster care system involvement

10200 Linn Station Road, Suite 310 | Louisville, KY 40223 | (502) 895-8167 | www.kyyouth.org

facebook.com/KentuckyYouthAdvocates | twitter.com/KYYouth | instagram.com/kentuckyyouthadvocates