



# 2009 County Data Book

A Project of Kentucky Youth Advocates and Urban Studies Institute, University of Louisville







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for donating a portion of the cost of printing this book.



# 2009 County Data Book

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KENTUCKY YOUTH ADVOCATES

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Administrative Office of the Courts, Division of Juvenile Services

Council on Postsecondary Education

Covering Kentucky Kids and Families

Education Professional Standards Board

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Department for Community Based Services

- ▶ Division of Child Care
- ▶ Division of Child Support
- ▶ Division of Family Support
- ▶ Division of Protection and Permanency

Department for Medicaid Services

Department for Public Health

- ▶ Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Branch
- ▶ Kentucky Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Division of Adult and Child Health
- ▶ Nutrition Services Branch
- ▶ Vital Statistics Branch

Kentucky Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Kentucky Department of Education

Division of Early Childhood Development

Office of Assessment and Accountability

Office of Teaching and Learning

Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet,

Department of Juvenile Justice

Louisville Metro, Youth Detention Services

University of Louisville Department of Pharmacology  
and Toxicology

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*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 local, state, and national discussions of ways to secure better futures for all children. For more information on the KIDS COUNT initiative, visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation web site at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).*



# KENTUCKY COUNTIES

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# DATA HIGHLIGHTS AND ONLINE AVAILABILITY

The Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book provides data for professionals, state policymakers, and community members who work to improve the lives of children in Kentucky. The indicators for the Kentucky KIDS COUNT project represent various measurements of children's economic well-being, education, health, and safety.

This year's printed edition will only include the Safety indicators, with a different set of indicators to be featured each year in print. Each year, the book will also provide data on three overarching indicators, child population, race and ethnicity, and child poverty, because where children live, their race, and their family's income each can have a significant impact on outcomes for children. Data for the Economic Well-Being, Education, and Health indicators are available online at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>). To reach county-level data, simply go to Data by State, and select Kentucky on the map. This leads to the Kentucky page that houses all of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT project's data.

## Data Highlights

Findings from the 2009 Kentucky KIDS COUNT data include the following:

### Economic Well-Being

- ▶ From 2000 to 2007, the rate of Kentucky children living in poverty increased from 21 percent to 24 percent.
- ▶ Between 2000 and 2008, the average monthly number of Kentucky children receiving food stamps rose from 177,569 to 251,318, a 42 percent increase.

### Education

- ▶ From SY 2003 to SY 2008, the Kentucky high school graduation rate increased 6 percentage points from 79 percent to 85 percent.
- ▶ From SY 2004 to SY 2009, courses taught by highly-qualified teachers in Kentucky's public schools increased substantially, from 93 percent to 99 percent.



## Health

- ▶ The average monthly number of children enrolled in the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program increased from 45,063 in 2000 to 57,379 in 2008, a 27 percent boost in enrollment.
- ▶ After more than a decade of improvement, the number of births to Kentucky teens ages 15-19 increased to 7,340 (a rate of 54 per 1,000) in 2006.
- ▶ From 2000 to 2006, the percent of low-weight births (babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth) increased from 8 percent to 9 percent.

## Safety

- ▶ The number of Kentucky youth held in secure detention facilities rose from 7,736 in 2003 to 9,834 in 2008, a 27 percent increase.
- ▶ The rate of youth placed in out-of-home care due to abuse or neglect increased by 9 percent between 2003 and 2008.

## Using the County Data Book

The County Data Book presents a discussion of each indicator for the Safety section, including definitions and data sources, and the most current data for Kentucky and all 120 counties. Where available, the discussion includes state-level data disaggregated by race to identify systemic inequities in policies and programs that have created disparities among racial groups.

Standard mathematical formulas were used to convert data to rates or percents. (See Important Data Reminders below.) The included graphs and maps were developed by Kentucky Youth Advocates.

## Additional Online Data

The KIDS COUNT Data Center provides easy access to data by county and school district for the Economic Well-Being, Education, and Health indicators that typically appear in the County Data Book. KYA will update the Data Center with new data on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Additionally, the KIDS COUNT Data Center reports data across states, including the National KIDS COUNT project's data on ten key measures of child well-being, provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. To explain the many features of the KIDS COUNT Data Center there is an instructional video and answers to frequently asked questions in the How-To-Use section (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/Help.aspx>).

## Making Sense of the Data

There are several ways to gather meaning from the numbers presented by the Kentucky KIDS COUNT project:

- ▶ For indicators with rates, which account for differences in population size, compare the rate for your county to the rate for the state as a whole and the rates for surrounding counties.



- ▶ Many indicators include data for different time periods. See if the number has increased or decreased over time.
- ▶ If the indicator also provides rates for different time periods, see how your county has changed over time, taking into account changes in the population.
- ▶ For indicators without rates, you can estimate the extent of participation in your county. For example, for KCHIP participation, calculate the percent of all KCHIP participants who live in your county (by dividing your county's number of participants by

the statewide total number of participants). Compare that percent to the percent of Kentucky children who live in your county (by dividing your county's child population by the statewide child population). The percents will be similar if your county follows the statewide trend.

## Important Data Reminders

- ▶ Data are based on different time intervals (i.e., calendar year, fiscal year, academic year, and three-year averages). Readers should check each indicator, definition, and data source to determine the reported time period.
- ▶ The book reports data from the year 2000 as a baseline whenever data for that year is available.
- ▶ Race is reported according to the categories used by the source.
- ▶ For counties where the incidence of an indicator is too small to be considered meaningful, no rates are reported. The same is true for raw numbers for some indicators.
- ▶ Indicators may be reported as either raw data, as rates, or both.
- ▶ Reported rates may vary. Readers should review each heading definition to interpret the rates (i.e., percent, which is rate per 100; or rate per 1,000 or 100,000).
- ▶ Percentages are rounded and, therefore, may not add up to 100.



## The KIDS COUNT Data Center offers the following data tools for readers to analyze and share data:

- 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 that can include any or all of the indicators produced by the Kentucky KIDS COUNT project;



- Generate customized maps and trend lines that show how Kentucky children are faring and use them in presentations and publications;



- Feature maps and graphs on your own website or blog that are automatically updated when new data is uploaded; and



- Add a "widget" to your website or blog that allows visitors to access the Annie E. Casey Foundation's data on Kentucky for the ten key indicators of child well-being without leaving your site.







# STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIONS IN OVERLAPPING SYSTEMS FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE YOUTH

All youth depend upon nurturing role models and opportunities to develop into healthy and productive adults. In Kentucky, too many youth experience abuse, neglect, exposure to substance abuse, and other challenges that negatively influence their development. Because of these and many other factors, some of our youth encounter the child welfare or juvenile justice system during their childhood or adolescence. Involvement with one or both of these systems can have an enormous impact on a young person's life. Youth who become involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems face significant barriers to a successful transition to adulthood.

Youth who enter the child welfare or juvenile justice system have typically encountered complex personal and family issues that contribute to their involvement in either system. Intense treatment and services can address those experiences and help set youth on a positive trajectory in life. For example, a youth in the child welfare system who has experienced trauma may have severe emotional disturbances that need to be addressed with appropriate interventions. If the child welfare system does not fully address these needs, the resulting behaviors may lead to contact with the juvenile justice system. Our child-serving systems should strive to address youths' complex needs in order to prevent children from becoming involved in both systems.

Determining the number of Kentucky youth engaged in these two systems remains difficult, as the child welfare and juvenile justice systems do not have integrated data systems. Despite the lack of a unified database for these child-serving agencies, they do have some methods to track youth involved in both and share information. The Court Designated Worker program, which receives all charges against youth, checks court records for any dependency, abuse, or neglect cases involving those youth. Both the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) are aware of youth who are committed to DCBS and committed or probated to DJJ. Also, the Department of Juvenile Justice may access information on child abuse and neglect

cases in order to prepare appropriate recommendations to the courts on placement options for children. Since Kentucky's data systems do not track all youth entering both systems, only those with deep involvement in both systems, this essay reports no data on the scope of the problem in Kentucky. The essay presents research and recommendations for improving early identification of these youth and, in turn, improving services for them.

## The Child Welfare System

Kentucky's child welfare system includes Family and District Courts, the Department for Community Based Services, out-of-home care providers, and other service providers. The child welfare system aims to ensure safety and permanency for children and their families.<sup>1</sup> In 2008, Kentucky reported 14,802 victims of substantiated child abuse, and 12,397 youth lived in out-of-home care.<sup>2</sup> Youth involved in the child welfare system face greater risk because the abuse and neglect they have experienced can impede normal child development. These youth are at increased risk of poor physical health and mental health. Youth who live in out-of-home care also commonly move from placement to placement, interfering with academic performance and the receipt of medical care.

Despite no difference among races in rates of abuse and neglect, youth of color are more likely to be involved with the child welfare system than White youth. The overrepresentation of youth of color occurs at several points

throughout the system, including reporting of abuse and neglect, substantiation of reports, and entry into and length of time spent in out-of-home care.<sup>3</sup> In Kentucky, African-American youth and families are referred for abuse and neglect at two times the rate expected based on census data, and abuse allegations of African-American youth are substantiated at higher rates than White children and families.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, African-American youth spend more time in foster care, experience more changes in placements, and are 20 percent less likely than White youth to return to their parents' care.<sup>5</sup>

## The Juvenile Justice System

The juvenile justice system in Kentucky involves a wide range of participating agencies and individuals, such as law enforcement, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the judiciary, and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Juvenile justice systems exist to ensure public safety while also focusing on rehabilitation. This focus allows children to learn from their mistakes and become contributing adult members of our society. In 2008, 18,352 youth in Kentucky were referred to court for formal court processing, and 7,483 youth avoided formal court processing through successful completion of a diversion program.<sup>6</sup> When appropriate, the opportunity to resolve juvenile offenses outside of court through diversion is critical, since youth who become deeply involved in the juvenile justice system face significant risk

for poor educational, work, and health outcomes as well as future incarceration.<sup>7</sup>

As in the child welfare system, despite no differences among races in rates of delinquent behaviors, racial disproportionality exists within the juvenile justice system, causing overrepresentation at every decision-making point in the system.<sup>8</sup> In 2008 in Kentucky, 20.5 percent of complaints filed against youth were filed against African-Americans, despite African-Americans representing only 9.5 percent of Kentucky youth ages 10 to 17.<sup>9</sup> African-American youth also represented 25 percent of cases petitioned to court for formal court processing and 30.5 percent of all youth detained in that same year.<sup>10</sup> This disproportionate treatment cuts opportunities short for youth of color.

## Who are the youth involved?

Youth with the most complex needs frequently comprise the population of children involved in both systems. The traditional treatments and interventions provided by the juvenile justice and child welfare systems often do not properly address the multiple problems, family issues, and troubling behaviors typically presented by this population. For example, youth involved in both systems more often have parents with mental health issues and families with histories of criminal behavior.<sup>11</sup> These youth already have the odds stacked against them, and neither system seems to be addressing their full spectrum of needs.





## How do youth become involved in both systems?

An abundance of research confirms the relationship between child maltreatment and delinquency. Youth engaged in both systems often encounter the juvenile justice system after experiencing abuse or neglect during childhood. Abused and neglected youth are substantially more likely to become involved in delinquent behavior than youth who have not experienced abuse or neglect.<sup>12</sup> Experiencing child abuse and/or neglect increases a youth's risk of being arrested by 55 percent and the risk of committing a violent crime by 96 percent.<sup>13</sup>

Among youth involved in the juvenile justice system, youth who have been abused or neglected are typically arrested for the first time at a younger age than youth without a history of maltreatment.<sup>14</sup> This pattern further contributes to the likelihood of negative outcomes for youth involved in both systems, since younger offenders are three times more likely to become serious violent offenders than youth first arrested at an older age.<sup>15</sup>

Among children who have experienced maltreatment, research indicates a strong connection between child welfare placement and subsequent risk of delinquency. Youth who have entered group home placements are two-and-a-half times more likely than similar youth in foster homes to become involved with the juvenile justice system.<sup>16</sup> Youth in group homes often experience their first arrest while still living in the group home.<sup>17</sup> A study showed 20 percent of youth in group homes were arrested at least once, compared to 8 percent of youth in foster care.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, group home youth arrests were more likely to be for threat-related or violent offenses.<sup>19</sup> In an attempt to explain why group home placement results in increased risk, some research suggests that youth can be negatively influenced by peers with juvenile justice system involvement who are living in the group home.<sup>20</sup> Group home policies or norms may also lead staff to call police in situations typically dealt with informally in a foster care setting.<sup>21</sup>

## What are the consequences of involvement in both systems?

Youth in both systems face barriers that decrease the likelihood of success in either system. Evidence suggests that among youth in the juvenile justice system, those also involved in the child welfare system more often experience negative outcomes in the juvenile justice system than those youth not involved in the child

welfare system.<sup>22</sup> This likely occurs because the juvenile justice system lacks specific approaches to address the unique needs of youth in the child welfare system. As a result, youth with a history of abuse or neglect may receive harsher treatment in the court system and thus move deeper into the juvenile justice system.<sup>23</sup>

The risks associated with having experienced maltreatment indicate a significant need for effective interventions and focused prevention efforts. Even when considering race, age, criminal history, and current offense status, youth engaged in both systems are ten percent more likely to be arrested than youth not involved in both systems.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, among youth who engage in delinquent behaviors, those with histories of maltreatment commit delinquent acts more frequently and have higher rates of recidivism than those who have not been maltreated.<sup>25</sup>

The fact that a youth appearing in court is involved with the child welfare system may unintentionally bias the decisions a judge makes on charges of juvenile delinquency. For example, youth involved with the child welfare system often appear in court on delinquency charges without relatives, which can result in perceptions of a lack of family support and decreased stability.<sup>26</sup> These negative perceptions, which may be false assumptions, can decrease the likelihood that judges consider alternatives to detention, which often rely on family involvement.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, studies indicate that judges offer probation, which allows youth to maintain important community connections to school and work, less frequently to youth with child welfare system involvement who appear on delinquency charges.<sup>28</sup>

## Barriers to success for youth involved in both systems

Many youth fall between the cracks or suffer gaps in services when navigating these two independent systems that lack integration or meaningful communication. Youth engaged in both systems may confront courts or agencies unaware of their dual involvement, which can result in contradicting case plans from the two systems, making compliance by youth difficult.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, the separation between systems can result in different attorneys representing youth in maltreatment and delinquency cases, potentially in two different courts. A youth's attorneys may fail to understand the implications of their advice on the child's other court case. The caseworker and probation officer working with a child

may be unaware of each other's existence, which could result in duplication of services.<sup>30</sup>

Even when identification of youth in both systems occurs, difficulty persists in communication between systems. Ambiguity concerning roles and responsibilities, as well as unfamiliarity in communicating between systems, produces confusion and gaps in service.<sup>31</sup>

Agency mandates can also contribute to conflict between the systems. The child welfare system focuses primarily on the youth's safety, while the juvenile justice system works to reduce recidivism.<sup>32</sup> Collaboration between agencies whose primary goals differ can be challenging.

Because of their complex needs, youth with both maltreatment and delinquency issues may face treatment barriers when placed in programs designed to address only one of these issues. Residential programs traditionally utilized in child welfare have not been found to reduce recidivism as effectively as probation or community based programs that provide counseling to youth and their families of origin.<sup>33</sup> On the other hand, programs within the juvenile justice system may not address the family violence and safety issues faced by youth who have experienced maltreatment.<sup>34</sup> Access to services is often limited to what is offered by the system that has primary responsibility of a youth.<sup>35</sup>

Youth of color are more likely than white youth to experience the negative consequences of involvement with both systems. Despite no differences among races in rates of maltreatment and delinquency, national data show racial disparities exist to an even greater extent among youth involved in both systems. Race plays a significant role in predicting which youth come into contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. African-American youth in the child welfare system are twice as likely to be arrested as similarly situated White youth in the system.<sup>36</sup> A study



of youth in one city found that even though African-American youth represented 14 percent of the population, they constituted 30 percent of youth in the child welfare system, 41 percent of youth in foster care, and 54 percent of youth involved in both systems.<sup>37</sup>

### Current efforts to better serve youth

Kentucky has taken steps to better address the needs of youth with both maltreatment and delinquency issues. The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice's

partnership with therapeutic foster care programs allows youth to address past abuse and neglect while also focusing on current delinquent behavior.<sup>38</sup> Research finds therapeutic foster care successful in reducing the recidivism rates of delinquent youth who have also been maltreated.<sup>39</sup> However, budget constraints within the Department of Juvenile Justice have resulted in a cap of 50 youth committed to DJJ who can be placed in private residential care facilities, including those that offer therapeutic foster care.

The Department of Juvenile Justice also offers a number of services to youth committed or probated to DJJ who are also involved with the Department for Community Based Services. The Department of Juvenile Justice assesses the functioning level of the youth's family whenever a youth is referred for probation or commitment. This assessment includes the youth's and/or family's involvement with social service agencies and any past abuse or neglect issues. Through data-sharing and informal community staff contact, DJJ and DCBS share information on the youth's history. DJJ also initiated a major training effort in 2009, which they plan to continue in 2010, to assist its staff in addressing issues relating to family functioning and the reintegration of youth involved with both systems back into the home following out-of-home placement.<sup>40</sup>



## Recommendations

### *Improving system coordination*

Despite efforts undertaken in Kentucky, work remains to prevent youth from falling between the cracks during their encounters with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. System fragmentation clearly produces worse outcomes for youth involved in both systems. Fiscal responsibility points towards systems integration as well, as fragmentation results in potential duplication of services.

To determine the scope of the problem and target services early, Kentucky needs accurate data on youth involved at all points of contact with both systems. Integrated data systems could provide immediate identification of youth as soon as youth enter either system, allowing for tailored treatment and avoidance of duplicated services.<sup>41</sup> Since immediate data integration is unfeasible, child welfare, court, and juvenile justice professionals can develop more formalized data sharing procedures to identify youth served by both systems as soon as possible. Collaboration between the systems could also be strengthened by formalizing expectations for the communication that often occurs in communities between DJJ community workers and DCBS case workers.

In counties identified with high concentrations of youth involved in both systems, assigning one judge to oversee a youth's maltreatment and delinquency cases promotes continuity of services and ensures familiarity with the entirety of a youth's situation.<sup>42</sup> This practice could also help ensure that a single attorney represents a youth on matters of delinquency and maltreatment. Steps should also be taken to develop coordinated case plans that do not duplicate services, contradict one another, or hinder a youth's progress in either system. Courts and agencies may need to establish formal agreements on sharing of information and confidentiality issues.<sup>43</sup>

### *Prevention efforts*

Whenever possible, efforts should be undertaken to prevent youth in one system from crossing over into the other. Strained budgets in the juvenile justice system could be relieved in part by focusing prevention efforts on youth who have experienced maltreatment to mitigate their increased risk of juvenile justice involvement. Such prevention efforts that encourage youth to avoid delinquent behaviors and grow into responsible citizens

also increase public safety, benefiting society as a whole. Addressing the minor delinquency and noncompliance behaviors of youth who have been abused or neglected through existing maltreatment proceedings rather than in a separate juvenile court allows for those behaviors to be addressed through child welfare treatment options rather than introducing the youth to the juvenile justice system.<sup>44</sup>

### *The importance of screening*

Given the link between maltreatment and delinquency, all youth should be screened for any current or past abuse or neglect when they first come into contact with the juvenile justice system through the Court Designated Worker program. Court Designated Workers currently ask youth who are eligible for their diversion program if they have been involved with state agencies (e.g., the Department for Community Based Services), but do not specifically ask about past abuse or neglect, and no formal process exists for sharing the findings with DCBS or DJJ. The Department of Juvenile Justice also conducts screenings on youth who enter a secure detention facility, but also does not specifically ask about abuse and neglect. The use of screening tools provides an important complement to improved data sharing, because maltreatment may occur without youth having formal involvement with the child welfare system.

### *Addressing disproportionality*

Kentucky currently has efforts underway to reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Race, Community, and Child Welfare Initiative attempts to increase understanding and address the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of youth of color in the child welfare system.<sup>45</sup> The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board's Subcommittee on Equity and Justice for All Youth raises awareness on the issue of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system, and its causes and remedies; and develops policy and funding recommendations relating to this issue.<sup>46</sup> Reduction of DMC in each of these areas would help to prevent the overrepresentation of youth of color involved in both systems. Collaboration between the agencies undertaking DMC reduction efforts in each system could help to determine the scope of DMC for youth involved in both systems in Kentucky and aid in the implementation of steps towards reducing overrepresentation of youth of color. ■





# DEMOGRAPHICS

## CHILD POPULATION ESTIMATES

	2000		2008			2000		2008	
	Ages 0-17	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17	Ages 0-4		Ages 0-17	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17	Ages 0-4
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>994,818</b>	<b>265,901</b>	<b>1,008,064</b>	<b>284,601</b>	Knox	8,324	2,244	8,394	2,581
Adair	4,053	1,047	3,899	1,064	LaRue	3,348	845	3,056	840
Allen	4,601	1,172	4,519	1,203	Laurel	13,401	3,738	13,973	3,778
Anderson	5,077	1,429	5,235	1,330	Lawrence	3,936	913	3,694	1,018
Ballard	1,911	501	1,704	452	Lee	1,797	411	1,430	379
Barren	9,210	2,432	9,673	2,803	Leslie	3,051	758	2,455	654
Bath	2,678	733	2,811	773	Letcher	5,996	1,434	5,106	1,517
Bell	7,329	1,826	6,452	1,844	Lewis	3,570	898	3,198	905
Boone	24,644	6,849	31,617	8,992	Lincoln	5,997	1,580	6,064	1,695
Bourbon	4,843	1,249	4,580	1,220	Livingston	2,188	515	1,895	500
Boyd	10,840	2,726	10,319	2,979	Logan	6,825	1,818	6,462	1,787
Boyle	6,276	1,545	6,159	1,610	Lyon	1,275	304	1,204	294
Bracken	2,115	550	2,066	577	McCracken	15,315	3,984	14,624	4,108
Breathitt	4,106	940	3,530	919	McCreary	4,729	1,152	4,324	1,218
Breckinridge	4,647	1,182	4,412	1,202	McLean	2,405	653	2,173	570
Bullitt	16,640	4,439	17,826	4,113	Madison	15,512	4,505	18,366	5,310
Butler	3,288	817	2,964	814	Magoffin	3,570	939	3,120	907
Caldwell	2,927	716	2,696	726	Marion	4,596	1,216	4,623	1,314
Calloway	6,406	1,676	6,505	1,844	Marshall	6,560	1,532	6,188	1,620
Campbell	22,717	6,128	20,614	5,633	Martin	3,539	886	2,849	742
Carlisle	1,251	318	1,125	314	Mason	4,053	1,065	3,926	1,089
Carroll	2,570	676	2,633	794	Meade	7,839	2,299	6,598	1,242
Carter	6,583	1,719	6,470	1,759	Menifee	1,634	383	1,448	363
Casey	3,786	972	3,720	951	Mercer	5,080	1,337	5,111	1,325
Christian	20,459	7,129	25,516	7,507	Metcalf	2,471	638	2,391	653
Clark	8,223	2,149	8,325	2,260	Monroe	2,811	738	2,545	698
Clay	6,232	1,394	5,323	1,365	Montgomery	5,615	1,579	6,331	1,862
Clinton	2,184	608	2,121	629	Morgan	3,118	747	2,829	760
Crittenden	2,178	509	1,934	546	Muhlenberg	7,206	1,903	6,758	1,855
Cumberland	1,689	403	1,440	388	Nelson	10,372	2,769	11,064	3,066
Daviess	23,620	6,171	23,138	6,726	Nicholas	1,608	425	1,600	447
Edmonson	2,745	698	2,580	626	Ohio	5,704	1,439	5,582	1,703
Elliott	1,712	436	1,541	403	Oldham	12,644	3,036	13,401	3,131
Estill	3,697	922	3,471	961	Owen	2,694	641	2,665	697
Fayette	55,533	16,146	62,607	19,777	Owsley	1,194	268	1,012	296
Fleming	3,500	918	3,512	942	Pendleton	4,084	971	3,606	861
Floyd	10,034	2,508	9,264	2,731	Perry	7,161	1,717	6,756	1,912
Franklin	10,776	2,899	10,723	3,097	Pike	16,285	4,174	13,995	3,732
Fulton	1,928	503	1,532	406	Powell	3,524	900	3,136	907
Gallatin	2,247	591	2,226	693	Pulaski	13,156	3,317	13,672	3,883
Garrard	3,602	904	3,773	918	Robertson	539	124	461	105
Grant	6,425	1,788	7,043	2,054	Rockcastle	4,054	993	3,726	1,004
Graves	9,068	2,447	8,771	2,341	Rowan	4,475	1,204	4,490	1,300
Grayson	5,876	1,509	5,880	1,646	Russell	3,675	896	3,746	1,033
Green	2,614	620	2,410	625	Scott	8,685	2,517	11,903	3,541
Greenup	8,699	2,141	7,885	2,092	Shelby	8,391	2,288	10,324	2,945
Hancock	2,241	598	2,180	585	Simpson	4,305	1,228	4,102	1,036
Hardin	25,963	6,739	25,459	7,657	Spencer	3,171	854	4,440	1,091
Harlan	8,297	2,032	7,025	1,924	Taylor	5,365	1,387	5,208	1,437
Harrison	4,497	1,130	4,327	1,158	Todd	3,183	893	3,197	937
Hart	4,488	1,146	4,411	1,190	Trigg	2,886	737	2,874	749
Henderson	11,043	2,866	10,521	3,045	Trimble	2,145	548	2,152	574
Henry	3,820	1,017	3,798	985	Union	3,957	975	3,499	852
Hickman	1,162	283	970	242	Warren	21,398	5,935	24,470	7,303
Hopkins	11,240	2,844	10,510	2,971	Washington	2,757	635	2,713	727
Jackson	3,516	893	3,124	858	Wayne	5,049	1,334	4,701	1,236
Jefferson	168,271	46,600	172,448	50,142	Webster	3,406	851	3,154	920
Jessamine	10,300	2,876	11,760	3,377	Whitley	9,245	2,277	9,006	2,326
Johnson	5,628	1,437	5,421	1,523	Wolfe	1,831	470	1,829	560
Kenton	39,899	11,085	40,737	12,025	Woodford	5,891	1,450	5,646	1,477
Knott	4,319	1,053	3,564	898					

For data sources and notes please see page 40.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## CHILD POPULATION ESTIMATES BY RACE & ETHNICITY

	2008			
	Black	Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>102,924</b>	<b>39,897</b>	<b>851,107</b>	<b>14,136</b>
Adair	140	57	3,688	14
Allen	87	60	4,365	7
Anderson	165	91	4,963	16
Ballard	91	25	1,585	3
Barren	459	258	8,894	62
Bath	85	46	2,675	5
Bell	210	99	6,106	37
Boone	1,245	1,495	28,013	864
Bourbon	312	386	3,878	4
Boyd	340	149	9,784	46
Boyle	609	241	5,203	106
Bracken	31	23	2,010	2
Breathitt	53	37	3,409	31
Breckinridge	179	66	4,163	4
Bullitt	408	325	16,956	137
Butler	71	67	2,819	7
Caldwell	223	55	2,409	9
Calloway	338	229	5,845	93
Campbell	718	531	19,116	249
Carlisle	43	29	1,048	5
Carroll	103	231	2,289	10
Carter	52	93	6,299	26
Casey	73	163	3,481	3
Christian	6,392	2,380	16,341	403
Clark	523	259	7,491	52
Clay	147	53	5,116	7
Clinton	12	73	2,036	0
Crittenden	45	11	1,873	5
Cumberland	71	17	1,352	0
Daviess	1,725	674	20,552	187
Edmonson	72	44	2,460	4
Elliott	5	4	1,531	1
Estill	34	36	3,389	12
Fayette	11,243	5,826	43,141	2,397
Fleming	90	57	3,359	6
Floyd	131	101	8,998	34
Franklin	1,344	463	8,766	150
Fulton	588	29	906	9
Gallatin	52	140	2,022	12
Garrard	133	154	3,483	3
Grant	82	193	6,699	69
Graves	612	764	7,332	63
Grayson	87	67	5,706	20
Green	80	64	2,263	3
Greenup	112	88	7,652	33
Hancock	39	51	2,086	4
Hardin	3,617	1,558	19,645	639
Harlan	242	84	6,643	56
Harrison	138	144	4,028	17
Hart	202	61	4,135	13
Henderson	1,025	256	9,168	72
Henry	156	198	3,417	27
Hickman	154	15	797	4
Hopkins	982	219	9,212	97
Jackson	17	19	3,084	4
Jefferson	45,649	8,895	113,127	4,777
Jessamine	535	352	10,718	155
Johnson	65	55	5,287	14
Kenton	2,916	1,443	35,809	569
Knott	67	39	3,449	9

	2008			
	Black	Hispanic	White	Other
Knox	150	97	8,117	30
LaRue	140	95	2,813	8
Laurel	228	175	13,439	131
Lawrence	33	22	3,628	11
Lee	12	12	1,403	3
Leslie	9	13	2,430	3
Letcher	51	29	5,000	26
Lewis	39	17	3,138	4
Lincoln	192	125	5,737	10
Livingston	26	42	1,817	10
Logan	583	149	5,710	20
Lyon	52	8	1,130	14
McCracken	2,385	366	11,718	155
McCreary	90	42	4,174	18
McLean	15	57	2,095	6
Madison	954	467	16,710	235
Magoffin	19	24	3,068	9
Marion	368	126	4,091	38
Marshall	76	104	5,991	17
Martin	22	25	2,795	7
Mason	355	74	3,455	42
Meade	325	267	5,930	76
Menifee	40	24	1,379	5
Mercer	266	167	4,609	69
Metcalfe	63	31	2,293	4
Monroe	112	69	2,358	6
Montgomery	231	152	5,929	19
Morgan	29	11	2,787	2
Muhlenberg	358	105	6,286	9
Nelson	727	239	10,016	82
Nicholas	13	35	1,551	1
Ohio	85	195	5,291	11
Oldham	624	616	11,973	188
Owen	59	55	2,536	15
Owsley	7	1	1,004	0
Pendleton	39	36	3,502	29
Perry	182	63	6,457	54
Pike	164	160	13,577	94
Powell	39	49	3,047	1
Pulaski	336	352	12,898	86
Robertson	2	5	454	0
Rockcastle	30	30	3,655	11
Rowan	117	74	4,248	51
Russell	52	102	3,584	8
Scott	730	521	10,556	96
Shelby	996	1,428	7,846	54
Simpson	466	69	3,521	46
Spencer	159	99	4,170	12
Taylor	346	98	4,750	14
Todd	318	171	2,698	10
Trigg	363	52	2,445	14
Trimble	28	49	2,064	11
Union	604	81	2,806	8
Warren	2,763	1,642	19,602	463
Washington	256	141	2,304	12
Wayne	114	191	4,389	7
Webster	187	241	2,717	9
Whitley	121	98	8,736	51
Wolfe	28	16	1,783	2
Woodford	327	451	4,826	42

For data sources and notes please see page 40.



# DEMOGRAPHICS

## CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

(number & percent of all children)

	2000		2007			2000		2007	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>203,547</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>231,398</b>	<b>24</b>					
Adair	1,234	31	1,221	32	Knox	3,466	43	3,443	42
Allen	1,089	24	1,196	27	LaRue	642	19	673	22
Anderson	455	9	665	13	Laurel	3,882	29	4,127	30
Ballard	375	20	414	24	Lawrence	1,580	41	1,247	35
Barren	1,872	21	2,365	25	Lee	739	42	658	46
Bath	794	30	997	37	Leslie	1,181	39	937	37
Bell	3,057	42	2,458	39	Letcher	2,147	36	1,781	35
Boone	1,637	7	2,528	8	Lewis	1,274	37	1,236	39
Bourbon	917	19	974	22	Lincoln	1,600	27	1,666	28
Boyd	2,506	23	2,358	24	Livingston	244	11	386	20
Boyle	983	16	1,343	23	Logan	1,424	21	1,499	23
Bracken	222	11	424	21	Lyon	221	18	224	18
Breathitt	1,697	43	1,512	45	McCracken	3,318	22	3,203	22
Breckinridge	756	17	1,040	24	McCreary	1,907	41	2,231	52
Bullitt	1,888	12	2,316	13	McLean	505	21	507	24
Butler	604	19	783	27	Madison	2,777	18	3,983	23
Caldwell	595	21	663	25	Magoffin	1,627	46	1,359	44
Calloway	1,165	19	1,402	22	Marion	1,012	22	1,034	23
Campbell	2,799	12	2,822	14	Marshall	765	12	1,140	18
Carlisle	228	19	264	24	Martin	1,591	45	1,289	46
Carroll	520	21	575	23	Mason	949	24	1,074	28
Carter	1,919	30	1,847	29	Meade	1,087	14	1,241	18
Casey	1,197	32	1,308	36	Menifee	654	41	555	39
Christian	3,934	20	6,871	27	Mercer	884	18	1,001	20
Clark	1,208	15	1,779	22	Metcalf	713	29	868	37
Clay	2,852	48	2,508	50	Monroe	767	27	877	35
Clinton	691	32	756	37	Montgomery	1,032	19	1,510	25
Crittenden	670	31	589	31	Morgan	1,063	35	1,021	37
Cumberland	507	30	524	36	Muhlenberg	1,934	27	1,756	26
Daviess	3,677	16	5,103	23	Nelson	1,607	16	1,751	16
Edmonson	693	26	665	26	Nicholas	230	14	409	26
Elliott	521	31	576	38	Ohio	1,266	22	1,585	29
Estill	1,214	33	1,239	36	Oldham	631	5	791	6
Fayette	8,039	15	11,678	20	Owen	460	17	585	22
Fleming	859	25	940	27	Owsley	666	56	552	55
Floyd	3,992	40	4,062	44	Pendleton	602	15	731	20
Franklin	1,377	13	1,848	18	Perry	2,588	37	3,138	47
Fulton	626	33	647	43	Pike	4,950	31	3,707	27
Gallatin	381	17	537	25	Powell	1,089	31	1,228	40
Garrard	707	20	939	25	Pulaski	3,538	27	4,182	32
Grant	964	15	1,715	26	Robertson	167	31	139	30
Graves	1,986	23	2,132	25	Rockcastle	1,142	29	1,278	35
Grayson	1,446	25	1,686	29	Rowan	928	21	1,223	29
Green	602	24	651	28	Russell	1,123	31	1,173	33
Greenup	1,620	19	1,757	23	Scott	974	11	1,469	13
Hancock	402	18	388	18	Shelby	1,126	13	1,672	17
Hardin	3,534	14	4,059	16	Simpson	598	14	830	20
Harlan	3,336	40	2,815	40	Spencer	295	9	466	11
Harrison	712	16	840	20	Taylor	1,260	24	1,241	24
Hart	1,276	29	1,436	33	Todd	702	22	863	28
Henderson	1,921	18	2,005	19	Trigg	394	14	808	28
Henry	616	16	816	22	Trimble	319	15	418	20
Hickman	316	28	279	29	Union	929	24	886	26
Hopkins	2,721	25	2,776	27	Warren	3,845	18	5,343	23
Jackson	1,287	37	1,328	43	Washington	398	15	511	20
Jefferson	30,604	19	34,932	21	Wayne	1,743	35	1,849	40
Jessamine	1,417	14	2,155	19	Webster	685	20	604	19
Johnson	2,002	36	1,737	33	Whitley	3,092	34	3,490	39
Kenton	4,877	12	6,605	17	Wolfe	930	51	948	53
Knott	1,717	40	1,397	40	Woodford	472	8	755	14

For data sources and notes please see page 40.







# Safety



# CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: AN OVERVIEW

## Definition

*Substantiated victims* is the number of children determined by the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) to have been victims of abuse or neglect. *Percent change in victimization rate* is the change in the rate of children confirmed as victims between the reported time periods. *Percent of repeat victims* is the percent of substantiated victims who experienced a second substantiated incident of abuse or neglect within twelve months.

## Data in context

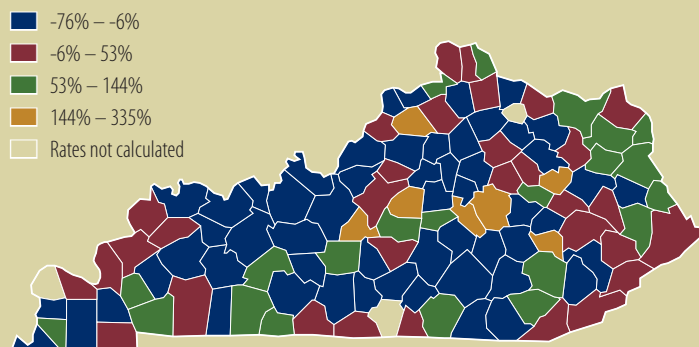
All children need safe homes and caring relationships to grow and thrive. Abuse and neglect have physical, psychological, and behavioral consequences for children, impeding their healthy growth and development.<sup>1</sup> In the United States, the total estimated costs of child abuse and neglect were nearly \$104 billion in 2007.<sup>2</sup> Direct costs exceeded \$33 billion for services such as hospitalization and court proceedings; additional indirect costs occur for services such as special education, mental health treatment for adults who were victimized as children, and the criminal justice system.<sup>3</sup>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define maltreatment as “any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.”<sup>4</sup> Approximately 3.2 million referrals, or initial reports, of maltreatment of 5.8 million children occurred nationwide during federal fiscal year 2007.<sup>5</sup> From these reports, approximately 794,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse, neglect, or both during FFY 2007. Nearly four out of five perpetrators in 2007 were adoptive, biological, or step parents.<sup>6</sup> Children less than one year of age continue to have the highest victimization rate, with a rate of 21.9 per 1,000 nationwide in 2007.<sup>7</sup>

All children need protection from abuse and neglect in the least disruptive way possible. Research indicates no differences among races in rates of abuse or neglect; however, unequal treatment in the child welfare system means children of color are overrepresented and involved for longer periods of time.<sup>8</sup> Black and Hispanic children are disproportionately more likely to be part of investigations, confirmed as victims, and placed into foster care. Once in care, they typically stay longer than children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>9</sup> Compiling and tracking data on racial disparities at all points within the child welfare system and changing policies at points where disparity occurs are necessary for ensuring racial equity in the treatment and outcomes for youth and families of color.<sup>10</sup>

Referrals for child abuse or neglect in Kentucky increased from 47,486 in 2003 to 52,943 in 2008 (an increase of 11 percent).<sup>11</sup> The percent of referrals that were substantiated also increased greatly during this time, from 21 percent in 2003 to 30 percent in 2008.<sup>12</sup> In 2008, 21,051 children were

## Percent Change in Victimization Rates by County, 2003 to 2008



Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.

assessed as Families in Need of Services, a designation to engage families in low-risk cases in prevention efforts; no perpetrator or substantiated abuse or neglect was determined in these cases.<sup>13</sup>

The statewide rate of victimization decreased by 1 percent from 2003 to 2008. The rate of victimization decreased by more than 50 percent in Adair, Carlisle, Casey, Lincoln, Marshall, Nicholas, Shelby, and Woodford Counties from 2003 to 2008, and increased the most in Henry and Menifee Counties during that time.

Federal law requires states to track repeat victimization of children. In Kentucky in 2008, 6 percent of children with substantiated abuse or neglect experienced a second incident within one year of the first incident, a reduction of one percentage point from 2007.<sup>14</sup> Of those counties with substantiated victims of abuse or neglect, 42 counties had no cases of repeat maltreatment, but five counties had repeat victimization rates greater than 1 in 4.

Policymakers and communities can help families cultivate protective factors by building on family strengths, promoting cultural competence and culturally sensitive strategies within the child welfare system, and creating access to job opportunities and job networks.<sup>15</sup> Parent training is one approach that appears promising for improving child outcomes and reducing abuse and neglect.<sup>16</sup> States and communities are demonstrating a growing commitment to preventive programs including parenting courses.<sup>17</sup>

**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services. Number of children for rate calculation from Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.

**Data Note:** Data for 2003 may differ from previous versions of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT book due to more recent data entry or modifications to the data due to appeals or other court actions. The population estimates used to calculate the 2003 rates have been revised since last year's Kentucky KIDS COUNT book, therefore the 2003 rates used here are updates from those used last year.

**Rate Calculation:**  $((\text{number of substantiated victims in 2008} / \text{population 0-17 in 2008} * 1,000) - (\text{number of substantiated victims in 2003} / \text{population 0-17 in 2003} * 1,000)) / (\text{number of substantiated victims in 2003} / \text{population 0-17 in 2003} * 1,000)$



# CHILD VICTIMS OF SUBSTANTIATED ABUSE

(number, percent change in rate, & percent of repeat victims)

	2003 Number of substantiated victims	2008 Number of substantiated victims	2003-2008 Percent change in victimization rate	2008 Percent of repeat victims
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>14,695</b>	<b>14,802</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>6</b>
Adair	81	34	-57	11
Allen	63	66	5	0
Anderson	66	54	-21	18
Ballard	4	6	*	0
Barren	304	215	-33	2
Bath	64	48	-26	0
Bell	120	132	18	2
Boone	105	117	-4	0
Bourbon	43	45	8	0
Boyd	161	247	57	1
Boyle	70	116	66	4
Bracken	17	14	-16	0
Breathitt	82	85	10	6
Breckinridge	59	39	-32	0
Bullitt	146	90	-40	0
Butler	26	54	122	8
Caldwell	27	25	-6	0
Calloway	65	76	15	0
Campbell	127	191	59	3
Carlisle	45	10	-76	0
Carroll	74	42	-45	0
Carter	125	246	98	6
Casey	46	17	-62	0
Christian	201	206	-4	5
Clark	90	121	31	4
Clay	120	195	78	16
Clinton	25	30	19	0
Crittenden	28	28	5	8
Cumberland	3	7	*	0
Daviess	477	421	-12	8
Edmonson	63	42	-31	0
Elliott	41	76	99	9
Estill	71	48	-31	3
Fayette	740	739	-8	4
Fleming	62	53	-14	7
Floyd	208	345	71	5
Franklin	179	90	-50	3
Fulton	45	23	-42	7
Gallatin	18	31	71	0
Garrard	27	106	293	7
Grant	81	73	-14	0
Graves	152	102	-31	14
Grayson	52	44	-16	0
Green	59	46	-16	13
Greenup	103	115	18	7
Hancock	31	21	-30	0
Hardin	290	167	-42	7
Harlan	104	138	44	20
Harrison	22	17	-22	0
Hart	38	73	93	5
Henderson	225	133	-40	6
Henry	16	68	335	0
Hickman	7	15	144	0
Hopkins	154	110	-26	17
Jackson	55	62	21	0
Jefferson	2,703	2,520	-9	5
Jessamine	170	134	-29	2
Johnson	296	211	-29	7
Kenton	421	569	32	7
Knott	117	134	26	4

	2003 Number of substantiated victims	2008 Number of substantiated victims	2003-2008 Percent change in victimization rate	2008 Percent of repeat victims
Knox	68	126	80	1
LaRue	25	89	266	6
Laurel	252	298	17	14
Lawrence	73	145	103	15
Lee	52	28	-36	0
Leslie	64	48	-15	0
Letcher	204	221	16	5
Lewis	37	69	91	28
Lincoln	92	41	-55	0
Livingston	22	29	44	31
Logan	45	70	58	0
Lyon	27	45	74	31
McCracken	224	257	35	10
McCreary	115	89	-24	0
McLean	49	36	-47	4
Madison	192	243	291	5
Magoffin	123	133	-3	11
Marion	73	62	128	8
Marshall	56	86	-60	0
Martin	146	230	129	16
Mason	27	62	27	0
Meade	61	41	-21	0
Menifee	13	48	301	5
Mercer	91	52	-43	17
Metcalfe	74	48	-34	0
Monroe	35	45	34	5
Montgomery	71	104	34	3
Morgan	44	36	-13	0
Muhlenberg	101	67	-32	3
Nelson	81	114	34	2
Nicholas	18	7	-61	0
Ohio	120	86	-29	5
Oldham	39	46	15	0
Owen	26	37	44	4
Owsley	19	64	257	35
Pendleton	41	45	23	4
Perry	271	175	-33	4
Pike	306	380	33	5
Powell	42	68	72	2
Pulaski	227	173	-26	8
Robertson	10	0	*	**
Rockcastle	90	68	-20	7
Rowan	114	111	-4	2
Russell	53	32	-41	0
Scott	81	76	-25	10
Shelby	223	96	-63	10
Simpson	37	68	91	24
Spencer	15	27	53	7
Taylor	71	85	22	7
Todd	37	34	-10	0
Trigg	22	37	68	0
Trimble	36	30	-14	0
Union	61	61	10	0
Warren	344	306	-21	5
Washington	22	67	209	5
Wayne	53	87	73	4
Webster	34	40	21	4
Whitley	205	162	-19	3
Wolfe	45	52	12	34
Woodford	82	38	-52	0

\* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.

\*\* County had no substantiated victims.

# PHYSICAL ABUSE

## Definition

*Investigations* is the number of allegations of physical abuse referred to, and investigated by, the Department for Community Based Services for the reported year. *Percent substantiated* is the percent of investigations for physical abuse where the Department for Community Based Services determined that physical abuse occurred.

## Data in context

All children need safe environments in which they can learn to trust others and develop in a healthy manner, but not all children live in families free from abuse. Physical abuse can result in a variety of injuries, from cuts and bruises to broken bones and more serious injury. In addition to visible signs, physical abuse can cause emotional harm and impede cognitive development, which can make it difficult for children to trust others or concentrate in school.<sup>1</sup> Abuse and neglect can also lead to risky behaviors during adolescence and criminal activity in adulthood.<sup>2</sup>



Nationwide in 2007, approximately 794,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect, with ten percent of those victims having experienced physical abuse.<sup>3</sup> The most frequent reporters of physical abuse were teachers (25 percent), followed by lawyers, police officers, and medical personnel.<sup>4</sup> Kentucky law requires

everyone to report suspected abuse, and certain career fields explicitly require staff to do so. Tragically, the most severe forms of abuse and neglect can end in the death of a child.

While the number of Kentucky children in all investigations increased from 41,402 in 2003 to 46,447 in 2008, both the number of investigations and substantiations for physical abuse decreased. In 2008, there were 11,282 investigations of physical abuse, and 1,883 were substantiated. The number of investigations with physical abuse substantiated decreased by more than one third (36 percent) from 2003 to 2008. The rate of substantiated investigations decreased by 7 percentage points during that time, to 17 percent in 2008.

The majority of Kentucky counties mirrored the state trends of declining investigations and substantiations of abuse. Jefferson County saw the largest decreases in both investigations and substantiations of physical abuse from 2003 to 2008; however, Washington County saw an increase of more than 100 investigations of physical abuse.

From 2003 to 2008, the rate of substantiated investigations of physical abuse decreased in 83 counties, but more than tripled in Garrard County. Rates of substantiation ranged from 0 percent in Carlisle and Nicholas Counties to greater than 40 percent in Gallatin, Garrard, Lawrence, Marshall, Muhlenberg, and Trigg Counties.

Certain strengths, known as protective factors, can reduce risk factors of abuse for families and contribute to children's ability to thrive and cope with adverse situations.<sup>5</sup> Steps to develop protective factors include increasing opportunities for health care and safe learning environments, and developing supportive social networks and strong neighborhoods.<sup>6</sup>

Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services offers family preservation programs that help families at risk of having a child removed due to abuse or neglect. These programs offer preventive services to ensure families at risk have the financial, emotional, and practical supports they need, reducing their risk factors for abuse or neglect and keeping these families intact. Family preservation services provide a dramatic cost savings to the state over the more traditional method of placing children outside the home, yet these services are not currently available to all families that would qualify. A 2008 evaluation of family preservation services in Kentucky shows that for every dollar spent on family preservation services, the state saves \$2.85 in out-of-home care costs.<sup>7</sup>

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**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

**Data Note:** Data for 2003 may differ from previous versions of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT book due to more recent data entry or modifications to the data due to appeals or other court actions.

**Rate Calculation:** (number of investigations with physical abuse substantiated in 2003 \* 100) / (number of investigations of physical abuse in 2003) (number of investigations with physical abuse substantiated in 2008 \* 100) / (number of investigations of physical abuse in 2008)



# INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE

(number & percent substantiated)

	2003		2008			2003		2008	
	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated		Number of investigations	Percent substantiated	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>12,422</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11,282</b>	<b>17</b>	Knox	75	21	117	24
Adair	61	20	38	16	LaRue	33	33	71	11
Allen	56	34	48	31	Laurel	174	27	216	13
Anderson	41	37	86	13	Lawrence	61	23	45	42
Ballard	2	50	8	25	Lee	30	10	7	29
Barren	173	27	204	14	Leslie	54	28	44	14
Bath	50	16	33	9	Letcher	111	20	77	13
Bell	124	20	123	15	Lewis	25	24	23	22
Boone	102	25	144	15	Lincoln	106	18	59	8
Bourbon	69	7	41	10	Livingston	17	29	21	33
Boyd	185	16	170	8	Logan	26	23	50	18
Boyle	71	14	79	14	Lyon	14	43	27	33
Bracken	13	46	15	7	McCracken	165	27	102	34
Breathitt	98	16	62	13	McCreary	84	26	54	28
Breckinridge	30	10	58	14	McLean	31	55	17	18
Bullitt	138	21	151	11	Madison	262	15	205	16
Butler	18	56	25	32	Magoffin	85	26	51	14
Caldwell	13	31	17	29	Marion	65	23	52	10
Calloway	63	24	62	19	Marshall	27	41	21	43
Campbell	168	16	93	19	Martin	114	18	83	30
Carlisle	41	41	14	0	Mason	21	10	67	9
Carroll	67	43	34	32	Meade	54	33	87	11
Carter	102	18	84	10	Menifee	25	4	21	14
Casey	61	30	40	8	Mercer	84	23	73	11
Christian	200	19	196	26	Metcalfe	34	18	23	22
Clark	56	27	102	25	Monroe	48	29	33	39
Clay	104	22	132	18	Montgomery	57	21	60	17
Clinton	40	18	62	8	Morgan	32	19	28	7
Crittenden	35	23	36	17	Muhlenberg	71	14	27	41
Cumberland	5	0	10	10	Nelson	109	22	63	30
Daviess	413	19	263	17	Nicholas	27	19	13	0
Edmonson	41	29	25	8	Ohio	50	42	49	24
Elliott	13	31	16	38	Oldham	58	22	90	9
Estill	51	27	36	25	Owen	41	22	30	30
Fayette	550	28	591	12	Owsley	8	0	60	10
Fleming	39	23	27	7	Pendleton	35	37	23	22
Floyd	166	16	215	13	Perry	162	16	184	7
Franklin	118	19	149	20	Pike	197	18	194	21
Fulton	33	33	7	14	Powell	51	20	36	19
Gallatin	24	33	15	47	Pulaski	213	21	174	12
Garrard	40	15	55	45	Robertson	6	33	0	*
Grant	94	12	37	19	Rockcastle	46	15	46	22
Graves	75	36	81	33	Rowan	76	16	66	20
Grayson	60	22	71	14	Russell	48	29	67	10
Green	25	36	31	10	Scott	69	25	74	12
Greenup	108	19	56	14	Shelby	253	23	185	11
Hancock	26	15	27	7	Simpson	54	26	47	38
Hardin	288	18	329	12	Spencer	10	0	32	13
Harlan	93	23	97	18	Taylor	62	21	71	11
Harrison	57	11	31	6	Todd	19	47	28	25
Hart	32	19	49	20	Trigg	11	36	22	41
Henderson	144	24	112	21	Trimble	48	23	36	25
Henry	19	26	53	9	Union	42	48	32	13
Hickman	9	22	5	20	Warren	296	25	199	20
Hopkins	144	31	100	18	Washington	23	17	134	10
Jackson	40	23	42	14	Wayne	55	11	79	8
Jefferson	2,482	30	1,911	18	Webster	27	37	26	15
Jessamine	124	24	103	10	Whitley	117	26	125	17
Johnson	172	17	148	5	Wolfe	33	18	43	14
Kenton	373	18	326	25	Woodford	47	28	56	11
Knott	105	15	62	6					

\* County had no investigations for physical abuse.

# SEXUAL ABUSE

## Definition

*Investigations* is the number of allegations of sexual abuse referred to, and investigated by, the Department for Community Based Services for the reported year. *Percent substantiated* is the percent of investigations for sexual abuse where the Department for Community Based Services determined that sexual abuse occurred.

## Data in context

All children need safe, appropriate relationships with caring adults to thrive and learn to trust others. Yet some children are subject to inappropriate contact with adults. Sexual abuse occurs when a parent or other caregiver engages in inappropriate touching or other physical contact, or non-physical exploitation such as exposure to sexually explicit materials.

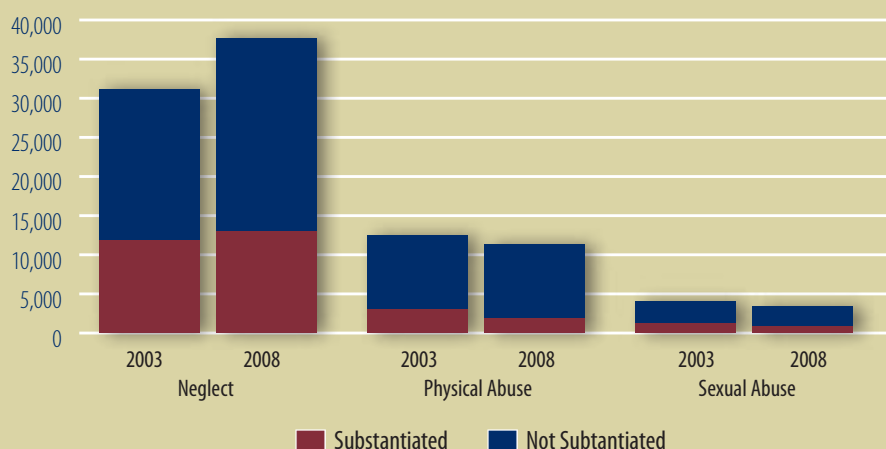
Children are resilient, but the consequences of sexual abuse can be significant. The emotional effects of sexual abuse often include feelings of fear, guilt, anxiety, or depression.<sup>1</sup> Some victims of sexual abuse will display signs of the harm, such as bedwetting, inappropriate touching, or knowledge of sexual activity beyond what is age appropriate.<sup>2</sup> Victims of child sexual abuse may continue to experience traumatic symptoms into adulthood, including depression, substance abuse, self-injury, and abusive relationships.<sup>3</sup>

Sexual abuse can be difficult to prove for several reasons. Given the close relationship between caregivers and children, many victims experience feelings of shame, guilt, or confusion surrounding the abuse, making it difficult to come forward. Sexual abuse can also be difficult to recognize because the signs and effects are not always visible.

More than 56,000 children were victims of sexual abuse in the United States in federal fiscal year 2007, constituting 7.6 percent of all victims of child maltreatment that year.<sup>4</sup> Most were victimized by caregivers, such as relatives or babysitters.<sup>5</sup> Approximately three percent of children removed from their homes that year were victims of sexual abuse.<sup>6</sup> Police and lawyers were the most frequent reporting sources for child sexual abuse.<sup>7</sup>

In Kentucky, 3,382 investigations of sexual abuse occurred in 2008, a decline of nearly 600 from 2003. The rate of substantiated investigations of sexual abuse also decreased, from 30 percent in 2003 to 25 percent in 2008.

**Kentucky Child Abuse Investigations by Type of Abuse Reported and Substantiation, 2003 and 2008**



Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Fayette and Jefferson, Kentucky's most populous counties, saw the largest number of investigations of sexual abuse reported and substantiated. Among counties with six or more investigations of sexual abuse reported in both years, the number of investigations doubled or more than doubled in Fulton, Grayson, Logan, and Rockcastle Counties, but decreased by 50 percent or more in 14 other counties. Only Robertson County, the least populous county, had no investigations of sexual abuse in 2008.

Everyone bears responsibility to speak up on behalf of children and report suspected cases of sexual abuse when inappropriate behaviors are witnessed. Child care providers, educators, faith communities, and mentoring programs play a particularly crucial role and should take active steps to reduce the risk of sexual abuse for the children in their care. This includes establishing policies that reduce risk and ensure child safety, assessing physical environments for the degree to which they protect children from potential perpetrators, and providing training on when and how to report suspected sexual abuse.<sup>8</sup>

**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

**Data Note:** Data for 2003 may differ from previous versions of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT book due to more recent data entry or modifications to the data due to appeals or other court actions.

**Rate Calculation:** (number of investigations with sexual abuse substantiated in 2003 \* 100) / (number of investigations of sexual abuse in 2003)  
(number of investigations with sexual abuse substantiated in 2008 \* 100) / (number of investigations of sexual abuse in 2008)



# INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

(number & percent substantiated)

	2003		2008			2003		2008	
	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated		Number of investigations	Percent substantiated	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>3,974</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3,382</b>	<b>25</b>	Knox	22	9	19	21
Adair	25	60	13	31	LaRue	5	0	20	30
Allen	21	43	13	38	Laurel	58	40	56	25
Anderson	26	31	17	18	Lawrence	14	36	13	8
Ballard	4	75	2	50	Lee	3	0	12	25
Barren	84	33	67	28	Leslie	27	22	20	5
Bath	16	44	9	11	Letcher	30	43	25	24
Bell	33	27	43	28	Lewis	8	0	13	23
Boone	31	26	47	32	Lincoln	47	26	39	26
Bourbon	16	25	13	38	Livingston	13	38	7	0
Boyd	41	34	64	11	Logan	12	25	33	45
Boyle	26	23	33	36	Lyon	5	40	15	40
Bracken	7	14	7	14	McCracken	68	25	41	29
Breathitt	21	19	31	13	McCreary	43	21	24	54
Breckinridge	20	25	17	29	McLean	3	33	7	57
Bullitt	29	41	54	19	Madison	65	43	70	30
Butler	10	40	14	36	Magoffin	39	26	26	19
Caldwell	4	25	8	63	Marion	26	27	30	37
Calloway	16	19	15	40	Marshall	23	48	26	54
Campbell	57	21	30	37	Martin	31	26	35	20
Carlisle	23	17	7	29	Mason	11	9	10	30
Carroll	17	29	8	63	Meade	22	27	26	8
Carter	30	27	33	48	Menifee	2	0	10	30
Casey	6	17	10	10	Mercer	22	9	8	13
Christian	50	30	52	23	Metcalfe	18	33	18	28
Clark	24	38	16	25	Monroe	6	33	9	44
Clay	31	19	55	16	Montgomery	22	32	13	8
Clinton	12	8	20	15	Morgan	8	38	13	23
Crittenden	8	0	13	46	Muhlenberg	19	11	9	22
Cumberland	0	*	1	0	Nelson	38	11	7	57
Daviess	130	31	72	28	Nicholas	5	20	8	13
Edmonson	14	21	10	10	Ohio	24	38	7	43
Elliott	2	0	6	0	Oldham	23	26	29	17
Estill	7	0	9	11	Owen	7	14	7	29
Fayette	200	23	139	18	Owsley	0	*	15	7
Fleming	15	40	7	29	Pendleton	14	14	9	11
Floyd	62	27	50	20	Perry	47	30	46	13
Franklin	40	28	45	7	Pike	59	17	74	16
Fulton	7	14	15	60	Powell	16	13	17	24
Gallatin	6	0	4	50	Pulaski	68	29	55	24
Garrard	15	27	20	35	Robertson	2	50	0	*
Grant	33	52	23	35	Rockcastle	12	58	24	21
Graves	28	50	14	7	Rowan	32	25	33	33
Grayson	14	14	29	10	Russell	21	43	21	5
Green	11	55	16	19	Scott	27	41	27	11
Greenup	27	26	36	39	Shelby	121	30	38	26
Hancock	10	20	3	33	Simpson	10	10	10	10
Hardin	93	39	60	18	Spencer	4	100	8	38
Harlan	26	31	33	18	Taylor	26	27	20	25
Harrison	15	20	11	18	Todd	8	63	7	14
Hart	27	11	10	20	Trigg	7	43	5	20
Henderson	48	27	33	27	Trimble	21	38	10	20
Henry	9	22	14	57	Union	9	33	15	33
Hickman	5	20	1	100	Warren	70	29	50	30
Hopkins	42	43	31	16	Washington	4	0	35	29
Jackson	20	40	8	25	Wayne	24	33	22	27
Jefferson	597	37	442	28	Webster	10	10	10	10
Jessamine	54	20	24	42	Whitley	35	34	46	22
Johnson	68	25	54	20	Wolfe	9	33	17	6
Kenton	183	25	100	36	Woodford	19	37	17	18
Knott	34	35	15	27					

\* County had no investigations for sexual abuse.

# NEGLECT

## Definition

*Investigations* is the number of allegations of child neglect referred to, and investigated by, the Department for Community Based Services for the reported year. *Percent substantiated* is the percent of investigations for neglect where the Department for Community Based Services determined that neglect occurred.

## Data in context

All children need food, shelter, clothing, and nurturing care for healthy development. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define child neglect as “failure by a caregiver to meet a child’s basic physical, emotional, medical/dental, or educational needs.”<sup>1</sup> Neglect may cause children to have trouble trusting others, delayed or hindered physical growth, and cognitive delays.<sup>2,3</sup>

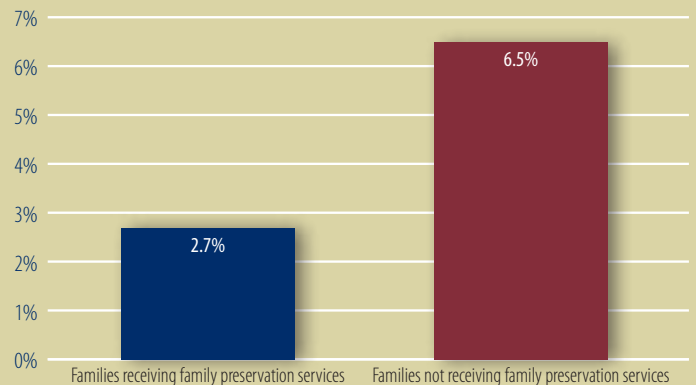
In many cases, barriers keep parents from meeting the basic needs of their children. Neglect often coincides with poverty, making it confusing to distinguish the two.<sup>4</sup> Often parents have the right intentions but lack the resources to provide for their families. Because poverty disproportionately affects families of color, the intersection of poverty and neglect may lead to disparate treatment of children and families of color.<sup>5</sup> Support services can help keep families together while providing for basic needs. In Kentucky, current efforts to support families include family preservation programs to assist families at risk of having their child removed from their care, Family Resource and Youth Service Centers that can connect families to resources they need, and subsidized housing programs for homeless families. The Race, Community and Child Welfare Initiative has also been working to specifically address the overrepresentation of youth of color in the child welfare system.<sup>6</sup>

Neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment nationwide, affecting 59 percent of victims in federal fiscal year 2007.<sup>7</sup> National data indicate that among Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White children, between 55 and 60 percent of child victims experience neglect.<sup>8</sup> Sadly, neglect can be so severe that it results in a child’s death. Neglect was the sole cause of death in 34 percent of child fatalities in the United States in 2007.<sup>9</sup>

In 2008, there were 37,679 investigations for neglect in Kentucky, an increase of 21 percent from 2003. The number of investigations with neglect substantiated increased to 13,019, a 10 percent increase from 2003.<sup>10</sup> These increases in investigations and substantiations parallel the overall trend of more Kentucky children involved in maltreatment investigations and substantiations during that period.<sup>11</sup> The proportion of investigations where neglect was substantiated decreased from 38 percent in 2003 to 35 percent in 2008.

From 2003 to 2008, the number of investigations of neglect decreased in 41 counties. In 2008, the number of investigations of neglect ranged from none in Robertson County to more than 1,000

## Percent of Subsequent Substantiated Referrals 6 Months After Services Completed, FY 2007



*Participants in family preservation programs were less likely to experience future substantiations of abuse or neglect compared to non-participants, despite having higher risks at the time of initial referral than non-participants.*

**Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services (2008). *Kentucky's Family Preservation Program: Comprehensive Program Evaluation*. Available at <http://chfs.ky.gov>.

in Boyd, Fayette, Floyd, Jefferson, Kenton, and Pike Counties.

The proportion of investigations with substantiated neglect was less than 20 percent in eight counties but exceeded 70 percent in Nelson and Trigg Counties. The percent of investigations with substantiated neglect decreased in 72 counties from 2003 to 2008. The rate of investigations with substantiated neglect increased by more than one third in Nelson County but decreased by more than one third in 27 other counties during that time period.

Approximately 333,000 child victims received in-home services nationwide in FFY 2007.<sup>12</sup> Additional support is needed to keep children safe in their homes and prevent the need for out-of-home placement. Communities can offer concrete assistance to help families develop protective factors. These resources include housing and transportation; supportive social networks through community gatherings; parenting education; and additional support services during emergencies such as loss of a job.<sup>13</sup> In Kentucky, family preservation programs work with families at risk of having a child removed, connecting them to community services and helping them improve their parenting skills. Family preservation services are more cost effective than placing a child in out-of-home care and avoid the trauma of removal, yet many eligible families do not receive these services.<sup>14</sup> While family preservation services exist in every region of the state, their availability has not kept pace with the need for such services.

**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

**Data Note:** Data for 2003 may differ from previous versions of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT book due to more recent data entry or modifications to the data due to appeals or other court actions.

**Rate Calculation:** (number of investigations with neglect substantiated in 2003 \* 100) / (number of investigations of neglect in 2003)  
(number of investigations with neglect substantiated in 2008 \* 100) / (number of investigations of neglect in 2008)



# INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD NEGLECT

(number & percent substantiated)

	2003		2008	
	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>31,090</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37,679</b>	<b>35</b>
Adair	172	34	130	21
Allen	107	48	145	41
Anderson	90	53	120	36
Ballard	5	0	15	20
Barren	545	47	661	28
Bath	152	38	195	24
Bell	261	39	404	29
Boone	210	38	370	23
Bourbon	152	23	139	27
Boyd	473	26	1,147	20
Boyle	170	33	289	34
Bracken	41	32	97	14
Breathitt	272	27	366	22
Breckinridge	100	52	114	26
Bullitt	221	52	232	28
Butler	33	42	90	47
Caldwell	39	62	29	66
Calloway	135	39	148	44
Campbell	454	22	369	47
Carlisle	71	38	56	14
Carroll	138	34	98	30
Carter	399	26	607	38
Casey	84	38	121	12
Christian	478	32	407	37
Clark	159	45	245	40
Clay	258	41	558	34
Clinton	71	27	127	19
Crittenden	64	33	76	24
Cumberland	17	18	29	21
Daviess	969	41	914	41
Edmonson	107	49	105	39
Elliott	72	57	172	44
Estill	195	33	170	24
Fayette	1,720	35	2,125	32
Fleming	113	45	191	26
Floyd	792	24	1,101	30
Franklin	351	46	272	24
Fulton	81	42	57	25
Gallatin	45	24	44	52
Garrard	63	30	153	58
Grant	198	30	143	43
Graves	254	47	208	38
Grayson	150	27	135	24
Green	85	58	124	34
Greenup	336	26	379	28
Hancock	43	65	38	47
Hardin	622	34	531	23
Harlan	284	30	374	34
Harrison	86	16	85	15
Hart	99	29	135	50
Henderson	408	45	313	36
Henry	29	31	131	42
Hickman	13	38	20	70
Hopkins	244	48	252	38
Jackson	92	47	138	41
Jefferson	4,273	47	5,008	45
Jessamine	414	33	370	32
Johnson	857	31	831	24
Kenton	822	40	1,176	41
Knott	287	38	411	32

	2003		2008	
	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated
Knox	185	32	286	36
LaRue	69	25	166	48
Laurel	514	38	703	38
Lawrence	174	36	252	53
Lee	115	43	98	26
Leslie	172	30	215	20
Letcher	540	34	532	39
Lewis	72	44	132	47
Lincoln	227	30	211	13
Livingston	45	38	59	44
Logan	60	67	131	45
Lyon	37	59	91	38
McCracken	409	42	378	60
McCreary	209	47	203	39
McLean	83	52	91	35
Madison	479	29	611	34
Magoffin	313	37	342	37
Marion	131	42	125	38
Marshall	89	45	137	47
Martin	420	32	478	46
Mason	39	44	201	29
Meade	77	56	140	23
Menifee	49	24	108	39
Mercer	231	33	175	25
Metcalfe	116	56	98	41
Monroe	77	29	85	39
Montgomery	123	51	395	24
Morgan	114	32	164	20
Muhlenberg	159	55	125	48
Nelson	179	32	141	73
Nicholas	38	37	31	19
Ohio	183	54	167	46
Oldham	55	36	169	22
Owen	62	27	69	41
Owsley	42	43	232	27
Pendleton	79	35	85	46
Perry	580	43	697	24
Pike	940	31	1,175	31
Powell	152	20	143	42
Pulaski	646	30	626	25
Robertson	17	41	0	*
Rockcastle	131	60	180	36
Rowan	260	38	385	25
Russell	108	31	161	16
Scott	210	29	240	28
Shelby	440	35	294	24
Simpson	79	29	113	51
Spencer	36	39	50	42
Taylor	191	28	259	29
Todd	42	57	50	56
Trigg	35	43	37	76
Trimble	50	40	66	29
Union	119	39	102	53
Warren	668	41	648	42
Washington	72	28	225	20
Wayne	112	43	248	32
Webster	66	38	80	48
Whitley	430	43	464	29
Wolfe	114	37	205	23
Woodford	151	42	115	25

\* County had no investigations for neglect.

# CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

## Definition

*Number in out-of-home care* is children who were removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect during the reported year. *Percent change in out-of-home care rate* is the change between the two time periods in the rate of children placed in out-of-home care. *Percent in foster homes* is the percent of all children in out-of-home care who were placed in Department for Community Based Services or private foster homes.

## Data in context

All children need safe environments and caring adults to thrive. Yet some children live in unsafe situations lacking supervision and nurturing caregivers. When a child cannot remain at home safely, the best option is often placement with relatives. If there is not a suitable placement with a relative, the child is placed in a foster home to receive necessary care and attention. Children with a greater need for treatment and supervision may be placed in a residential facility. Youth approaching age 18 may be placed in an independent living setting to learn the necessary skills for transitioning into adulthood.

Removal from one's home is a traumatic event, but out-of-home care placements and social services can help ease the transition for children. Disruptions can be limited by reducing the number of times a child changes placement and ensuring continuity in important services, such as health care services, which are often disrupted with changes in placement.<sup>1</sup> The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 aims to improve the system of out-of-home care through coordination of educational and health services, greater efforts to keep siblings together and to locate and communicate with relatives, and expanded incentives for adopting children with special needs.<sup>2</sup>

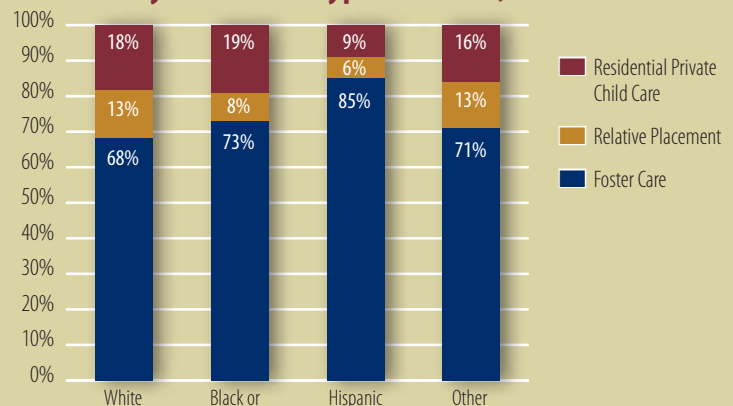
The number of children served in foster care nationwide declined steadily from 800,000 in federal fiscal year 2002 to 783,000 in FFY 2007.<sup>3</sup> During that time, the number of children awaiting adoption fell from 134,000 to 130,000, while the number of children in families where parental rights were terminated increased, from 77,000 to 84,000.<sup>4</sup>

The number of Kentucky children in foster care increased from 11,387 in 2003 to 12,397 in 2008. The rate of children placed in out-of-home care increased 9 percent between 2003 and 2008. The proportion of children in foster care increased by 2.6 percentage points to 70 percent, while the proportion of children in relative care and residential private care placements decreased slightly (to 12 percent and 18 percent, respectively). The average stay in out-of-home care in Kentucky was 25.3 months in 2008, one month less than in 2003.<sup>5</sup>

More than half of Kentucky's counties saw an increase in the rate of children placed in out-of-home care between 2003 and 2008. Rates of out-of-home care increased the most in Grayson, Greenup, Magoffin, and Martin Counties. Casey and Harrison Counties saw a 60 percent drop in their rates of out-of-home care.

All children need safe, permanent homes to maximize their opportunities in life; however, some children experience differential

**Kentucky Youth in Out-of-Home Care by Placement Type and Race, 2008**



Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

treatment in the child welfare system at critical points in the decision-making process. State and national data indicate that even when other variables are held constant, children of color are less likely to receive in-home support services and more likely to be placed in foster care than White children.<sup>6,7</sup> Kentucky has focused efforts on reducing racial disparities in foster care in recent years. However, the proportion of children of color in out-of-home care increased from 22 percent in 2003 to 25 percent in 2008.<sup>8</sup> The proportion of children of color in out-of-home care declined in 28 counties from 2003 to 2008, including nine counties with declines of 10 or more percentage points.<sup>9</sup>

To support permanent, loving families for all children, the federal government can allocate more funds to preserve families at risk, keeping them together and reducing the need for foster care placements; permit all states to use Medicaid funds to support mental health treatment; and improve tracking and analysis of data on the foster care population.<sup>10</sup> Kentucky can reduce the number of children in out-of-home care by increasing funding for existing family preservation programs, which have proven successful in intervening with at-risk families to keep children safe and with their families at a much lower cost than placing children in out-of-home care.<sup>11</sup> Targeted expansion of family preservation programs to families of color could help eliminate the overrepresentation of youth of color in out-of-home care.

**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

**Data Note:** The data include youth ages 18 and older who have remained in an out-of-home care placement. For children who had more than one placement in out-of-home care during the reported year, only the first placement type is reported. Some child victims are directly placed into the custody of relatives by the courts without entering the foster care system; the figures here underestimate placements with relatives. Other placements for children, such as hospitals, are not reflected in this data; this includes 17 records in 2003 and 13 in 2008 for such placement types.

**Rate Calculation:**  $((\text{number of children in out-of-home care in 2008} / \text{population 0-17 in 2008} * 1,000) - (\text{number of children in out-of-home care in 2003} / \text{population 0-17 in 2003} * 1,000)) * 100 / (\text{number of children in out-of-home care in 2003} / \text{population 0-17 in 2003} * 1,000)$   
 $(\text{number of children in foster care in 2008} * 100) / (\text{number of children in all types of out-of-home care in 2008})$



# CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

(number, percent change in rate, & percent in foster homes)

	2003 Number in out-of-home care	2008 Number in out-of-home care	2003-2008 Percent change in out-of-home care rate	2008 Percent in foster homes
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>11,387</b>	<b>12,397</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>70</b>
Adair	29	27	0	81
Allen	27	45	67	80
Anderson	35	57	57	35
Ballard	12	15	29	53
Barren	178	114	-37	74
Bath	21	52	125	65
Bell	52	55	13	53
Boone	54	54	0	61
Bourbon	52	53	9	42
Boyd	198	357	84	67
Boyle	95	105	13	58
Bracken	21	23	10	91
Breathitt	21	16	-17	63
Breckinridge	39	81	100	62
Bullitt	90	138	60	65
Butler	52	43	-6	77
Caldwell	18	9	-57	67
Calloway	77	79	0	68
Campbell	505	464	0	85
Carlisle	3	7	*	71
Carroll	16	16	0	63
Carter	95	99	0	85
Casey	18	9	-60	56
Christian	138	121	-17	65
Clark	77	76	0	76
Clay	135	208	70	74
Clinton	67	30	-56	90
Crittenden	16	12	-25	42
Cumberland	1	0	*	**
Daviess	329	339	7	77
Edmonson	29	50	73	82
Elliott	22	24	23	75
Estill	84	50	-42	56
Fayette	833	1,022	14	72
Fleming	55	69	33	87
Floyd	46	68	40	81
Franklin	144	83	-38	66
Fulton	39	25	-27	64
Gallatin	7	16	133	81
Garrard	25	80	200	70
Grant	50	30	-43	53
Graves	120	169	46	74
Grayson	48	226	375	50
Green	20	17	-13	53
Greenup	44	132	240	41
Hancock	16	8	-43	25
Hardin	322	333	8	69
Harlan	84	153	100	58
Harrison	24	9	-60	67
Hart	29	51	71	78
Henderson	114	117	0	73
Henry	10	22	100	73
Hickman	8	11	57	82
Hopkins	115	79	-27	54
Jackson	47	48	7	63
Jefferson	1,556	1,777	11	77
Jessamine	116	113	-9	67
Johnson	303	145	-52	82
Kenton	420	493	9	66
Knott	31	48	63	69

	2003 Number in out-of-home care	2008 Number in out-of-home care	2003-2008 Percent change in out-of-home care rate	2008 Percent in foster homes
Knox	86	99	9	55
LaRue	11	34	175	68
Laurel	278	271	-5	54
Lawrence	43	65	64	65
Lee	23	12	-43	33
Leslie	47	43	6	67
Letcher	114	85	-19	91
Lewis	18	27	33	37
Lincoln	106	64	-35	75
Livingston	20	10	-50	10
Logan	65	73	10	84
Lyon	14	24	82	46
McCracken	185	207	8	69
McCreary	119	80	-27	55
McLean	29	12	-50	67
Madison	203	234	8	64
Magoffin	25	92	314	75
Marion	62	68	7	72
Marshall	71	72	9	71
Martin	23	62	214	90
Mason	39	24	-40	71
Meade	47	54	33	61
Menifee	27	29	18	86
Mercer	78	56	-27	64
Metcalfe	18	23	43	87
Monroe	20	32	63	91
Montgomery	39	48	14	81
Morgan	36	28	-17	71
Muhlenberg	59	53	0	85
Nelson	30	42	33	67
Nicholas	5	8	*	25
Ohio	97	88	-11	75
Oldham	46	67	25	31
Owen	11	7	-25	43
Owsley	4	43	*	49
Pendleton	49	25	-42	12
Perry	139	179	30	77
Pike	78	111	60	83
Powell	30	36	22	83
Pulaski	362	164	-56	60
Robertson	9	0	*	**
Rockcastle	110	70	-32	56
Rowan	74	118	53	81
Russell	53	28	-50	89
Scott	80	111	13	75
Shelby	194	159	-32	70
Simpson	41	61	50	89
Spencer	9	27	200	56
Taylor	72	56	-21	84
Todd	18	28	50	54
Trigg	19	20	0	90
Trimble	14	20	50	70
Union	13	32	200	78
Warren	357	477	19	78
Washington	18	17	-14	35
Wayne	17	37	167	57
Webster	20	8	-50	63
Whitley	217	129	-39	50
Wolfe	35	29	-20	66
Woodford	29	47	60	38

\* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.

\*\* County had no children in out-of-home care.

# KINSHIP CARE

## Definition

*Number receiving Kinship Care* is children who lived in subsidized care of non-parental relatives during the reported year due to abuse or neglect in their home of origin. *Percent living with grandparents* is the percent of all children receiving Kinship Care who lived with grandparents as primary caregivers.

## Data in context

All children need nurturing homes with loving adults to thrive. Yet not all children have a safe home of origin. When children cannot remain at home safely, placement with other family members can be an effective alternative. Research indicates that children in kinship care are more likely to be kept together with their siblings, have greater stability in residential placements and schools, and report a better experience in non-parental care, compared to children in non-relative foster care.<sup>1</sup> Kinship care arrangements also support a child's connections with extended family and allow children to maintain cultural practices.<sup>2</sup>

Grandparents are vital caregivers both within the child welfare system and in informal arrangements. More than 2.5 million grandparents in the United States were the primary caregivers for their grandchildren in 2007, an increase from the previous year.<sup>3</sup> Grandparents were raising more than 46,000 Kentucky children in 2008.<sup>4</sup>

In May 2009, 9,475 children in Kentucky were in the Kinship Care program, a 17 percent increase from May 2007. Nearly two out of every three Kentucky children (64 percent) in the Kinship Care program lived with grandparents in May 2009, a rate that has remained stable since May 2007. In May 2009, there were 17 counties in which more than 3 in 4 children in the Kinship Care program were placed with grandparents. Children ages 6 to 12 represented the largest age group of youth in the Kinship Care program (44 percent of participating youth).<sup>5</sup>

The number of children receiving Kinship Care declined in 28 Kentucky counties from May 2007 to May 2009, but increased in the majority of counties. Among counties with six or more children receiving Kinship Care, the number of children receiving Kinship Care more than doubled in Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, and Washington Counties.

Research indicates no differences in rates of abuse or neglect by race; however, Black children are more likely to be removed from their home than White or Hispanic children.<sup>6</sup> A permanent relative placement offers an opportunity to maintain family connections and ensure safety for children of all races, and Kinship Care provides financial assistance to relatives able to take custody. Among children receiving Kinship Care in Kentucky, Black or African American children represent a higher proportion than in the population of children in out-of-home care; however, Hispanic children and children of other races are less likely to receive Kinship Care.<sup>7</sup>

Subsidies for relative caregivers turn the opportunity to remain connected with extended family into a viable option for all children, regardless of their family's socioeconomic status, and can also reduce disproportionality in foster care.<sup>8,9</sup> Many family members, such as grandparents, want to care for relatives' children, but may have fixed incomes and cannot afford the expenses associated with raising children.<sup>10</sup> A report on programs in Kentucky and five other states identified many benefits of kinship care, including permanency for older youth and reduced racial disparities.<sup>11</sup> A new federal law, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, will help states finance guardianship assistance payments and other aspects of kinship care programs (see text box).<sup>12</sup>

**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

**Data Note:** Number of children in Kinship Care and percent living with grandparents reflect data as of May 2009. Some child victims are directly placed by the courts into the custody of relatives without entering the foster care system. The figures here underestimate placements with relatives and only refer to those non-parental relatives receiving monthly payments subsidizing care of such children.

**Rate Calculation:** (number of children receiving Kinship Care who lived with grandparents in 2003 \* 100) / (number of children who received Kinship Care in 2003)

(number of children receiving Kinship Care who lived with grandparents in 2008 \* 100) / (number of children who received Kinship Care in 2008)

## New Federal Options for States to Support Kinship Care

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 offers many new provisions to support kinship care arrangements, including:

- ▶ Federal reimbursement to states for financial assistance for caregivers, when the child has come from foster care.
- ▶ Grant funding for kinship navigator programs to identify family members and support the process of family group decision making.
- ▶ Coordination of health services for the child.
- ▶ Steps to ensure that a child may remain at his/her school, even when an out-of-home care placement is in a different school area. States may be reimbursed for higher transportation costs to assure the child gets to school.
- ▶ More training for family members and court personnel, including attorneys, judges, staff, and volunteer advocates.

Estimates from the Congressional Budget Office project the bill will yield federal savings of \$791 million and that matching funds will create savings at the state and local levels as well.

**Sources:** Allen, T., DeVoght, K., and Geen, R. (2008). *State Kinship Care Policies for Children that Come to the Attention of Child Welfare Agencies. Findings from the 2007 Casey Kinship Foster Care Policy Survey*. Child Trends. Available at <http://www.childtrends.org>.

Center for the Study of Law and Social Policy, et al. (2009). *New Help for Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives: Questions and Answers About the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008*. Available at <http://www.clasp.org>.



# CHILDREN RECEIVING KINSHIP CARE

(number & percent living with grandparents)

	May 2007		May 2009			May 2007		May 2009	
	Number receiving Kinship Care	Percent living with grandparents	Number receiving Kinship Care	Percent living with grandparents		Number receiving Kinship Care	Percent living with grandparents	Number receiving Kinship Care	Percent living with grandparents
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>8,086</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9,475</b>	<b>64</b>	Knox	73	67	91	53
Adair	17	41	23	22	LaRue	15	47	30	60
Allen	29	52	28	61	Laurel	121	58	132	55
Anderson	34	59	28	64	Lawrence	28	68	63	76
Ballard	14	79	13	77	Lee	21	48	39	69
Barren	47	57	44	48	Leslie	44	48	50	52
Bath	30	73	46	78	Letcher	110	75	142	75
Bell	112	69	123	67	Lewis	12	75	39	64
Boone	99	53	105	57	Lincoln	45	64	33	61
Bourbon	52	58	63	56	Livingston	14	100	18	67
Boyd	49	59	80	66	Logan	18	44	22	50
Boyle	32	69	52	77	Lyon	4	75	3	67
Bracken	13	62	10	40	McCracken	39	46	52	56
Breathitt	81	62	100	63	McCreary	90	39	88	43
Breckinridge	34	65	30	57	McLean	21	67	21	67
Bullitt	76	70	83	73	Madison	135	60	157	62
Butler	21	71	16	50	Magoffin	60	55	76	55
Caldwell	20	75	25	40	Marion	26	81	32	81
Calloway	13	85	20	80	Marshall	6	50	15	53
Campbell	113	71	123	72	Martin	41	83	74	69
Carlisle	7	57	8	63	Mason	33	70	24	67
Carroll	19	58	16	63	Meade	51	33	49	41
Carter	76	68	140	60	Menifee	15	80	22	73
Casey	14	43	21	43	Mercer	45	67	47	68
Christian	40	53	45	73	Metcalfe	29	83	18	83
Clark	62	53	67	58	Monroe	7	71	13	46
Clay	32	31	57	60	Montgomery	39	67	53	79
Clinton	8	38	9	33	Morgan	35	63	36	67
Crittenden	8	88	15	93	Muhlenberg	42	57	49	59
Cumberland	6	67	4	100	Nelson	47	68	58	69
Daviess	190	67	191	61	Nicholas	18	67	26	62
Edmonson	25	64	26	73	Ohio	53	75	51	80
Elliott	18	33	27	44	Oldham	21	71	23	74
Estill	24	83	40	68	Owen	26	81	21	86
Fayette	544	69	577	66	Owsley	17	29	27	48
Fleming	35	71	44	70	Pendleton	42	60	34	56
Floyd	107	64	129	64	Perry	222	69	240	70
Franklin	66	61	51	61	Pike	116	68	155	66
Fulton	8	75	7	71	Powell	44	73	50	70
Gallatin	18	78	30	80	Pulaski	112	63	129	67
Garrard	27	56	40	70	Robertson	0	*	0	*
Grant	43	70	65	75	Rockcastle	75	69	88	74
Graves	24	38	31	42	Rowan	30	50	51	69
Grayson	78	68	62	74	Russell	15	80	15	53
Green	34	82	37	78	Scott	63	54	93	56
Greenup	28	68	59	64	Shelby	34	71	46	67
Hancock	0	*	6	33	Simpson	11	73	19	74
Hardin	101	50	108	51	Spencer	34	53	28	46
Harlan	79	77	91	69	Taylor	43	63	51	63
Harrison	19	79	28	75	Todd	14	50	11	45
Hart	28	46	37	70	Trigg	21	76	20	80
Henderson	39	56	37	30	Trimble	18	44	16	38
Henry	32	56	29	62	Union	10	40	10	90
Hickman	1	0	4	0	Warren	123	80	153	73
Hopkins	43	60	54	61	Washington	11	73	28	75
Jackson	47	51	45	58	Wayne	45	62	69	54
Jefferson	2,150	65	2,396	63	Webster	10	70	15	87
Jessamine	47	53	90	66	Whitley	153	71	161	66
Johnson	51	69	53	75	Wolfe	27	89	46	63
Kenton	216	57	298	60	Woodford	28	79	30	73
Knott	104	54	137	64					

\* County had no children receiving Kinship Care.

# CHILDREN EXITING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

## Definition

*Children exiting out-of-home care* is the number of children who exited foster care to any type of placement. *Percent reunified with family* is the percent of children exiting foster care who were legally returned to the custody of their parent or caregiver or were legally placed in the permanent custody of relatives. *Percent adopted* is the percent of children who exited the foster care system through adoption.

## Data in context

All children need safe, permanent homes to develop lifelong connections to families. For children who spend time in foster care due to abuse or neglect, finding a permanent, safe home is critical. Some children return to their homes of origin after parents have made strides to provide safer care, while other children join new families through adoption. Youth ages 18 to 21 years old may be emancipated from the foster care system, known as “aging out,” and stop receiving services and oversight from child welfare agencies. Youth who exit care without a connection to a family may lack the resources and support necessary to succeed as independent adults.

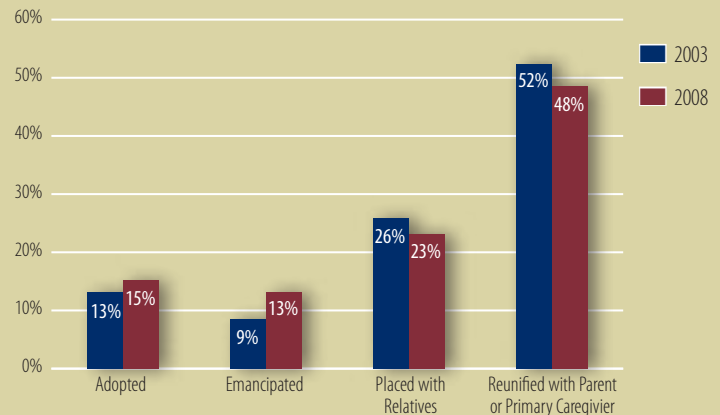
Approximately 303,000 children entered foster care in the United States during federal fiscal year 2006, while 289,000 children exited care.<sup>1</sup> Of those exits, 49 percent had been in foster care for less than one year.<sup>2</sup> In 2006, 53 percent of children exited out-of-home care in the United States through reunification with parents or other relatives.<sup>3</sup> That year, nearly 51,000 were adopted from foster care.<sup>4</sup> More than 26,000 youth nationwide age out of foster care each year.<sup>5</sup>

In 2008, nearly 5,300 Kentucky children and youth exited foster care. The total number did not change significantly from 2003 to 2008, although the proportions of children by exit type changed during that time. Overall, fewer children were reunified with family members during that time and more children were adopted; however, the reverse is true for Black or African American children. The number of Kentucky youth who were emancipated from care increased by 54 percent to 696 youth in 2008.

While out-of-home placements offer children much-needed safety and care, it is important for all children to move toward permanent outcomes with loving families. Yet national data indicate that despite similar rates of abuse across races, children of color remain in out-of-home care for longer periods and are reunified with family less often than White children.<sup>6</sup> In Kentucky, 2008 data show an increase in the proportion of youth of color exiting care, indicating progress on reducing the overrepresentation of youth of color in out-of-home care. Improvements also appear in reunifications with a parent or primary caretaker; the gap nearly closed in 2008 between Black or African American children and White children as a proportion of children exiting care.

When youth exit care, support services help families through the process of reunification and enhance family stability to avoid additional out-of-home care placements. The number of youth entering out-of-home care in 2008 who had already been in out-of-home care in the past 12 months was 568, a slight decline from 2007.<sup>7</sup> Statewide, 11 percent of entries to foster care were re-entries. These figures include several dozen youth ages 18 to 21 who chose

**Outcomes for Kentucky Children Exiting Foster Care, 2003 and 2008**



Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

to re-enter foster care, a positive move given the independent living support and tuition assistance benefits for older youth in care.<sup>8</sup> Kentucky's Family Reunification Services provides intensive case management to families reunifying with a child exiting out-of-home care. This program has proven successful in increasing reunification rates among participating families and decreasing the odds of future substantiated maltreatment.<sup>9</sup> Support services include frequent contact with the family, linking families with resources such as food or family counseling, and financial assistance with rent or utility payments to avoid crisis.<sup>10</sup>

Boyd County saw the largest increase in the number of children exiting care from 2003 to 2008 (110 children), while the number decreased by 89 in Pulaski County. Among counties with six or more children exiting care in both years, the number of exits more than doubled from 2003 to 2008 in nine counties.

Child welfare systems can enact a variety of policy and practice changes to enhance permanence for children in foster care. These include: appropriately addressing youth mental health challenges that can impede permanency efforts; engaging youth in the formulation of their case plan; using older youth as mentors for younger youth in the case planning process; expanding the ways in which birth parents and families are involved, to establish healthy family connections; allowing youth to remain in care through their mid-20s; and continuing permanency efforts regardless of a youth's age.<sup>11</sup>

**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

**Data Note:** The data include some youth older than 18, as youth may elect to stay in care after turning 18 years old. The number of children exiting foster care and placed in the custody of relatives is underestimated because some children are directly placed by the courts in the custody of relatives without entering the foster care system.

**Rate Calculation:** (number of children who exited foster care through reunification with parent, caregiver, or relative in 2003 \* 100) / (number of children who exited foster care in 2003)  
(number of children who exited foster care through adoption in 2003 \* 100) / (number of children who exited foster care in 2003)  
(number of children who exited foster care through reunification with parent, caregiver, or relative in 2008 \* 100) / (number of children who exited foster care in 2008)  
(number of children who exited foster care through adoption in 2008 \* 100) / (number of children who exited foster care in 2008)



# CHILDREN EXITING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

(number, percent reunified with family, & percent adopted)

2003				2008			2003				2008		
	Number	Percent reunified with family	Percent adopted	Number	Percent reunified with family	Percent adopted		Number	Percent reunified with family	Percent adopted	Number	Percent reunified with family	Percent adopted
Kentucky	5,284	78	13	5,294	72	15	Knox	56	80	16	49	84	2
Adair	20	95	0	4	75	0	LaRue	9	67	33	17	94	0
Allen	7	86	0	25	56	24	Laurel	132	92	1	156	89	3
Anderson	24	83	13	26	85	0	Lawrence	23	100	0	28	79	0
Ballard	4	25	75	4	100	0	Lee	12	100	0	7	100	0
Barren	90	90	6	69	84	7	Leslie	27	100	0	20	95	0
Bath	10	70	0	14	86	0	Letcher	31	45	48	49	53	41
Bell	36	89	8	20	90	0	Lewis	9	100	0	7	86	0
Boone	29	83	7	21	90	0	Lincoln	57	88	0	31	35	42
Bourbon	16	75	13	24	83	0	Livingston	14	79	0	2	50	0
Boyd	45	73	4	155	67	21	Logan	39	97	0	41	73	10
Boyle	58	88	0	54	87	4	Lyon	9	78	0	13	77	0
Bracken	6	83	17	14	43	29	McCracken	68	72	18	86	73	7
Breathitt	14	79	14	7	86	0	McCreary	83	94	0	29	97	0
Breckinridge	18	89	6	38	71	16	McLean	17	76	6	8	63	0
Bullitt	65	85	3	48	77	0	Madison	58	74	14	85	59	19
Butler	20	95	0	24	88	0	Magoffin	19	89	0	32	88	0
Caldwell	15	93	0	3	67	0	Marion	20	80	15	28	75	0
Calloway	41	59	27	40	90	3	Marshall	21	57	19	22	55	18
Campbell	89	22	69	159	21	67	Martin	11	82	0	23	100	0
Carlisle	4	100	0	4	75	0	Mason	23	100	0	12	67	0
Carroll	2	0	100	12	75	0	Meade	34	97	3	28	86	0
Carter	44	82	11	25	80	16	Menifee	11	73	27	20	50	45
Casey	12	92	0	5	100	0	Mercer	37	84	14	40	78	13
Christian	54	63	35	53	92	0	Metcalfe	14	100	0	10	90	0
Clark	43	84	12	26	58	35	Monroe	6	100	0	8	38	38
Clay	84	83	11	100	84	10	Montgomery	19	79	16	27	81	19
Clinton	25	48	48	16	50	44	Morgan	12	75	17	13	31	54
Crittenden	9	89	0	2	50	0	Muhlenberg	52	98	0	18	83	0
Cumberland	0	*	*	0	*	*	Nelson	24	96	0	19	84	11
Daviess	177	83	7	172	74	15	Nicholas	8	63	38	6	83	0
Edmonson	18	94	6	28	82	14	Ohio	54	65	30	38	89	8
Elliott	15	87	0	4	100	0	Oldham	17	88	0	30	87	0
Estill	50	78	16	13	62	31	Owen	5	100	0	5	100	0
Fayette	322	66	25	379	66	19	Owsley	3	100	0	14	86	0
Fleming	22	68	32	31	45	39	Pendleton	32	94	3	10	80	0
Floyd	34	97	0	33	88	0	Perry	61	90	2	66	73	0
Franklin	100	91	2	41	66	29	Pike	37	76	0	62	97	0
Fulton	16	56	31	15	87	7	Powell	25	96	0	8	88	0
Gallatin	3	100	0	8	100	0	Pulaski	170	84	9	81	86	2
Garrard	15	67	27	42	86	0	Robertson	1	100	0	0	*	*
Grant	29	93	0	7	71	0	Rockcastle	50	94	0	27	89	0
Graves	35	77	14	66	45	42	Rowan	42	93	5	45	89	4
Grayson	19	95	0	54	78	2	Russell	25	84	16	17	65	29
Green	16	100	0	13	100	0	Scott	36	97	3	54	74	19
Greenup	18	56	6	61	82	0	Shelby	87	57	37	81	49	48
Hancock	5	80	0	2	0	0	Simpson	14	93	7	28	79	11
Hardin	99	78	9	134	69	13	Spencer	8	88	0	16	94	0
Harlan	32	72	6	54	65	22	Taylor	38	89	5	36	69	31
Harrison	12	100	0	4	75	25	Todd	4	75	0	9	89	0
Hart	16	75	25	12	75	8	Trigg	9	89	0	8	63	13
Henderson	56	77	20	50	56	28	Trimble	8	50	0	12	50	0
Henry	1	0	0	11	64	0	Union	8	100	0	11	82	0
Hickman	5	60	0	5	60	0	Warren	148	65	23	183	79	9
Hopkins	53	64	30	37	92	0	Washington	15	73	27	13	69	15
Jackson	27	96	0	38	58	37	Wayne	12	92	0	17	88	0
Jefferson	764	70	19	713	62	21	Webster	11	91	0	1	100	0
Jessamine	64	84	8	46	80	11	Whitley	124	86	10	75	85	1
Johnson	107	81	6	70	49	46	Wolfe	11	82	18	11	64	0
Kenton	232	80	6	224	88	2	Woodford	10	80	20	28	82	14
Knott	18	94	0	15	33	0							

\* County had no children exiting out of home care

\* County had no children exiting out-of-home care.

# YOUTH CHARGED WITH OFFENSES

## Definition

*Public offenses* is the number and rate of youth charged with an offense that would be a crime if committed by an adult. *Status offenses* is the number and rate of youth charged with an offense that would not be a crime if committed by an adult.

## Data in context

All youth need engaging educational experiences, safe neighborhoods, and guidance from caring adults to become productive citizens. Protective factors like educational success and a safe and supportive community reduce delinquency among youth, while exposure to violence and limited employment opportunities increase risk.<sup>1</sup> While some adolescents will engage in delinquent behavior, appropriate and consistently-applied discipline is needed to ensure youth have opportunities to learn from mistakes and become successful contributing adults.<sup>2</sup>

In Kentucky, when someone brings a complaint of an offense against a youth, the Court Designated Worker program receives those charges and evaluates whether the youth is eligible for a diversion program or their case will require formal court processing. The data presented here represent all youth who had a charge filed with the Court Designated Worker program.

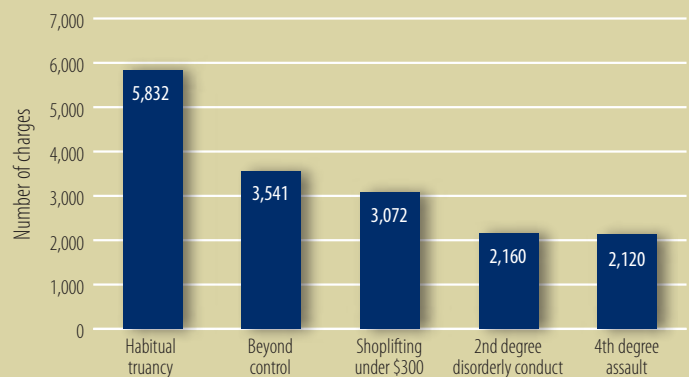
Nationally, the number of juvenile delinquency cases (public offenses) declined by 9 percent between 1997 and 2005.<sup>3</sup> In 2008 in Kentucky, nearly 50,000 charges for public and status offenses were filed in 2008 involving more than 26,000 youth, with youth often charged with multiple offenses from the same incident.<sup>4</sup> Public offenses are actions considered a crime if committed by an adult, and status offenses are actions that would not be considered a crime if committed by an adult, including habitual truancy, being beyond the control of parents or of school, habitual runaway, and certain tobacco and alcohol offenses.

Habitual truancy and beyond control were the top two juvenile charges in 2008 (for public and status offenses combined), accounting for 19 percent of all charges.<sup>5</sup> More males than females were charged with status offenses, though the difference in number is less than one thousand.<sup>6</sup> However, twice as many young males were charged with public offenses as females.<sup>7</sup>

Neighborhoods with concentrated poverty often lack protective factors for youth. They also tend to have higher levels of police surveillance, making the activities of poor youth, who are disproportionately likely to be youth of color, more visible to law enforcement.<sup>8</sup> National surveys show White youth use and sell drugs at higher rates than African-American youth, yet African-American youth are more likely to be arrested due to the heavier police presence in their neighborhoods.<sup>9</sup> Low-income youth are more likely to be involved with the juvenile justice system, but even when accounting for income levels, race disparities persist.<sup>10</sup>

Evidence shows that racial bias, though likely unintentional, contributes to disparities in contact with the juvenile justice

Top Five Juvenile Charges, 2008



Source: Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts

system for youth of color.<sup>11</sup> Disparities among racial groups appear at arrest and are compounded through the juvenile justice process.<sup>12</sup> In Kentucky, African-American youth accounted for 20 percent of charges in 2008, 25 percent of charges referred for formal court involvement and 30 percent of bookings into detention facilities.<sup>13</sup>

In Kentucky, 19,666 youth had complaints filed against them for public offenses in 2008, a rate of 353 per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 19. Breckinridge County had the lowest rate at 87 per 10,000 youth, and Henderson County had the highest rate at 785 per 10,000 youth.

During the same year, 9,585 youth had complaints filed against them for status offenses, a rate of 172 per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 19. Among counties with rates calculated for status offenses, Clay, Green, and Washington Counties had rates less than a third of the state rate, but rates were more than double the state rate in Bell, Casey, Gallatin, Grant, Harlan, Lawrence, Martin, and Owsley Counties.

Kentucky can reduce youth involvement with the juvenile justice system, a critical step given the higher likelihood of recidivism among court-involved youth, while maintaining public safety.<sup>14</sup> Proven strategies include courts working with schools to reduce the number of complaints made for minor misbehavior and jurisdictions addressing underlying causes of status offenses.<sup>15</sup> Decision-making points early in the juvenile justice process, such as whether or not to file a complaint against a youth, must be assessed for potential disparate treatment by race to ensure youth of all races receive equitable treatment.

**Data Source:** Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Designated Worker Database.

**Data Note:** Data do not include all charges added by the court after cases begin the formal court process. Counts reflect youth, rather than charges. Youth may be counted more than once if they were charged for offenses in more than one county.

**Rate Calculation:** (number of youth charged with public offenses in 2008 \* 10,000) / (total number of youth ages 10-19 in 2008)  
(number of youth charged with status offenses in 2008 \* 10,000) / (total number of youth ages 10-19 in 2008)

# YOUTH CHARGED WITH PUBLIC AND STATUS OFFENSES

(number & rate per 10,000 youth ages 10-19)

	2008		2008	
	Public Offenses		Status Offenses	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>19,666</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>9,585</b>	<b>172</b>
Adair	91	381	82	344
Allen	77	317	59	243
Anderson	93	313	43	145
Ballard	35	362	9	93
Barren	226	439	133	259
Bath	41	282	32	220
Bell	151	423	138	387
Boone	696	425	188	115
Bourbon	91	350	79	303
Boyd	200	346	91	157
Boyle	133	347	41	107
Bracken	25	220	15	132
Breathitt	46	211	54	247
Breckinridge	21	87	59	244
Bullitt	312	299	200	191
Butler	54	326	4	*
Caldwell	75	478	31	198
Calloway	127	272	83	178
Campbell	588	493	256	215
Carlisle	16	258	6	97
Carroll	73	547	44	330
Carter	69	187	93	252
Casey	102	507	71	353
Christian	531	411	236	183
Clark	156	348	151	336
Clay	67	211	6	19
Clinton	54	500	15	139
Crittenden	22	195	25	221
Cumberland	27	331	25	307
Daviess	679	546	280	225
Edmonson	21	136	9	58
Elliott	13	149	12	137
Estill	39	208	23	123
Fayette	1,048	304	741	215
Fleming	60	308	43	221
Floyd	87	178	132	271
Franklin	242	410	90	152
Fulton	61	702	18	207
Gallatin	61	518	45	382
Garrard	66	302	45	206
Grant	126	352	155	433
Graves	160	329	77	159
Grayson	124	393	58	184
Green	17	121	6	43
Greenup	105	227	74	160
Hancock	29	233	15	121
Hardin	509	363	204	145
Harlan	121	304	175	440
Harrison	92	387	40	168
Hart	79	327	45	186
Henderson	441	785	95	169
Henry	43	209	33	161
Hickman	17	305	9	161
Hopkins	289	501	49	85
Jackson	22	129	21	124
Jefferson	4,212	459	711	77
Jessamine	283	429	102	154
Johnson	64	224	41	143
Kenton	818	384	453	213
Knott	95	404	60	255

	2008		2008	
	Public Offenses		Status Offenses	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Knox	117	270	81	187
LaRue	59	344	38	222
Laurel	202	277	117	161
Lawrence	33	158	171	819
Lee	19	225	16	189
Leslie	31	221	18	129
Letcher	131	458	67	234
Lewis	52	291	53	297
Lincoln	137	431	66	207
Livingston	17	154	4	*
Logan	108	310	80	230
Lyon	50	679	11	149
McCracken	393	492	113	141
McCreary	120	484	64	258
McLean	44	358	19	154
Madison	319	277	295	256
Magoffin	28	173	38	235
Marion	58	238	27	111
Marshall	114	319	63	176
Martin	38	236	60	373
Mason	70	318	36	163
Meade	112	275	90	221
Menifee	25	277	15	166
Mercer	94	336	37	132
Metcalfe	93	707	41	312
Monroe	47	337	11	79
Montgomery	120	379	72	227
Morgan	35	217	44	273
Muhlenberg	83	222	76	204
Nelson	155	261	110	185
Nicholas	18	217	23	277
Ohio	86	298	29	100
Oldham	244	302	70	87
Owen	28	189	17	115
Owsley	22	416	19	359
Pendleton	91	422	49	227
Perry	122	331	75	203
Pike	106	128	218	264
Powell	54	329	22	134
Pulaski	255	350	156	214
Robertson	12	405	4	*
Rockcastle	40	197	33	163
Rowan	75	210	26	73
Russell	93	443	27	129
Scott	159	252	68	108
Shelby	126	237	43	81
Simpson	88	388	44	194
Spencer	74	314	14	59
Taylor	112	362	33	107
Todd	44	263	35	210
Trigg	48	294	26	159
Trimble	37	304	11	90
Union	97	384	20	79
Warren	477	326	206	141
Washington	22	141	8	51
Wayne	97	369	22	84
Webster	49	286	23	134
Whitley	206	384	152	283
Wolfe	54	596	30	331
Woodford	89	280	83	261

\* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.



# YOUTH AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

## Definition

*Youth successfully diverted* is the number of youth who were eligible to participate in and successfully completed a diversion program, thereby precluding the filing of formal charges. *Youth referred by petition* is the number of youth referred to the court system for the filing of formal charges. *Youth detained* is the number of youth detained in a secure juvenile detention facility at any point during case processing.

## Data in context

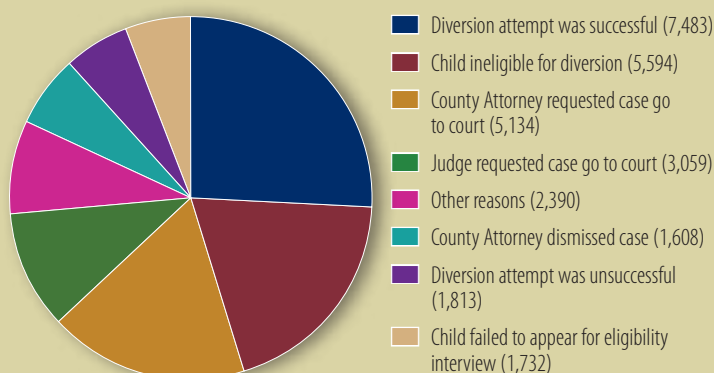
All youth need strong connections to caring adults and guidance in preparing for their future to succeed. Youth who feel connected to their school are less likely to engage in criminal behaviors, while not feeling very connected is a long-term risk factor for juvenile violence.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, youth who are detained face greater risk of poor education, work, and health outcomes, as well as future incarceration.<sup>2</sup>

In Kentucky, youth charged with a minor offense typically meet eligibility requirements to participate in a diversion program monitored by a Court Designated Worker. Kentucky's diversion programs hold youth accountable for their behaviors while teaching them to avoid making similar mistakes in the future, decreasing the chance of further involvement with the juvenile justice system.<sup>3</sup> During 2008, 7,483 youth successfully completed diversion, representing 28 percent of all youth charged with an offense.<sup>4</sup> In that same year, successfully completed diversions accounted for over 50 percent of the cases closed by the Court Designated Worker program in Lawrence, Nicholas, and Robertson Counties.<sup>5</sup>

Charges are petitioned to the court when diversion is not appropriate or has not worked.<sup>6</sup> Youth may be ineligible for diversion if they have already completed two diversion programs, been charged with specified offenses or held in contempt of court, had an adjudicated offense within the past 12 months, failed to appear for the preliminary inquiry interview required for diversion consideration, violated probation, or have met the criteria of a youthful offender. Additionally, if a youth does not successfully complete a diversion agreement, their case will proceed to court. Charges can also go to court for formal processing if the youth, the County Attorney, or the judge requests the case be heard in court, regardless of eligibility for diversion. In Kentucky, 18,352 youth were referred by petition in 2008; 10 percent were petitioned for unsuccessful diversion, 28 percent at the request of the County Attorney, and another 17 percent at the request of the judge.<sup>7</sup>

A significant portion of juvenile justice spending nationally pays for detention, yet research shows detention does little to prevent future offenses.<sup>8,9</sup> In Kentucky, a higher percentage of youth are in custody for nonviolent offenses (72 percent) compared to the national rate (66 percent).<sup>10</sup> This occurs despite higher costs for secure detention compared to other available options for dealing with minor, non-violent offenses.<sup>11</sup> In 2008, more than 9,800 Kentucky youth were detained, including 2,020 youth charged with

## Reasons for Cases Being Closed by the Court Designated Worker Program, 2008



Source: Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts

status offenses, actions not considered a crime if committed by an adult.<sup>12</sup> The number of youth detained represents a decrease of 13 percent from 2007. Among counties with at least 10 bookings into detention each year, Graves, Lincoln, Mason, Nelson, Owen, and Spencer Counties had reductions of 50 percent or more in the number of youth detained from 2007 to 2008.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) prohibits states from using secure detention for youth charged with status offenses, unless the youth has violated a valid court order.<sup>13</sup> Yet, youth charged with status offenses in Kentucky are detained at one of the highest rates in the nation.<sup>14</sup>

The JJDP also requires states to work to prevent and reduce disproportionate minority contact at all stages of the juvenile justice process, yet disparate treatment, still occurs.<sup>15</sup> Though unintentional, the system of juvenile justice results in different vulnerabilities, treatment and outcomes for youth of color compared to White youth, even when they have engaged in the very same behaviors. Kentucky data reflect these disparities, with African-American youth less likely to be successfully diverted and more likely to be petitioned to court for the filing of formal charges and detained than White youth.<sup>16</sup>

Proven strategies exist for reducing both disparities and the over-use of secure detention without compromising public safety. All youth who meet eligibility criteria should have the opportunity to participate in a diversion program. These young people are more likely to successfully complete diversion programs that are culturally relevant and reflect the resources available to them. Kentucky can reduce the use of secure detention by increasing the use of effective community-based alternatives to detention.

**Data Source:** Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts; Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice; and Louisville Metro Youth Detention Services.

**Date Note:** Counts reflect youth rather than charges, though youth may be counted more than once if they were charged with offenses in more than one county. Youth detained counts youth each time they are booked into a facility.

# YOUTH SUCCESSFULLY DIVERTED, REFERRED BY PETITION, & DETAINED (number of youth)

	2008		
	Youth successfully diverted	Youth referred by petition	Youth detained
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>7,483</b>	<b>18,352</b>	<b>9,834</b>
Adair	37	97	33
Allen	28	80	36
Anderson	29	94	43
Ballard	13	22	13
Barren	83	206	81
Bath	12	51	34
Bell	47	182	66
Boone	350	430	153
Bourbon	48	102	30
Boyd	71	162	184
Boyle	45	99	46
Bracken	18	15	6
Breathitt	40	48	38
Breckinridge	32	35	23
Bullitt	84	394	134
Butler	15	48	25
Caldwell	44	58	43
Calloway	77	90	43
Campbell	161	457	316
Carlisle	4	17	18
Carroll	42	56	33
Carter	29	100	105
Casey	76	68	27
Christian	191	566	439
Clark	42	199	90
Clay	9	45	15
Clinton	12	33	3
Crittenden	18	25	8
Cumberland	21	23	11
Daviess	272	530	331
Edmonson	10	20	10
Elliott	2	22	12
Estill	18	31	9
Fayette	510	895	690
Fleming	38	46	15
Floyd	83	95	29
Franklin	87	234	92
Fulton	10	59	17
Gallatin	17	74	19
Garrard	24	71	11
Grant	100	144	46
Graves	73	126	46
Grayson	46	141	69
Green	5	15	18
Greenup	50	68	65
Hancock	14	19	9
Hardin	274	367	302
Harlan	112	146	34
Harrison	33	84	55
Hart	31	61	32
Henderson	166	309	185
Henry	21	40	4
Hickman	2	22	16
Hopkins	89	243	133
Jackson	3	21	9
Jefferson	914	4,296	1,792
Jessamine	71	254	180
Johnson	29	66	31
Kenton	110	860	638
Knott	53	54	15

	2008		
	Youth successfully diverted	Youth referred by petition	Youth detained
Knox	34	95	62
LaRue	27	67	37
Laurel	76	179	128
Lawrence	121	57	12
Lee	9	21	3
Leslie	16	29	14
Letcher	48	107	37
Lewis	20	51	68
Lincoln	61	107	17
Livingston	5	12	7
Logan	53	95	46
Lyon	21	32	9
McCracken	177	267	412
McCreary	44	108	61
McLean	22	30	20
Madison	155	345	148
Magoffin	16	37	28
Marion	35	35	22
Marshall	77	86	28
Martin	31	66	18
Mason	25	56	25
Meade	55	114	50
Menifee	14	22	12
Mercer	27	86	22
Metcalfe	29	51	15
Monroe	20	26	5
Montgomery	48	114	50
Morgan	16	37	39
Muhlenberg	65	77	65
Nelson	39	209	19
Nicholas	25	16	8
Ohio	32	79	41
Oldham	98	166	21
Owen	14	21	14
Owsley	8	31	14
Pendleton	25	72	47
Perry	37	135	88
Pike	80	212	98
Powell	12	53	49
Pulaski	117	205	98
Robertson	9	5	0
Rockcastle	22	33	9
Rowan	13	64	57
Russell	49	53	16
Scott	48	152	72
Shelby	35	88	37
Simpson	28	85	36
Spencer	27	42	10
Taylor	49	79	73
Todd	25	44	31
Trigg	21	41	22
Trimble	12	31	7
Union	26	56	18
Warren	141	434	250
Washington	9	13	7
Wayne	42	59	12
Webster	22	50	16
Whitley	87	247	133
Wolfe	16	49	35
Woodford	53	96	26

# YOUTH UNDER DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SUPERVISION

## Definition

*Youth committed* is the number and rate of youth assigned to the custody and control of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). *Youth probated* is the number and rate of youth assigned to DJJ for formal supervision.

## Data in context

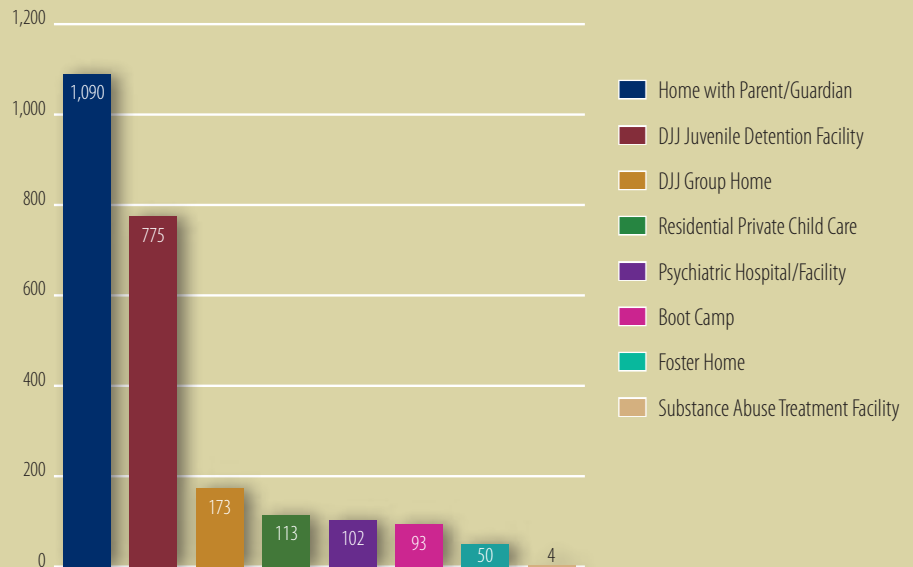
Youth need connections with their families, communities, and schools to achieve positive outcomes and successfully transition to adulthood. Courts must hold youth who commit offenses accountable but also offer opportunities for rehabilitation so youth can become productive contributing adults.

A number of case dispositions, including commitment to DJJ and probation, exist after a youth has been found to have committed a public or status offense. Commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice is one of the most serious dispositions a youth can receive. Placement options for committed youth range from living at home to placement in foster care, group homes, juvenile detention facilities, and boot camps, among others. Research has found these placement types are not equally effective in rehabilitating young offenders. For example, analysis of youth leaving detention facilities consistently shows rates of rearrest within 2 or 3 years ranging from 50 to 80 percent, including youth who had not committed serious offenses prior to being detained.<sup>1</sup> Not only are recidivism rates high, but incarceration itself is the most significant factor in increasing the odds a youth will recidivate (commit future offenses).<sup>2</sup>

The number of youth committed nationwide declined by 17 percent from 1999 (77,928 youth) to 2006 (64,558 youth).<sup>3</sup> During that same time period, the number of committed youth in Kentucky dropped by 2 percent.<sup>4</sup> In Kentucky in 2008, 647 youth were committed to DJJ at a rate of 12 per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 19. The most frequent placement for youth committed to DJJ was at home in the care of a parent or guardian (45 percent), and another 32 percent of placements were in a DJJ juvenile detention facility.<sup>5</sup> Of counties with rates calculated, Boone and Warren Counties had the lowest rates, while rates were more than three times the state rate in Grayson, Todd, and Trigg Counties.

Probation allows youth to continue living in their community while supervised by a DJJ probation officer. Probation was the second most common disposition of juvenile cases in 2008.<sup>6</sup> During that year, 1,385 youth were probated at a rate of 25 per 10,000 youth ages 10 to 19. Rates were less than 15 per 10,000 in Boone, Laurel, Pulaski, Warren, and Whitley Counties, while rates were greater than 100 per 10,000 in Elliott, Fulton, Grayson, and Lyon Counties.

**Placements of Youth Committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice, 2008**



**Note:** Youth committed to DJJ may have more than one placement during a year.

**Source:** Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice

Though no substantial differences in crime exist, youth of color across the country are much more likely to be arrested, detained, formally charged, and placed in a locked facility.<sup>7</sup> Overrepresentation of youth of color accumulates during the course of the justice process, and Kentucky data reflect this. In 2008, African-American youth constituted only 10 percent of Kentucky's child population but accounted for 20 percent of charges and 29 percent of all youth with cases that received a disposition of commitment.<sup>8</sup>

Kentucky can achieve the best outcomes for public safety and youth by working diligently to keep young people from becoming deeply involved with the juvenile justice system.<sup>9</sup> Supporting youth in taking responsibility and building healthy relationships with peers, as well as building skills to finish school and enter the workforce, increase the chance youth will learn from their mistakes and become contributing members of society.<sup>10</sup> Efforts must include monitoring data to identify and address points in the process where racial disparities appear.<sup>11</sup> For example, because youth of color are overrepresented at arrest and referral for formal court processing, which could be the result of unintentional bias, the use of prior arrests or adjudications as a legal factor in determining a youth's placement can result in more restrictive placements for youth of color.<sup>12</sup>

**Data Source:** Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Data Note:** Data do not include youth from other states.

**Rate Calculation:** (number of youth committed in 2008 \* 10,000) / (total number of youth ages 10-19 in 2008)  
(number of youth probated in 2008 \* 10,000) / (total number of youth ages 10-19 in 2008)



# YOUTH COMMITTED & PROBATED

(number & rate per 10,000 youth ages 10-19)

	2008		2008	
	Youth Committed		Youth Probated	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>25</b>
Adair	1	*	23	96
Allen	4	*	4	*
Anderson	6	20	13	44
Ballard	3	*	3	*
Barren	2	*	3	*
Bath	4	*	7	48
Bell	6	17	17	48
Boone	12	7	19	12
Bourbon	2	*	0	*
Boyd	6	10	13	22
Boyle	6	16	4	*
Bracken	3	*	3	*
Breathitt	1	*	12	55
Breckinridge	3	*	12	50
Bullitt	3	*	5	*
Butler	3	*	10	60
Caldwell	3	*	11	70
Calloway	6	13	16	34
Campbell	12	10	23	19
Carlisle	3	*	3	*
Carroll	4	*	4	*
Carter	4	*	16	43
Casey	4	*	5	*
Christian	33	26	120	93
Clark	5	*	13	29
Clay	0	*	2	*
Clinton	0	*	0	*
Crittenden	0	*	0	*
Cumberland	2	*	4	*
Daviess	13	10	42	34
Edmonson	2	*	2	*
Elliott	1	*	9	103
Estill	1	*	3	*
Fayette	55	16	58	17
Fleming	0	*	9	46
Floyd	3	*	1	*
Franklin	5	*	13	22
Fulton	0	*	11	127
Gallatin	1	*	4	*
Garrard	0	*	0	*
Grant	3	*	4	*
Graves	3	*	5	*
Grayson	14	44	44	139
Green	2	*	3	*
Greenup	3	*	5	*
Hancock	1	*	6	48
Hardin	18	13	61	43
Harlan	8	20	8	20
Harrison	6	25	16	67
Hart	1	*	4	*
Henderson	16	28	17	30
Henry	0	*	2	*
Hickman	1	*	2	*
Hopkins	10	17	16	28
Jackson	2	*	1	*
Jefferson	124	14	165	18
Jessamine	9	14	26	39
Johnson	2	*	2	*
Kenton	29	14	58	27
Knott	2	*	2	*

	2008		2008	
	Youth Committed		Youth Probated	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Knox	2	*	1	*
LaRue	0	*	3	*
Laurel	5	*	7	10
Lawrence	0	*	2	*
Lee	1	*	1	*
Leslie	2	*	1	*
Letcher	0	*	20	70
Lewis	2	*	4	*
Lincoln	1	*	4	*
Livingston	1	*	0	*
Logan	9	26	9	26
Lyon	0	*	8	109
McCracken	12	15	31	39
McCreary	7	28	0	*
McLean	3	*	6	49
Madison	20	17	40	35
Magoffin	0	*	0	*
Marion	1	*	0	*
Marshall	3	*	14	39
Martin	1	*	2	*
Mason	3	*	14	64
Meade	8	20	29	71
Menifee	0	*	1	*
Mercer	3	*	3	*
Metcalfe	2	*	8	61
Monroe	1	*	6	43
Montgomery	5	*	8	25
Morgan	0	*	13	81
Muhlenberg	2	*	2	*
Nelson	4	*	22	37
Nicholas	0	*	2	*
Ohio	2	*	18	62
Oldham	4	*	3	*
Owen	1	*	3	*
Owsley	0	*	3	*
Pendleton	2	*	8	37
Perry	6	16	19	52
Pike	0	*	1	*
Powell	2	*	5	*
Pulaski	4	*	7	10
Robertson	0	*	2	*
Rockcastle	1	*	1	*
Rowan	1	*	6	17
Russell	0	*	4	*
Scott	9	14	10	16
Shelby	1	*	9	17
Simpson	3	*	8	35
Spencer	1	*	1	*
Taylor	1	*	3	*
Todd	7	42	4	*
Trigg	6	37	5	*
Trimble	1	*	1	*
Union	0	*	3	*
Warren	12	8	18	12
Washington	0	*	3	*
Wayne	1	*	1	*
Webster	2	*	3	*
Whitley	3	*	7	13
Wolfe	1	*	1	*
Woodford	2	*	2	*

\* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.

# CHILD DEATHS

## Definition

*Child deaths* is the number of deaths among children ages 1-14 and the rate per 100,000 children.

## Data in context

The loss of a child is a tragedy for the family and also the community in which they live. The child death rate is the most powerful measure of child well-being, capturing how well the community protects children from risks they face and addresses their health needs.

In 2006, Kentucky ranked 26th among the 50 states on child deaths, and Kentucky's rate of child deaths at 21 per 100,000 was the lowest in more than a decade.<sup>1</sup>

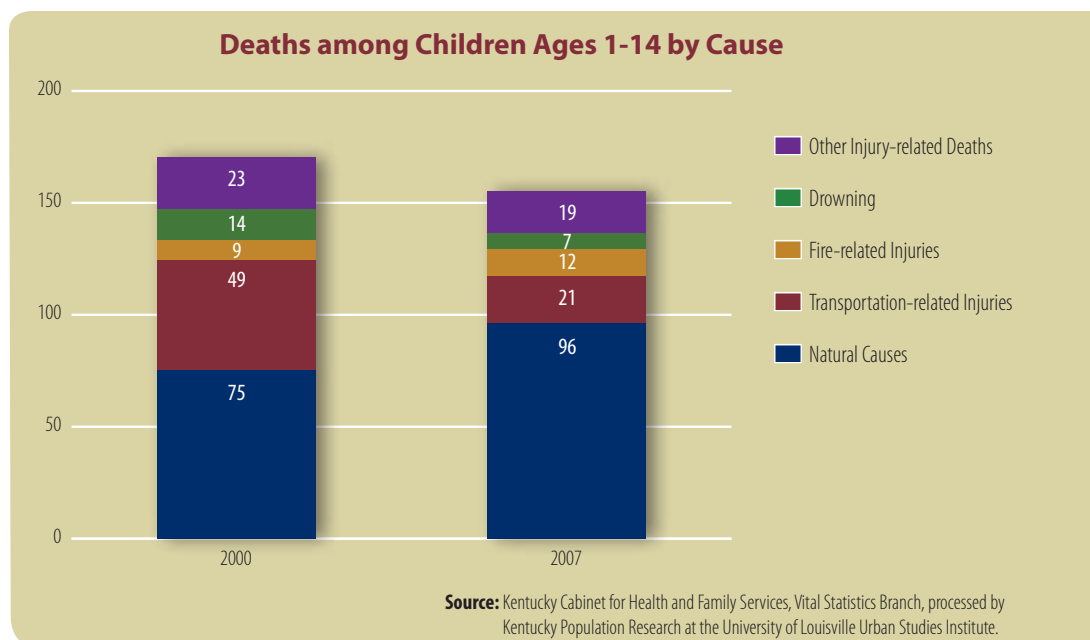
Unintentional injuries, specifically motor vehicle crashes, are the leading cause of death among children ages 1-14.<sup>2</sup> Motor vehicle crashes account for a greater portion of child deaths in Kentucky than nationally.<sup>3</sup> The Kentucky General Assembly took action to reduce those deaths with passage of a booster seat law in 2008 and passage of laws in 2006 to strengthen the seat belt law and require children to wear helmets when riding on all-terrain vehicles. Communities can reduce injuries by providing education and encouraging enforcement of these laws.

Other leading causes of accidental injury include drowning and fire-related injuries.<sup>4</sup> Targeted strategies to address these causes of death include requiring fencing around all residential pools, use of flotation devices when boating, adult supervision at lakes and rivers, educating children on water safety, and increasing the use of fire alarms, which greatly decreases fire-related deaths.<sup>5</sup>

Deaths due to child abuse and neglect are clearly preventable, yet a recent report found Kentucky had the highest rate among states of such deaths.<sup>6</sup> Kentucky can reduce child abuse and neglect deaths by increasing interventions with families who have a history of abuse and through preventative interventions, such as parenting education, respite care for families at risk, and improved training for social workers and health care providers on identifying signs of risk.<sup>7</sup>

Leading health-related deaths in Kentucky among this population include malignant neoplasms and birth defects.<sup>8</sup> Research increasingly suggests that preventing child deaths requires a broader look at the overall health of a child, including the health of a child's family and the community in which they live.<sup>9</sup>

Between 2005 and 2007, 493 children ages 1-14 lost their lives in Kentucky. Rates of child deaths more than doubled the



state rate in Adair, Hopkins, Knox, and Nelson Counties. Of counties with rates calculated, rates of child deaths were lowest in Boone, Jefferson, and Warren Counties.

Conditions in communities, such as poor housing quality or a lack of safe play areas, contribute to racial disparities in child deaths.<sup>10</sup> Limited access to information and education on child safety among some populations also increases risks for children.<sup>11</sup>

Child death rates have decreased for all race/ethnicity groups in Kentucky. During 2005-2007, White children died at a rate of 20 per 100,000; rates were slightly higher among Black children (24 per 100,000) and Hispanic children (23 per 100,000).<sup>12</sup>

Kentucky can reduce deaths among children by ensuring parents and caregivers have the appropriate information on protecting their children from injuries and presenting the information in a culturally-appropriate way.<sup>13</sup> This includes expanding programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect in at-risk families, as well as addressing leading causes of unintentional injury.<sup>14</sup>

**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute. Number of children in 2000 from the U.S. Decennial Census. Number of children in 2006 from Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.

**Data Note:** All data refer to totals over the 3-year periods of 1999-2001 and 2005-2007. Data for 2007 is preliminary. Data are reported by youth's county of residence.

**Rate Calculation:** (average number of deaths among children ages 1-14 between 1999-2001 \* 100,000) / (number of children ages 1-14 in 2000) (average number of deaths among children ages 1-14 between 2005-2007 \* 100,000) / (number of children ages 1-14 in 2006)

# CHILD DEATHS

(number & rate per 100,000 children ages 1-14)

	1999-2001		2005-2007	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>21</b>
Adair	2	*	7	77
Allen	2	*	3	*
Anderson	6	49	2	*
Ballard	1	*	1	*
Barren	3	*	6	27
Bath	2	*	2	*
Bell	3	*	2	*
Boone	6	10	7	10
Bourbon	5	*	2	*
Boyd	6	24	2	*
Boyle	4	*	2	*
Bracken	0	*	2	*
Breathitt	8	86	5	*
Breckinridge	1	*	5	*
Bullitt	6	15	5	*
Butler	2	*	2	*
Caldwell	3	*	0	*
Calloway	2	*	5	*
Campbell	4	*	9	19
Carlisle	1	*	0	*
Carroll	3	*	2	*
Carter	4	*	5	*
Casey	3	*	3	*
Christian	20	41	18	30
Clark	4	*	8	42
Clay	3	*	2	*
Clinton	1	*	1	*
Crittenden	2	*	2	*
Cumberland	1	*	0	*
Daviess	16	29	11	21
Edmonson	1	*	1	*
Elliott	1	*	2	*
Estill	1	*	4	*
Fayette	24	18	25	18
Fleming	3	*	3	*
Floyd	8	35	1	*
Franklin	5	*	3	*
Fulton	2	*	0	*
Gallatin	0	*	1	*
Garrard	2	*	4	*
Grant	1	*	5	*
Graves	8	38	8	39
Grayson	5	*	2	*
Green	1	*	3	*
Greenup	4	*	4	*
Hancock	2	*	0	*
Hardin	19	32	12	21
Harlan	7	37	4	*
Harrison	1	*	5	*
Hart	2	*	3	*
Henderson	6	24	4	*
Henry	3	*	1	*
Hickman	1	*	0	*
Hopkins	3	*	12	49
Jackson	2	*	1	*
Jefferson	88	22	60	15
Jessamine	6	25	5	*
Johnson	3	*	1	*
Kenton	12	13	15	16
Knott	1	*	2	*

	1999-2001		2005-2007	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Knox	4	*	10	52
LaRue	1	*	2	*
Laurel	6	19	11	34
Lawrence	2	*	2	*
Lee	1	*	1	*
Leslie	1	*	1	*
Letcher	2	*	1	*
Lewis	1	*	1	*
Lincoln	1	*	5	*
Livingston	1	*	0	*
Logan	3	*	5	*
Lyon	0	*	0	*
McCracken	10	28	9	27
McCreary	3	*	1	*
McLean	1	*	1	*
Madison	4	*	8	19
Magoffin	0	*	0	*
Marion	2	*	1	*
Marshall	4	*	1	*
Martin	3	*	2	*
Mason	0	*	3	*
Meade	5	*	1	*
Menifee	0	*	3	*
Mercer	3	*	2	*
Metcalfe	1	*	2	*
Monroe	4	*	2	*
Montgomery	4	*	4	*
Morgan	3	*	2	*
Muhlenberg	2	*	5	*
Nelson	12	49	12	48
Nicholas	1	*	1	*
Ohio	3	*	2	*
Oldham	7	24	5	*
Owen	0	*	0	*
Owsley	1	*	2	*
Pendleton	5	*	0	*
Perry	3	*	4	*
Pike	13	35	12	37
Powell	2	*	1	*
Pulaski	9	30	10	32
Robertson	0	*	0	*
Rockcastle	2	*	5	*
Rowan	2	*	2	*
Russell	2	*	1	*
Scott	6	29	6	23
Shelby	2	*	5	*
Simpson	1	*	0	*
Spencer	1	*	1	*
Taylor	4	*	2	*
Todd	2	*	2	*
Trigg	1	*	2	*
Trimble	1	*	2	*
Union	2	*	0	*
Warren	11	22	7	13
Washington	2	*	0	*
Wayne	2	*	1	*
Webster	3	*	2	*
Whitley	11	51	7	34
Wolfe	1	*	0	*
Woodford	6	43	1	*

\* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.



# TEEN DEATHS

## Definition

*Teen deaths* is the number of deaths among youth ages 15-19 and the rate per 100,000 teens.

## Data in context

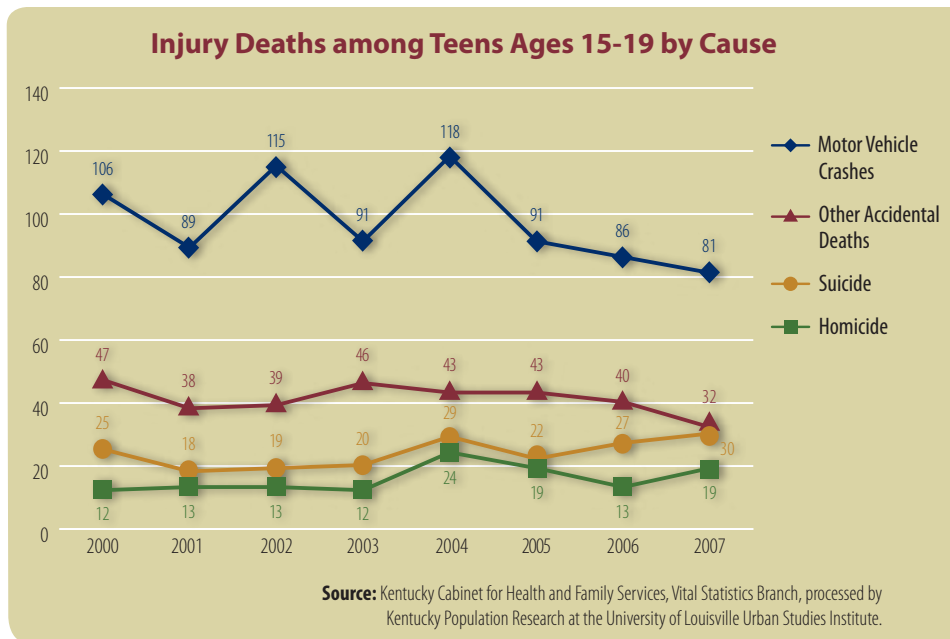
Teen years are a period of transition into adulthood for youth and can include increased exposure to health and safety risks. Ineffective or absent safety laws, under-resourced environments, and violence silence opportunities for some youth. The most prevalent causes of teen deaths in the United States – motor vehicle crashes, homicide, and suicide – are also the most preventable.<sup>1</sup>

In 2006, Kentucky ranked 32nd in the nation for deaths among teens with a rate of 75 per 100,000 compared to 64 deaths per 100,000 nationally.<sup>2</sup> Since 2000, Kentucky's teen death rate has improved at a faster pace than the nation's rate.<sup>3</sup> Significant improvements in 2006 to Kentucky's graduated driver's license and seat belt laws have saved teen lives. The 2007 rate for teen deaths resulting from motor vehicle crashes was the lowest since 2000.<sup>4</sup>

Of counties with rates calculated, Boone, Fayette, and Madison Counties had the lowest rates of teen deaths between 2005 and 2007. Death rates were more than double the state rate in Butler, Casey, Crittenden, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mercer, Morgan, Russell, and Whitley Counties.

In Kentucky, teen death rates for White youth are higher than those for Black youth (75 per 100,000 and 67 per 100,000, respectively). Though the number of deaths among Hispanic youth accounts for only 3 percent of all Kentucky teen deaths, the rate of 110 per 100,000 is notably higher than the state rate, primarily due to a high rate of unintentional injuries. Among all races, the majority of teen deaths result from unintentional injuries, with motor vehicle crashes accounting for 69 percent of these unintentional injury fatalities in Kentucky between 2005 and 2007.<sup>5</sup> The rates for motor vehicle crash fatalities vary greatly between races and ethnicities.<sup>6</sup> While the disparities in the data are not fully understood, encouraging safe driving practices among all teens is important. Seat belt usage, avoidance of multi-tasking while driving, and not driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol must be taught and modeled by the adults in teens' lives.<sup>7</sup>

Suicide was the second leading cause of death among teens in Kentucky between 2005 and 2007, with factors such as family history of suicide, depression or other mental illness, alcohol or drug abuse, and access to lethal methods increasing the risk of suicide.<sup>8,9</sup> The suicide rate for Kentucky's teens is at its highest since 2000, with suicide accounting for 13 percent of Kentucky



teen deaths from 2005 to 2007. Suicide was more prevalent among White youth than youth of color in Kentucky, accounting for 13 percent of all deaths among White youth in 2005-2007, as compared to 11 percent of deaths among Hispanic youth and 9 percent of deaths among Black youth.<sup>10</sup> This data points to the need for targeted prevention efforts and increased access to mental health services for adolescents.

Youth violence is a significant cause of death among older youth and young adults in the United States.<sup>11</sup> Exposure to domestic violence in the home, school disengagement, social alienation, and lack of employment opportunities are among the leading predictors for youth violence.<sup>12</sup> Homicide was the third leading cause of teen deaths in Kentucky between 2005 and 2007, and these deaths can be prevented by providing youth with safe environments and positive connections to their community.<sup>13</sup> In Kentucky, 8 percent of teen deaths resulted from homicide. The higher proportion of Black youth living in under-resourced neighborhoods contributes to higher rates of death due to homicide for Black youth compared to youth of other races and ethnicities. Successful prevention strategies include parent- and family-based programs to reduce violence in the home, teaching conflict resolution skills to youth, and mentoring programs to provide adult role models for at-risk youth.<sup>14</sup>

**Data Source:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute. Number of youth in 2000 from the U.S. Decennial Census. Number of youth in 2006 from Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.

**Data Note:** All data refer to totals over the 3-year periods of 1999-2001 and 2005-2007. Data for 2007 is preliminary. Data are reported by youth's county of residence.

**Rate Calculation:** (average number of deaths among youth ages 15-19 between 1999-2001 \* 100,000) / (number of youth ages 15-19 in 2000)  
(average number of deaths among youth ages 15-19 between 2005-2007 \* 100,000) / (number of youth ages 15-19 in 2006)

# TEEN DEATHS

(number & rate per 100,000 youth ages 15-19)

	1999-2001		2005-2007	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>75</b>
Adair	3	*	1	*
Allen	3	*	2	*
Anderson	4	*	0	*
Ballard	2	*	2	*
Barren	3	*	8	111
Bath	3	*	2	*
Bell	3	*	7	125
Boone	9	49	7	32
Bourbon	1	*	2	*
Boyd	7	70	5	*
Boyle	4	*	2	*
Bracken	0	*	1	*
Breathitt	5	*	3	*
Breckinridge	3	*	1	*
Bullitt	7	53	9	63
Butler	2	*	6	214
Caldwell	2	*	3	*
Calloway	6	66	5	*
Campbell	8	41	10	53
Carlisle	2	*	1	*
Carroll	2	*	1	*
Carter	3	*	5	*
Casey	4	*	9	306
Christian	15	97	9	53
Clark	10	152	3	*
Clay	3	*	5	*
Clinton	3	*	2	*
Crittenden	1	*	6	338
Cumberland	2	*	1	*
Daviess	10	48	9	47
Edmonson	1	*	1	*
Elliott	2	*	1	*
Estill	5	*	3	*
Fayette	36	65	23	42
Fleming	3	*	3	*
Floyd	8	86	5	*
Franklin	6	61	3	*
Fulton	3	*	0	*
Gallatin	1	*	2	*
Garrard	2	*	3	*
Grant	5	*	6	122
Graves	14	185	6	82
Grayson	7	140	3	*
Green	0	*	3	*
Greenup	5	*	5	*
Hancock	1	*	3	*
Hardin	25	106	13	57
Harlan	2	*	9	145
Harrison	7	182	4	*
Hart	3	*	4	*
Henderson	4	*	6	71
Henry	1	*	3	*
Hickman	2	*	1	*
Hopkins	3	*	8	92
Jackson	1	*	5	*
Jefferson	96	71	78	59
Jessamine	9	101	11	112
Johnson	3	*	5	*
Kenton	11	36	14	45
Knott	4	*	4	*

	1999-2001		2005-2007	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Knox	4	*	4	*
LaRue	3	*	2	*
Laurel	11	100	15	148
Lawrence	8	227	4	*
Lee	2	*	4	*
Leslie	5	*	2	*
Letcher	6	104	4	*
Lewis	4	*	3	*
Lincoln	4	*	8	175
Livingston	2	*	5	*
Logan	3	*	8	159
Lyon	2	*	0	*
McCracken	8	63	4	*
McCreary	8	186	4	*
McLean	1	*	1	*
Madison	6	32	8	41
Magoffin	1	*	3	*
Marion	5	*	2	*
Marshall	3	*	9	161
Martin	2	*	4	*
Mason	3	*	3	*
Meade	10	174	3	*
Menifee	0	*	0	*
Mercer	7	180	6	157
Metcalfe	2	*	3	*
Monroe	4	*	1	*
Montgomery	2	*	4	*
Morgan	0	*	7	269
Muhlenberg	6	91	3	*
Nelson	7	84	8	96
Nicholas	5	*	2	*
Ohio	4	*	0	*
Oldham	9	94	3	*
Owen	3	*	1	*
Owsley	1	*	3	*
Pendleton	2	*	3	*
Perry	10	152	8	135
Pike	12	82	13	104
Powell	5	*	3	*
Pulaski	10	90	10	91
Robertson	0	*	0	*
Rockcastle	2	*	3	*
Rowan	6	82	5	*
Russell	1	*	7	222
Scott	6	78	5	*
Shelby	4	*	6	80
Simpson	3	*	2	*
Spencer	1	*	3	*
Taylor	3	*	6	119
Todd	1	*	4	*
Trigg	2	*	2	*
Trimble	3	*	2	*
Union	5	*	0	*
Warren	7	28	13	55
Washington	2	*	5	*
Wayne	5	*	5	*
Webster	2	*	2	*
Whitley	6	70	13	152
Wolfe	1	*	1	*
Woodford	5	*	4	*

\* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.

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## Data Sources and Notes

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### Child population estimates by race & ethnicity

**Data Source:** National Center for Health Statistics, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.

**Data Note:** Race and ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive.

### Children living in poverty (number & percent of all children)

**Data Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2007 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.

**Data Note:** Census 2000 data reflect income earned in the previous year, 1999. The poverty threshold for a family of four with two children in 1999 was \$16,895. The child poverty universe only included children who lived in a household in which they were related to the head of that household. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates reflect data for the income year 2007. The poverty threshold for 2007 for a family of four with two children was \$21,027.

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## PHOTO CREDITS

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