



2016

COUNTY DATA BOOK

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



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2016 COUNTY DATA BOOK



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

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

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2016 Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* is the 26th annual report of both state and county data to measure and improve on child well-being. Many individuals and organizations devote significant time, energy, and ideas to the creation of this book. In particular, we would like to extend special thanks to Sarah Ehresman and Thomas Sawyer of the Kentucky State Data Center at the University of Louisville for their dedicated work collecting and processing some of the data featured in this book and online. Kentucky Youth Advocates also thanks graphic designer Rob Gorstein for his contributions.

The following Kentucky Youth Advocates staff members contributed to the production of this book: Debbie Abreu, Andrea Bennett, Terry Brooks, Paul Colwell, Tara Grieshop-Goodwin, Mara Hafer, Dale Ike, Mahak Kalra, Harper Kelly, Stephen Lin, Shannon Moody, Zak Roussel, Amy Swann, Patricia Tennen, DeWayne Westmoreland, and Jessie Whitish.

KIDS COUNT Data Partners

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

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Division of Juvenile Services

Council on Postsecondary Education

Education Professional Standards Board

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

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Division of Child Care

Division of Family Support

Division of Protection and Permanency

Department for Income Support
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Division of Student Success
Office of Teaching and Learning
Division of Program Standards
Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Department of Juvenile Justice
Louisville Metro, Youth Detention Services

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

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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 the local, state, and national discussion about how to secure better futures for all children. For more information on the KIDS COUNT initiative, visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation web site at aecf.org.



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FOREWORD: CAN KENTUCKY HANDLE THE TRUTH?

It is one of my favorite movie scenes of all time: Kentucky's own Tom Cruise plays attorney Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee, and Jack Nicholson is Colonel Nathan Jessup in the 1992 film, *A Few Good Men*. You surely remember.

Kaffee is pushing the Colonel and pushing him hard. The irascible Nicholson shouts, "You want answers?" And the usually cool Cruise explodes back, "I think I'm entitled to them!" Nicholson asks again "You want answers?" To which Cruise replies, "I want the truth!" And then Nicholson launches the famous line, "You can't handle the truth!"

As we probe deeply into the data that animates the KIDS COUNT portrait of the Commonwealth's children, I wonder: Can our state – both our citizens and our leaders in Frankfort – handle discomfoting truths? And just as importantly, are we willing to act on those discomfoting truths?

The discomfoting truth is that the zip code in which Kentucky children live, the amount of money their family earns, and the color of their skin are pervasive and powerful influences on the childhood they will have and the future they can embrace.

We don't like to hear that. Some valued colleagues have actually advised us to soften that message in this report, but we cannot and will not take the easy way out. You see, the evidence is too strong to ignore.

We as a state have, in fact, come a long way in providing children what they need to be successful, like

ensuring kids have health insurance and changing the way we respond to youth who get in trouble. But in so many other ways, we are still not even close to a place where every child and his or her family has the opportunity to succeed.

We know that a toddler growing up in a rural southeastern Kentucky county will have different opportunities than a toddler growing up in the suburbs of Northern Kentucky, just like a young girl whose family is in deep poverty will have different life experiences than a young girl whose family is financially stable. And a Black teenager will experience high school differently than his or her White peer.

There's not a citizen in Kentucky – and I include myself in that, for sure – who wants to hear those discomfoting truths. But we must hear them, we must confront them, and we must act upon those discomfoting truths.

Why focus on place, income, and race?

That is why we at Kentucky Youth Advocates decided to go beyond presenting only county-level data on children this year. While county-level data is important, it doesn't tell the whole story about how kids are doing.




The KIDS COUNT 2016 *County Data Book* examines how children fare based on place, income, and race and how pragmatic public policies can shape the future teachers, bankers, plumbers, farmers, doctors, and policymakers of Kentucky.

The data points presented in this book have stories and histories behind them. To truly understand why a White kid and a Black kid who both do the same thing receive different punishments in the education or juvenile justice system, we must dig deeper and look at the core of these issues. We must recognize how our society allows and often promotes treating groups differently, whether consciously or not.

How can Kentucky move forward?

There is no room for complacency when it comes to the future of Kentucky's children. In fact, there are viable and common ground solutions in front of us. Throughout this book we offer several ways forward – solutions that policymakers and local communities can act upon to create pathways to opportunity for all families and children, especially those who have historically been blocked from reaching their full potential.

As a native Kentuckian, I am proud of so very many things in our state. The Derby, basketball, and our beautiful mountains. But we must learn about and never deny the inherent inequities that exist.

 HOW PLACE MATTERS A child growing up in a rural county, like Owsley County, will have different opportunities than a child growing up in an urban county, like Jefferson County.	 HOW INCOME MATTERS A child whose family is living in poverty will have different life experiences than a child whose family is financially secure.	 HOW RACE MATTERS A Black child will have different experiences in the classroom than a White child.
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For kids in Kentucky, there are reasons why place, income, and race matter. Those reasons have been imbedded in us for years, and it is going to take time to change policies and attitudes to give every child a chance to thrive. We must learn together. We must be honest together. And we must move forward together. That includes me. It includes you. It includes communities, elected leaders, and youth themselves. It's going to take all of us.

Abraham Lincoln, another famous Kentuckian, asserted, "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts." KIDS COUNT brings us the facts. Let's face the facts and grow together to make Kentucky the best place in America to be young for all children no matter where they live, how much money their family earns, or the color of their skin.

Our kids deserve no less.

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

USING THE DATA BOOK AND KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

For 26 years, Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) has produced an annual *Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book* providing data on child well-being for professionals, policymakers, and community members working to improve the lives of children and families in the Commonwealth.

This Data Book ranks all Kentucky counties on overall child well-being and on each of the 16 indicators – or points of measurement – that make up our child well-being index. These 16 indicators span four domains critical to child well-being: economic security, education, health, and family and community strength. The four domains and 16 indicators of child well-being allow us to examine how Kentucky kids are faring, discuss why these outcomes matter, and explain what actions would improve the lives of children. County rankings on overall child well-being in this year's Data Book can be compared to the overall rankings in the 2015 Data Book, but not prior to that due to changes in our child well-being index.

The KIDS COUNT Child Well-Being Index

An index of child well-being must take many factors into account. It should measure child well-being from birth through early adulthood, accounting for the distinct factors that make up well-being and considering the role of the places where children live, study, and play. In order to look at counties side-by-side, county data for each indicator must be collected and measured in a consistent and comparable way. In addition, the indicators need to have a common orientation. Our index has a negative orientation, meaning that for each indicator, the larger the data point is, child well-being worsens. One exception

to this rule is median family income. In our index, the rank of 1 is the best ranking a county can achieve and the rank of 120 is the most undesirable ranking for counties. The difference in directional value for median family income is taken into account when calculating the rankings.

We have modeled our index for child well-being on the one created by the National KIDS COUNT project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Kentucky KIDS COUNT index uses the same four domains of child well-being and the same methodology the National KIDS COUNT project uses to rank states (see Definitions and Data Sources for the methodology). However, the Kentucky index must factor in the availability of county data for Kentucky and the pressing issues facing Kentucky's children and families. Therefore, the 16 indicators we use in our index differ somewhat from those used by the National KIDS COUNT project (see page 12 for our full index).

We have organized the index into four domains (economic security, education, health, and family and community strength) in order to provide a more nuanced county-by-county assessment of child well-being than an overall ranking alone allows. The data points within the domains enable communities to identify areas of strength and areas that need improvement. For example, a county may rank above average in overall child well-being but need improvement in student academic proficiency.

Data for the 16 indicators of child well-being used in the Kentucky KIDS COUNT index come from both federal and state agencies and reflect the latest and best available at the time of this publication. For a complete description of the definitions and data sources for each indicator, see page 50. Because some indicators have relatively few incidents in a given year, we aggregate data for several years when calculating rates for these indicators. Also, because indicators derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey are based on sample data, and many Kentucky counties have small populations, five-year estimates provide a more accurate picture for these indicators.

This book portrays data for the indicators as rates to account for varying population sizes – that is, the data identifies the number of instances something occurred per a fixed number of people. So, data in a small county may be presented as, for instance, the number of incidents per 1,000 people, which can be directly compared to data from a large county or the state, which is also presented in the same manner. We do not calculate rates for a county if there were fewer than six incidents for a given indicator.

Important Data Reminders

■ In this report, we use “Black,” “White,” and “Hispanic,” though some of the data sources and individuals included in the data may use “African American,” “Caucasian,” and “Latino” to describe race and ethnicity. In the data portrayed, race and ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive. Census data shows that Hispanics in Kentucky represent themselves racially in multiple ways and, similar to racial groups such as Asians, come from a large and diverse area of the world.

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

The KIDS COUNT Data Center

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

The KIDS COUNT Data Center allows users to:

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

the Kentucky KIDS COUNT project;

- Generate customized maps for presentations and publications that show how children are faring across communities;

- Embed automatically updated maps and graphs in other websites or blogs; and,
- View and share data quickly and easily with the enhanced mobile site for smart phones (mobile.kidscount.org).

KIDS COUNT data center

datacenter.kidscount.org/ky

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



Enter any location, topic or keyword into the powerful search engine to find the statistics most relevant to your community.

Now search by characteristic



Search by age



Search by family nativity



Search by race and ethnicity



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



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

SIGNATURE SPONSOR



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

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

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

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

Together, we can make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Carter".

Mark Carter
CEO, Passport Health Plan

DIAMOND SPONSOR



Kosair Charities' mission is to protect the health and well-being of children in Kentucky and Southern Indiana by providing financial support for clinical services, research, pediatric healthcare education, and child advocacy. As the largest children's charity in the history of this region, we have stepped up to ensure children have what they need to thrive. We have worked hand in hand with more than 100 organizations for nearly 100 years to help kids in need. We've always been there. We'll always be here.

As a charity and as an organization that strives for the next generation of children to not experience the same problems as they experience today, we know quality data can help us make decisions and drive change. Data helps us know where we are and what needs to happen to make it better for all children. Data can ensure we target resources where there is the greatest need.

The Kentucky KIDS COUNT project utilizes quality data to provide a report card on how kids are doing across Kentucky. It helps us see where the greatest challenges exist and also highlight progress made. Kosair Charities is proud to sponsor Kentucky Youth Advocates' 2016 Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book*. This valuable resource provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates is essential to each of us and to the children of the Commonwealth. The data in this book can truly help us make changes with a lasting impact for Kentucky kids.

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

Jerry Ward
Chairman of the Board, Kosair Charities

DIAMOND SPONSOR



Dear Readers,

Delta Dental of Kentucky is a Kentucky-based not-for-profit Dental Service Corporation that began operations in 1966 and currently serves over 690,000 members, with approximately 220,000 of these members being children. We have a vested interest in improving the oral health of our children in the Commonwealth. Statistics point to a wealth of advantages for those with good oral hygiene and early dental care. According to the American Dental Association, children with healthy teeth miss fewer school days and visit emergency rooms less frequently. They become adults who have better job prospects and better overall health. Unfortunately the status of children's oral health in Kentucky is less than optimal.

That is why we decided to partner with Kentucky Youth Advocates and the University of Louisville School Of Dentistry through our Making Smiles Happen® initiative to conduct a new statewide survey of children's oral health that is long overdue. To collect the data, we sent a dentist to 60 schools across the state to directly observe the mouths of more than 2,000 third and sixth graders. We also asked parents about family oral health, use of dental care services, and whether they have medical or dental insurance. The surveillance report outlines several recommendations that, when put into action, can move the needle forward on the oral health status of Kentucky children.

As a sponsor of the KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* and as a member of the Kentucky Oral Health Coalition through Kentucky Youth Advocates, we feel very strongly that the best way to achieve our goals is through planning, prevention, and collaboration. The newly collected data is an excellent tool to show us where we are at present and how we are progressing toward improvement. The KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* results will be the report card for how we measure our progress in our quest to improve the oral health of our children.

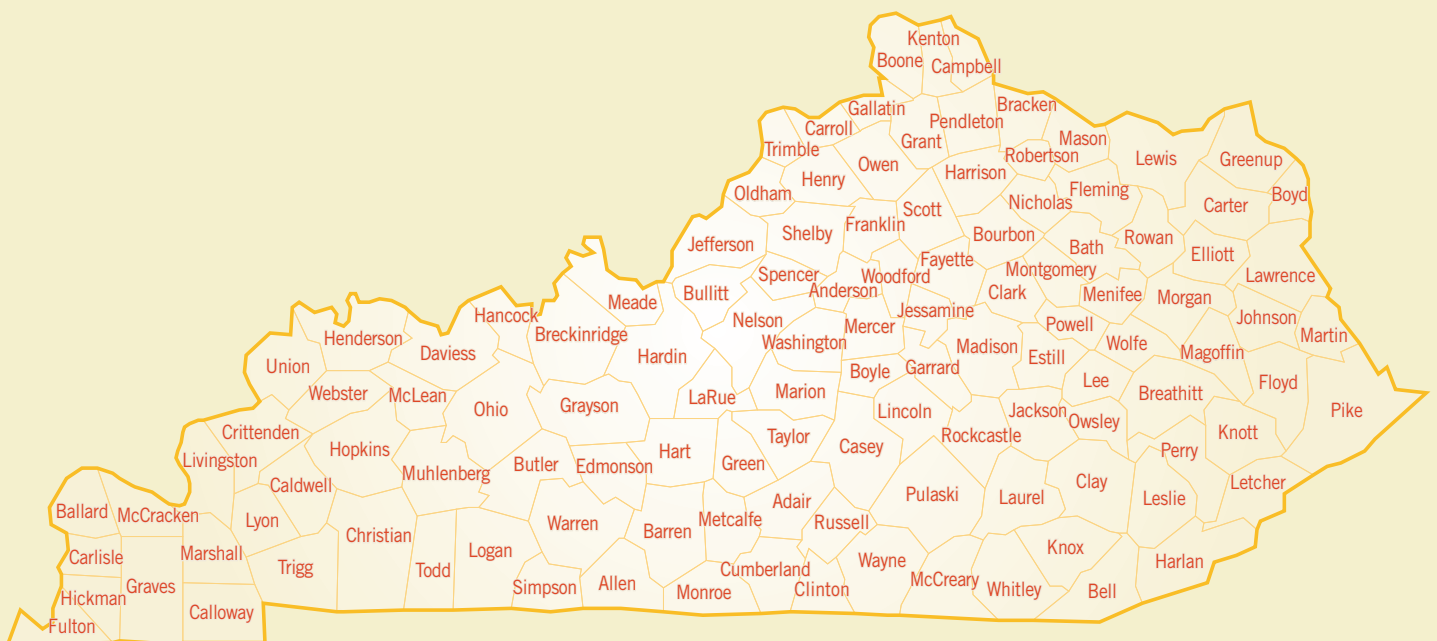
The well-being of our children is the key to the future success of our families, communities, and businesses. We are proud to support this publication and Kentucky Youth Advocates as the truly independent voice for children in the Commonwealth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clifford T. Maesaka, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Clifford T. Maesaka, Jr., DDS





President and CEO, Delta Dental of Kentucky

KENTUCKY COUNTIES



16 KEY INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING BY DOMAIN

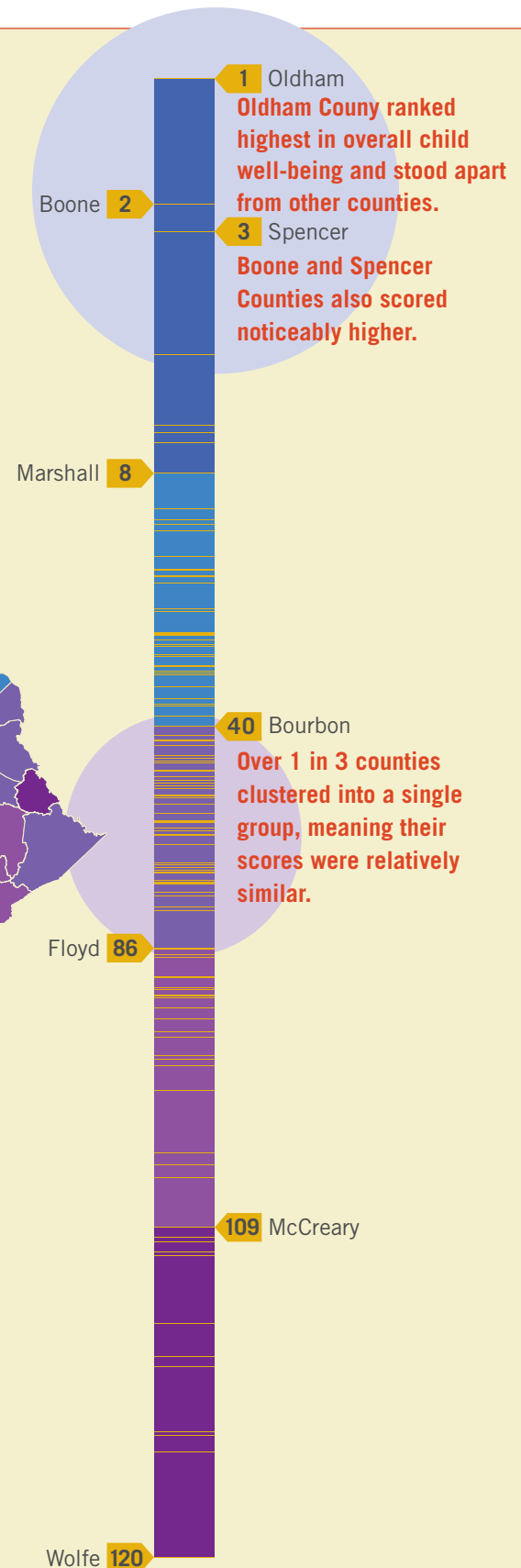
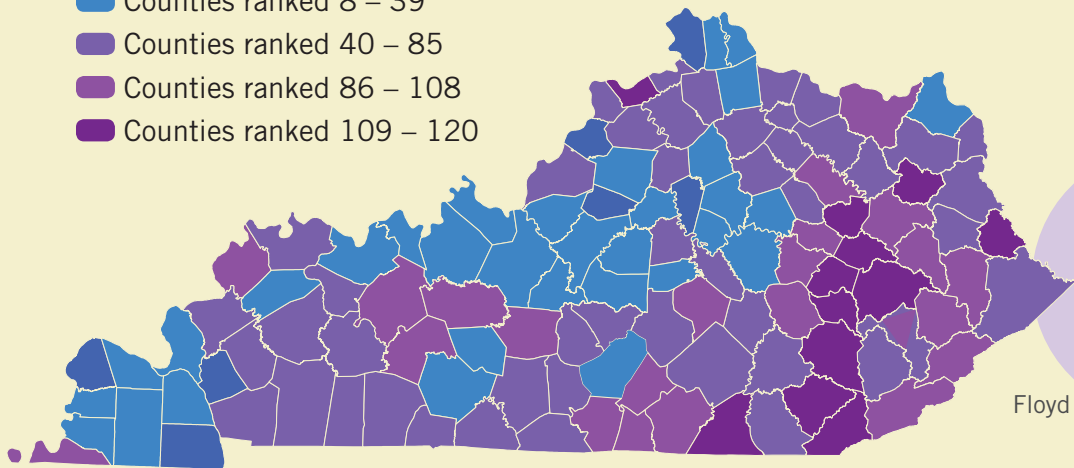
KENTUCKY

 ECONOMIC SECURITY	Children in poverty 2010–14 26%	Children living in high-poverty areas 2010–14 41%	Median family income among households with children 2010–14 \$53,200	High rental cost burden 2010–14 49%
	Kindergarteners not ready to learn SY 2015/16 50%	Fourth graders not proficient in reading SY 2015/16 44%	Eighth graders not proficient in math SY 2015/16 55%	High school students not graduating on time SY 2015/16 11%
	Smoking during pregnancy 2012–14 21.5%	Low-birthweight babies 2012–14 8.7%	Children and young adults without health insurance 2010–14 12%	Teen births per 1,000 ages 15-19 2012–14 37.9
	Births to mothers without a high school degree 2012–14 15.3%	Children in single-parent families 2010–14 32%	Children in out-of-home care per 1,000 ages 0-17 2013–15 39.2	Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system per 1,000 ages 10-17 2013–15 30.9
 EDUCATION				
 HEALTH				
 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY				

Overall Child Well-Being: County Comparisons

The map below shows how Kentucky counties ranked, based on their scores for the 16 indicators that make up the Kentucky KIDS COUNT index of child well-being. (See page 6 for information about how the index was calculated.) The five groupings were created using natural breaks to group counties together based on similar scores.

- Counties ranked 1 – 7
- Counties ranked 8 – 39
- Counties ranked 40 – 85
- Counties ranked 86 – 108
- Counties ranked 109 – 120



The bar to the right shows the range and distribution of the scores used to calculate the rankings. The scores show that gaps exist among counties even when ranked near one another. Many counties' scores are grouped near the middle, yet some gaps in the scores appear, with the highest-ranked counties scoring much higher.

CHILD WELL-BEING RANKINGS



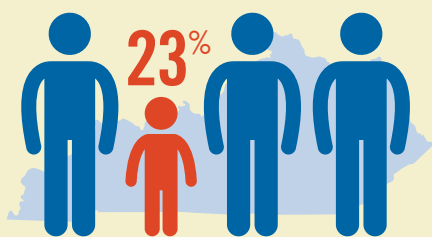
	RANK		RANK
Adair	16	Edmonson	12
Allen	56	Elliott	114
Anderson	11	Estill	106
Ballard	5	Fayette	38
Barren	63	Fleming	71
Bath	93	Floyd	86
Bell	110	Franklin	82
Boone	2	Fulton	103
Bourbon	40	Gallatin	72
Boyd	76	Garrard	83
Boyle	31	Grant	50
Bracken	57	Graves	30
Breathitt	115	Grayson	96
Breckinridge	32	Green	46
Bullitt	10	Greenup	17
Butler	98	Hancock	15
Caldwell	47	Hardin	28
Calloway	6	Harlan	100
Campbell	18	Harrison	80
Carlisle	24	Hart	87
Carroll	111	Henderson	41
Carter	52	Henry	61
Casey	64	Hickman	19
Christian	78	Hopkins	45
Clark	39	Jackson	108
Clay	119	Jefferson	54
Clinton	89	Jessamine	35
Crittenden	69	Johnson	79
Cumberland	97	Kenton	33
Daviess	25	Knott	99

	RANK		RANK
Knox	113	Nicholas	59
LaRue	37	Ohio	91
Laurel	85	Oldham	1
Lawrence	73	Owen	43
Lee	116	Owsley	117
Leslie	84	Pendleton	20
Letcher	95	Perry	102
Lewis	101	Pike	49
Lincoln	94	Powell	107
Livingston	27	Pulaski	51
Logan	75	Robertson	68
Lyon	7	Rockcastle	53
McCracken	36	Rowan	58
McCreary	109	Russell	90
McLean	62	Scott	9
Madison	22	Shelby	21
Magoffin	104	Simpson	44
Marion	29	Spencer	3
Marshall	8	Taylor	65
Martin	118	Todd	81
Mason	74	Trigg	60
Meade	13	Trimble	42
Menifee	112	Union	88
Mercer	70	Warren	26
Metcalfe	67	Washington	14
Monroe	48	Wayne	105
Montgomery	66	Webster	34
Morgan	92	Whitley	77
Muhlenberg	55	Wolfe	120
Nelson	23	Woodford	4



CHILD POPULATION AGES 0-4 AND AGES 0-17

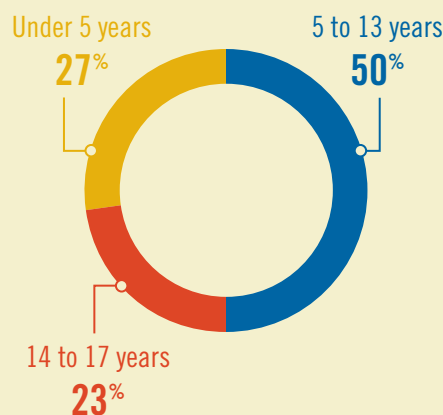
Nearly 1 in 4 Kentuckians are children.



Percentage of Kentucky Population Under Age 18: 2015

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Population Estimates.

Child population by age groups: 2015



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Population Estimates.

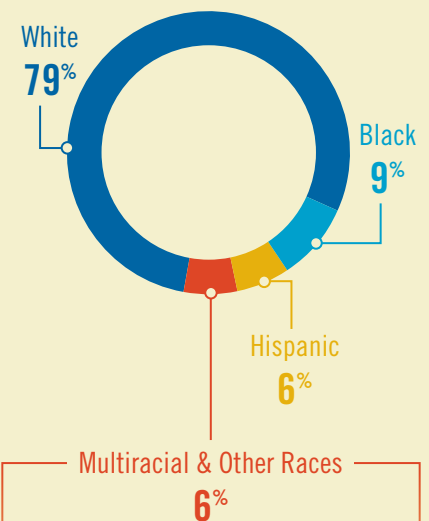
	2015			2015	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17		Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Kentucky	277,389	1,011,667	Daviess	6,569	24,141
Adair	1,036	3,983	Edmonson	548	2,276
Allen	1,295	4,977	Elliott	304	1,394
Anderson	1,290	5,252	Estill	789	3,137
Ballard	404	1,804	Fayette	19,870	66,246
Barren	2,618	10,263	Fleming	1,016	3,618
Bath	764	3,044	Floyd	2,517	8,351
Bell	1,742	5,809	Franklin	2,882	10,599
Boone	9,041	34,843	Fulton	389	1,333
Bourbon	1,163	4,553	Gallatin	550	2,140
Boyd	2,742	10,186	Garrard	879	3,832
Boyle	1,597	6,033	Grant	1,732	6,653
Bracken	524	1,988	Graves	2,490	9,094
Breathitt	828	2,833	Grayson	1,705	6,255
Breckinridge	1,165	4,622	Green	559	2,322
Bullitt	4,110	17,953	Greenup	2,008	7,867
Butler	848	3,006	Hancock	550	2,186
Caldwell	778	2,844	Hardin	7,332	26,333
Calloway	1,899	6,824	Harlan	1,897	6,269
Campbell	5,419	20,046	Harrison	1,157	4,369
Carlisle	288	1,071	Hart	1,099	4,427
Carroll	774	2,676	Henderson	2,900	10,857
Carter	1,706	6,102	Henry	944	3,707
Casey	1,001	3,564	Hickman	169	900
Christian	7,084	20,014	Hopkins	2,705	10,477
Clark	2,063	8,078	Jackson	809	3,019
Clay	1,342	4,462	Jefferson	49,441	171,811
Clinton	603	2,347	Jessamine	3,515	12,805
Crittenden	498	2,090	Johnson	1,477	5,232
Cumberland	399	1,468	Kenton	11,442	40,073

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Population Estimates.

	2015	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Knott	905	3,236
Knox	2,099	7,489
LaRue	806	3,189
Laurel	3,679	14,036
Lawrence	995	3,673
Lee	354	1,390
Leslie	670	2,323
Letcher	1,386	4,996
Lewis	853	3,119
Lincoln	1,594	5,794
Livingston	528	1,920
Logan	1,793	6,504
Lyon	287	1,238
McCracken	3,926	14,201
McCreary	1,087	3,912
McLean	603	2,259
Madison	4,941	18,551
Magoffin	774	2,926
Marion	1,222	4,762
Marshall	1,658	6,409
Martin	674	2,536
Mason	1,107	4,017
Meade	1,620	6,619
Menifee	338	1,271
Mercer	1,300	4,775
Metcalfe	652	2,331
Monroe	661	2,420
Montgomery	1,800	6,634
Morgan	651	2,552
Muhlenberg	1,687	6,522

	2015	
	Ages 0-4	Ages 0-17
Nelson	2,994	11,171
Nicholas	475	1,674
Ohio	1,496	5,935
Oldham	2,952	16,641
Owen	520	2,505
Owsley	274	954
Pendleton	772	3,221
Perry	1,916	6,064
Pike	3,664	13,066
Powell	827	2,909
Pulaski	3,585	14,325
Robertson	67	415
Rockcastle	935	3,721
Rowan	1,413	4,760
Russell	1,121	3,952
Scott	3,478	13,425
Shelby	3,197	10,944
Simpson	1,175	4,378
Spencer	921	4,207
Taylor	1,657	5,703
Todd	940	3,406
Trigg	748	3,061
Trimble	476	2,007
Union	787	2,961
Warren	7,887	27,678
Washington	737	2,761
Wayne	1,086	4,373
Webster	834	3,005
Whitley	2,737	8,917
Wolfe	455	1,703
Woodford	1,348	5,763

Child population by race/ethnicity: 2015



American Indian & Alaska Native.....	1,591
Asian.....	15,823
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islanders...	770
Two or More Races.....	39,833

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Population Estimates.

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



ECONOMIC SECURITY





ECONOMIC SECURITY

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

EXPLORE

Find additional county-level data at datacenter.kidscount.org/ky for economic security indicators including:



Employment, income, and poverty

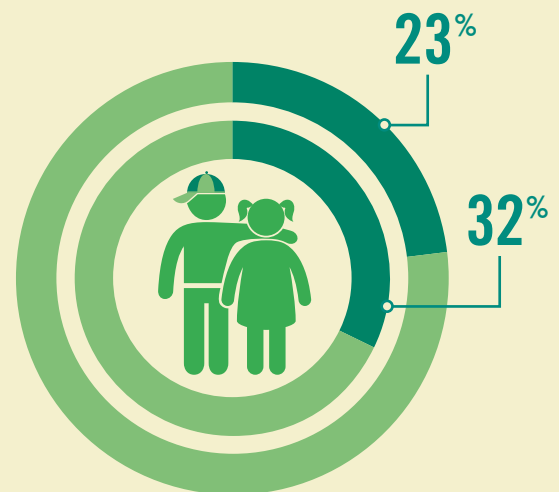


Housing affordability



Family supports and tax credits

Children make up 23% of the population in Kentucky, yet they make up 32% of those living in poverty.



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Population Estimates and 2015 American Community Survey Estimates, Table S1701.



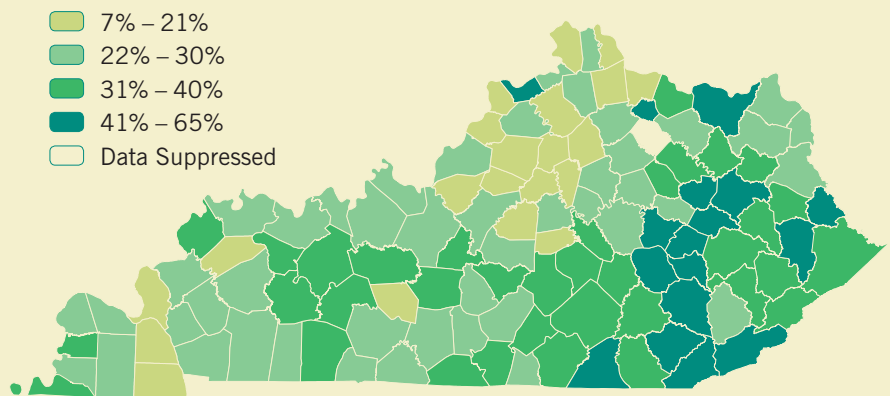
Place, Income, and Race Matter for Family Financial Stability

Kentucky's future prosperity depends on all children living in a financially stable family where parents can provide for their children. Growing up in a financially stable family allows children to avoid the threats caused by poverty to their physical and mental health, social-emotional development, and educational attainment, such as the increased risks of teen pregnancy and not finishing high school.¹ We know it is possible to reduce Kentucky's high rate of childhood poverty, as the state's rate consistently fell between 1995 and 2000.

How Place Matters

A child's likelihood of living in poverty varies greatly across Kentucky's counties (see map), with only 15 counties having less than 20 percent of children living in poverty and one-third of counties with at least one in every three children living in poverty.² Children are at greatest risk of poverty in the Eastern Kentucky counties that have seen a continuing loss of industry and population, made worse by transportation and infrastructure challenges posed by geography.

Percent of children living in poverty, 2010-2014



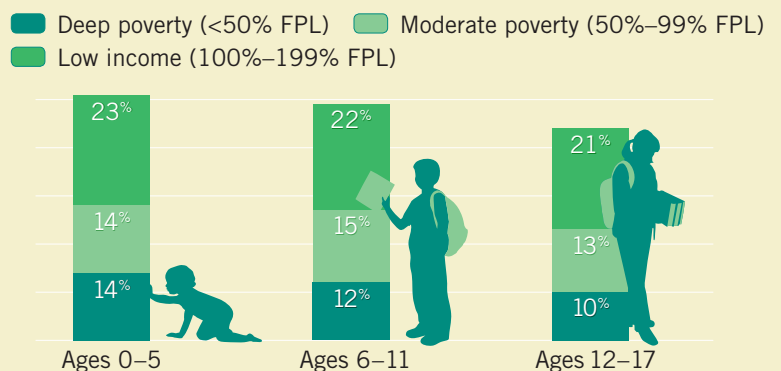
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.

Persistent child poverty counties are defined as those with child poverty rates of 20 percent or more over the last 30 years. Persistent child poverty is an almost exclusively rural phenomenon in the United States, and counties in the South are disproportionately overrepresented.³ Low population density and physical isolation present unique challenges for reaching families with anti-poverty efforts in rural counties with persistently high poverty.⁴ In Kentucky, 60 percent of nonmetropolitan counties have a persistent child poverty designation, whereas none of the metropolitan counties do.⁵

How Income Matters

The depth of poverty a child experiences, the amount of time they spend in poverty, and the age at which they first experienced poverty all impact the negative effects associated with poverty. For example, young children in deep poverty (with family incomes less than 50 percent of the federal poverty line) are more likely than other poor and non-poor children to be obese and have elevated levels of lead in their blood.⁶ Children who are poor for half their childhoods are 90 percent more likely not to complete high school than non-poor children.⁷

Young children in Kentucky are more likely to live in poverty.



Percent of Kentucky Children Living at Various Levels of Poverty by Age, 2015

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



Promoting Family Financial Stability

Kentucky can strengthen family stability by enhancing income and earning potential, building assets, and rewarding personal responsibility through work supports.¹⁵ Adopting a state refundable Earned Income Tax Credit and expanding access to child care subsidies allows low-income working parents to keep more of their hard-earned income, while paid family leave allows parents to care for themselves and their children when they have a new child or fall ill.^{16,17} Parents who have committed minor offenses and don't pose a risk to public safety should not be jailed and separated from their children, which impacts their employment. This would especially support financial stability for Black families who have been impacted more harshly by criminal justice policies and practices, such as the use of jail instead of bail.¹⁸

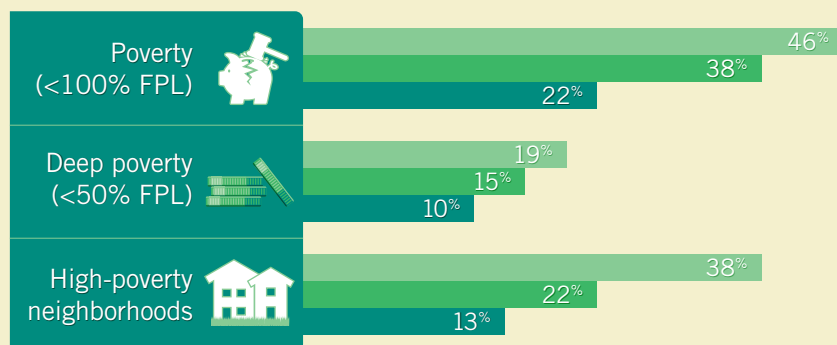
Poverty during early childhood has a significant negative impact on future adult earnings.⁸ In Kentucky, younger children are more likely than older children to live in poverty and to experience deep poverty (see chart). In addition to the 26 percent of Kentucky children under age 18 living in poverty, another 22 percent are considered low income (with income between 100-199 percent of the federal poverty line).⁹ Research shows that most families actually need an income of at least twice the official federal poverty level (FPL) just to cover their basic living expenses.¹⁰

How Race Matters

Black and Hispanic communities have faced historical and ongoing discrimination in housing, employment, and financial services. This discrimination has compounded across generations and resulted in many families having less wealth and assets and being more racially and economically segregated.^{11,12} In Kentucky, Black and Hispanic children are not only more likely than White children to live in poverty, but more likely to experience deep poverty, and to also live in a neighborhood with concentrated poverty (see chart).

Black and Hispanic children are more likely to live in poverty and in areas of concentrated poverty.

Black Hispanic White



Percent of Kentucky Children Living in Poverty (2015), Living in Deep Poverty (2013), and Living in High-Poverty Neighborhoods (2010-2014), by Race and Ethnicity

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

High-poverty neighborhoods (where at least 30 percent of residents are poor) are much more likely than moderate- and upper-income communities to have high rates of crime, violence, and unemployment, and lack access to high-performing schools, quality health care, and safe outdoor spaces.¹³ Youth of color living in poverty are significantly more likely than White children to also live in a high-poverty neighborhood, which amplifies the negative consequences associated with family poverty.¹⁴ In Kentucky, Black and Hispanic children are approximately three times and one-and-a-half times more likely, respectively, than White children to live in such a neighborhood.

ECONOMIC SECURITY



	Children in poverty: 2010-14	Children living in high-poverty areas: 2010-14	Median family income among households with children: 2010-14	High rental cost burden: 2010-14
	Percent	Percent	Currency	Percent
Kentucky	26%	41%	\$53,200	49%
Adair	26%	62%	\$46,900	39%
Allen	26%	37%	\$52,700	38%
Anderson	17%	20%	\$64,400	40%
Ballard	23%	22%	\$54,800	57%
Barren	29%	56%	\$45,400	52%
Bath	34%	100%	\$37,600	57%
Bell	42%	95%	\$33,600	57%
Boone	12%	4%	\$81,200	41%
Bourbon	27%	29%	\$46,900	48%
Boyd	29%	42%	\$51,200	50%
Boyle	20%	28%	\$51,700	47%
Bracken	21%	28%	\$56,200	58%
Breathitt	40%	100%	\$26,700	50%
Breckinridge	22%	27%	\$48,600	40%
Bullitt	15%	14%	\$63,500	44%
Butler	40%	90%	\$42,500	44%
Caldwell	30%	48%	\$	48%
Calloway	21%	31%	\$61,400	61%
Campbell	19%	14%	\$71,700	46%
Carlisle	36%	74%	\$38,100	33%
Carroll	48%	100%	\$38,400	47%
Carter	28%	37%	\$51,100	49%
Casey	38%	86%	\$36,500	41%
Christian	27%	39%	\$40,300	51%
Clark	23%	31%	\$57,800	48%
Clay	46%	100%	\$31,000	59%
Clinton	29%	74%	\$30,300	45%
Crittenden	29%	79%	\$69,700	41%
Cumberland	35%	100%	\$	42%

\$ = data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable.

Median family income data were rounded to the nearest 100.

	Children in poverty: 2010-14	Children living in high-poverty areas: 2010-14	Median family income among households with children: 2010-14	High rental cost burden: 2010-14
	Percent	Percent	Currency	Percent
Daviess	25%	25%	\$52,400	49%
Edmonson	15%	7%	\$63,900	47%
Elliott	39%	100%	\$32,900	68%
Estill	42%	100%	\$25,900	60%
Fayette	24%	35%	\$62,000	52%
Fleming	24%	48%	\$39,400	42%
Floyd	43%	100%	\$32,000	56%
Franklin	21%	18%	\$50,000	53%
Fulton	33%	37%	\$38,400	48%
Gallatin	25%	0%	\$60,100	42%
Garrard	33%	44%	\$44,400	56%
Grant	24%	41%	\$52,700	48%
Graves	25%	28%	\$53,200	53%
Grayson	34%	80%	\$42,100	48%
Green	27%	88%	\$47,000	57%
Greenup	24%	49%	\$62,400	51%
Hancock	26%	0%	\$56,900	37%
Hardin	25%	25%	\$53,800	43%
Harlan	41%	92%	\$32,200	48%
Harrison	28%	59%	\$51,000	50%
Hart	35%	94%	\$39,200	54%
Henderson	27%	34%	\$51,200	52%
Henry	29%	49%	\$46,700	53%
Hickman	26%	0%	\$45,700	53%
Hopkins	27%	40%	\$53,400	42%
Jackson	42%	100%	\$32,600	46%
Jefferson	25%	31%	\$58,200	48%
Jessamine	25%	37%	\$56,800	46%
Johnson	32%	86%	\$45,200	49%
Kenton	22%	18%	\$63,800	45%

ECONOMIC SECURITY



	Children in poverty: 2010-14	Children living in high-poverty areas: 2010-14	Median family income among households with children: 2010-14	High rental cost burden: 2010-14
	Percent	Percent	Currency	Percent
Knott	36%	80%	\$45,300	38%
Knox	48%	100%	\$26,300	54%
LaRue	32%	35%	\$37,600	53%
Laurel	33%	75%	\$38,800	48%
Lawrence	25%	59%	\$50,800	55%
Lee	47%	100%	\$26,900	62%
Leslie	26%	100%	\$40,800	41%
Letcher	32%	85%	\$49,900	56%
Lewis	46%	100%	\$27,400	46%
Lincoln	36%	58%	\$41,100	53%
Livingston	17%	0%	\$54,800	59%
Logan	35%	58%	\$45,900	55%
Lyon	30%	0%	\$49,800	39%
McCracken	27%	26%	\$52,200	46%
McCreary	44%	100%	\$32,200	61%
McLean	32%	72%	\$50,400	40%
Madison	24%	46%	\$58,200	52%
Magoffin	37%	100%	\$37,800	67%
Marion	22%	49%	\$46,100	52%
Marshall	15%	0%	\$59,100	44%
Martin	46%	100%	\$23,200	72%
Mason	32%	61%	\$41,300	41%
Meade	23%	21%	\$50,100	50%
Menifee	46%	100%	\$	69%
Mercer	26%	49%	\$56,300	54%
Metcalfe	28%	83%	\$35,800	44%
Monroe	39%	85%	\$35,700	55%
Montgomery	34%	91%	\$45,100	39%
Morgan	44%	100%	\$38,600	56%
Muhlenberg	33%	47%	\$47,700	47%
Nelson	27%	32%	\$49,500	58%

	Children in poverty: 2010-14	Children living in high-poverty areas: 2010-14	Median family income among households with children: 2010-14	High rental cost burden: 2010-14
	Percent	Percent	Currency	Percent
Nicholas	\$	0%	\$49,100	42%
Ohio	36%	79%	\$44,300	50%
Oldham	8%	8%	\$104,100	48%
Owen	20%	26%	\$55,000	39%
Owsley	45%	100%	\$	43%
Pendleton	20%	34%	\$65,500	29%
Perry	33%	87%	\$42,100	49%
Pike	33%	81%	\$42,700	51%
Powell	28%	56%	\$53,700	62%
Pulaski	34%	70%	\$38,900	60%
Robertson	46%	100%	\$	61%
Rockcastle	33%	84%	\$44,600	47%
Rowan	35%	80%	\$52,400	44%
Russell	35%	91%	\$40,800	42%
Scott	14%	7%	\$71,300	42%
Shelby	15%	22%	\$59,900	46%
Simpson	27%	40%	\$53,000	43%
Spencer	7%	0%	\$75,100	29%
Taylor	36%	71%	\$39,300	54%
Todd	25%	23%	\$47,600	49%
Trigg	26%	0%	\$54,100	51%
Trimble	18%	62%	\$58,500	41%
Union	38%	63%	\$42,500	53%
Warren	25%	37%	\$60,600	51%
Washington	19%	0%	\$49,400	53%
Wayne	34%	78%	\$30,800	59%
Webster	19%	0%	\$52,100	46%
Whitley	32%	82%	\$41,100	50%
Wolfe	65%	100%	\$	72%
Woodford	19%	13%	\$79,600	42%

\$ = data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable.

Median family income data were rounded to the nearest 100.



EDUCATION





EDUCATION

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

EXPLORE

Find additional county-level and school district-level data at datacenter.kidscount.org/ky for education indicators including:



Early childhood care, education, and school preparedness



Student and school district demographics



Attendance, absenteeism, and discipline



School district funding and student ratios

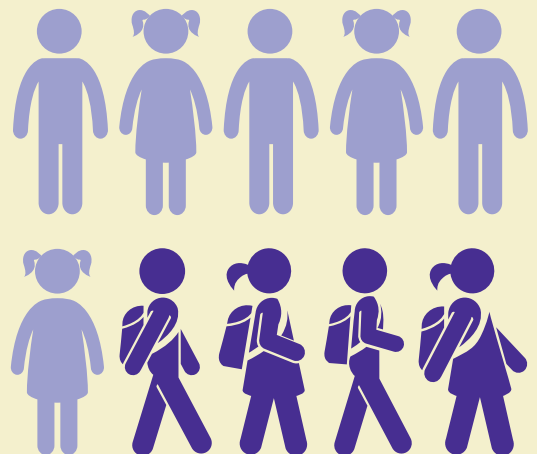


Academic proficiency and graduation rates



Young adult college and career readiness and transitions

In Kentucky, 6 out of 10 low-income children ages 3 to 4 are not enrolled in school.



SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, National KIDS COUNT Project, Young Children Not in School, by Poverty Status, 2010-2014.



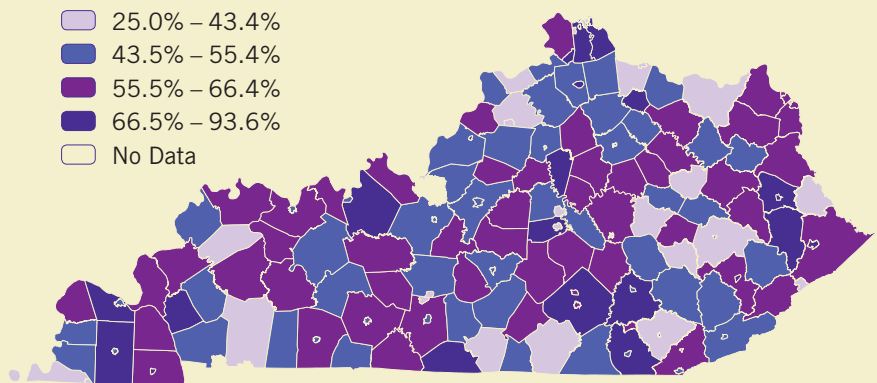
Place, Income, and Race Matter for Educational Success

We need all children to receive a strong education so they can succeed in life. Reading proficiency is foundational to academic success and future economic stability. While children learn the fundamentals of reading through third grade, by fourth grade reading becomes a tool they use to master other subjects.¹ A child who struggles to read proficiently as a fourth grader is less likely to graduate, or to do so on time, and more likely to struggle economically as an adult.^{2,3} For more than twenty years, Kentucky has made gradual, steady progress on the percent of fourth graders who are proficient in reading.

How Place Matters

All children should have access to a high-quality public education regardless of where they live, yet some communities are performing much better than others in ensuring students are proficient in reading by the end of fourth grade. Though 56 percent of Kentucky's fourth graders scored proficient or distinguished on the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) reading test in school year 2015-2016, rates vary greatly across school districts, from a low of 25 percent to a high of 94 percent (see map).

Fourth grade reading proficiency rates range from 25% to 94% among Kentucky school districts.



Percent of 4th Graders Scoring Proficient or Above in Reading on K-PREP, SY 2015-2016

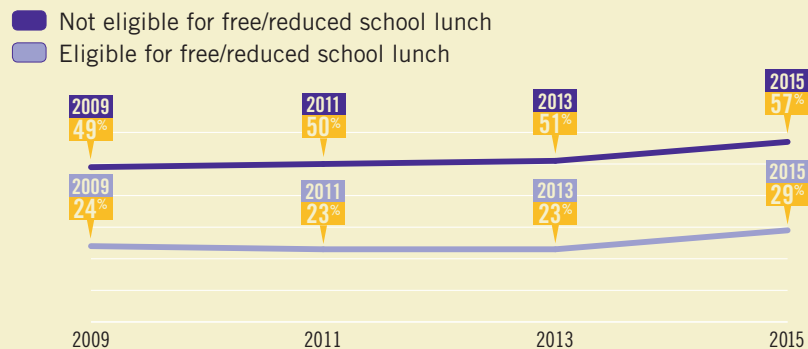
SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Accountability.

Research shows that children living in rural areas who start kindergarten with lower levels of reading achievement are more likely to fall behind their suburban and urban counterparts by third grade, even when controlling for household income.⁴ This is likely due to the different educational opportunities and school resources available to rural children.⁵ Young children in rural areas are also less likely to be enrolled in a center-based early childhood program than those in cities and suburban areas.⁶

How Income Matters

Nationally, higher-income children repeatedly perform better than lower-income children on fourth grade reading proficiency, as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).⁷ In Kentucky, fourth graders eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch (due to low household income) are about half as likely as their higher-income peers to attain reading proficiency on the NAEP (see chart).

Low-income children are half as likely as their higher income peers to be proficient in reading.



Percent of Kentucky 4th Graders Scoring Proficient or Above in Reading on NAEP

SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, National KIDS COUNT Project, Fourth Graders Who Scored Below Proficient Reading Level by Family Income.

Ensuring Educational Success for All Children

Everyone has a role to play in ensuring all children are reading proficiently by fourth grade. Communities must recognize and support parents as children's first teachers, prevent summer learning loss, and keep children healthy so they can do well in school. Schools can focus teacher training on proven literacy instruction methods, identify youth who need extra support to get to school regularly, and limit the use of discipline practices that remove children from class. Lastly, policymakers can ensure more children are prepared to start school by increasing investments in high-quality early learning programs with a focus on reaching children who need it most.

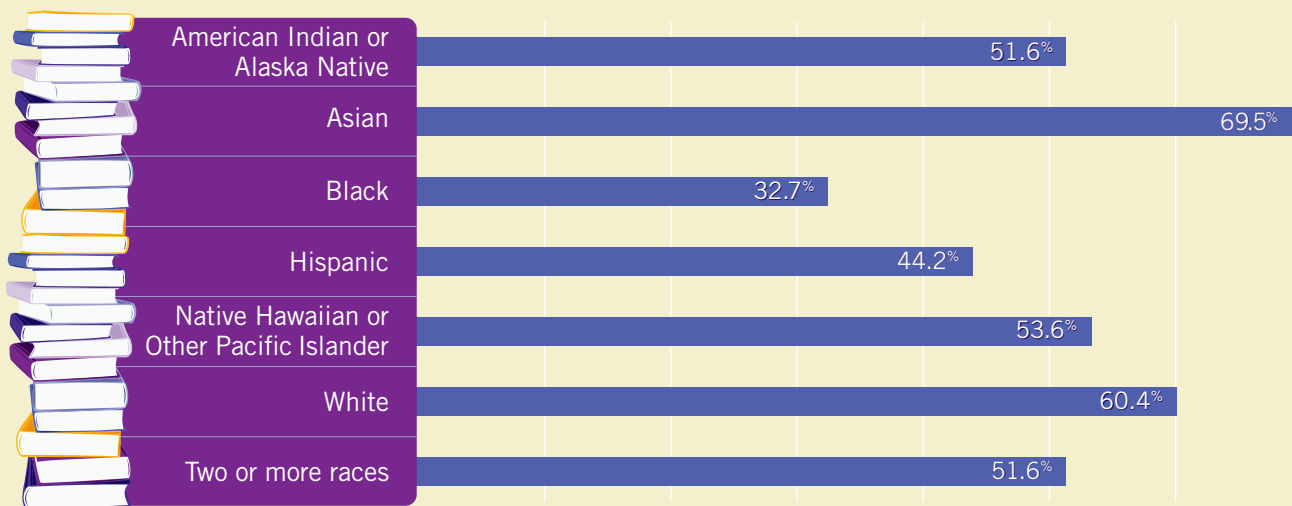


Achievement gaps are the result of the gaps in opportunity that many low-income children face. Lower-income children are less likely to receive high-quality early learning experiences that build a foundation for future learning, more likely to attend schools that lack high-quality teaching and learning environments, and more likely to have family stressors that make learning difficult and contribute to chronic school absence.^{8,9}

How Race Matters

In Kentucky, Black and Hispanic students face greater barriers to reading proficiency than White or Asian students (see chart). Even among low-income children, Black and Hispanic fourth graders are less likely to score at or above proficient in reading than their White peers.¹⁰ Factors within schools contribute to these gaps. Research suggests that unconscious bias causes schools to act differently toward youth of color, from teacher expectations of students to the frequency and severity of discipline used, beginning as early as preschool.^{11,12,13} Exclusionary school punishment such as out-of-school suspension – disproportionately used against students of color – is harmful to academic growth and significantly contributes to the achievement gap in reading between Black and White students.^{14,15}

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



Percent of Kentucky 4th Graders Scoring Proficient or Above in Reading on K-PREP by Race and Ethnicity, SY 2015-2016

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



	Kindergarteners not ready to learn: SY 2015/16	Fourth graders not proficient in reading: SY 2015/16	Eighth graders not proficient in math: SY 2015/16	High school students not graduating on time: SY 2015/16
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Kentucky	50%	44%	55%	11%
Adair	52%	51%	48%	2%
Allen	65%	42%	43%	10%
Anderson	53%	35%	54%	6%
Ballard	31%	42%	46%	8%
Barren	46%	43%	52%	12%
Bath	56%	42%	56%	7%
Bell	61%	47%	74%	5%
Boone	40%	37%	44%	5%
Bourbon	51%	49%	53%	7%
Boyd	51%	42%	56%	7%
Boyle	46%	38%	55%	6%
Bracken	55%	62%	62%	5%
Breathitt	63%	57%	69%	24%
Breckinridge	54%	35%	35%	9%
Bullitt	49%	46%	55%	12%
Butler	50%	55%	60%	15%
Caldwell	55%	55%	39%	9%
Calloway	37%	34%	40%	2%
Campbell	49%	38%	46%	6%
Carlisle	47%	49%	64%	10%
Carroll	63%	57%	67%	10%
Carter	46%	38%	46%	2%
Casey	60%	34%	33%	3%
Christian	50%	58%	59%	8%
Clark	35%	37%	53%	6%
Clay	74%	46%	64%	20%
Clinton	62%	51%	63%	5%
Crittenden	49%	39%	59%	13%
Cumberland	64%	66%	52%	5%

	Kindergarteners not ready to learn: SY 2015/16	Fourth graders not proficient in reading: SY 2015/16	Eighth graders not proficient in math: SY 2015/16	High school students not graduating on time: SY 2015/16
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Daviess	51%	40%	51%	10%
Edmonson	55%	36%	34%	14%
Elliott	69%	52%	69%	12%
Estill	52%	64%	59%	2%
Fayette	45%	44%	50%	17%
Fleming	60%	43%	39%	5%
Floyd	42%	20%	50%	4%
Franklin	53%	49%	67%	16%
Fulton	51%	60%	64%	5%
Gallatin	56%	51%	85%	9%
Garrard	57%	51%	56%	8%
Grant	50%	45%	58%	11%
Graves	36%	36%	60%	6%
Grayson	63%	43%	58%	12%
Green	51%	37%	70%	5%
Greenup	37%	39%	50%	4%
Hancock	57%	41%	56%	8%
Hardin	49%	49%	56%	9%
Harlan	57%	47%	48%	11%
Harrison	56%	49%	53%	7%
Hart	52%	45%	54%	2%
Henderson	48%	38%	38%	9%
Henry	49%	60%	73%	5%
Hickman	19%	53%	70%	11%
Hopkins	42%	40%	50%	11%
Jackson	53%	52%	75%	10%
Jefferson	52%	50%	63%	20%
Jessamine	54%	38%	58%	8%
Johnson	47%	26%	58%	15%
Kenton	48%	40%	54%	10%



	Kindergarteners not ready to learn: SY 2015/16	Fourth graders not proficient in reading: SY 2015/16	Eighth graders not proficient in math: SY 2015/16	High school students not graduating on time: SY 2015/16
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Knott	66%	47%	53%	7%
Knox	60%	56%	59%	10%
LaRue	53%	34%	44%	2%
Laurel	51%	27%	49%	14%
Lawrence	47%	39%	70%	9%
Lee	74%	41%	58%	5%
Leslie	43%	50%	52%	2%
Letcher	60%	42%	48%	7%
Lewis	51%	61%	73%	2%
Lincoln	50%	42%	67%	9%
Livingston	51%	36%	69%	5%
Logan	52%	43%	46%	13%
Lyon	52%	30%	30%	0%
McCracken	40%	38%	54%	11%
McCreary	61%	47%	66%	21%
McLean	66%	39%	66%	8%
Madison	48%	43%	53%	7%
Magoffin	55%	36%	69%	7%
Marion	42%	37%	43%	9%
Marshall	43%	37%	55%	8%
Martin	59%	60%	68%	9%
Mason	54%	45%	51%	8%
Meade	54%	40%	34%	7%
Menifee	62%	73%	81%	6%
Mercer	51%	50%	69%	7%
Metcalfe	49%	49%	60%	6%
Monroe	47%	24%	76%	2%
Montgomery	50%	40%	47%	17%
Morgan	64%	39%	56%	17%
Muhlenberg	50%	34%	55%	15%
Nelson	43%	47%	57%	6%

	Kindergarteners not ready to learn: SY 2015/16	Fourth graders not proficient in reading: SY 2015/16	Eighth graders not proficient in math: SY 2015/16	High school students not graduating on time: SY 2015/16
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Nicholas	56%	52%	47%	5%
Ohio	62%	51%	47%	10%
Oldham	33%	35%	35%	4%
Owen	46%	46%	64%	9%
Owsley	52%	62%	90%	7%
Pendleton	55%	50%	63%	3%
Perry	53%	42%	51%	7%
Pike	53%	34%	52%	5%
Powell	76%	53%	54%	8%
Pulaski	53%	34%	42%	4%
Robertson	29%	30%	62%	4%
Rockcastle	57%	38%	55%	2%
Rowan	59%	50%	51%	2%
Russell	55%	42%	39%	10%
Scott	56%	36%	50%	16%
Shelby	41%	52%	68%	9%
Simpson	58%	46%	51%	5%
Spencer	47%	36%	45%	4%
Taylor	50%	47%	51%	1%
Todd	56%	51%	72%	4%
Trigg	61%	47%	54%	6%
Trimble	50%	54%	60%	6%
Union	47%	45%	51%	10%
Warren	48%	42%	41%	6%
Washington	56%	34%	62%	1%
Wayne	60%	57%	73%	10%
Webster	50%	61%	61%	7%
Whitley	52%	34%	39%	5%
Wolfe	65%	55%	56%	18%
Woodford	48%	32%	48%	3%



HEALTH





HEALTH

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

EXPLORE

Find additional county-level data at datacenter.kidscount.org/ky for health indicators including:



Prenatal care, births to teens, and birth outcomes



Infant, child, and teen mortality



Health insurance coverage



Childhood obesity, lead poisoning, and asthma

Kentucky has the second highest rate of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.



SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, National KIDS COUNT Project, Births to Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy, 2014.



Place, Income, and Race Matter for a Strong Start in Life

All children deserve a strong start in life and a healthy birthweight plays an important role. Infants born at a low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds) are more likely to face short- and long-term health complications and are 25 times more likely to die within their first year of life than those born at a normal weight.^{1,2} Low birthweight is also associated with impaired cognitive development, which impacts educational success, regardless of socioeconomic status.³ A recent demonstration project has succeeded in reducing preterm births, which are closely linked to low birthweights.⁴

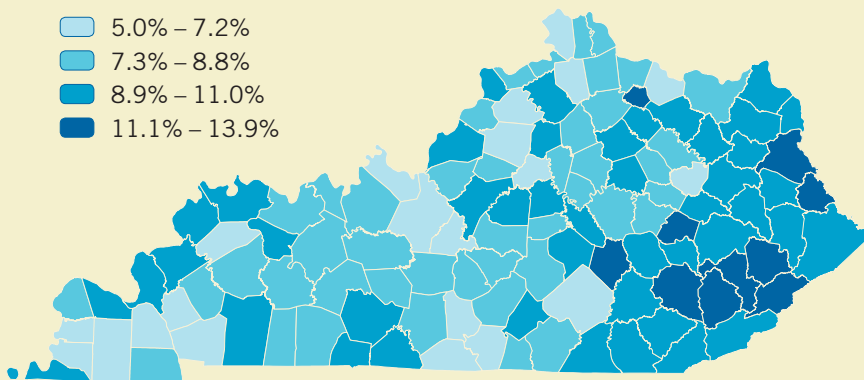
How Place Matters

In Kentucky, a baby's chance of being born at a low birthweight depends, in part, on where their mother lives. The percent of babies born at a low birthweight ranges across counties from a low of 5 percent to a high of 14 percent, with the highest rates found in Eastern Kentucky counties (see map).

The socioeconomic characteristics of a place influence the rate of low-weight births, and certain environmental exposures can increase risk. For instance, pregnant women exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to have babies born at a low birthweight.⁵

In 2013, more than 28,000 babies were born to Kentucky mothers living in communities without strong protections from secondhand smoke.⁶ Exposure to air pollution, lead, and pesticides may also be related to low-weight births.⁷

Percent of infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, 2012-2014



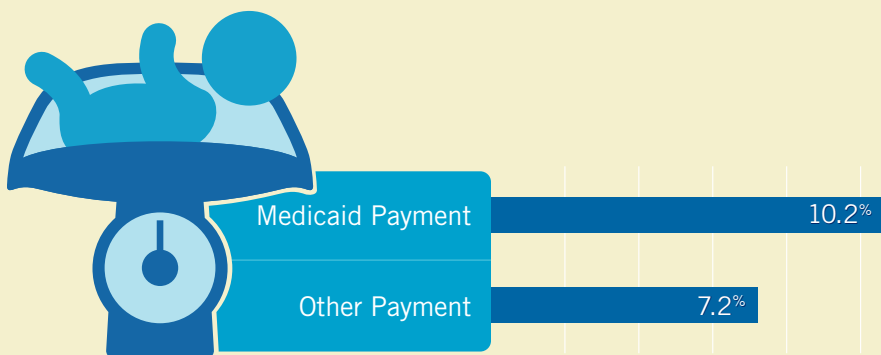
SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center.

How Income Matters

Low parental income during pregnancy increases the risk of poor birth outcomes such as low birthweight.⁸ In Kentucky, births to mothers covered by Medicaid (available to low-income mothers) are more likely to be low-weight than births covered by other payment methods (see chart).

Though more research is needed to explain why low socioeconomic status increases the risk for low birthweight, the long-lasting stress experienced by pregnant mothers living in poverty is one contributing factor.

Babies born to low-income mothers are more likely to have a low birthweight.



Low-weight Births to Kentucky Mothers, by Payment Type, 2014

SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center.



Providing a Strong Start for All Babies

Ensuring that all Kentucky babies are born at a healthy weight requires solutions that address family, community, and systemic factors. Since cigarette smoking during pregnancy is the single most important known cause of low birthweight,¹⁶ Kentucky can reduce low-weight births with tobacco prevention programs for youth, smoking cessation programs for pregnant women, and strong community smoke-free workplace laws.¹⁷ Efforts to reduce poverty and racial discrimination, both of which contribute to low birthweight, would go a long way toward improving the birth outcomes of Kentucky's youngest citizens.

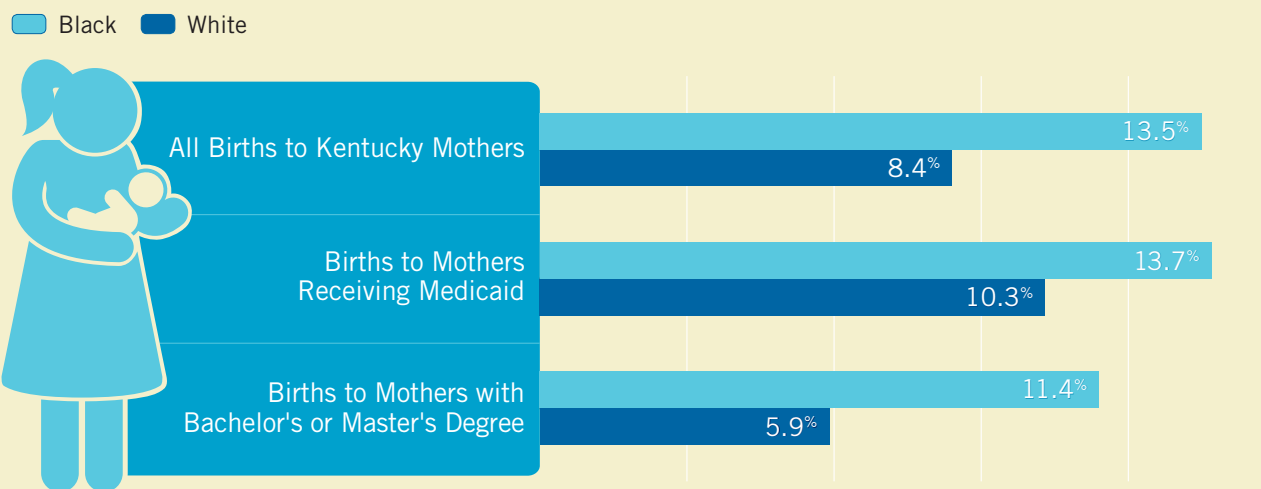
Psychological stress can affect the health of an unborn baby both directly, by affecting the immune system, and indirectly, by influencing unhealthy behaviors such as smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol.⁹ Also, pregnant women who have low income have high levels of depression, which has been linked to slower fetal growth.¹⁰

How Race Matters

Persistent disparities by race in the rates of babies born at low birthweight in Kentucky exist and demand continued research and attention to identify the cause. Socioeconomic factors such as income levels, neighborhood environments, and parental education are insufficient in explaining the large difference in rates of low-weight births between Black and White women.¹¹ For example, college-educated parents who are Black are still at greater risk of having a low-birthweight baby than their White peers.¹²

Research finds that racial discrimination is an independent risk factor in poor birth outcomes, which helps explain the disparities that persist even after controlling for medical and socioeconomic factors.^{13,14} Chronic stress caused by experiencing racism over the life course affects hormone levels which can affect the fetus' ability to grow in utero and lead to preterm birth.¹⁵ Black women in Kentucky are more likely to have a low-birthweight baby than White women, even among those receiving Medicaid and those with a Bachelor's or Master's degree (see chart).

More research is needed to understand why Black mothers are more likely to have a low birthweight baby, regardless of income or education levels.



Percentage of Low-weight Births to Black and White Mothers in Kentucky, 2014

SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics.



	Smoking during pregnancy: 2012-14	Low-birthweight babies: 2012-14	Children and young adults without health insurance: 2010-14	Teen births: 2012-14
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19
Kentucky	21.5%	8.7%	12%	37.9
Adair	25.0%	8.2%	14%	30.4
Allen	25.3%	9.5%	19%	48.7
Anderson	25.1%	7.0%	8%	38.6
Ballard	16.7%	8.5%	8%	39.5
Barren	24.0%	7.5%	16%	55.4
Bath	31.0%	7.9%	14%	65.0
Bell	38.6%	9.8%	18%	66.8
Boone	15.2%	7.1%	7%	23.2
Bourbon	26.3%	9.3%	12%	29.2
Boyd	29.8%	10.6%	13%	47.6
Boyle	27.4%	8.3%	12%	33.4
Bracken	32.0%	8.2%	9%	41.9
Breathitt	35.5%	10.9%	13%	63.5
Breckinridge	25.3%	8.7%	15%	31.0
Bullitt	18.4%	7.6%	7%	30.5
Butler	25.2%	8.3%	11%	50.6
Caldwell	24.1%	7.8%	10%	61.4
Calloway	18.6%	7.4%	12%	17.4
Campbell	20.5%	8.3%	12%	27.0
Carlisle	18.6%	5.0%	15%	46.5
Carroll	32.2%	7.5%	18%	55.2
Carter	31.9%	9.5%	17%	51.5
Casey	30.3%	8.8%	19%	58.2
Christian	15.4%	9.4%	14%	52.8
Clark	27.7%	9.2%	11%	47.7
Clay	42.5%	13.4%	13%	63.2
Clinton	29.3%	8.8%	10%	61.4
Crittenden	18.9%	9.0%	20%	59.9
Cumberland	24.4%	5.9%	18%	49.5

S = data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable.

	Smoking during pregnancy: 2012-14	Low-birthweight babies: 2012-14	Children and young adults without health insurance: 2010-14	Teen births: 2012-14
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19
Daviess	19.5%	8.0%	9%	40.5
Edmonson	24.7%	7.4%	10%	31.5
Elliott	41.7%	10.4%	12%	48.2
Estill	39.5%	8.5%	15%	44.3
Fayette	12.4%	8.6%	11%	22.9
Fleming	29.3%	10.6%	19%	40.3
Floyd	32.0%	10.3%	17%	62.3
Franklin	23.6%	10.0%	13%	37.3
Fulton	30.1%	11.0%	16%	67.1
Gallatin	30.5%	8.4%	14%	47.7
Garrard	28.0%	10.0%	15%	39.0
Grant	35.1%	7.2%	10%	48.6
Graves	19.3%	6.7%	13%	48.5
Grayson	29.4%	8.2%	16%	46.3
Green	24.8%	8.1%	12%	48.7
Greenup	24.1%	9.6%	11%	43.2
Hancock	20.0%	7.7%	7%	51.2
Hardin	17.7%	6.9%	10%	38.0
Harlan	36.3%	10.1%	11%	73.8
Harrison	35.2%	8.3%	17%	34.6
Hart	19.6%	7.4%	17%	51.1
Henderson	21.8%	9.2%	11%	47.6
Henry	26.3%	6.2%	12%	42.7
Hickman	25.4%	6.8%	5	25.1
Hopkins	26.7%	8.5%	16%	53.3
Jackson	39.1%	10.1%	15%	64.5
Jefferson	12.7%	9.0%	10%	32.9
Jessamine	23.2%	7.6%	11%	29.5
Johnson	30.2%	10.8%	12%	64.1
Kenton	23.0%	8.8%	11%	34.0



	Smoking during pregnancy: 2012-14	Low-birthweight babies: 2012-14	Children and young adults without health insurance: 2010-14	Teen births: 2012-14
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19
Knott	34.3%	12.7%	13%	48.8
Knox	35.7%	9.8%	13%	72.1
LaRue	21.6%	6.3%	11%	35.3
Laurel	31.6%	9.8%	14%	47.7
Lawrence	28.9%	12.9%	15%	55.1
Lee	49.8%	13.9%	16%	53.3
Leslie	40.0%	13.5%	12%	70.4
Letcher	31.4%	12.7%	13%	57.6
Lewis	33.2%	8.2%	18%	41.7
Lincoln	31.2%	10.1%	17%	46.4
Livingston	19.6%	9.8%	10%	44.4
Logan	22.5%	7.6%	15%	40.7
Lyon	22.3%	7.2%	5	43.3
McCracken	16.1%	9.1%	10%	43.8
McCreary	32.1%	10.8%	9%	83.2
McLean	25.5%	10.5%	10%	60.1
Madison	22.3%	8.1%	11%	23.3
Magoffin	34.0%	9.6%	12%	66.0
Marion	30.2%	8.6%	9%	39.4
Marshall	21.8%	5.6%	9%	37.9
Martin	38.2%	12.2%	15%	50.4
Mason	31.6%	7.1%	14%	44.7
Meade	23.0%	6.8%	10%	26.9
Menifee	35.3%	5.8%	9%	62.6
Mercer	27.4%	9.2%	13%	43.1
Metcalfe	25.8%	6.5%	17%	69.9
Monroe	25.1%	6.7%	8%	44.1
Montgomery	25.7%	8.3%	11%	47.7
Morgan	29.9%	9.6%	12%	47.2
Muhlenberg	27.7%	7.6%	12%	51.2
Nelson	23.0%	9.3%	9%	35.6

	Smoking during pregnancy: 2012-14	Low-birthweight babies: 2012-14	Children and young adults without health insurance: 2010-14	Teen births: 2012-14
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19
Nicholas	33.1%	10.5%	14%	45.4
Ohio	25.6%	8.7%	10%	66.6
Oldham	11.1%	8.1%	6%	9.6
Owen	29.9%	9.2%	14%	43.5
Owsley	43.8%	11.0%	13%	53.0
Pendleton	27.6%	7.7%	11%	48.9
Perry	34.0%	11.4%	15%	65.2
Pike	28.8%	10.3%	11%	48.9
Powell	34.1%	8.3%	12%	72.8
Pulaski	27.3%	6.8%	13%	51.1
Robertson	37.3%	11.9%	S	*
Rockcastle	28.3%	11.7%	9%	45.2
Rowan	32.6%	9.4%	16%	18.9
Russell	35.1%	10.0%	19%	59.5
Scott	18.9%	8.0%	8%	28.1
Shelby	21.3%	7.0%	12%	30.9
Simpson	26.8%	9.5%	15%	39.3
Spencer	16.5%	8.0%	7%	23.5
Taylor	27.2%	8.1%	15%	45.6
Todd	21.9%	8.2%	23%	32.0
Trigg	26.6%	6.1%	21%	42.6
Trimble	31.0%	9.5%	12%	39.9
Union	22.7%	9.7%	21%	47.6
Warren	14.7%	9.0%	13%	21.4
Washington	25.2%	9.3%	10%	34.9
Wayne	28.9%	7.5%	12%	65.5
Webster	20.7%	6.1%	15%	47.6
Whitley	34.8%	10.8%	14%	54.3
Wolfe	35.5%	10.1%	9%	86.3
Woodford	16.0%	7.9%	11%	16.5

S= data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable.

* Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY





FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

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

EXPLORE

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



Child population demographics



Family structure



Juvenile justice system involvement



Child protection and foster care system involvement

Over 1 in 10 Kentucky children has lived with a parent who has served time in jail or prison – the highest rate in the nation.



SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, National KIDS COUNT Project, Children Who Had a Parent Who Was Ever Incarcerated, 2011-2012.



Place, Income, and Race Matter for Parents' Pathways to Success

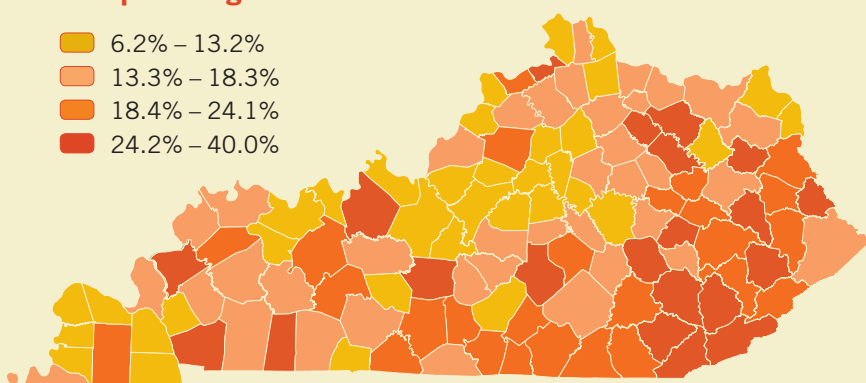
Strong families raise successful children, and parents need educational levels that allow them to earn enough to provide for their families. Over the past ten years, the share of Kentucky children whose head of household has at least completed high school has steadily increased. The more education parents have, the more likely their children are to be prepared for school, to succeed academically and complete high school by age 20, and the less likely they are to be born at a low birthweight, engage in unhealthy behaviors, and become a teenage parent.^{1,2,3} Research shows that “parents’ level of educational attainment is the best predictor of economic mobility for their children.”⁴

How Place Matters

At 52 percent, only five states in the nation have a higher rate than Kentucky of children living with a head of household whose highest level of education is a high school diploma or GED.⁵ Kentucky also has high rates of children born to mothers with less than a high school degree or GED; in 17 counties at least one of every four births was to a Kentucky mother who did not complete high school (see map).

Adults in rural areas have consistently had lower educational levels and are more likely to be poor, regardless of education level, than those in urban areas. A variety of circumstances contribute to these trends: rural schools have high concentrations of students living in poverty and poorer property tax bases from which to draw revenue; higher-educated adults leave rural areas for urban areas; rural work is more likely to be seasonal or temporary; low-wage jobs are prevalent in rural areas; and traditional jobs in agriculture, mining, and other industries have declined.^{6,7,8}

In 17 counties, at least 1 in 4 births was to a mother who did not complete high school.



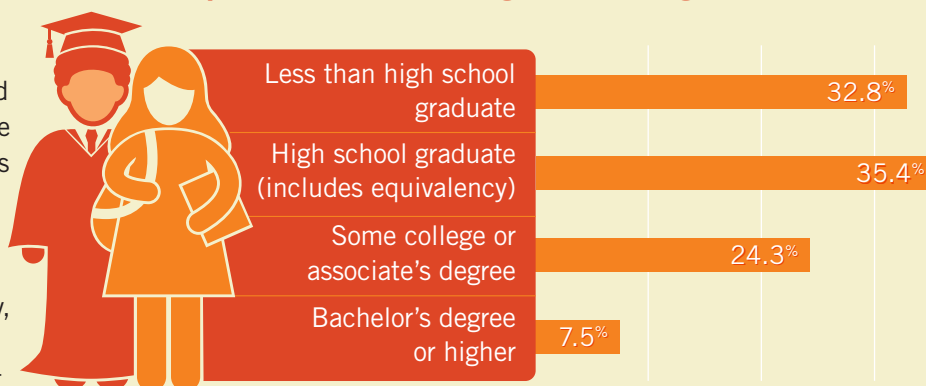
Percent of Births to Kentucky Mothers Without a High School Diploma, 2012-2014

SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center.

How Income Matters

Low levels of educational attainment strongly correlate to low incomes and poverty. In Kentucky, adults age 25 and over with less than a high school degree have less than half the median earnings of, and are seven times more likely to be poor than, those with at least a Bachelor's degree.⁹ Among Kentucky adults age 25 and over living in poverty, 68 percent have at most a high school education, whereas less than 8 percent have a four-year college degree or higher (see chart).

Low educational levels are strongly linked to low incomes; over 2 in 3 poor adults have a high school degree or less.



Kentucky Adults Age 25 and Over Living in Poverty, by Education Level, 2015

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Survey Estimates, Table C17003.

Creating Pathways for Family Success

Kentucky can utilize two-generation approaches that address the needs of parents and children at the same time in order to put families on a pathway to needed educational levels and increased economic stability.¹⁴ Workforce development efforts should partner with organizations that focus on home visiting, child care, and benefits access to help parents who want to increase their skills and education successfully juggle school, work, and family.¹⁵



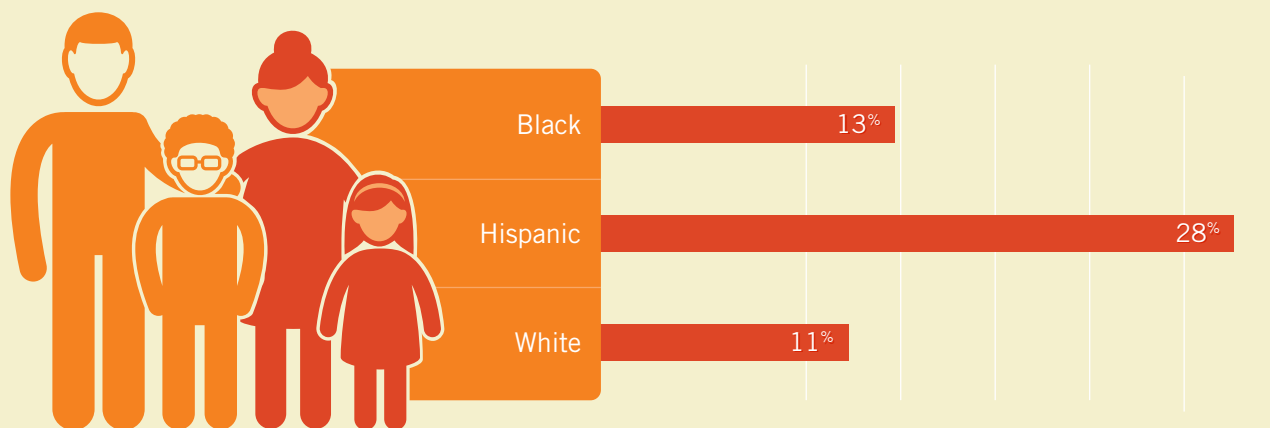
Postsecondary education is increasingly necessary to obtain jobs with family-sustaining wages, but students who are also parents face many challenges in increasing their education level. Low-income parents, in particular, struggle with the affordability and accessibility of college, child care, transportation, and technology.

How Race Matters

The cumulative disadvantage caused by the historical and current segregation of many people of color into less-resourced schools and neighborhoods with concentrated poverty, as well as the unequal academic opportunities and disparate discipline of students of color, have contributed to the racial gaps in educational attainment.¹⁰ In Kentucky, Black and Hispanic children are more likely than White children to live in a family where the head of household lacks a high school diploma (see chart). Similarly, Black and Hispanic mothers in Kentucky are more likely to have less than a high school diploma at the time of their child's birth than White mothers.¹¹

Though Black and Hispanic families have higher rates of poverty than Whites, other factors contribute to these disparities. New research shows that perceived discrimination and the drive to defy negative stereotypes increase stress hormones and affect the ability to concentrate and learn, contributing to achievement gaps between Black and Hispanic students and their White peers.¹² Even among those born into poverty by parents with low educational attainment, Black children are more likely than their White counterparts to live in poverty for at least half their childhood, indicating it is harder for Black parents with low education levels to increase family incomes compared to similarly situated White parents.¹³

In Kentucky, Black and Hispanic children are more likely to live in a family where the head of household lacks a high school diploma.



Percent of Children Living in Families where Head of Household Lacks a High School Diploma by Race and Ethnicity, 2013

SOURCE: KIDS COUNT Data Center, National KIDS COUNT Project, Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Diploma by Race and Ethnicity, 2013.



	Births to mothers without a high school degree: 2012-14	Children living in single-parent families: 2010-14	Children in out-of-home care: 2013-15	Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system: 2013-15
	Percent	Percent	Rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17	Rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17
Kentucky	15.3%	32%	39.2	30.9
Adair	11.8%	18%	22.3	22.5
Allen	19.9%	23%	49.1	19.1
Anderson	9.2%	28%	68.3	22.6
Ballard	7.3%	18%	15.5	21.9
Barren	22.9%	26%	39.2	27.3
Bath	24.4%	31%	38.5	21.1
Bell	28.6%	37%	17.4	34.8
Boone	8.5%	21%	8.8	12.3
Bourbon	14.3%	36%	33.3	18.8
Boyd	12.2%	31%	83.7	33.8
Boyle	14.6%	35%	62.0	17.1
Bracken	13.7%	22%	70.1	27.1
Breathitt	20.3%	33%	37.1	60.3
Breckinridge	25.0%	22%	47.8	42.1
Bullitt	10.0%	31%	26.4	27.1
Butler	20.5%	33%	68.7	37.0
Caldwell	14.4%	35%	4.6	21.9
Calloway	9.5%	24%	34.9	30.0
Campbell	10.4%	30%	80.7	34.5
Carlisle	11.0%	25%	9.0	*
Carroll	24.1%	45%	61.0	33.6
Carter	16.2%	21%	59.4	50.0
Casey	31.7%	16%	27.3	17.8
Christian	14.0%	27%	26.4	75.3
Clark	16.8%	29%	62.0	54.2
Clay	28.9%	32%	101.5	10.6
Clinton	23.6%	35%	49.2	8.0
Crittenden	28.8%	16%	36.4	29.1
Cumberland	20.6%	38%	16.7	38.1

* Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events.

	Births to mothers without a high school degree: 2012-14	Children living in single-parent families: 2010-14	Children in out-of-home care: 2013-15	Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system: 2013-15
	Percent	Percent	Rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17	Rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17
Daviess	12.1%	31%	34.2	34.9
Edmonson	12.2%	15%	99.6	15.1
Elliott	24.6%	37%	95.4	11.6
Estill	18.3%	37%	64.8	22.2
Fayette	14.2%	35%	54.7	39.3
Fleming	27.1%	22%	61.6	21.0
Floyd	23.9%	36%	34.1	14.0
Franklin	12.7%	36%	28.0	56.1
Fulton	15.4%	33%	69.9	41.8
Gallatin	24.4%	33%	25.0	23.1
Garrard	14.4%	28%	55.0	22.0
Grant	17.4%	28%	33.2	34.6
Graves	20.2%	27%	68.7	24.1
Grayson	16.4%	18%	72.1	66.9
Green	17.1%	22%	24.6	18.9
Greenup	10.2%	29%	34.5	14.7
Hancock	10.6%	39%	21.0	14.0
Hardin	9.9%	33%	46.9	44.1
Harlan	26.1%	32%	15.0	13.6
Harrison	16.4%	34%	60.8	18.2
Hart	40.0%	27%	34.4	35.2
Henderson	15.1%	38%	22.3	52.3
Henry	15.7%	37%	44.9	4.9
Hickman	12.8%	30%	*	43.8
Hopkins	16.9%	34%	19.9	32.5
Jackson	27.2%	39%	33.7	6.6
Jefferson	14.4%	40%	27.4	30.5
Jessamine	13.0%	28%	19.5	72.7
Johnson	19.2%	24%	72.2	4.7
Kenton	13.7%	35%	53.9	31.7



	Births to mothers without a high school degree: 2012-14	Children living in single-parent families: 2010-14	Children in out-of-home care: 2013-15	Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system: 2013-15
	Percent	Percent	Rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17	Rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17
Knott	26.0%	32%	66.4	13.3
Knox	25.0%	34%	39.7	36.3
LaRue	12.1%	40%	51.9	45.2
Laurel	21.2%	34%	28.8	40.2
Lawrence	19.8%	19%	39.1	8.4
Lee	25.3%	31%	30.5	53.7
Leslie	28.1%	24%	27.5	6.9
Letcher	21.7%	30%	33.5	36.5
Lewis	17.3%	30%	17.3	32.2
Lincoln	21.4%	36%	36.9	24.0
Livingston	16.6%	34%	19.3	9.3
Logan	16.5%	37%	46.5	32.1
Lyon	11.4%	29%	70.4	17.9
McCracken	11.7%	39%	28.7	58.3
McCreary	18.8%	19%	87.7	19.6
McLean	13.0%	32%	14.3	21.3
Madison	11.7%	28%	52.7	26.4
Magoffin	26.3%	27%	51.1	13.4
Marion	14.1%	33%	27.4	28.0
Marshall	10.6%	28%	59.1	22.2
Martin	25.2%	38%	66.5	32.5
Mason	17.3%	35%	59.3	38.8
Meade	8.1%	27%	44.9	46.7
Menifee	22.4%	33%	85.9	25.5
Mercer	11.7%	32%	45.4	27.8
Metcalfe	21.8%	17%	39.0	20.3
Monroe	17.5%	33%	27.5	29.5
Montgomery	15.4%	37%	37.0	26.7
Morgan	15.6%	31%	21.5	13.5
Muhlenberg	14.9%	36%	18.4	29.5
Nelson	9.4%	30%	13.8	21.9

	Births to mothers without a high school degree: 2012-14	Children living in single-parent families: 2010-14	Children in out-of-home care: 2013-15	Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system: 2013-15
	Percent	Percent	Rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17	Rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17
Nicholas	25.3%	32%	42.6	21.5
Ohio	19.8%	35%	54.2	33.2
Oldham	6.2%	18%	14.3	2.4
Owen	17.6%	36%	29.9	17.1
Owsley	15.7%	42%	129.1	89.6
Pendleton	9.7%	25%	28.8	46.1
Perry	21.6%	37%	64.8	29.4
Pike	18.1%	29%	21.2	8.3
Powell	21.8%	37%	62.1	64.4
Pulaski	15.9%	35%	30.6	18.7
Robertson	16.4%	S	82.6	27.6
Rockcastle	15.5%	28%	45.3	12.4
Rowan	12.8%	19%	51.5	47.3
Russell	21.2%	34%	35.4	24.1
Scott	12.2%	26%	37.0	23.8
Shelby	19.0%	30%	34.7	22.4
Simpson	12.5%	32%	35.6	23.9
Spencer	7.0%	25%	42.1	9.2
Taylor	14.6%	36%	33.2	19.9
Todd	32.0%	27%	39.6	17.3
Trigg	24.4%	35%	31.9	12.6
Trimble	13.2%	28%	81.3	0.0
Union	13.4%	32%	40.7	48.8
Warren	13.9%	31%	55.7	47.3
Washington	11.0%	35%	20.3	*
Wayne	22.9%	32%	28.6	27.5
Webster	19.0%	24%	28.5	25.7
Whitley	19.3%	31%	47.2	25.0
Wolfe	21.8%	40%	14.1	47.6
Woodford	12.9%	25%	28.1	14.4

S= data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable.

* Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events.

DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

Overall rank allows for the comparison of overall child well-being levels across counties from the best (1) to the worst (120). Overall rank for each county was derived using the following method. First, the county numerical values for each indicator were converted into standard scores. Standard scores were calculated by subtracting the mean score from the observed score and dividing the amount by the standard deviation for that distribution of scores. The standard scores were then summed to get a total overall standard score for each county. Finally, the counties were ranked by their total overall standard score in sequential order from best to worst. Each indicator was given the same weight in calculating the total overall standard score.

Economic Security

Children in poverty is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. A family's poverty status is determined using inflation-adjusted income and household size. For example, the poverty threshold in 2014 for a family with two adults and two children was \$24,008. The report does not determine the poverty status of children living in group quarters or of children under the age of 15 who are living with unrelated caregivers, such as children in foster care. The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey response. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey Estimates, Table S1701. Processed on 8/23/2016.**

Children living in high-poverty areas is calculated by determining the percentage of children under age 18 who live in census tracts in which 20 percent or more of the population have incomes below the poverty line. Poverty status is determined by using the inflation-adjusted income

and household size. For example, the poverty threshold in 2014 for a family with two adults and two children was \$24,008. The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey response. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey Estimates, Tables B01001 and S1701. Processed on 8/23/2016.**

Median family income among households with children looks not at the average of all incomes, but at the point on a continuum of incomes at which half of all households earn more than the amount, and half of all households earn less. For the purposes of this report, only the incomes of families with their own children under age 18 living at home are considered. "Own children" refers to a householder's children by birth, marriage, or adoption. The data reflect 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey Estimates, Table B19125. Processed on 8/23/2016.**

High rental cost burden is the estimated percentage of renter occupied housing units in which 30 percent or more of monthly household income was spent on gross rent (the cost of rent and utilities). **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey Estimates, Table DP04. Processed on 8/23/2016.**

Education

Kindergarteners not ready to learn is the percentage of all screened incoming public school kindergarteners who do not meet readiness-to-learn standards. The standards include adaptive, cognitive, motor, communication, and social-emotional skills. The Kentucky Department of Education chose the BRIGANCE Kindergarten Screen as its school-readiness screener. However, BRIGANCE scores are not used to determine school eligibility; all Kentucky children who meet the legal age requirement are entitled to enter

public school. Data were aggregated for counties with more than one public school district in order to derive a comprehensive countywide percentage. West Point Independent was not included in the calculation for Hardin County due to the suppression of the district's data by the source. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Year 2015-2016. Processed on 8/23/2016.**

Fourth graders not proficient in reading is the percentage of tested public school fourth graders, for whom the district is accountable, who did not earn a score of "proficient" or "distinguished" on the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) reading test. The assessment for fourth grade consists of multiple-choice, extended-response, and short answer items. Data were aggregated for counties with more than one public school district in order to derive a comprehensive countywide percentage. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Year 2015-2016, School Report Card: Accountability. Processed on 10/3/2016.**

Eighth graders not proficient in math is the percentage of tested public school eighth graders, for whom the district is accountable, who did not earn a score "proficient" or "distinguished" on the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) math test. The assessment for eighth grade consists of multiple-choice, extended-response, and short answer items. Data were aggregated for counties with more than one public school district in order to derive a comprehensive countywide percentage. Southgate Independent was not included in the calculation for Campbell County and West Point Independent was not included in the calculation for Hardin County due to the suppression of the districts' data by the source. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Year 2015-2016, School Report Card: Accountability. Processed on 10/3/2016.**

High school students not graduating on time is the percentage of high school students who did not graduate within four years. The percentage is derived using the four-year cohort method, which tracks students over a four-year period and controls for student population changes within the cohort. Data were aggregated for counties with more than one public school district in order to derive a comprehensive countywide percentage. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Department of Education, School Year 2015-2016. Processed on 9/30/2016.

Health

Smoking during pregnancy is the percentage of births to mothers who reported smoking at any point during pregnancy. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. When the information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the sum of the 2012, 2013, and 2014 data as of August 31, 2016. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center, 2012-2014. Processed on 9/12/2016.

Low-birthweight babies is the percentage of all infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. When the information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the sum of the 2012, 2013, and 2014 data as of August 31, 2016. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center, 2012-2014. Processed on 9/12/2016.

Children and young adults without health insurance is the percentage of children and young adults under age 26 not

covered by any health insurance. The data represent health insurance coverage at the time of the survey; interviews are conducted throughout the year. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey Estimates, Table S2701. Processed on 8/23/2016.

Teen births is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15-19 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. When information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the sum of the 2012, 2013, and 2014 data as of August 31, 2016. **SOURCES:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center, 2012-2014. Teen population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, 2012-2014 estimates, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. Processed on 9/12/2016.

Family and Community

Births to mothers without a high school degree is the percentage of all live births to women with no high school degree or its equivalent. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. When information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the sum of the 2012, 2013, and 2014 data as of August 31, 2016. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center, 2012-2014. Processed on 9/12/2016.

Children in single-parent families is the percentage of children under age 18 who live with their own unmarried parent. Single-parent families may include

cohabiting couples or a parent and child living with another relative. Children living with married stepparents are not considered to be in a single-parent family. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey Estimates, Table B09002. Processed on 8/23/2016.

Children in out-of-home care is the number of children under age 18 per 1,000 children in this age group who lived in out-of-home care due to abuse or neglect. Out-of-home care includes placements in licensed foster homes with relatives or unrelated caregivers, or institutional placements such as group homes or residential treatment facilities. Data are collected to reflect the county of the case manager's office, which usually corresponds with the county in which a family is being served. The numerator for the rate calculation is the sum of the 2013, 2014, and 2015 data. **SOURCES:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services, 2013-2015. Child population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, 2014 estimates, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. Processed on 9/12/2016.

Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system is the number of children between ages 10-17 per 1,000 children in this age range booked into a secure juvenile detention facility. The numerator for the rate calculation is the sum of the 2013, 2014, and 2015 data. A child may have been booked more than once during those years. **SOURCES:** Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice and Louisville Metro Youth Detention Services, 2013-2015. Child population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, 2014 estimates, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. Processed on 10/3/2016.

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