



2021 COUNTY DATA BOOK

 Kentucky **youth** Advocates

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



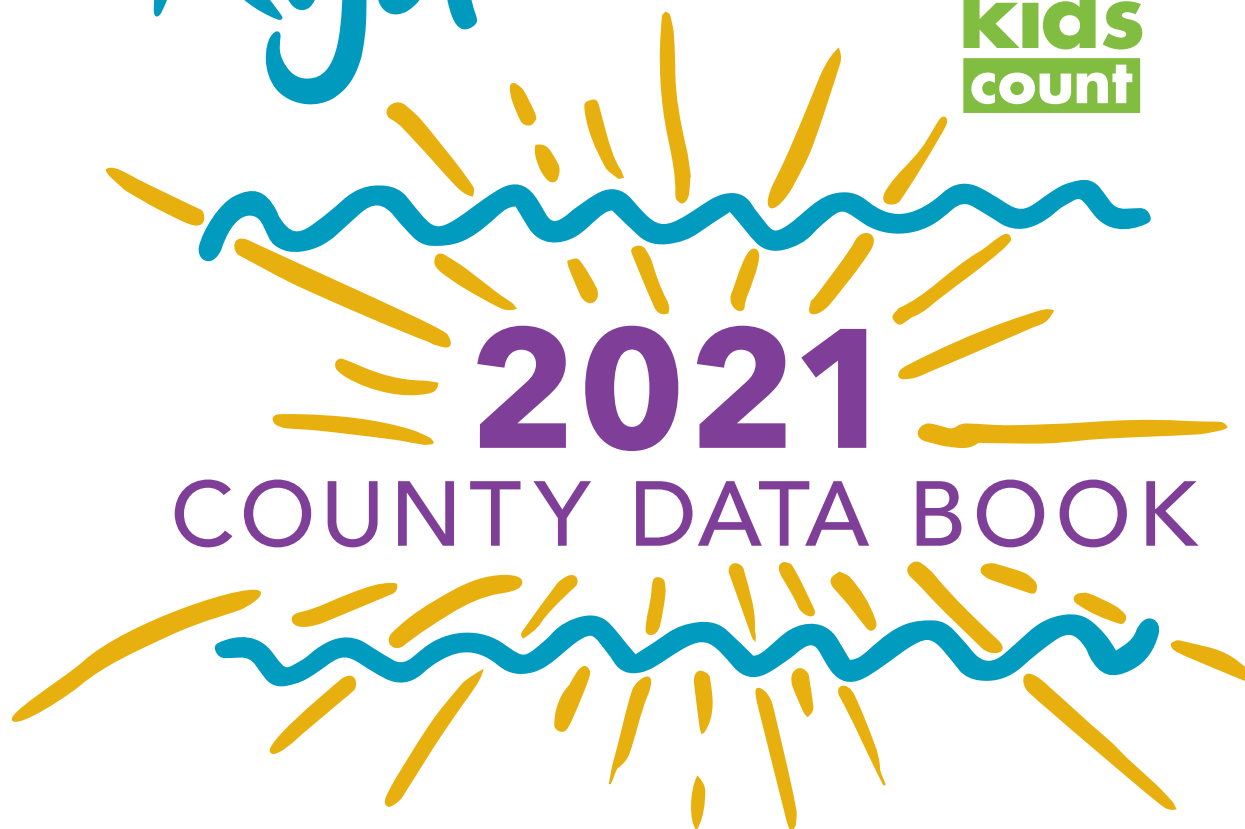


**Better together—
Giving you MORE!**



**PASSPORT
HEALTH PLAN**

BY MOLINA HEALTHCARE



Charter
COMMUNICATIONS

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For hard copies of the book, call (502) 895-8167 or order at kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/.

Learn more about Kentucky Youth Advocates at kyyouth.org.

Please consider making a secure, [online tax-deductible donation](#) to help us continue our work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2021 Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* is the 31st annual report of both state and county data to measure and improve on child well-being. Everyone at Kentucky Youth Advocates and many other individuals and organizations devote significant time, energy, and ideas to the creation of this book.

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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 Family Support

Division of Protection and Permanency

Department for Income Support

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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

AT KENTUCKY YOUTH ADVOCATES we hold a vision that is simple, yet profound: **to make Kentucky the best place in America to be young.** Throughout the onslaught of troubling headlines and bifurcated partisan bickering, we find solace and hope in this vision.

That solace comes from the knowledge that our vision is shared by so many Kentuckians — from parents and caregivers to health care professionals; social workers to educators; mayors to county judge executives; and most certainly our policymakers in Frankfort. That hope comes from the belief that our children deserve it.

Many Kentuckians began 2021 feeling hopeful about putting the pandemic behind us, with the promise of a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 and the

ability to get back to normal routines and gatherings.

We now find ourselves facing the uncertainty of how to keep our kids healthy and safe in school or child care so parents can work, while containing the Delta variant.

As this book goes to print, over 151,000 Kentucky children have contracted COVID-19, making up 20% of all total cases, and 6 youth have died, data points that trouble us all.

"A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to become something more."

— Rosabeth Moss Kanter

This time last year, we wrote about the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice. While it's easy to feel like we're treading water on both fronts, the reality is that we must continue to learn, to dialogue with each other, and build — not burn — the bridges that will carry us towards the vision we hold for our kids.

We know that the challenge of ending racism, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic will take sustained and focused effort.

We are heartened by the potential of the newly created Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity made up of a group of bipartisan legislators and citizen members with the charter to study disparities and identify solutions to advance equity across education, child welfare, health, economic opportunity, juvenile justice, and criminal justice.

In this year's book, we dive into data by race for each key arena of child well-being to help inform the Commission's work and identify some clear policies that would lead to more equitable outcomes for Kentucky's kids.

First and foremost, let's clear up confusion about what equity means.

Achieving equity for Kentucky kids means acknowledging that there are major barriers to opportunity based on zip code, income level, and skin color that have created an unfair playing field. It means working together to identify and remove those barriers and boost up those most left behind.

The reality is that when we shift our focus to our most vulnerable kids, we find that children of color

in urban areas and children in rural parts of the state face unique challenges, but at times, they encounter similar struggles.

Consider the following:

Statewide, over one in five Kentucky children are growing up in poverty (21 percent), meaning they live in a household that earns \$25,926 or less for a family of four. A deeper look shows that the poverty rate increases to over two in five Black children in the state's urban centers of Jefferson and Fayette Counties (42 percent). This is comparable to the 6 counties in southeastern Kentucky in which 40 percent or more of their entire child population lives in poverty.

In Kentucky, rates of kindergarten readiness hover around 50 percent, meaning only half of young children are getting the early learning experiences that set them up to succeed in school. However, the likelihood of being deemed ready for Kindergarten is even lower for Latinx children in the urban school districts of Boone (30.2 percent) and Kenton (24.7 percent) Counties, which mirrors rates for all entering

Kindergarteners in rural school districts such as Lee (23.3), Letcher (25.5 percent) and Adair (26.0 percent) County School Districts.

The point is, there is no doubt that we should prioritize the needs of children growing up in urban and rural Kentucky. What's more, both groups will benefit from policies that seek to remove those underlying barriers, such as a permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit, a state refundable Earned Income Tax Credit, or universal access to high quality child care.

Children's issues must not be reduced to choosing a side. Children's issues are neither Democrat nor Republican. They are neither rural or urban. They are neither Black, Brown nor White. Kids are counting on us to put aside our differences and work together to ensure that every Kentucky kid — regardless of zip code, income level, or color of their skin — has the opportunity to meet their full potential.

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



USING THE DATA BOOK AND KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

For 31 years, Kentucky Youth Advocates has produced an annual Kentucky KIDS COUNT *County Data Book* providing data on child well-being for professionals, policymakers, and community members working to improve the lives of children and families in the Commonwealth.

A Holistic Look at Child Well-Being

For optimal well-being, children need thriving communities that support strong families, good health, protection from harm, economic security, and a high-quality education. The Data Book provides a snapshot on how Kentucky's youth are faring in these areas by looking at 17 key indicators. These indicators span childhood, from birth to adolescence, using the latest and strongest available data from federal and state agencies for Kentucky's communities.

Readers will notice a few changes to the indicators of child and family well-being used in this year's book. Replacing the indicator on children living in deep poverty (which is still available through the KIDS COUNT Data Center) is data on

how many renter households pay a disproportionate amount of income toward housing costs.

Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and many students missing state testing, comprehensive data is unavailable for the most recent school year for kindergarten readiness, fourth grade reading, and eighth grade math scores. Replacing those education data points are the proportion of public school students experiencing homelessness, students with an Individualized Education Plan due to a disability, and the number of out-of-school suspensions used for every 100 students enrolled in a school district.

A Focus on Race and Ethnicity

This edition of the Data Book focuses on race and ethnicity more than ever before, in

acknowledgement of the persistent racial inequities that keep our commonwealth from reaching its potential. This book provides county-level child population data by race/ethnicity, numerous charts with statewide data by race/ethnicity, specific policy and practice recommendations to advance race equity, and other ideas on how to use the book to make change.

There are many different ways communities talk about racial identity. Throughout the book, terms used to categorize racial and ethnic groups may differ from those used by the data source. We use the term Latinx in lieu of Hispanic since it is more inclusive of languages spoken and is gender neutral. Similarly, Black is used instead of African-American to encompass all people who identify as Black, regardless of their ancestry or country of origin.



WANT DATA BY RACE FOR YOUR COUNTY?

Check out the list of data by race and ethnicity available for your county and school district at kyyouth.org/race-equity/. You can also find state-level data by race and ethnicity for the book indicators at kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/data/.

Using the Book and Supplemental Resources

County and school district data are portrayed as rates (to account for differences in population size) so each can be compared to the state as a whole or to surrounding areas. In addition to offering the most recent data, this Data Book shows whether outcomes have improved, worsened, or stayed the same since five years prior (or as close as possible). This information enables communities to see whether they are moving in the right direction on improving child well-being.

Supplemental County Profiles, available on our website at kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/, provide more county-level information, including the baseline rates used for comparison and how each county or school district ranks for the indicators in the Data Book. The indicator-specific rankings represent a comparison between places at a specific point in time, but a high rank does not necessarily mean a place is doing very well, or as well as desired, on that indicator; it simply means they are doing better than most others.

Important Data Reminders

- Data are based on different timeframes (i.e., calendar year, school year, three-year aggregates, and five-year aggregates). Readers should check each indicator's definition to determine the reported time period.
- When there are only a small number of incidents representing a particular indicator, the original data source or Kentucky Youth Advocates may choose

to not provide (i.e. suppress) that data, either to protect confidentiality – individuals may be easy to identify when there are a very small number of incidents in a county – or because reporting a small number of intermittent incidents would create an inaccurate picture. When this occurs, rates cannot be calculated.

- Data are portrayed as rates to account for varying population sizes – that is, the data identifies the number of instances something occurred per a fixed number of people. Percentages and rates were calculated using standard mathematical formulas. Readers should check each indicator's definition 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 focus in on topics of interest. The KIDS COUNT Data Center also contains national, state, and Congressional data provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The KIDS COUNT Data Center allows users to:

- Rank states, counties, and school districts on key indicators of child well-being
- Create a customized profile of data for a specific place using any or all of the available indicators
- Generate maps and charts for presentations and publications
- Embed automatically-updated data visualizations in websites or blogs

The KIDS COUNT Data Center

Data on Child Well-being

datacenter.kidscount.org



SEARCH

DISAGGREGATE

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SIGNATURE SPONSOR



PASSPORT HEALTH PLAN

BY MOLINA HEALTHCARE

PASSPORT HEALTH PLAN BY MOLINA HEALTHCARE IS COMMITTED to improving the health and lives of our members by delivering high-quality healthcare. We understand that medical coverage is foundational to health, particularly among children, and are committed to ensuring all Kentucky kids and their families receive the healthcare services they need.

We are proud to once again sponsor the KIDS COUNT *County Data Book*. As we evaluate and strive to improve the health of kids across Kentucky, in both rural and urban areas, it is crucial to know where our communities stand today and where we need to go. KIDS COUNT helps communities evaluate both how far we have come — and the strides that we must still make to help Kentucky children live happier, healthier lives.

—Ryan Sadler, *Plan President of Passport Health Plan by Molina Healthcare, Inc.*



PRESENTING SPONSOR



FOR NEARLY A CENTURY, Kosair Charities has helped children reach their potential while overcoming their obstacles. By advancing healthcare, research, education, social services, and child advocacy, our focus is on what children need to succeed. As we collaborate with our partner organizations to help children reach that success, we rely on the Kentucky KIDS COUNT data to highlight our community's progress and identify areas where we still have work to do. We are honored to stand alongside Kentucky Youth Advocates and many community champions to ensure Kentucky kids grow up healthy and successful.

—Keith Inman, *President, Kosair Charities*





IT'S THE UNDERLYING TENET OF KIDS COUNT: What gets measured, gets changed. Or, to put it another way, when we measure, we can make change.

If we consider what Kentucky is known for—horse racing and college basketball—using data to drive change might look like a faster run around the track or improved player stats. If you talk to someone living in Kentucky, they'll tell you the Commonwealth is also known for how much we value family and kids.

If we are going to make change for Kentucky kids, we must first pay more attention to how our kids are currently doing. Kentucky must then effectively utilize resources to provide each child the opportunity to thrive and ensure an even brighter future for all.

Just like a successful space launch requires many different systems working together, our schools, nonprofits, businesses, faith communities, and families can come together on a common mission to launch a successful trajectory for our children's futures. **With an engaged community supporting them, and with caring adults in their lives who have access to the things we all need to be well, our kids will have a solid foundation. This will make our entire Commonwealth even stronger.**



Supportive communities help families give their children opportunities to thrive. Community programs, like

high-quality home visiting, child care, and preschool, can support and build upon parents' roles in providing a caring learning environment for young kids. And communities can help build nurturing relationships with other adults, such as teachers, pastors, and coaches, to teach the social and emotional skills that can help children bounce back from adversities as they grow up.

All kids face a long climb in their journey to adulthood, but kids of color have to climb a steeper hill due to longstanding inequities and specific barriers based on their skin color or country of origin. For example, discriminatory housing and lending practices have made it much harder for the Black community to build wealth through home equity or business assets. Latinx, refugee, and other immigrant families may feel unwelcome and left out due to a history of anti-immigration policies and lack of accessibility to resources in their native language.

This edition of the *County Data Book* features data disaggregated by race to highlight the need for communities, decisionmakers, and the systems who serve kids to work together and build a better path forward for Kentucky kids of color. The book includes a table of the child population by race for each county. This data is important for two reasons. First, we can see that children who are Black and Brown live in every Kentucky county. Second, the data shows us how, as Kentucky unites to create brighter futures for all kids, we need to close the gaps in outcomes for Black and Brown children as compared to their White peers. **This means that everyone who steps up on behalf of Kentucky kids, from advocates**

to state legislators, has kids of color who are counting on them.

Kentucky will be strongest when all children have their best chance to thrive. **When we invest in what all children need and tailor additional supports for children who face greater barriers, each Kentucky kid will have a brighter future.** Sidewalk curb ramps are one example of how the general public can benefit by an effort to support a specific population. While cities include sidewalk curb cutouts to accommodate people using wheelchairs, many others in the community use the cutouts, such as parents pushing strollers, kids riding bikes, and businesses making deliveries.

Similarly, achieving racial and ethnic equity of opportunity is not only our civic and moral duty, but it makes financial sense and will lead to a stronger economy for all Kentuckians. A recent analysis from the national financial firm Citigroup showed that if racial gaps in wages, housing, education, and investment had been closed 20 years ago, our economy would be \$16 trillion richer. There would have been \$2.7 trillion in more income available for Black families to spend and invest had the Black wage gap been closed then.¹

¹ Citigroup (2020). *Closing the Racial Inequality Gaps: The Economic Cost of Black Inequality in the U.S.* Available at <https://www.citivelocity.com/citigps/closing-the-racial-inequality-gaps/>.

NOTES ON INCLUSION

- A recurring focus on the experiences of Kentucky's Black and Latinx youth is due in part to the fact that their challenges and disparate treatment have been more documented and researched than other racial and ethnic groups. However, other communities of color, as well as immigrant and refugee families of all backgrounds, also have their own challenges — sometimes similar, sometimes unique — that are equally important to acknowledge and address.
- Data is included for specific racial and ethnic groups whenever available and reliable. Some limitations exist in the data available due to factors such as survey data not being reliable for small population groups, people not disclosing demographic information due to distrust in how it may be used, or limited racial/ethnic categories for people to choose from.
- The book frequently references parents and families, which includes fathers who do not live with the child, foster and adoptive parents, stepparents, kinship caregivers, and other relatives or close family friends helping raise children.



While this book shows many disparities among kids due to race and explains the longstanding societal barriers that led to them, it also shares policy, practice, and community-based solutions to address these disparities. For example, child poverty is a challenge in every Kentucky community, though a child's age, race, and address greatly impact their odds of living in poverty. Significant racial disparities in child poverty persist due to decades of policies and practices that have impacted the opportunities for families of color to earn higher wages, build equity, and pass that financial success on to their children.

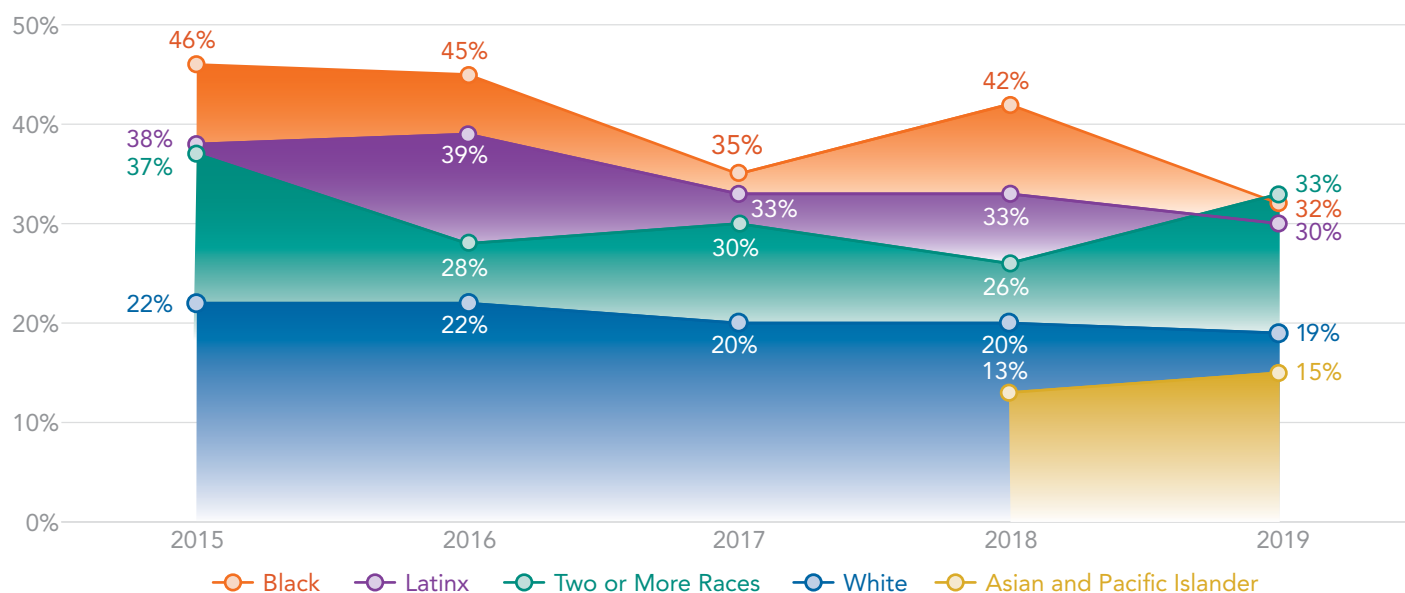
In the Economic Security section of this book, you will find solutions to improve a family's financial stability and close the racial gaps in child poverty rates—such as permanently expanding the federal Child Tax Credit, making child care more accessible to working families, and protecting funding for current safety net programs.

And the sections on Health, Education, and Family and Community also include suggested actions—both policy and practice changes—

that advocates and decisionmakers can take. **These proposed solutions can move us from simply reading data on a page to truly transforming the future trajectory for each Kentucky kid, especially kids of color.**



Though poverty rates have improved, rates remain much higher for Black and Latinx children and children of two or more races



Poverty rates for children under 18, 2015-2019

SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

NOTE: Data suppressed for Native Americans due to low confidence in its reliability.

When we measure outcomes for kids, we can change outcomes for kids. **This book is more than a publication about data; it is a call to action to achieve racial equity in Kentucky.** Each of us plays a role in that effort—whether you are a policymaker with the power to

change laws or an advocate who speaks up on behalf of kids. To help us all work together towards that goal, check out the suggested action steps on the next page.

Working together with our collective determination, knowledge, and

resources, Kentucky can close gaps in opportunity for our children. **The time is now. Join the effort to build the vibrant communities we need to support families, ensure each child in our Commonwealth can dream big for their future, and have what they need to achieve those dreams.**

TOWARDS RACIAL EQUITY FOR KENTUCKY KIDS: HOW TO USE THIS BOOK TO TAKE ACTION













STATE AND LOCAL POLICYMAKERS















- ✓ Learn more about the racial diversity of your constituency. Go to pages 16-19 to review the child population by race for the county/ies you represent. Remember that ALL those Kentucky kids are counting on you!
- ✓ Review the proposed solutions in each section, and initiate those policy changes. Kids are the common ground in Frankfort and in county seats across the commonwealth.
- ✓ Dive deeper into the key data indicators disaggregated by race with county-level data at kyyouth.org/race-equity. Data for the overall child population can overshadow important differences in data for specific groups.
- ✓ Build more connections with community members of color. Start conversations around what policy changes are needed for kids, and discuss how you suggest proceeding in order to get those policies passed. The data in this book could be a great way to get the conversation started!
- ✓ Drive change. This data is now in your hands to make the difference. Before you cast your vote on a proposed state or local policy, ask how that policy will move the data in the right direction for all the kids you serve—especially for Black and Brown children who have faced longstanding societal barriers.

ADVOCATES

- ✓ Learn more about the state of child well-being in your community. Find the child population by race for your county on pages 16-19. Dive deeper into the key data indicators disaggregated by race with county-level data at kyyouth.org/race-equity.
- ✓ Send a digital or physical copy of this book to your state legislators, local leaders, and school board members.
- ✓ Share data with other advocates in your community by sending the link to this book to your networks, writing an op-ed, or speaking at a public meeting. Use the data to engage youth in civic action and advocacy. The KIDS COUNT data included in this book and beyond is meant to be a tool for collaboration and change—and accessible to everyone who wants to create more opportunities for kids and their families.
- ✓ Host a KIDS COUNT Conversation. Invite community members, including parents, faith leaders, and business owners, to learn about how kids are faring in your area. Work together to develop solutions to move data in the right direction. Learn more at kyyouth.org/conversations.
- ✓ Hold state and local leaders accountable by using data in this book and on the KIDS COUNT Data Center. Ask your leaders how the decisions they make will move data in the right direction for all kids in your community, including kids of color. And, of course, make your voice heard by voting—and encouraging others to vote—in local, state, and national elections.

State Data Trends

		BASELINE DATA	LATEST DATA	CHANGE SINCE BASELINE*
ECONOMIC SECURITY 	CHILDREN IN POVERTY (below 100% of the federal poverty level) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 205,000	25.9% 2014	20.9% 2019	
	CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES (below 200% of the federal poverty level) NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 447,000	49% 2010-14	45% 2015-19	
	CHILDREN LIVING IN FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 179,000		17.9% 2019	
	HIGH RENTAL COST BURDEN NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 224,000	49% 2010-14	45% 2015-19	
EDUCATION 	OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS (rate per 100 students enrolled) NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS: 61,877	7.7 SY 2013-14	9.6 SY 2018-19	
	HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATING ON TIME NUMBER OF TEENS: 44,399	88.6% SY 2015-16	90.0% SY 2020-21	
	STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 103,808		16% SY 2020-21	
	STUDENT HOMELESSNESS NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 18,697	4% SY 2015-16	3% SY 2020-21	

		BASELINE DATA	LATEST DATA	CHANGE SINCE BASELINE*
<div>HEALTH</div> 	SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY	19.8% 2012-14	16.7% 2017-19	
	NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 26,795			
	LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES	8.7% 2012-14	8.8% 2017-19	
	NUMBER OF BABIES: 14,227			
	CHILDREN UNDER 19 WITH HEALTH INSURANCE	95.5% 2014	95.7% 2019	
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 982,000			
<div>FAMILY & COMMUNITY</div> 	YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 19-25) WITH HEALTH INSURANCE		90% 2015-19	
	NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS: 371,000			
	TEEN BIRTHS (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	37.7 2012-14	26.3 2017-19	
	NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 10,995			
	BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE	15.2% 2012-14	13.3% 2017-19	
<div>FAMILY & COMMUNITY</div> 	NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 21,279			
	CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)	39.2 2013-15	53.7 2018-20	
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 53,868			
	CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE TO REUNIFICATION	40% 2013-15	37% 2018-20	
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 7,205			
<div>FAMILY & COMMUNITY</div> 	YOUTH INCARCERATED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (rate per 1,000 youth ages 10-17)	30.9 2013-15	22.4 2018-20	
	NUMBER OF YOUTH: 10,159			

 Better
  No Change
  Worse

 Baseline data is not comparable, data overlaps with latest timeframe, or the change is neither positive nor negative

*Changes were not tested for statistical significance

Child Population Ages 0-17 by Race/Ethnicity

	2020								
	Total	Alaskan Native and Native American	Asian	Black	Latinx	Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	Two or more races	White	All other races
Kentucky	1,021,936	1,423	18,872	91,803	74,779	1,071	69,033	759,219	5,736
Adair	4,042	2	6	60	246	4	202	3,506	16
Allen	4,947	13	18	52	253	7	222	4,369	13
Anderson	5,584	10	33	93	196	3	375	4,851	23
Ballard	1,611	0	10	54	39	0	100	1,403	5
Barren	10,683	12	64	381	703	9	626	8,792	96
Bath	3,247	4	7	21	88	0	84	3,042	1
Bell	5,102	2	30	82	81	1	274	4,605	27
Boone	35,831	43	773	1,816	2,954	113	2,642	27,301	189
Bourbon	4,752	0	29	200	624	2	356	3,499	42
Boyd	10,278	15	64	218	251	0	729	8,958	43
Boyle	6,288	5	66	395	455	0	626	4,699	42
Bracken	2,040	0	5	21	43	0	108	1,863	0
Breathitt	3,045	8	12	16	25	8	83	2,893	0
Breckinridge	4,721	6	9	83	99	3	309	4,182	30
Bullitt	19,209	42	105	310	846	9	1,260	16,580	57
Butler	2,994	0	4	0	286	0	95	2,595	14
Caldwell	2,746	1	13	151	67	0	189	2,314	11
Calloway	6,806	0	81	206	468	2	505	5,504	40
Campbell	19,538	19	197	710	820	7	1,425	16,222	138
Carlisle	1,106	14	0	15	76	0	45	956	0
Carroll	2,706	0	10	40	336	0	147	2,169	4
Carter	5,853	7	15	14	121	0	166	5,521	9
Casey	3,877	4	14	19	251	0	125	3,453	11
Christian	19,070	52	195	4,276	1,997	80	1,663	10,669	138
Clark	8,278	9	75	390	614	1	480	6,681	28
Clay	4,362	8	1	42	59	0	107	4,141	4
Clinton	2,155	6	0	13	129	0	62	1,936	9
Crittenden	2,032	0	4	8	29	5	61	1,911	14
Cumberland	1,239	1	0	23	23	4	83	1,105	0
Daviess	24,810	30	820	1,244	1,839	12	1,896	18,807	162
Edmonson	2,623	1	7	20	46	0	92	2,457	0
Elliott	1,451	0	2	0	23	0	37	1,388	1

2020

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Alaskan Native and Native American</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Latinx</i>	<i>Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander</i>	<i>Two or more races</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>All other races</i>
Estill	3,079	6	0	9	47	0	80	2,931	6
Fayette	68,074	75	3,027	12,669	10,611	28	5,682	35,474	508
Fleming	3,613	4	4	23	101	0	121	3,336	24
Floyd	7,903	4	20	37	131	1	205	7,495	10
Franklin	10,884	13	240	1,040	814	3	1,051	7,619	104
Fulton	1,326	1	3	346	52	7	143	757	17
Gallatin	2,193	2	6	0	213	1	116	1,849	6
Garrard	3,932	2	19	59	202	0	226	3,399	25
Grant	6,544	2	14	44	323	4	391	5,744	22
Graves	8,881	14	43	432	1,159	2	618	6,574	39
Grayson	6,030	4	29	35	127	0	232	5,572	31
Green	2,463	0	6	19	87	0	102	2,234	15
Greenup	7,969	12	41	53	133	0	367	7,333	30
Hancock	2,163	0	8	20	71	0	86	1,970	8
Hardin	26,607	87	359	3,043	2,441	108	2,906	17,389	274
Harlan	5,943	7	21	98	73	0	251	5,464	29
Harrison	4,215	0	8	51	163	0	258	3,714	21
Hart	4,912	0	9	111	147	0	224	4,410	11
Henderson	10,293	22	45	836	567	21	950	7,772	80
Henry	3,576	13	7	68	207	0	241	3,029	11
Hickman	991	1	4	90	50	0	73	772	1
Hopkins	10,237	6	58	659	446	13	866	8,132	57
Jackson	2,961	9	6	0	36	0	94	2,813	3
Jefferson	168,593	294	6,904	45,506	17,921	137	13,453	83,030	1,348
Jessamine	13,287	17	163	734	1,003	3	957	10,323	87
Johnson	4,929	7	21	7	59	0	118	4,713	4
Kenton	40,121	40	450	2,288	3,071	80	3,538	30,416	238
Knott	3,023	0	0	7	34	0	74	2,905	3
Knox	7,010	10	11	65	123	0	293	6,498	10
LaRue	3,529	8	7	84	216	7	193	2,999	15
Laurel	14,631	32	122	90	372	0	572	13,413	30
Lawrence	3,766	0	4	9	79	4	105	3,556	9
Lee	1,382	0	0	6	23	0	29	1,318	6
Leslie	2,270	0	0	21	24	0	58	2,164	3
Letcher	4,596	0	11	12	51	0	110	4,403	9

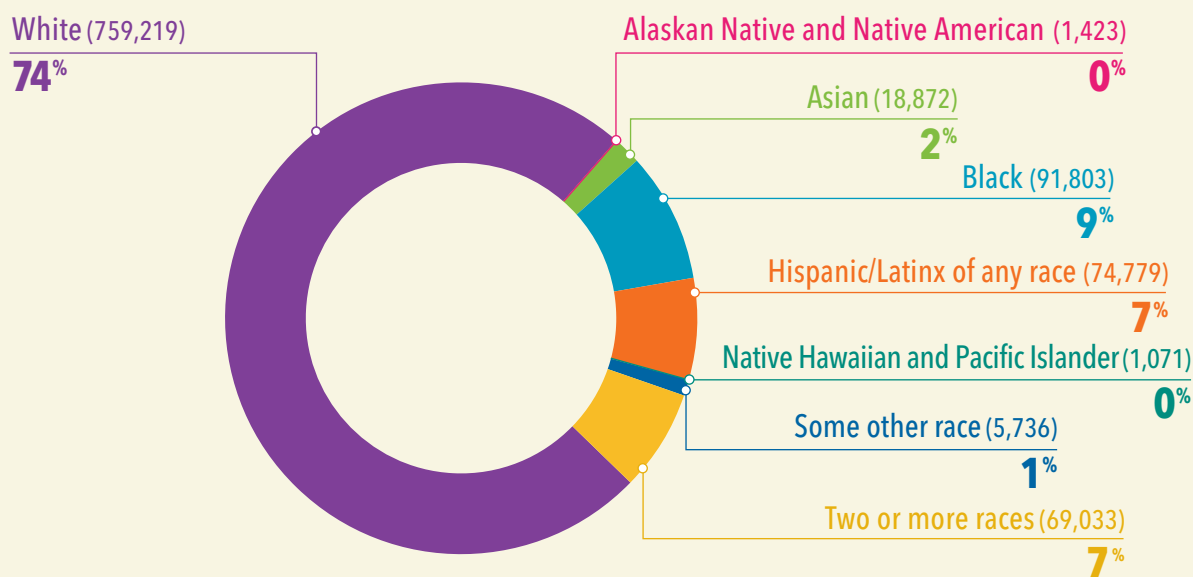
Child Population Ages 0-17 by Race/Ethnicity

	2020								
	Total	Alaskan Native and Native American	Asian	Black	Latinx	Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	Two or more races	White	All other races
Lewis	3,132	0	0	16	39	0	108	2,964	5
Lincoln	5,699	6	24	82	219	2	257	5,081	28
Livingston	1,759	1	2	2	85	0	112	1,546	11
Logan	6,454	1	23	384	314	2	421	5,267	42
Lyon	1,163	0	6	23	42	0	59	1,033	0
McCracken	14,817	24	158	2,043	827	7	1,379	10,290	89
McCreary	3,860	9	10	10	72	0	120	3,634	5
McLean	2,061	1	9	13	93	2	66	1,870	7
Madison	19,356	29	193	676	973	10	1,417	15,970	88
Magoffin	2,482	1	2	5	33	1	40	2,397	3
Marion	4,680	0	32	260	283	14	340	3,721	30
Marshall	6,534	6	53	16	218	2	334	5,891	14
Martin	2,224	6	3	6	17	0	46	2,145	1
Mason	3,875	6	26	228	167	0	388	3,047	13
Meade	7,658	25	47	282	484	35	600	6,143	42
Menifee	1,394	3	0	9	19	1	37	1,325	0
Mercer	5,007	6	26	106	283	5	320	4,226	35
Metcalfe	2,419	0	0	19	78	0	84	2,221	17
Monroe	2,668	0	6	40	180	0	86	2,344	12
Montgomery	6,603	6	29	81	377	0	354	5,729	27
Morgan	2,833	5	0	17	41	0	61	2,709	0
Muhlenberg	6,668	14	12	141	192	1	288	5,992	28
Nelson	10,989	7	80	492	520	2	814	9,027	47
Nicholas	1,851	5	2	5	92	0	59	1,687	1
Ohio	5,821	3	9	31	446	0	208	5,106	18
Oldham	18,077	18	348	356	1,329	3	1,244	14,703	76
Owen	2,745	1	7	10	99	4	117	2,504	3
Owsley	865	1	0	5	14	0	28	814	3
Pendleton	3,450	5	4	22	67	3	172	3,156	21
Perry	6,221	13	56	86	81	0	272	5,700	13
Pike	12,076	13	81	92	260	7	422	11,169	32
Powell	3,082	0	2	7	74	0	103	2,878	18
Pulaski	14,399	12	131	122	721	0	706	12,659	48
Robertson	466	0	0	1	8	0	11	446	0
Rockcastle	3,485	0	1	25	75	0	130	3,244	10

	2020								
	Total	Alaskan Native and Native American	Asian	Black	Latinx	Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	Two or more races	White	All other races
Rowan	4,847	0	30	46	169	0	200	4,394	8
Russell	4,114	15	41	31	375	0	144	3,499	9
Scott	14,539	8	155	753	1,258	10	1,138	11,139	78
Shelby	11,704	17	102	559	2,179	0	875	7,889	83
Simpson	4,584	16	15	341	261	0	385	3,534	32
Spencer	4,692	4	32	76	211	0	303	4,059	7
Taylor	5,808	2	40	196	291	3	438	4,801	37
Todd	3,332	5	10	209	237	6	195	2,650	20
Trigg	3,086	4	0	218	95	6	227	2,528	8
Trimble	1,843	8	7	6	79	0	75	1,667	1
Union	3,207	10	2	169	49	0	238	2,706	33
Warren	31,657	61	2,630	3,421	3,448	251	2,345	19,220	281
Washington	2,763	4	9	119	198	0	182	2,227	24
Wayne	4,439	4	11	42	378	4	160	3,838	2
Webster	3,061	8	6	66	400	1	158	2,406	16
Whitley	8,925	20	24	78	235	0	344	8,209	15
Wolfe	1,536	4	0	12	18	0	25	1,473	4
Woodford	5,974	0	37	204	812	0	441	4,450	30

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census.

Child population by race/ethnicity: 2020



NOTE: Race and ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census.



Economic Security

KIDS DO BEST WHEN ADULTS IN THEIR FAMILIES CAN FIND A STABLE JOB IN THEIR COMMUNITY

with predictable hours to earn enough money to put food on the table, provide a safe home, have time to engage with their child in school and community activities, and have the resources to take care of health needs. However, many Kentucky children and families live in communities that have suffered from lack of investment and subsequently, offer few stable job opportunities. For communities of color the lack of opportunities has resulted in significant differences in income by race.

In addition to gaps in earnings, historic and ongoing discriminatory lending and housing practices have prevented members in the Black community from building wealth through home equity or business assets. This wealth gap multiplies across generations and contributes to the persistent high rates of Black families living in poverty and earning incomes too low to meet even basic family needs.

Communities can support work and the financial stability of families by ensuring access to affordable, high-quality child care. Safety net programs also play a critical role in making sure families have food to eat and can cover other basic needs. With so many people struggling as a result of the pandemic, families are currently receiving an enhanced Child Tax Credit from the federal government, which is expected to greatly reduce child poverty overall and especially for Black and Latinx children.¹ Pairing it with solutions to address barriers to well-paying jobs for families of color – like housing segregation and the impacts on employment from disproportionate criminal justice involvement – will close longstanding disparities for Black and Latinx families.²

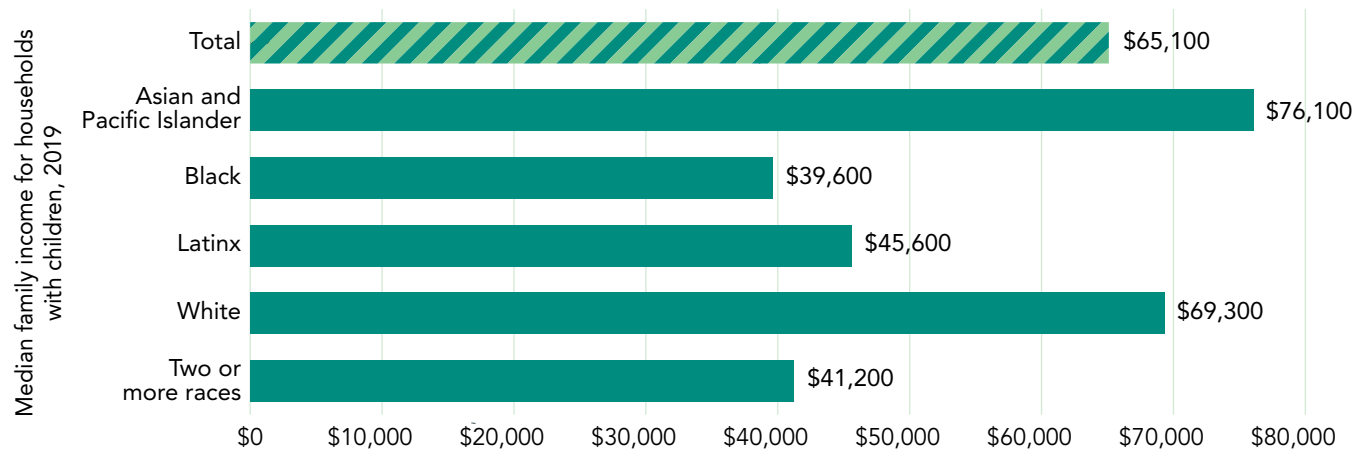


Kentucky will be stronger when every family can earn enough to provide for their children's basic needs and barriers for Black and Latinx families are addressed.

Racial gaps in educational access and attainment and the overrepresentation of Black workers in low-wage industries and occupations have contributed to income disparities. But studies have found harder to measure factors, like discrimination, also play a role and account for almost all of the growth in the Black-White income gap.³ Consistent with national

trends, similar levels of education do not translate to similar lifetime earnings, with White people in Kentucky having significantly higher lifetime earnings than Black and Latinx people.⁴ Kentucky can begin closing income gaps by strengthening pathways to higher-paying careers for young adults of color.

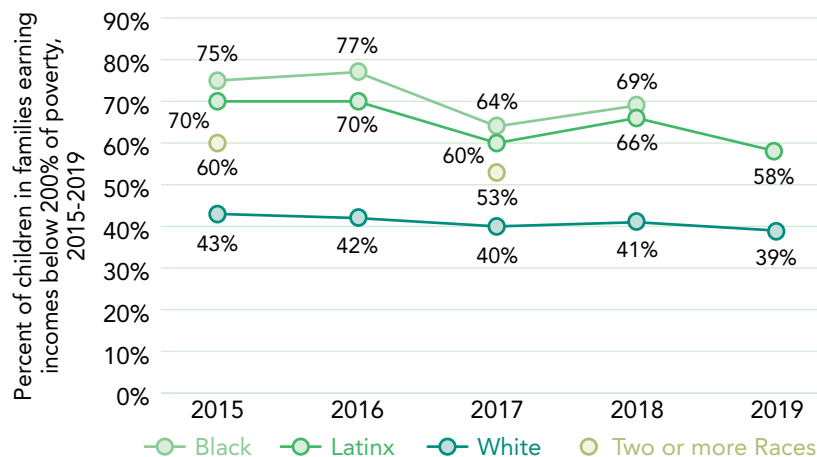
Median income - the amount at which half of households earn more and half earn less - is substantially higher for Kentucky's White and Asian and Pacific Islander families than those of other races



SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

With the cost of housing, food, and transportation, most families need an income of at least twice the official federal poverty level (FPL) to cover their basic needs.⁵ Children in families with low incomes (below 200% FPL) are more likely than their wealthier peers to move homes and have difficulty paying for housing and utilities each month.⁶

Lower earnings and historic factors contribute to high rates of Kentucky children of color living in families not earning enough to cover basic needs



SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.



SOLUTIONS

■ CLOSE INCOME AND EARNINGS GAPS

with investments in small businesses in communities most impacted by poverty and disinvestment and by opening up pathways to higher-paying industries, such as the tech field.

■ CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILY

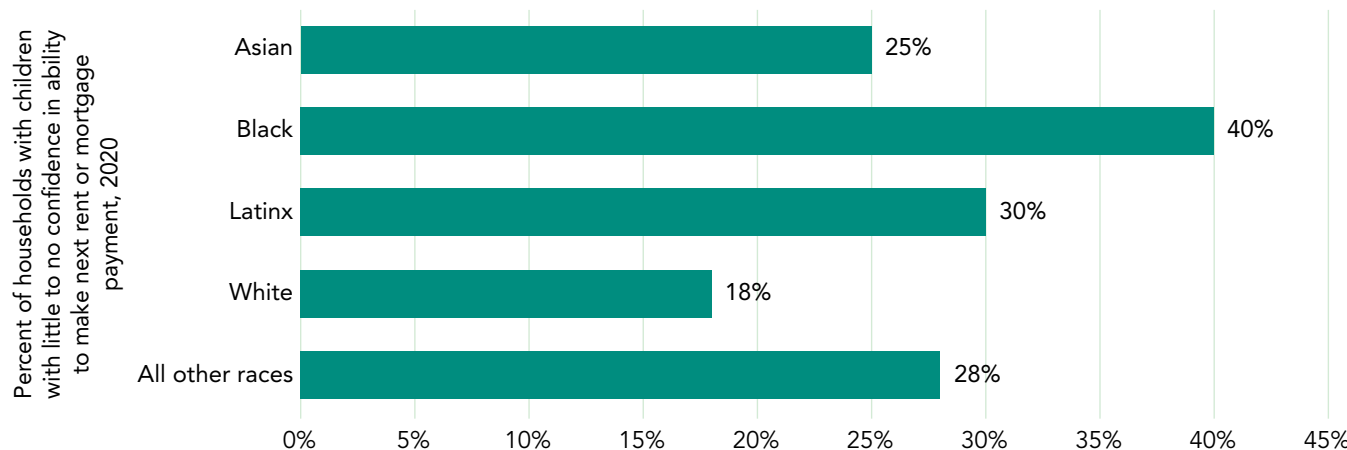
FINANCIAL STABILITY by making permanent changes to the tax code.⁷ Examples include making the expanded Child Tax Credit permanent and extending it to families who have immigrated to the United States and pay taxes.⁸ Pairing such actions with changes that address long-standing barriers to quality jobs for Black and Latinx parents will narrow persistent disparities in child poverty.⁹

Shoring up supports for necessities like housing and food can help families – and especially families of color, who are more likely to face economic challenges – maintain stability during tough financial times.

With Black and Latinx families disproportionately impacted by racially targeted housing policies and discriminatory practices, they are also more likely to experience housing instability, exacerbated by the

pandemic.¹⁰ For many families, recovering financially from the pandemic will extend well beyond the public health crisis, necessitating continued assistance with housing and utility costs.

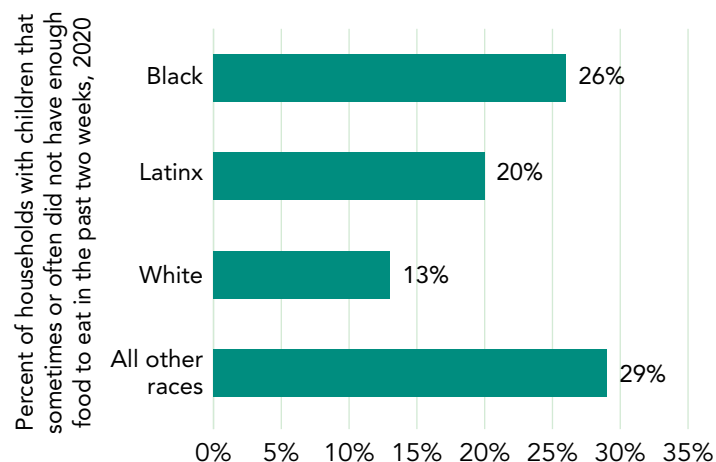
During the first year of the pandemic, Kentucky's Black families were more than twice as likely as White families to be at risk of not being able to pay for housing



SOURCE: Household Pulse Survey, April 23-December 21, 2020.

Income losses during the pandemic resulted in many more families needing food assistance and historically disparate rates for children and people of color were heightened. It took nearly ten years after the Great Recession for food insecurity to return to prerecession levels, so government, private sector, and charitable food assistance programs must be sustained.¹¹

At least one in every five Kentucky children of color experienced food insecurity in 2020



SOURCE: Household Pulse Survey, April 23-December 21, 2020.



SOLUTIONS

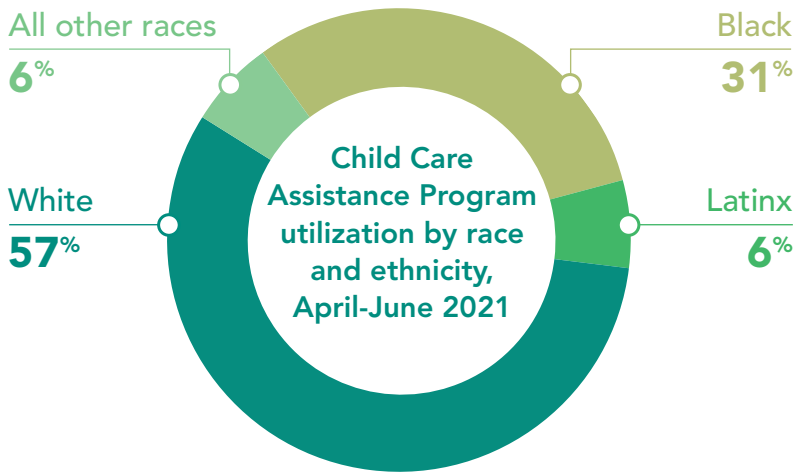
- **PREVENT HOMELESSNESS** by assisting families at risk of eviction or foreclosure to resolve issues and stay in their homes, including right-to-counsel laws that can stop unjust evictions. Historic inequities in access to homeownership have contributed to Black female renters in Kentucky being twice as likely to experience eviction court than White renters.¹²
- **PROTECT CURRENT STATE FUNDING FOR SAFETY NET PROGRAMS**, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP), and ensure they are not modified in ways that prevent children from receiving needed services or that disproportionately impact certain groups. With the structural factors that have contributed to higher rates of poverty among families of color, such programs help families meet basic needs and must offer equitable access.¹³
- **CONTINUE STRENGTHENED CHILD NUTRITION SUPPORT** implemented during the first year of the pandemic that effectively reached families, such as Summer-EBT, which provides money to purchase food during the summer months for families whose children receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year.

Supports like assistance paying for child care allow parents to work and helps close the gap between what they earn and what it costs to raise a family.

Child care plays a critical role in the local economy by allowing parents to participate in the workforce. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) pays part of the cost of child care for working parents who otherwise might not be able to work. Due to higher

rates of Black families experiencing poverty and not earning as much on average as White families, Black children are overrepresented among families that are working but need help covering the high cost of care.

CCAP helps to offset the income gap for working parents to access affordable child care, but the income gaps are most pronounced for Black families



NOTE: Data excludes cases with unknown race.

SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Office of Health Data and Analytics, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates.

SOLUTIONS

✦ **INVEST IN CHILD CARE INFRASTRUCTURE** by utilizing federal pandemic recovery funds to increase provider payments, improve payment policies, strengthen wages, and improve access in child care deserts in both urban and rural areas. With Black mothers almost twice as likely as White mothers to be the primary income earners, such child care investments provide a critical work support for families to close the earnings gap.¹⁴

✦ **CHANGE PROGRAM POLICIES TO PROVIDE BETTER TRANSITION PHASES** before working parents are no longer eligible for benefits to ensure they can maintain financial stability, which will especially help protect Black and Latinx families from being trapped in poverty.¹⁵





Economic Security

	Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		High rental cost burden		Children living in food insecure households ^Δ
	2019	Change since 2014	2015-19	Change since 2010-14	2015-19	Change since 2010-14	2019
Kentucky	20.9%	✓	45%	✓	45%	✓	17.9%
Adair	29.8%	✓	56%	✗	45%	✗	21.1%
Allen	24.1%	✓	56%	✗	41%	✗	19.7%
Anderson	14.1%	✓	43%	✗	50%	✗	17.4%
Ballard	23.7%	✓	56%	✗	38%	✓	19.4%
Barren	25.9%	✓	58%	=	49%	✓	23.2%
Bath	29.4%	✓	63%	✓	43%	✓	22.8%
Bell	41.1%	✓	67%	✓	60%	✗	31.7%
Boone	8.7%	✓	26%	✓	43%	✗	9.5%
Bourbon	20.0%	✓	45%	✓	43%	✓	16.8%
Boyd	32.1%	✓	47%	✓	46%	✓	22.5%
Boyle	19.1%	✓	44%	✓	47%	=	15.1%
Bracken	19.2%	✓	39%	✓	40%	✓	16.8%
Breathitt	37.7%	✓	71%	=	54%	✗	32.7%
Breckinridge	24.8%	✓	50%	✓	41%	✗	20.3%
Bullitt	11.2%	✓	31%	✓	38%	✓	12.5%
Butler	27.2%	✓	58%	✓	40%	✓	20.5%
Caldwell	22.4%	✓	42%	✓	53%	✗	20.6%
Calloway	19.2%	✓	46%	✗	51%	✓	18.4%
Campbell	12.8%	✓	32%	✓	47%	✗	11.9%
Carlisle	24.7%	✓	49%	✓	49%	✗	15.7%
Carroll	22.3%	✓	56%	✓	48%	✗	23.0%
Carter	27.7%	✓	58%	✗	47%	✓	25.5%
Casey	32.9%	✓	61%	✓	45%	✗	21.7%
Christian	24.5%	✓	58%	✓	49%	✓	21.2%
Clark	18.2%	✓	43%	✓	40%	✓	16.6%
Clay	42.6%	✓	71%	✗	46%	✓	31.8%
Clinton	32.6%	✓	74%	✗	35%	✓	23.2%
Crittenden	31.9%	✗	46%	✓	31%	✓	19.7%
Cumberland	33.1%	✓	52%	✓	37%	✓	18.0%



Find detailed county profiles at kyyouth.org

	Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		High rental cost burden		Children living in food insecure households ^Δ
	2019	Change since 2014	2015-19	Change since 2010-14	2015-19	Change since 2010-14	2019
Daviess	19.5%	✓	42%	✓	46%	✓	16.7%
Edmonson	21.9%	✓	53%	✗	38%	✓	21.2%
Elliott	31.5%	✓	62%	✓	49%	✓	28.9%
Estill	32.2%	✓	69%	✓	43%	✓	27.8%
Fayette	16.7%	✓	40%	✓	48%	✓	14.0%
Fleming	33.0%	✗	55%	✗	39%	✓	23.1%
Floyd	34.2%	✓	58%	✓	54%	✓	29.0%
Franklin	16.8%	✓	38%	✓	37%	✓	15.7%
Fulton	37.8%	✓	67%	✗	56%	✗	29.6%
Gallatin	17.3%	✓	50%	✓	28%	✓	14.4%
Garrard	22.4%	✓	48%	✓	44%	✓	19.0%
Grant	18.7%	✓	55%	✗	44%	✓	17.9%
Graves	25.6%	✓	53%	✗	48%	✓	19.0%
Grayson	29.6%	✓	62%	✗	50%	✗	24.0%
Green	23.2%	✓	49%	✓	45%	✓	20.3%
Greenup	21.9%	✓	41%	✓	47%	✓	21.4%
Hancock	15.6%	✓	37%	✓	41%	✗	14.7%
Hardin	13.3%	✓	39%	✓	38%	✓	15.8%
Harlan	38.9%	✓	71%	✗	54%	✗	35.1%
Harrison	20.5%	✓	40%	✓	43%	✓	17.1%
Hart	27.0%	✓	59%	✓	43%	✓	19.7%
Henderson	22.0%	✓	49%	✓	44%	✓	19.2%
Henry	21.8%	✓	50%	✓	44%	✓	18.8%
Hickman	27.8%	✓	60%	✓	23%	✓	18.2%
Hopkins	24.7%	✓	55%	✗	38%	✓	20.7%
Jackson	36.0%	=	60%	✓	45%	✓	28.9%
Jefferson	19.5%	✓	42%	✓	45%	✓	16.2%
Jessamine	16.7%	✓	44%	✓	43%	✓	16.8%
Johnson	31.7%	✗	45%	✓	53%	✗	23.0%
Kenton	15.9%	✓	33%	✓	39%	✓	12.9%

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

S = Data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. Δ = Comparable baseline data not available for this indicator.



Economic Security

	Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		High rental cost burden		Children living in food insecure households ^Δ
	2019	Change since 2014	2015-19	Change since 2010-14	2015-19	Change since 2010-14	2019
Knott	34.1%	✓	78%	✗	60%	✗	31.7%
Knox	39.3%	✓	69%	✓	48%	✓	26.0%
LaRue	23.2%	✓	55%	✓	41%	✓	18.3%
Laurel	27.2%	✓	58%	✓	49%	✗	21.5%
Lawrence	28.6%	✓	64%	✗	55%	=	25.6%
Lee	44.3%	✓	75%	✗	61%	✓	30.5%
Leslie	38.5%	✗	64%	✗	57%	✗	33.2%
Letcher	34.7%	✓	65%	✗	49%	✓	32.2%
Lewis	31.1%	✓	65%	✓	48%	✗	25.8%
Lincoln	25.7%	✓	57%	✓	44%	✓	19.2%
Livingston	20.6%	✓	45%	✓	38%	✓	20.6%
Logan	21.5%	✓	54%	✓	44%	✓	17.3%
Lyon	20.2%	✓	59%	✗	49%	✗	22.4%
McCracken	22.7%	✓	45%	✓	44%	✓	17.7%
McCreary	43.6%	✓	73%	✗	55%	✓	27.9%
McLean	18.6%	✓	44%	✓	42%	✗	18.2%
Madison	18.2%	✓	39%	✓	46%	✓	16.1%
Magoffin	39.1%	✓	65%	✗	59%	✓	32.8%
Marion	20.0%	✓	57%	✗	55%	✗	22.0%
Marshall	16.9%	✓	33%	✓	39%	✓	14.1%
Martin	38.3%	✓	50%	✓	39%	✓	22.0%
Mason	23.2%	✓	50%	✓	43%	✗	20.4%
Meade	13.1%	✓	39%	✓	31%	✓	15.5%
Menifee	38.5%	✓	56%	✓	34%	✓	27.1%
Mercer	19.8%	✓	37%	✓	40%	✓	15.6%
Metcalfe	32.3%	✓	62%	✓	43%	✓	23.0%
Monroe	30.8%	✓	56%	✓	53%	✓	22.0%
Montgomery	22.0%	✓	54%	✓	36%	✓	20.0%
Morgan	33.2%	✓	55%	✓	39%	✓	23.6%
Muhlenberg	24.5%	✓	48%	✓	38%	✓	18.5%
Nelson	15.1%	✓	30%	✓	33%	✓	13.6%



	Children in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		Children in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		High rental cost burden		Children living in food insecure households ^Δ
	2019	Change since 2014	2015-19	Change since 2010-14	2015-19	Change since 2010-14	2019
Nicholas	26.7%	✓	75%	✗	42%	=	28.0%
Ohio	20.4%	✓	60%	✓	37%	✓	21.6%
Oldham	4.8%	✓	16%	✓	34%	✓	6.7%
Owen	20.3%	✓	50%	✗	50%	✗	19.6%
Owsley	43.6%	✓	66%	✗	44%	✗	28.6%
Pendleton	19.9%	✓	36%	✓	51%	✗	17.2%
Perry	32.0%	✓	59%	✗	40%	✓	26.2%
Pike	30.0%	✓	59%	✗	51%	=	26.2%
Powell	31.7%	✓	57%	✗	48%	✓	21.8%
Pulaski	30.8%	✓	47%	✓	49%	✓	19.9%
Robertson	28.7%	✓	55%	✓	S	N/A	26.7%
Rockcastle	31.1%	✓	51%	✓	47%	=	20.7%
Rowan	26.0%	✓	61%	✗	51%	✗	23.5%
Russell	31.6%	✓	50%	✓	46%	✗	20.7%
Scott	12.0%	✓	33%	=	34%	✓	13.2%
Shelby	12.8%	✓	44%	✗	41%	✓	12.8%
Simpson	18.8%	✓	48%	✓	41%	✓	17.6%
Spencer	9.5%	✓	22%	✓	23%	✓	10.8%
Taylor	21.1%	✓	49%	✓	50%	✓	18.5%
Todd	22.7%	✓	49%	✓	32%	✓	15.7%
Trigg	22.8%	✓	34%	✓	35%	✓	16.9%
Trimble	16.1%	✓	46%	✗	41%	=	18.3%
Union	21.2%	✓	47%	✓	34%	✓	18.0%
Warren	19.1%	✓	47%	✗	44%	✓	15.9%
Washington	19.8%	✓	34%	✓	35%	✓	16.0%
Wayne	33.3%	✓	60%	✓	41%	✓	25.2%
Webster	20.1%	✓	56%	✗	38%	✓	22.0%
Whitley	26.1%	✓	60%	✓	43%	✓	22.1%
Wolfe	44.0%	✓	64%	✓	67%	✓	29.6%
Woodford	12.0%	✓	37%	✗	46%	✗	14.6%

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

S = Data is suppressed when the estimate is unreliable. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. Δ = Comparable baseline data not available for this indicator.

Education

KENTUCKY WILL HAVE THE STRONGEST ECONOMY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR FAMILIES WHEN ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH EDUCATION. Every Kentucky student can succeed academically when provided safe and supportive school environments and access to sufficient resources, yet multiple factors contribute to large numbers of Black and Brown children being left behind. Research suggests that unconscious bias and lack of cultural understanding contribute to schools acting differently toward youth of color, from teacher expectations of students to the frequency and severity of discipline used, beginning as early as preschool.¹ Rather than preschool programs being a source of racial disparities, such programs should be the foundation for an equitable start for every child.

Some students need additional supports to flourish, which can include help meeting students' basic needs so they can focus on learning or customized services to enhance learning for students with disabilities. Discipline practices that exclude students from the classroom, which are used more often for Black students for less serious and more subjective behaviors, can also create challenges to learning. Students with disabilities are also significantly overrepresented in uses of out-of-school suspensions, despite behaviors often relating to the disability itself.²

Students do best when they feel connected to their school and are less likely to drop out when they feel engaged in learning.³ Kentucky students have high rates of graduating on time from high school, though students are not equally well prepared for the future. Factors like a lack of adequate courses, low teacher expectations for students of color, and lack of positive relationships with teachers contribute to fewer Black and Latinx students being prepared for college.⁴ For a strong future for Kentucky, every graduate must be adequately prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce.

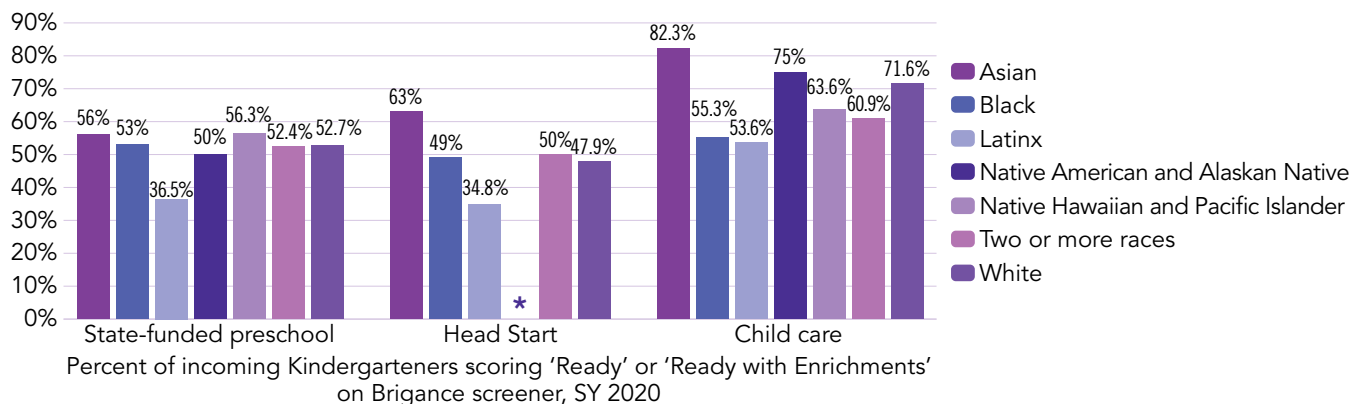


Communities that promote social and emotional skills, teach early math and reading skills, and support every child in achieving foundational milestones like reading proficiently by 4th grade set children up to succeed.

When communities offer affordable, accessible, and culturally-relevant options for high quality early learning programs, children start Kindergarten better prepared to succeed. The Brigance screener measures whether incoming Kindergarteners are prepared to learn, but it may contribute to a lower rate of Black and Latinx children being identified as ready. The screener also

has not been specifically tested for dual language learners.⁵ We can reduce disparities in early learning by increasing Black and Latinx families' access to subsidized child care and state-funded preschool programs through targeted, culturally inclusive outreach and programming,⁶ as well as providing caregivers with kindergarten readiness resources and supports.

Across different types of early childhood programs, Latinx children are screened as ready for Kindergarten less often than their peers, though the screener hasn't been tested for dual language learners

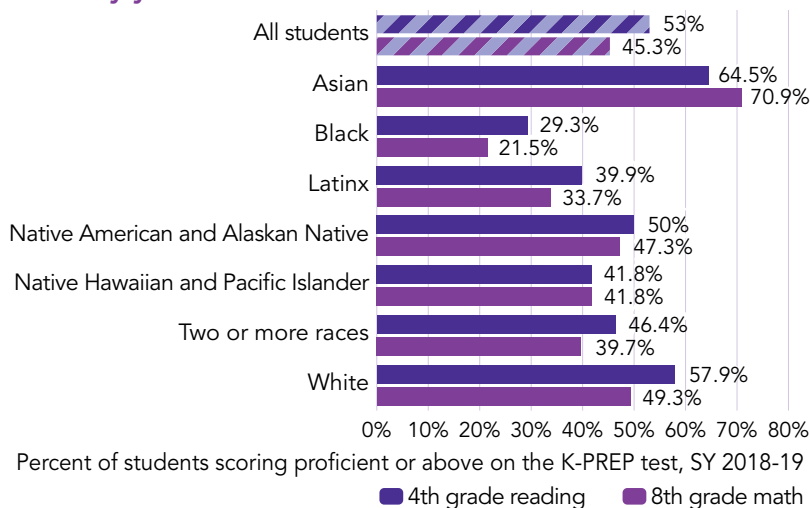


NOTE: Data for Native American and Alaskan Native as well as Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander children was suppressed due to small numbers.
SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, Supplemental Data.

While multiple factors impact student achievement, research documents how racial disparities in school discipline significantly contribute to the achievement gap between Black and White students.⁷ Students

need to be in classrooms to learn, and minimizing the use of practices like out-of-school suspensions can close gaps in achievement.

Only around half of all Kentucky students reach the critical milestones of 4th grade reading and 8th grade math proficiency; systemic factors contribute to even lower rates for many youth of color



NOTE: Data reflects the 2018-19 school year before the pandemic impacted data collection and reporting.
SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card: Accountability.



SOLUTIONS

EQUITABLY ALLOCATE STATE BUDGET RESOURCES TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS in a way that accounts for multiple risk factors (e.g., race, poverty, disability, etc.) experienced by students in the district.

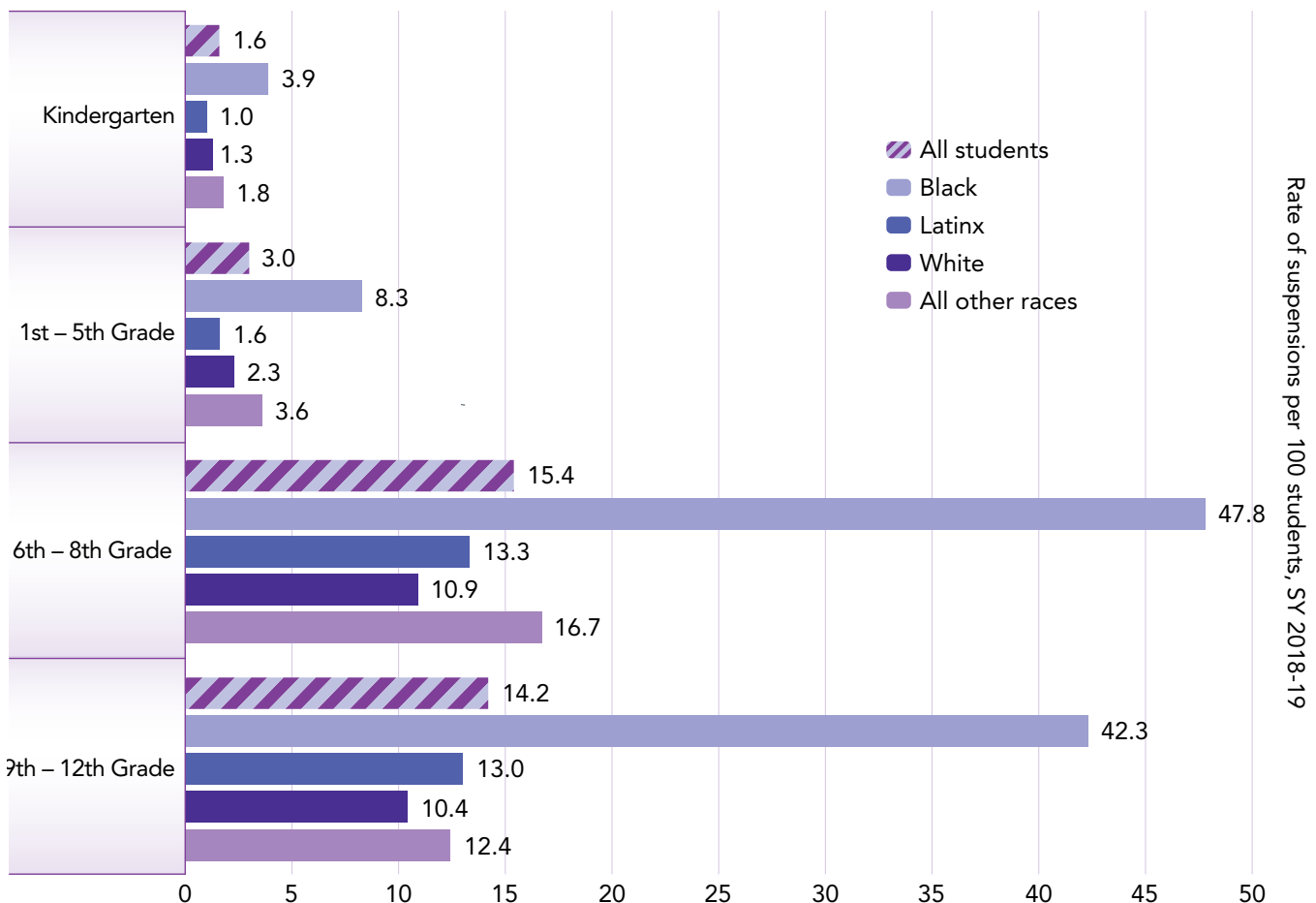
INTENTIONALLY CONNECT WITH PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS about their students' work throughout the year, rather than just when a problem arises. This builds strong school-family relationships and expands students' support networks. When schools increase family engagement in their student's learning, academic achievement improves.⁸

Utilizing alternative responses to student behavior that do not exclude children from the classroom would reduce the disproportionate impact on Black student learning and keep youth connected to school.

Successful schools provide a rigorous course of study to help students achieve, while keeping students safe with clearly communicated, consistent, and fair discipline methods. Though no evidence shows out-of-school suspensions work to improve student behavior, schools

continue to use them – and at a high rate for Black students – due to factors such as poor trust between teachers and students and unequal treatment by race.⁹ Time spent out of school as punishment negatively impacts academic achievement.¹⁰

Black youth are suspended more often as early as Kindergarten and disparities grow during middle school and high school



NOTE: Data reflects the 2018-19 school year before the pandemic impacted data collection and reporting.

SOURCE: Kentucky Center for Statistics' Longitudinal Data System, Department of Education data.



SOLUTIONS

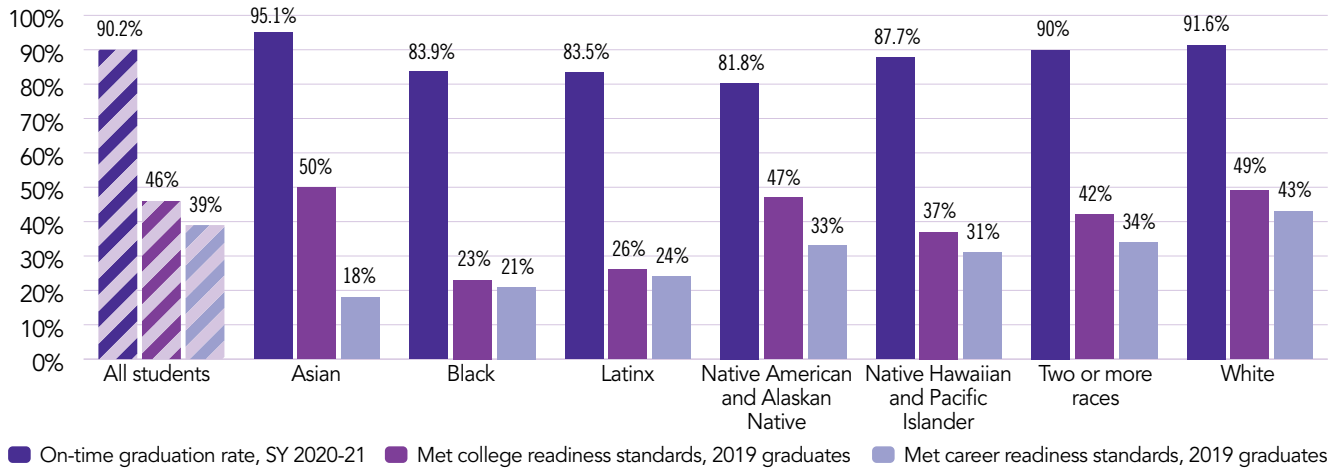
- **USE MORE EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOL** like mental health supports and restorative justice practices¹¹ and reduce the use of exclusionary discipline like suspensions, which can reduce the disproportionate impact on the long-term educational attainment of Black youth.¹²
- **ENHANCE STUDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING** through use of student surveys, focus groups and classroom circles; responding to student suggestions; facilitating student connections to sports and clubs by covering fees and transportation needs; and drawing in community partners to support youth in staying connected to school – especially after a suspension.

Kentucky can build a stronger workforce by strengthening college preparation and career readiness for every child as they complete high school.

Kentucky's economy depends on the youth of today being prepared for the workforce needs of the future, yet only 46% of 2019 high school graduates were

deemed academically ready for college. The education system falls especially short on preparing Black and Latinx students for attending and succeeding in college.

Rates of graduating on time are lower for most youth of color, and high schools have prepared only about one in four Black and Latinx students to succeed in college or careers



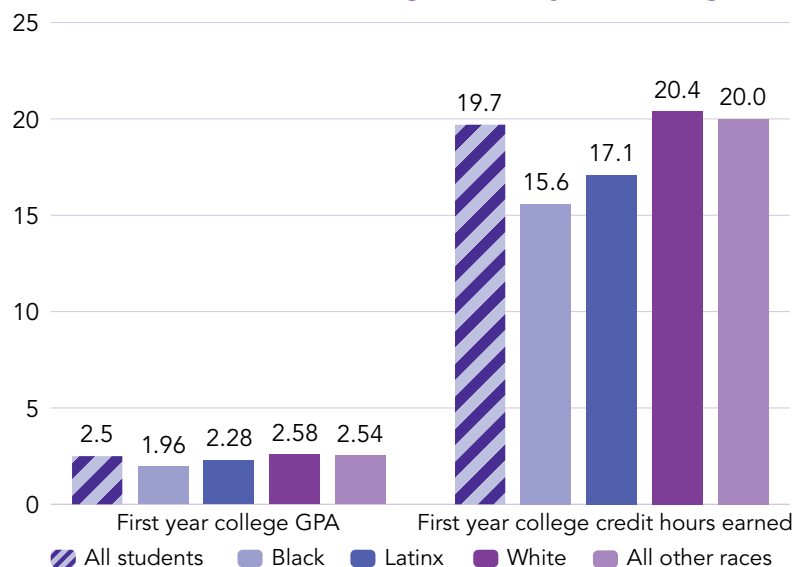
NOTE: College and career readiness standards are defined by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Cards.

The high cost of college and difficulty navigating financial aid and college enrollment, on top of leaving high school underprepared, partially explains why Black and Latinx youth are less likely to attend and stay in college.¹³ The historic discrimination and segregation within higher education impeded Black wealth creation,

which continues to impact family resources for college enrollment. Fully preparing Black and Latinx students during K-12 grades, along with targeted supports during college, would close gaps in first-year college GPAs, course credits earned, and ultimately completion.

With higher rates of leaving high school unprepared for college, Black and Latinx students are more likely to have lower GPAs and earn less credit hours during their first year of college



NOTE: Data reflect averages among 2019 public high school graduates.

SOURCE: Kentucky Center for Statistics, High School Feedback Report.



SOLUTIONS

- REQUIRE DISTRICTS TO ASSESS INDIVIDUAL STUDENT/FAMILY NEEDS FOR SUCCESS,** in partnership with students and families, using the IEP process as a model. This tailored approach can improve student progress in meeting college and career readiness standards.
- ASSIST YOUTH OF COLOR IN SECURING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE** by helping high school students complete the FAFSA, secure college scholarships, and assess financial aid packages, as well as helping students seeking citizenship and justice-involved individuals navigate the process.¹⁴



Education

	Out-of-school suspensions (rate per 100 students enrolled)	High school students graduating on time	Students with an Individualized Education Plan^	Student homelessness		
School Year	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2020-21	Change since 2015-16	2020-21	Change since 2015-16
Kentucky	9.6	✖	90.0%	✔	16%	3%✔
Adair County	11.5	✖	95.2%	✖	14%	S N/A
Allen County	7.1	✖	93.3%	✔	17%	S N/A
Anderson County	1.6	✖	86.1%	✖	15%	S N/A
Ballard County	7.9	✖	89.7%	✖	18%	2% =
Barren County	5.1	✖	93.4%	✔	17%	10%✖
Caverna Independent	20.9	✖	88.4%	✔	22%	5%✔
Glasgow Independent	1.4	✔	92.3%	✖	18%	1%✔
Bath County	1.3	✔	88.0%	✖	12%	6%✖
Bell County	6.6	✖	92.0%	✖	17%	16%✔
Middlesboro Independent	6.8	✔	91.8%	✖	22%	6%✖
Pineville Independent	1.1	✔	88.9%	✖	18%	2% N/A
Boone County	5.1	✔	94.0%	✖	12%	1%✔
Walton-Verona Independent	6.6	✖	100.0%	✔	15%	S N/A
Bourbon County	7.0	✖	97.8%	✔	16%	8%✔
Paris Independent	11.7	✔	87.8%	✖	17%	2%✔
Boyd County	8.2	✖	90.2%	✖	26%	4%✔
Ashland Independent	6.4	✖	94.1%	✔	22%	2%✔
Fairview Independent	7.0	✖	92.3%	✔	18%	5%✔
Boyle County	3.4	✔	95.4%	✖	22%	1%✔
Danville Independent	20.4	✖	90.3%	✖	20%	1% =
Bracken County	10.7	✔	91.5%	✖	18%	S N/A
Augusta Independent	25.6	✖	100.0%	✔	18%	S N/A
Breathitt County	1.9	✔	92.1%	✔	21%	15%✖
Jackson Independent	3.4	✔	100.0%	✔	13%	S N/A
Breckinridge County	4.1	✔	94.8%	✔	17%	2%✔
Cloverport Independent	9.1	✖	96.2%	✖	13%	S N/A
Bullitt County	9.0	✖	89.2%	✔	14%	3% =
Butler County	3.2	✔	93.8%	✔	19%	S N/A

Δ = Change in data is neither positive nor negative.



School Year	Out-of-school suspensions (rate per 100 students enrolled)	Change since 2013-14	High school students graduating on time	Change since 2015-16	Students with an Individualized Education Plan [^]	Student homelessness	Change since 2015-16
	2018-19	2013-14	2020-21	2015-16	2020-21	2020-21	2015-16
Caldwell County	8.9	✓	95.4%	✓	13%	1%	✓
Calloway County	4.6	✗	93.7%	✗	18%	1%	✗
Murray Independent	5.9	✗	92.6%	✗	16%	S	N/A
Campbell County	8.6	✗	97.8%	✓	16%	7%	✗
Bellevue Independent	12.1	✓	86.9%	✗	18%	6%	N/A
Dayton Independent	31.8	✗	96.3%	✓	22%	6%	N/A
Fort Thomas Independent	3.7	✗	96.2%	✓	8%	S	N/A
Newport Independent	54.0	✓	94.7%	✓	15%	17%	✗
Southgate Independent	13.1	✗	~	~	16%	10%	N/A
Carlisle County	2.2	✓	91.7%	✓	22%	10%	✓
Carroll County	12.1	✗	90.8%	✓	16%	S	N/A
Carter County	9.6	✗	97.4%	✗	17%	6%	✓
Casey County	7.6	✗	95.4%	✗	18%	S	N/A
Christian County	13.7	✗	92.5%	✓	15%	1%	✓
Clark County	12.3	✗	95.9%	✓	17%	<1%	✓
Clay County	4.2	✓	86.4%	✓	23%	S	N/A
Clinton County	18.3	✗	96.6%	✓	20%	4%	✗
Crittenden County	3.3	✓	91.9%	✓	16%	3%	✓
Cumberland County	3.3	✓	98.4%	✓	17%	6%	✓
Daviess County	6.0	✗	89.2%	✗	15%	<1%	✓
Owensboro Independent	8.6	✓	89.0%	✓	16%	<1%	✓
Edmonson County	3.3	✓	86.3%	=	19%	1%	✓
Elliott County	7.2	✗	90.7%	✓	17%	S	N/A
Estill County	7.8	✓	88.4%	✗	16%	2%	✓
Fayette County	9.9	✗	88.2%	✓	12%	1%	✓
Fleming County	5.9	✓	97.4%	✓	17%	S	N/A
Floyd County	7.8	✗	93.0%	✗	21%	<1%	✓
Franklin County	9.7	✓	94.8%	✓	15%	2%	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

S = Data suppressed by the source. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. ~ = School district has no high school. *Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events.



Education

	Out-of-school suspensions (rate per 100 students enrolled)		High school students graduating on time		Students with an Individualized Education Plan^	Student homelessness	
School Year	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2020-21	Change since 2015-16	2020-21	2020-21	Change since 2015-16
Frankfort Independent	15.5	✓	100.0%	✓	15%	1%	✓
Fulton County	13.0	✓	97.8%	✗	19%	S	N/A
Fulton Independent	7.3	✗	81.5%	✗	20%	S	N/A
Gallatin County	10.2	✗	83.1%	✗	14%	13%	✗
Garrard County	3.0	✓	92.8%	✓	16%	S	N/A
Grant County	1.7	✗	91.7%	✓	17%	1%	✓
Williamstown Independent	5.4	✓	92.9%	✗	18%	S	N/A
Graves County	*	N/A	91.9%	✗	15%	4%	✓
Mayfield Independent	5.4	✗	96.2%	✗	19%	2%	✓
Grayson County	8.7	✓	91.4%	✓	16%	S	N/A
Green County	5.8	✗	87.0%	✗	21%	S	N/A
Greenup County	2.7	✓	93.8%	✗	17%	4%	✓
Raceland-Worthington Ind.	1.8	✓	95.1%	✗	12%	S	N/A
Russell Independent	10.2	✗	97.7%	✓	13%	S	N/A
Hancock County	9.1	✗	90.7%	✗	15%	S	N/A
Hardin County	12.3	✗	89.2%	✗	18%	1%	=
Elizabethtown Independent	1.1	N/A	89.5%	✗	15%	1%	✓
Harlan County	5.3	✗	89.1%	✗	26%	33%	✗
Harlan Independent	5.8	✓	97.7%	✓	27%	19%	✓
Harrison County	14.9	✗	94.3%	✓	17%	5%	✓
Hart County	9.2	✗	97.8%	✗	26%	1%	✓
Henderson County	9.5	✓	86.8%	✗	15%	2%	✓
Henry County	4.1	✗	86.3%	✗	16%	2%	✗
Eminence Independent	11.1	✗	67.4%	✗	13%	9%	✓
Hickman County	2.7	✗	90.2%	✓	19%	S	N/A
Hopkins County	7.0	✓	88.6%	✗	20%	1%	=
Dawson Springs Independent	21.6	✗	87.5%	✗	20%	S	N/A
Jackson County	7.0	✓	81.0%	✗	33%	4%	✓
Jefferson County	21.6	✗	84.3%	✓	13%	4%	✓

Δ = Change in data is neither positive nor negative.



	Out-of-school suspensions (rate per 100 students enrolled)		High school students graduating on time		Students with an Individualized Education Plan^	Student homelessness	
School Year	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2020-21	Change since 2015-16	2020-21	2020-21	Change since 2015-16
<i>Anchorage Independent</i>	*	N/A	~	~	9%	S	N/A
Jessamine County	7.4	✖	95.3%	✔	16%	4%	✖
Johnson County	2.8	⚖	96.6%	✔	19%	<1%	✔
<i>Paintsville Independent</i>	2.0	✖	94.0%	✖	13%	5%	✖
Kenton County	10.1	✖	92.9%	✔	14%	3%	⚖
<i>Beechwood Independent</i>	4.4	✖	99.1%	✖	11%	S	N/A
<i>Covington Independent</i>	28.6	✔	77.9%	✔	22%	16%	✖
<i>Erlanger-Elsmere Independent</i>	4.2	✖	95.9%	✔	16%	9%	✔
<i>Ludlow Independent</i>	11.4	✖	94.6%	✖	20%	S	N/A
Knott County	12.2	✖	95.2%	✔	24%	18%	✔
Knox County	10.8	✖	87.9%	✖	24%	S	N/A
Barbourville Independent	5.9	✖	98.1%	✖	11%	S	N/A
LaRue County	9.4	✖	98.1%	⚖	18%	S	N/A
Laurel County	6.8	✔	79.3%	✖	23%	1%	⚖
<i>East Bernstadt Independent</i>	1.7	✔	~	~	27%	3%	N/A
Lawrence County	9.6	✖	85.8%	✖	21%	18%	✔
Lee County	14.4	✖	85.3%	✖	14%	16%	✔
Leslie County	3.2	✖	88.5%	✖	24%	8%	✔
Letcher County	5.6	✖	93.4%	✖	32%	17%	✖
<i>Jenkins Independent</i>	6.2	✔	87.0%	✖	27%	S	N/A
Lewis County	10.5	✖	91.5%	✖	19%	S	N/A
Lincoln County	8.8	✖	90.7%	✔	17%	1%	⚖
Livingston County	9.0	✖	90.8%	✖	15%	2%	✔
Logan County	1.9	✔	88.9%	✖	20%	3%	✔
<i>Russellville Independent</i>	6.7	✔	88.2%	✔	22%	1%	✔
Lyon County	2.4	✔	95.7%	✖	13%	2%	✔
McCracken County	3.8	✖	91.8%	✔	14%	1%	⚖
<i>Paducah Independent</i>	9.2	✖	76.9%	✖	11%	5%	⚖
McCreary County	10.3	✔	94.0%	✔	22%	S	N/A

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

S = Data suppressed by the source. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. ~ = School district has no high school. *Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events.



Education

School Year	Out-of-school suspensions (rate per 100 students enrolled)		High school students graduating on time		Students with an Individualized Education Plan ^Δ	Student homelessness	
	2018-19	Change since 2013-14	2020-21	Change since 2015-16	2020-21	2020-21	Change since 2015-16
McLean County	6.2	✖	90.1%	✖	15%	S	N/A
Madison County	5.5	✖	93.6%	✔	17%	<1%	✔
<i>Berea Independent</i>	5.6	✔	93.4%	✖	25%	S	N/A
Magoffin County	2.9	✔	91.9%	✖	23%	4%	✔
Marion County	9.0	✖	95.1%	✔	14%	<1%	✔
Marshall County	3.5	✖	86.9%	✖	16%	7%	✖
Martin County	6.7	✔	95.9%	✔	19%	1%	=
Mason County	8.7	✖	90.0%	✖	20%	1%	N/A
Meade County	4.8	✖	95.0%	✔	18%	3%	✖
Menifee County	4.6	✖	94.4%	✔	19%	5%	✖
Mercer County	5.8	✖	97.5%	✔	21%	4%	✖
<i>Burgin Independent</i>	1.9	✔	100.0%	✔	17%	S	N/A
Metcalfe County	8.5	✖	93.8%	✖	15%	S	N/A
Monroe County	2.2	✔	100.0%	✔	19%	3%	✔
Montgomery County	8.7	✔	92.1%	✔	19%	S	N/A
Morgan County	5.2	✖	100.0%	✔	19%	1%	✔
Muhlenberg County	4.1	✖	87.7%	✔	18%	S	N/A
Nelson County	13.5	✖	92.0%	✖	15%	S	N/A
<i>Bardstown Independent</i>	10.3	✖	85.8%	✖	19%	S	N/A
Nicholas County	11.9	✔	89.7%	✖	18%	25%	✖
Ohio County	1.4	✖	90.3%	✔	15%	1%	✔
Oldham County	4.4	✖	96.9%	✔	13%	<1%	=
Owen County	11.1	✖	92.3%	✔	16%	1%	=
Owsley County	13.4	✖	88.0%	✖	16%	S	N/A
Pendleton County	12.2	✔	98.2%	✔	17%	S	N/A
Perry County	3.1	✔	94.1%	✔	24%	11%	✔
<i>Hazard Independent</i>	8.9	✖	95.3%	✖	19%	12%	✔
Pike County	5.2	=	88.3%	✖	18%	4%	✔
<i>Pikeville Independent</i>	4.1	✖	96.1%	✖	12%	S	N/A

Δ = Change in data is neither positive nor negative.



School Year	Out-of-school suspensions (rate per 100 students enrolled)	Change since 2013-14	High school students graduating on time	Change since 2015-16	Students with an Individualized Education Plan [^]	Student homelessness	Change since 2015-16
	2018-19	2013-14	2020-21	2015-16	2020-21	2020-21	2015-16
Powell County	8.7	✓	89.7%	✗	19%	S	N/A
Pulaski County	3.4	✓	95.4%	✗	17%	1%	=
Science Hill Independent	4.9	✓	~	~	18%	S	N/A
Somerset Independent	12.4	✗	90.9%	✓	15%	2%	✓
Robertson County	*	N/A	100.0%	✓	18%	9%	✓
Rockcastle County	2.5	✗	94.6%	✗	23%	7%	✓
Rowan County	9.4	✗	97.0%	✗	14%	8%	✓
Russell County	7.2	✗	92.3%	✓	14%	6%	✓
Scott County	10.9	✗	87.3%	✓	19%	4%	✓
Shelby County	2.8	✓	88.4%	✗	17%	<1%	=
Simpson County	7.7	✗	95.9%	✓	16%	1%	=
Spencer County	2.7	✗	92.8%	✗	19%	1%	✓
Taylor County	4.3	✗	94.5%	✗	16%	1%	✓
Campbellsville Independent	7.3	✗	92.4%	✗	20%	S	N/A
Todd County	9.3	✗	94.4%	✗	19%	1%	=
Trigg County	3.3	✓	93.5%	✗	16%	1%	=
Trimble County	7.9	✗	92.9%	✗	14%	S	N/A
Union County	12.1	✗	94.0%	✓	16%	S	N/A
Warren County	2.3	✗	96.5%	✓	15%	<1%	✓
Bowling Green Independent	3.3	✓	97.5%	✓	13%	3%	✗
Washington County	10.3	✗	97.3%	✗	19%	4%	✗
Wayne County	7.9	✓	92.2%	✓	19%	1%	✓
Webster County	7.6	✗	86.7%	✗	18%	23%	✗
Whitley County	4.9	✓	89.9%	✗	27%	7%	✗
Corbin Independent	1.3	✓	98.1%	✓	12%	1%	✓
Williamsburg Independent	4.0	✓	85.7%	✗	15%	S	N/A
Wolfe County	2.0	✗	96.0%	✓	24%	S	N/A
Woodford County	9.1	✓	96.9%	=	14%	2%	✗

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

S = Data suppressed by the source. N/A = No change calculated due to data suppression. ~ = School district has no high school. *Rate not calculated for fewer than 6 events.

Health

COMMUNITIES CAN PROMOTE A HEALTHY START IN LIFE FOR EVERY CHILD BY ENSURING CHILDREN AND PARENTS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.

During pregnancy, communities can increase convenient access to early and consistent prenatal care to improve birth outcomes and promote utilization of programs like Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS), which teaches expectant mothers and fathers how to encourage their child's healthy development. Community offerings that help young women envision and plan pathways for further education or careers also kick off healthy starts by encouraging teens to wait until they are older and better prepared to have and support children.

A healthy pregnancy provides infants a strong start in life, yet barriers like lack of health insurance, not hearing about available programs, ongoing discrimination, and social and economic factors keep some families from connecting to these supports.¹ The impacts can be devastating, with heart conditions and blood clots contributing to Black mothers dying in the year after giving birth at a much higher rate than White mothers.²

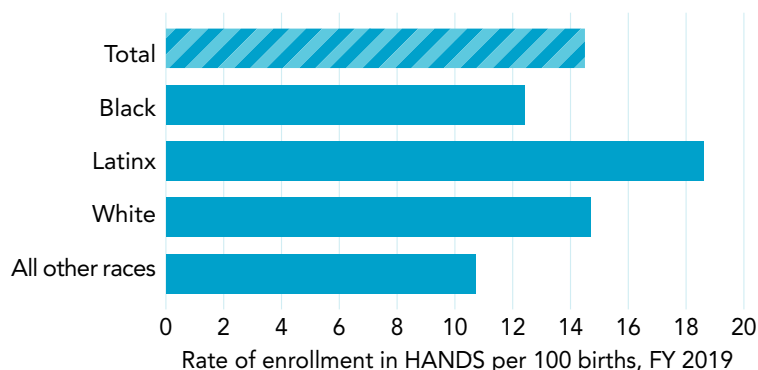
In Kentucky, race and place too often impact children's health outcomes and their ability to access quality care. Kentucky has adopted policies to ensure income is not a barrier to childhood health insurance coverage, but more can be done to make certain that coverage translates into convenient access to high-quality care. To achieve the full potential of a healthy life for every child, efforts must continue to guarantee that families of color, as well as rural Kentuckians, have sufficient health care providers in their communities or can access them through telehealth. Kentucky can best promote culturally competent care by building a pipeline of providers of color and ensuring patients have access to translation and interpretive services in all health care settings.



Strengthening access to quality health care before, during, and after pregnancy and closing gaps in use of programs like HANDS will reduce disparities in critical birth outcomes for Black babies and mothers.

Kentucky's HANDS program is proven to support parents in giving their child a strong start in life,³ yet a lower percentage of families of color, with the exception of Latinx families, are enrolled. All types of health care providers, but especially obstetricians, faith communities, and others can play an important role in connecting more parents to this valuable resource.

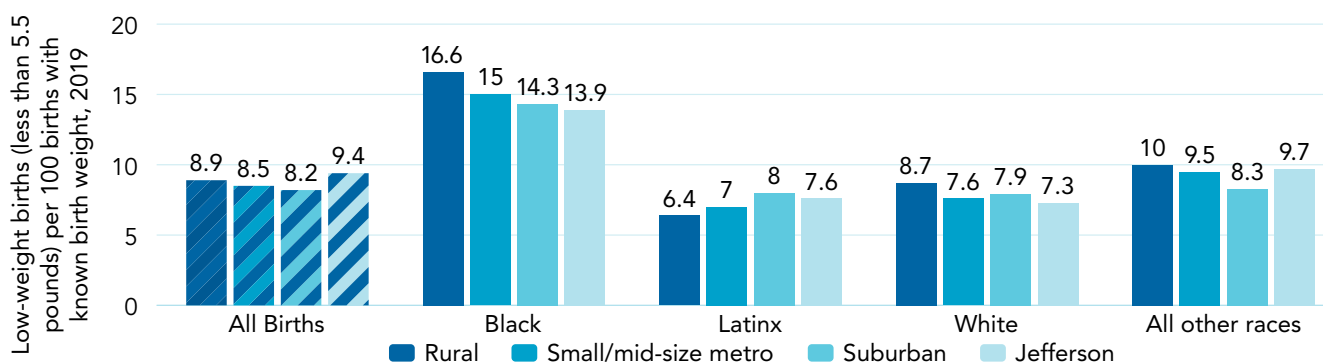
The HANDS program has enrolled Latinx families at the highest rate, though enrollment for other families of color lags



SOURCE: Kentucky Center for Statistics' Longitudinal Data System, Department for Public Health data.

The health of mothers is strongly tied to the health of their babies, and environmental factors, such as secondhand smoke inhalation and heat exposure,⁴ as well as age, socioeconomic status, and maternal health all contribute to birth outcomes.⁵ The everyday stress of persistent racism is one cause of worse birth outcomes that Black mothers experience.⁶ Access to responsive prenatal care providers and having living and work environments that support good health can minimize disparities for pregnant women.

Babies born to Black mothers experience the highest rates of low birthweight, though variations for each race by community size calls for a deeper look at local factors



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

NOTE: See page 57 for information on how counties were classified.

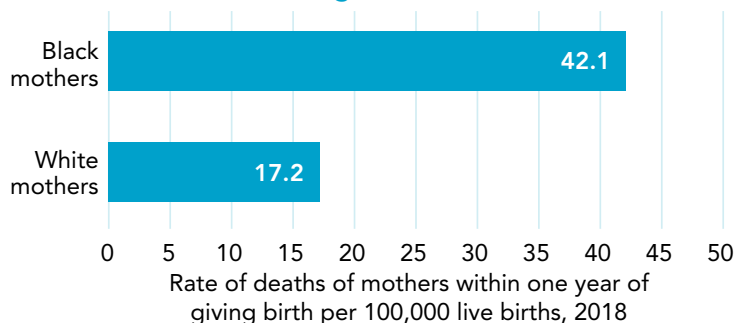


SOLUTIONS

- **OFFER PAID FAMILY LEAVE** so new parents – whether by birth or adoption – can care for their newborn while still being able to cover expenses. Workers of color are less likely to have access to paid family leave,¹⁰ which has been shown to improve maternal health and birth outcomes and increase breast feeding¹¹ – three areas where Black mothers and babies have not received adequate support.
- **SUPPORT AND PROMOTE CONNECTIONS TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS** to ensure women address any chronic health conditions prior to pregnancy, can access prenatal care early, and continue to receive care after delivery. With Black mothers being three to four times more likely to die during or within a year of pregnancy than White women, we especially need to improve both pre- and post-natal care for Black women to address disparities.¹²
- **IMPROVE RESPONSIVENESS TO WOMEN OF COLOR** by healthcare providers through listening and addressing concerns, as well as monitoring for the health conditions more likely to impact women of different races and ethnicities.
- **IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTHCARE** to support new moms' ability to care for their children by extending Medicaid coverage for up to 12 months postpartum and by increasing screenings for maternal depression at well-child checkups.

Most pregnancy-related deaths are preventable,⁷ yet Kentucky's rate of mothers dying during pregnancy or after giving birth is more than double the national rate.⁸ Measures to improve access to care prior to, throughout and after pregnancy for women of color, as well as improving provider responsiveness to concerns and specific health risks, can help address the persistently disproportionate rate of Black mothers dying within one year of giving birth.⁹

Kentucky's maternal death rate among Black mothers far exceeds the rate among White mothers



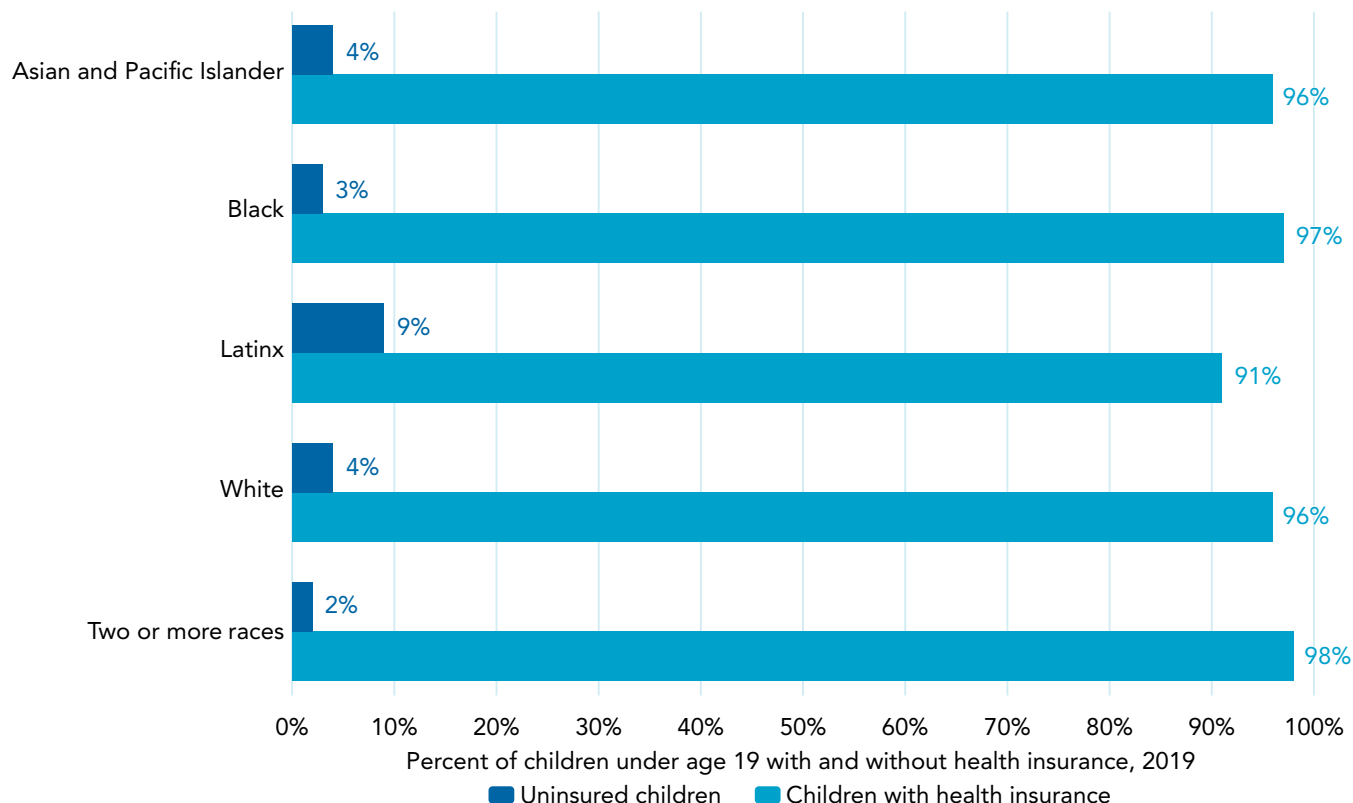
SOURCE: Kentucky Department for Public Health, Maternal Mortality Review, 2020 Annual Report.

Efforts to connect children and parents to health insurance and improve telehealth access have narrowed disparities in coverage and accessing care for most populations but gaps remain for Latinx children.

Kentucky's outreach and enrollment efforts have resulted in 96% of children having health coverage, and public programs like Medicaid and Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) have been key in keeping children covered during the

COVID-19 pandemic as many parents lost employer-sponsored coverage.¹³ Targeted outreach to Latinx families, in culturally relevant ways, could address barriers to enrollment and alleviate parents' concerns on whether immigration status is impacted.¹⁴

A high percentage of Kentucky children have health insurance, though coverage lags for Latinx children

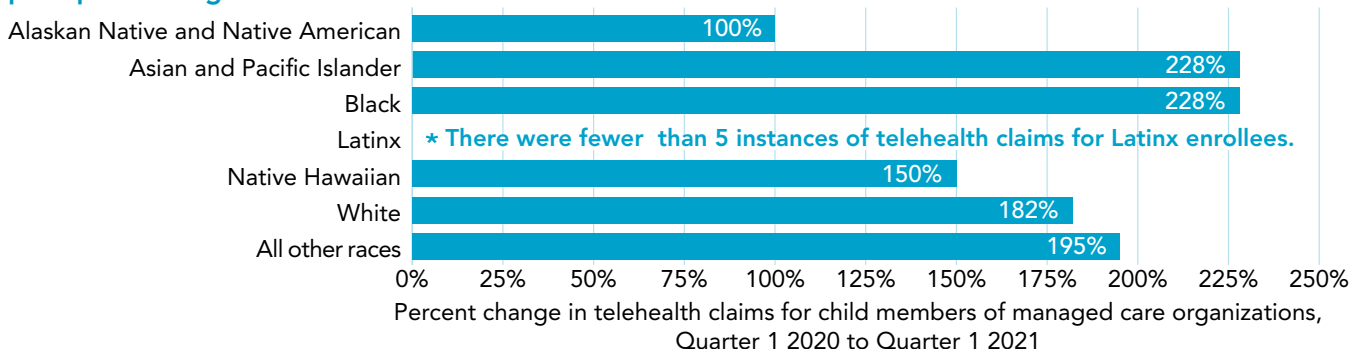


SOURCE: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Approximately one year after Kentucky allowed expanded telehealth, use remained high for children receiving Medicaid or KCHIP among nearly all racial groups. Telehealth offers a means of connecting to medical, dental, and mental health providers for those

who live in urban neighborhoods or rural areas with limited access or transportation challenges. Data suggests Latinx families would benefit from targeted and culturally relevant outreach to improve access and utilization.

Use of telehealth has remained at a high level across most racial groups a year after COVID-19 prompted changes



SOURCE: Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates.



SOLUTIONS

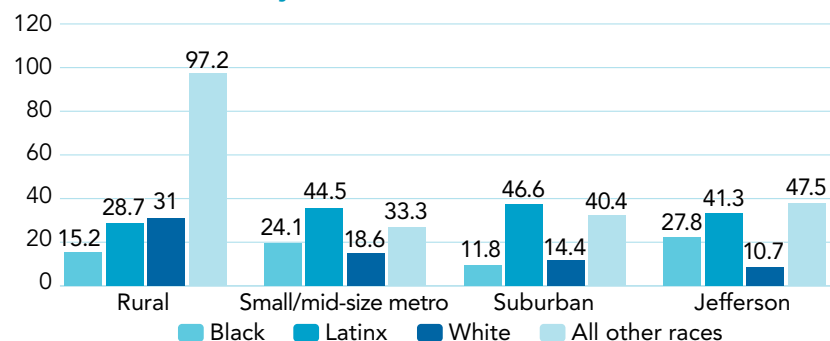
- **CONDUCT OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT WITH THE LATINX POPULATION** using culturally relevant messages and trusted messengers to dispel misinformation and share the importance of, and how to access, health insurance to stay healthy.
- **IMPROVE THE CULTURAL HOSPITALITY OF CARE**, such as professional interpretive and translation services for patients not fluent in English, to help families feel welcome, listened to, and engaged in their healthcare. Adequately reimbursing providers for professional language services can close the gap in the quality of care received between patients with Limited English Proficiency and those without language barriers.¹⁵

Understanding what factors impact teen births in each community can uncover opportunities to encourage young women and men to wait to have children.

Communities can support teens in waiting to become parents, which is better for babies and their parents, by encouraging teens to set and pursue goals for their future. The variations by race suggest each community

must look at the opportunities and future planning offered to teen girls, with a special priority for Latinx teens and teens of more than one race.

Teen birth rates vary not only by race but are also impacted by the size of community



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

NOTE: See page 57 for information on how counties were classified.



SOLUTIONS

- **PROMOTE STRONG PROGRAMMING FOR TEENS**, such as mentoring and college and career readiness programs, so young women see opportunities for their future and delay childbearing.



	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance ^A	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	Change since 2017-19	2012-14	Change since 2017-19	2012-14	2019	Change since 2014	2015-19	Change since 2017-19	2012-14
Kentucky	16.7%	✓	8.8%	✗	95.7%	✓	90%	26.3	✓
Adair	24.6%	✗	7.6%	✓	95.4%	✓	91%	17.7	✓
Allen	16.6%	✓	9.9%	✗	95.3%	✓	84%	32.6	✓
Anderson	20.6%	✓	9.0%	✗	95.8%	✓	94%	27.9	✓
Ballard	22.7%	✗	9.0%	✗	95.1%	✓	91%	41.4	✗
Barren	18.2%	✓	8.5%	✗	95.5%	✓	86%	34.1	✓
Bath	23.0%	✓	8.5%	✗	94.7%	✓	88%	34.7	✓
Bell	33.8%	✓	10.0%	✗	96.2%	✓	85%	44.4	✓
Boone	11.7%	✓	7.1%	✓	96.3%	✓	92%	15.7	✓
Bourbon	24.2%	✓	8.9%	✓	93.9%	✓	94%	32.1	✗
Boyd	23.7%	✓	10.3%	=	96.6%	✓	86%	37.0	✓
Boyle	19.8%	✓	8.6%	✓	96.0%	✓	89%	22.8	✓
Bracken	29.2%	✗	9.2%	✗	95.0%	=	94%	23.4	✓
Breathitt	33.1%	✓	11.4%	✗	96.3%	✓	88%	50.7	✓
Breckinridge	20.2%	✓	7.9%	✓	94.8%	✓	81%	32.4	✗
Bullitt	14.5%	✓	9.0%	✗	96.6%	✓	93%	19.0	✓
Butler	13.5%	✓	6.4%	✓	94.2%	✓	82%	46.8	✓
Caldwell	27.8%	✗	8.7%	✗	95.4%	✓	84%	37.3	✓
Calloway	15.5%	✓	6.9%	✓	94.1%	✓	96%	12.9	✓
Campbell	16.2%	✓	7.3%	✓	96.9%	✓	94%	18.6	✓
Carlisle	16.9%	✓	5.6%	✗	93.3%	✗	93%	41.8	✓
Carroll	29.3%	✓	9.6%	✗	94.8%	✓	87%	39.6	✓
Carter	27.7%	✓	9.1%	✗	95.7%	✓	82%	36.0	✓
Casey	21.0%	✓	7.4%	✓	93.6%	✓	73%	40.7	✓
Christian	12.4%	✓	7.9%	✓	95.5%	✓	84%	29.2	✓
Clark	19.3%	✓	8.9%	✓	96.1%	✓	86%	35.7	✓
Clay	34.7%	✓	12.1%	✓	96.0%	✓	85%	46.3	✓
Clinton	24.1%	✓	11.3%	✗	95.2%	✓	92%	28.0	✓
Crittenden	18.1%	✗	7.4%	✓	95.2%	✓	72%	28.7	✓
Cumberland	21.1%	✓	8.3%	✗	95.3%	✓	87%	42.3	✓



	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance ^Δ	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2019	Change since 2014	2015-19	2017-19	Change since 2012-14
Daviess	8.4%	✓	8.3%	✗	95.6%	✗	89%	30.7	✓
Edmonson	17.5%	✓	5.1%	✓	94.7%	✓	87%	32.2	✗
Elliott	32.8%	✓	11.9%	✗	96.2%	✓	92%	40.3	✓
Estill	27.7%	✓	9.2%	✗	95.6%	✓	85%	37.4	✓
Fayette	9.8%	✓	9.0%	✗	95.6%	✓	92%	16.6	✓
Fleming	17.2%	✓	7.7%	✓	93.6%	✓	86%	39.4	✓
Floyd	24.2%	✓	10.9%	✗	96.1%	✓	90%	53.8	✓
Franklin	20.3%	✓	10.1%	✗	95.6%	✓	85%	25.7	✓
Fulton	23.7%	✓	9.6%	✓	96.7%	✓	87%	27.0	✓
Gallatin	28.7%	=	10.2%	✗	94.3%	✗	90%	33.8	✓
Garrard	22.8%	✓	7.9%	✓	94.9%	✓	80%	30.8	✓
Grant	27.3%	✓	10.4%	✗	96.0%	✓	93%	38.7	✓
Graves	20.1%	✗	7.8%	✗	95.0%	✓	93%	39.0	✓
Grayson	29.4%	✗	8.1%	=	95.5%	✓	86%	39.2	✓
Green	12.9%	✓	7.6%	✓	93.5%	✓	90%	33.6	✓
Greenup	19.7%	✓	9.2%	✓	96.2%	✓	92%	30.2	✓
Hancock	9.9%	✓	6.7%	✓	95.8%	=	98%	26.6	✓
Hardin	16.7%	✗	7.7%	✗	96.2%	✓	88%	25.4	✓
Harlan	32.5%	✓	10.7%	✗	96.5%	✓	90%	44.6	✓
Harrison	26.2%	✓	7.8%	✓	95.4%	✓	94%	43.5	✗
Hart	15.6%	✓	6.9%	✓	94.8%	✓	87%	41.4	✓
Henderson	18.6%	✓	11.7%	✗	96.3%	✓	89%	35.0	✓
Henry	22.4%	✓	8.6%	✗	93.9%	✗	78%	33.6	✓
Hickman	23.9%	✗	7.6%	✗	94.9%	✓	100%	28.9	✗
Hopkins	23.8%	✓	9.1%	✗	96.1%	✓	89%	41.7	✓
Jackson	33.1%	✓	10.0%	✓	95.6%	✓	96%	50.6	✓
Jefferson	9.0%	✓	9.2%	✗	96.2%	✗	91%	20.4	✓
Jessamine	16.9%	✓	9.5%	✗	95.4%	✓	93%	18.3	✓
Johnson	20.6%	✓	10.2%	✓	95.9%	✓	87%	31.9	✓
Kenton	17.8%	✓	8.7%	=	96.5%	✓	91%	22.8	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

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



	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance ^A	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2019	Change since 2014	2015-19	2017-19	Change since 2012-14
Knott	28.6%	✓	10.7%	✓	95.3%	✓	94%	29.6	✓
Knox	28.2%	✓	12.0%	✗	96.6%	✓	85%	44.9	✓
LaRue	21.5%	✗	10.1%	✗	94.9%	✓	90%	37.8	✗
Laurel	25.9%	✓	7.1%	✓	96.0%	✓	88%	37.2	✓
Lawrence	28.4%	✗	9.8%	✓	95.5%	✓	87%	29.7	✓
Lee	30.7%	✓	8.0%	✓	96.1%	✓	83%	34.9	✓
Leslie	34.5%	✓	9.9%	✓	95.7%	✓	89%	29.1	✓
Letcher	23.9%	✓	10.0%	✓	95.4%	✓	90%	42.4	✓
Lewis	26.2%	✓	8.6%	✗	95.3%	✓	97%	54.4	✗
Lincoln	20.3%	✓	10.6%	✗	95.2%	✓	86%	42.7	✓
Livingston	27.1%	✗	6.2%	✓	95.1%	✓	92%	30.1	✓
Logan	14.9%	✓	9.1%	✗	94.9%	✓	95%	30.0	✓
Lyon	22.8%	✗	9.4%	✗	93.4%	✗	76%	31.3	✓
McCracken	15.7%	✗	8.4%	✓	95.9%	✓	94%	29.8	✓
McCreary	26.9%	✓	8.7%	✓	96.2%	✓	88%	51.1	✓
McLean	15.3%	✓	10.3%	✓	94.9%	✓	93%	26.8	✓
Madison	16.9%	✓	8.9%	✗	96.1%	⚖	93%	15.5	✓
Magoffin	29.2%	✓	12.1%	✗	94.8%	✓	90%	39.6	✓
Marion	26.7%	✓	11.0%	✗	95.1%	✓	97%	36.5	✓
Marshall	20.8%	✗	8.4%	✗	95.4%	✓	94%	21.5	✓
Martin	40.2%	✗	12.1%	✗	95.8%	✓	94%	41.0	✓
Mason	25.1%	✓	8.4%	✗	94.6%	✗	86%	38.3	✓
Meade	21.2%	✗	7.7%	✗	96.1%	✓	93%	21.7	✓
Menifee	30.2%	✓	9.9%	✗	95.5%	✓	94%	44.8	✓
Mercer	20.7%	✓	8.5%	✓	95.2%	✓	85%	30.3	✓
Metcalfe	22.8%	✓	8.9%	✗	95.7%	✓	94%	38.0	✓
Monroe	24.7%	✓	9.6%	✗	93.8%	✓	84%	43.3	✗
Montgomery	22.2%	✓	8.4%	⚖	96.0%	✓	89%	42.1	✓
Morgan	25.1%	✓	7.5%	✓	95.0%	✓	88%	39.5	✓
Muhlenberg	17.2%	✓	9.2%	✗	95.6%	✓	91%	47.3	✓
Nelson	17.1%	✓	7.5%	✓	96.1%	✓	94%	23.6	✓



	Smoking during pregnancy		Low-birthweight babies		Children under 19 with health insurance		Young adults (ages 19-25) with health insurance ^Δ	Teen births (rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	
	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2019	Change since 2014	2015-19	2017-19	Change since 2012-14
Nicholas	24.2%	✓	9.2%	✓	93.8%	✗	94%	40.5	✓
Ohio	12.9%	✓	7.5%	✓	96.2%	✓	90%	47.4	✓
Oldham	8.8%	✓	5.9%	✓	96.6%	✓	96%	7.1	✓
Owen	25.9%	✓	7.4%	✓	94.4%	✗	78%	29.8	✓
Owsley	39.8%	✓	9.7%	✓	96.0%	✓	93%	25.7	✓
Pendleton	28.0%	✗	7.9%	✗	94.6%	✓	100%	33.7	✓
Perry	34.5%	✗	9.4%	✓	95.7%	✗	83%	44.2	✓
Pike	21.6%	✓	11.0%	✗	95.2%	✗	87%	36.5	✓
Powell	27.9%	✓	7.8%	✓	95.8%	✓	87%	62.3	✓
Pulaski	24.0%	✓	9.3%	✗	95.2%	✗	90%	37.4	✓
Robertson	29.9%	✓	9.0%	✓	95.0%	✓	90%	*	N/A
Rockcastle	23.9%	✓	8.9%	✓	96.0%	✓	87%	28.1	✓
Rowan	27.8%	✓	8.6%	✓	95.6%	=	95%	15.6	✓
Russell	27.4%	✓	8.7%	✓	94.1%	✓	94%	39.3	✓
Scott	14.0%	✓	6.9%	✓	96.1%	✓	93%	18.4	✓
Shelby	11.0%	✓	8.8%	✗	93.7%	✗	87%	21.0	✓
Simpson	14.9%	✓	8.3%	✓	95.1%	=	96%	28.0	✓
Spencer	15.1%	✓	4.3%	✓	95.5%	✓	93%	17.8	✓
Taylor	23.3%	✓	9.1%	✗	95.8%	✓	88%	31.4	✓
Todd	12.6%	✓	8.5%	✗	90.9%	✓	70%	28.2	✓
Trigg	18.1%	✓	9.0%	✗	93.6%	✓	92%	29.6	✓
Trimble	26.0%	✓	11.5%	✗	95.4%	✓	86%	22.8	✓
Union	20.3%	✓	13.1%	✗	95.0%	✗	90%	33.1	✓
Warren	8.2%	✓	8.4%	✓	95.3%	✓	91%	16.5	✓
Washington	19.9%	✓	9.5%	✗	93.6%	✓	88%	23.1	✓
Wayne	25.7%	✓	8.5%	✗	96.2%	✓	78%	46.6	✓
Webster	17.1%	✓	11.9%	✗	92.8%	✗	89%	42.2	✓
Whitley	25.9%	✓	11.0%	✗	96.2%	✓	93%	40.7	✓
Wolfe	33.2%	✓	7.0%	✓	96.0%	✓	100%	46.0	✓
Woodford	12.0%	✓	8.3%	✗	94.4%	✓	96%	12.2	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

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



Family & Community

THE COMMUNITY CAN PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING MOTHERS, FATHERS, AND OTHER CAREGIVERS by helping them manage stressful situations and providing concrete supports for those struggling with basic needs, like food, housing, health care, and employment, to prevent child abuse and neglect.¹ Many complex factors, including historic and ongoing barriers to well-paying jobs for families of color and the impacts of housing segregation and discrimination, have resulted in Black and Latinx children being more likely to grow up in poverty. Providing these specific supports, and better distinguishing the difference between needs driven by poverty from cases that meet the criteria of abuse or neglect, can help address the disproportionate rates of Black children who end up in foster care.²

Incarceration practices not only impact the parent who is locked up but also the parent at home, with a large impact on their children too.³ Children need a criminal justice system that recognizes the importance of family in reducing recidivism and helps children maintain connections to their parents. Policies and practices, ranging from the over-policing of Black communities to giving Black men harsher sentences than Whites for similar offenses, have resulted in a disproportionate number of Black men being locked up.⁴ While parents must be held accountable, overincarceration for offenses that don't pose a public safety threat keeps parents from raising and providing for their children.

Kentucky can continue to build a more effective youth justice system by appropriately matching our response to the offense and applying those responses equitably. Despite only modest differences in behavior across groups, Black youth receive disparate treatment at every step of the system.⁵ Community responses get the best results when utilizing options to resolve issues without resorting to the juvenile court system and, when used, justice system responses need to be developmentally appropriate and keep youth connected to positive friendships and caring adults.⁶

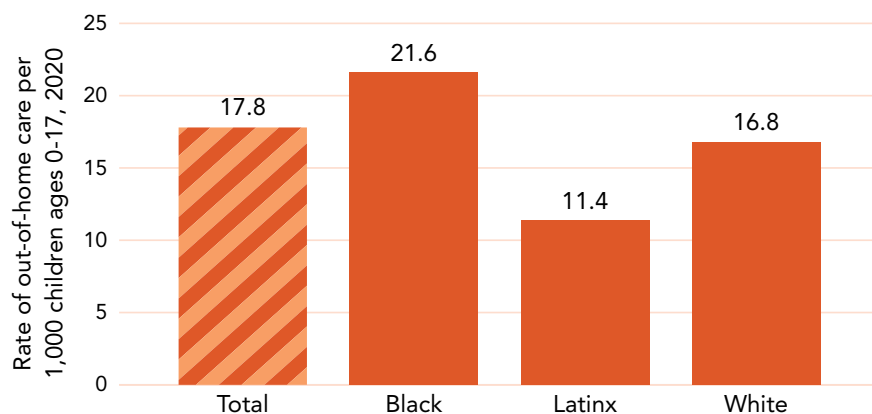


Prioritizing prevention and helping parents address basic needs can reduce the overrepresentation of Black children being removed from home and Black and Latinx children leaving out-of-home care at age 18 without a permanent family connection.

While abuse and neglect occurs among families of all income levels, poverty adds additional stressors for lower-income parents.⁷ In addition to the many factors contributing to higher rates of poverty, Black families face other complex factors that make it more likely to

have children removed from the home, such as limited preventive resources, a lack of programs specifically for families of color, implicit bias of staff, and policies that have had unintended consequences for some racial groups.⁸

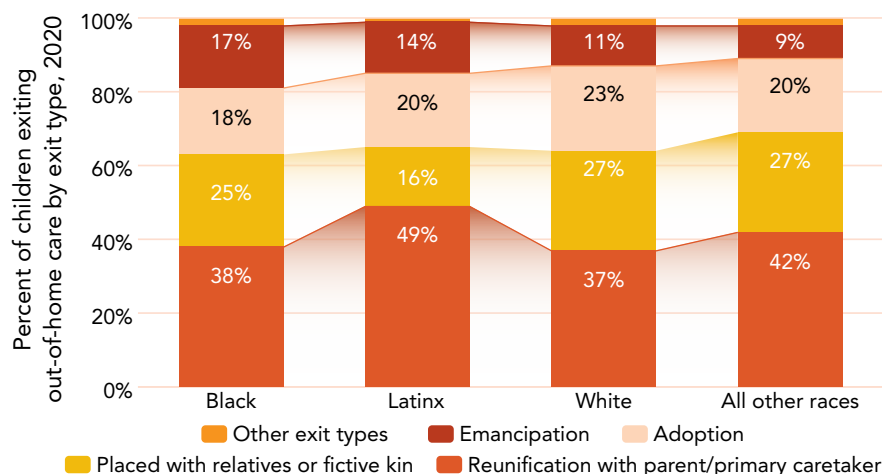
Removals from home occur at a higher rate for Black children compared to children of other races and ethnicities



SOURCE: Kentucky Department for Community Based Services. Child population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census

Healthy family connections are especially important for youth who have spent time in foster care to successfully transition to adulthood. Communities can strengthen family ties by supporting birth parents and kinship caregivers and by promoting adoption, especially for teens, to address the disparate rates of Black and Latinx youth aging out of care (i.e. emancipation) without a permanent connection to family.

Children of all races most often leave care to be reunified with parents or guardians, yet Latinx and Black youth are more likely than other youth to age out of care when they turn 18



SOURCE: Kentucky Department for Community Based Services.



SOLUTIONS

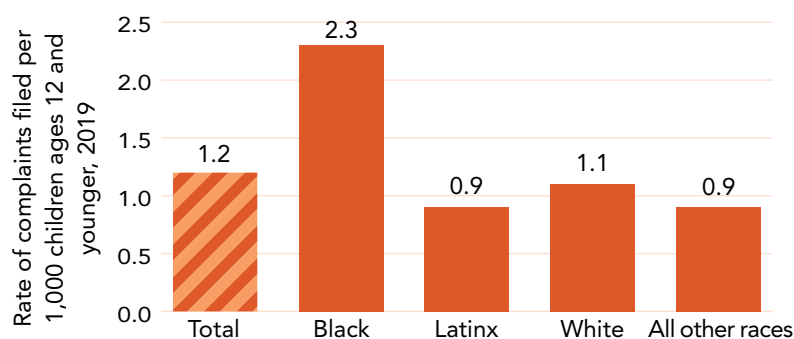
- OFFER EASY-TO-ACCESS PRIMARY PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY** to address basic needs, like housing and food, as well as common risk factors for abuse and neglect, such as substance use disorders, mental health problems, and family violence.⁹
- PRIORITIZE RELATIVE PLACEMENTS AND SUPPORT KINSHIP CAREGIVERS** with services like respite care.
- CLARIFY STATE POLICIES TO CLEARLY DISTINGUISH POVERTY FROM NEGLECT** and fund alternate paths for addressing needs related to income that don't enmesh families – especially families of color – in the child welfare system.
- ENGAGE FAMILIES AND YOUTH OF COLOR** who are directly impacted by the child welfare system, through contact with the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and the agencies they contract with. The system must value and listen to them to ensure that that prevention approaches reflect community needs and culture.¹⁰
- STRENGTHEN DCBS WORKERS' UNDERSTANDING OF AND CONNECTION TO COMMUNITIES** by diversifying direct service staff and leadership at DCBS, along with training staff on recognizing and addressing racial and ethnic bias.

Responding to youth behavior in measured and age-appropriate ways can address the disproportionate number of Black youth who get caught up in the youth justice system.

While anyone can file a complaint against a child, law enforcement accounted for 61% of complaints in 2019 and schools filed 27%. For young children ages 12 and younger, more than two-thirds of complaints are for status offenses – like missing school or running away – or misdemeanors, which can be more effectively addressed within the community instead of the courts.

Black boys are perceived by adults as being older and less innocent than their White peers,¹¹ which contributes to young Black children being more likely to have complaints filed against them. Even when young Black children have a case handled out of formal court, early charges can impact how future cases are handled.

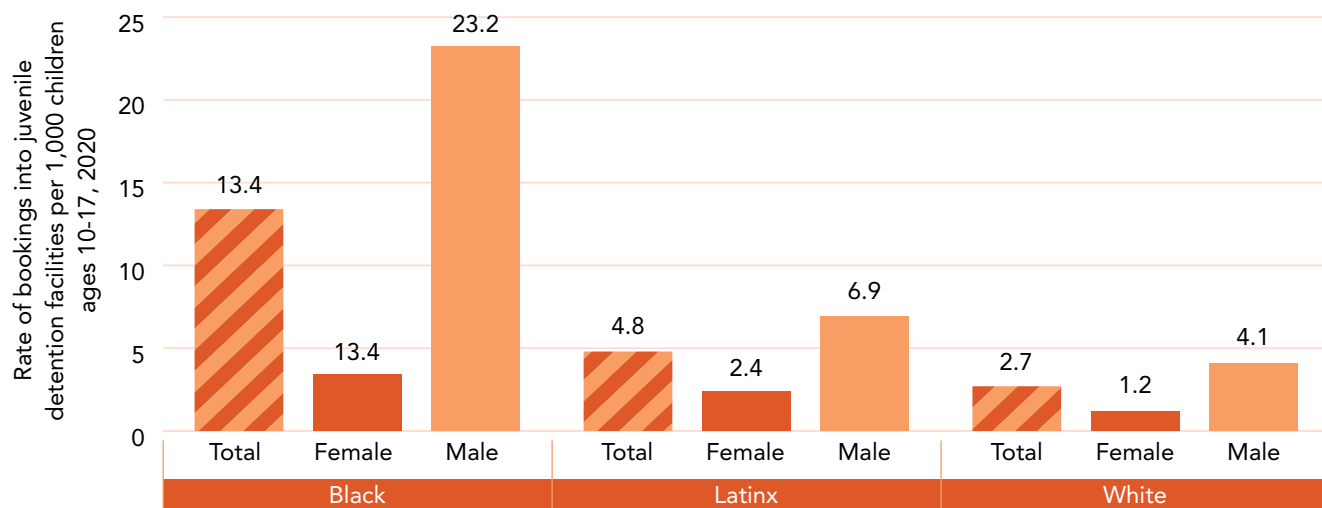
Complaints are filed on young Black children at a rate twice as high as children of other races



SOURCE: Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Designated Worker Database. Child population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics, 2019 Bridged-Race Population Estimates.

Incarceration of youth can have significant consequences for a young person's future success. Research has found it can even increase recidivism compared to youth who are not incarcerated, putting the practice at odds with improving public safety.¹² Disparities in arrests and complaints are compounded by the fact that Black children are less likely to have a chance at resolving their case outside of the formal court system,¹³ all of which contributes to Black male youth being severely overrepresented in incarcerations.

The incarceration of Black male youth far exceeds the rates experienced by other races and genders



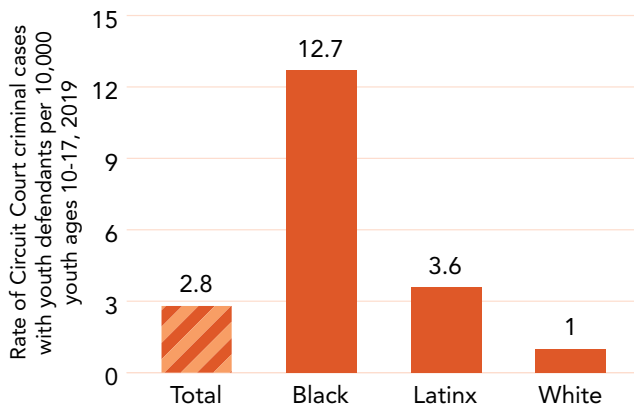
SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice. Child population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics, 2019 Bridged-Race Population Estimates.

Kentucky law allows some youth cases to be transferred to adult court, though capacity to think through long-term consequences is not fully developed until after 18 years of age.¹⁴ This can mean more time awaiting trial, loss of confidentiality, and less access to resources geared toward

youth. Until recent changes in law, youth were automatically transferred if they were with another youth who had a firearm, regardless of the young person's knowledge of the firearm.¹⁵ This contributed to very disproportionate rates of Black youth being tried as adults in the court system.

The newly revised law – which needs to be monitored for the impact on equity – now allows judges to consider important factors like whether the child used the firearm in deciding if the case should go to adult court.

Transfer policies have led to substantial disparities in youth of color being tried as adults



SOURCE: Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. Child population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics, 2019 Bridged-Race Population Estimates.



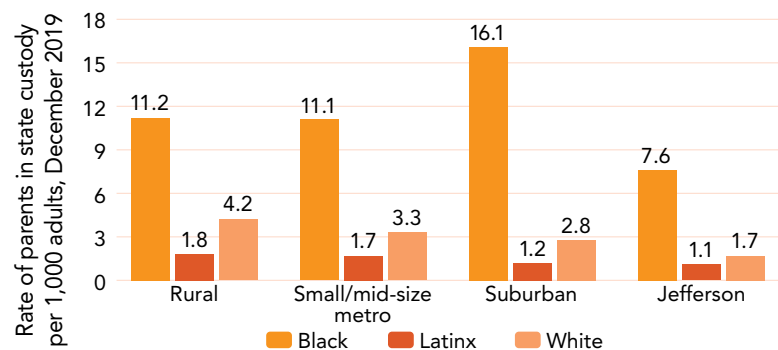
SOLUTIONS

- **STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES** to incarceration that can also be implemented prior to even charging a child with an offense. Make options that are currently available more accessible by, for example, locating them closer to children they will serve.
- **ENGAGE COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPING A PLAN** to address the drivers of juvenile justice system involvement (especially where juvenile crime and incarceration are highest), and increase early interventions, such as extracurricular activities and youth employment opportunities.
- **ALIGN DISCIPLINE RESPONSES IN SCHOOLS TO CHILDREN'S AGE** to keep young people from entering the juvenile justice system. With schools disproportionately referring Black students,¹⁶ prevention-focused approaches by schools, such as restorative justice, and increased partnerships with local organizations to counsel and mentor youth can reduce disparities.¹⁷
- **ENGAGE IMPACTED FAMILIES** in state agency planning to better understand prevention and early intervention opportunities and to reflect the strengths and needs of the Black community, which has been negatively impacted by discriminatory policies.

Utilizing alternative sentencing that allows parents to stay connected to children would minimize the trauma for children of having a parent incarcerated and the disproportionate impacts on Black youth.

Criminal justice policies have had a severe impact on Black communities. In Kentucky counties of all sizes, Black parents are incarcerated at substantially higher rates than parents of other races, with the greatest disparity in suburban counties. Giving judges more options for imposing community-based alternative sentences, such as requiring treatment to address substance use disorder or serious mental health concerns, along with more community options for judges, would reduce disparities and hold parents accountable without separating them from their children.

Incarceration practices have impacted Black families hardest across all community types



SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Corrections. Adult population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics, 2019 Bridged-Race Population Estimates.

NOTE: See page 57 for information on how counties were classified.



SOLUTIONS

- **IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS OVER-POLICING AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS** by pairing community-oriented policing with thorough analysis of crime data to target crime without casting too wide a net. Using positive police-community contacts not focused on enforcement can strengthen relationships.¹⁸ Better understanding data by race and ethnicity can identify underlying causes of crime that police can work with communities to address, such as social and structural neighborhood factors.¹⁹
- **UTILIZE COMMUNITY-BASED SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES** that promote both rehabilitation and accountability, with a statute similar to Tennessee's, which factors in whether a person is a primary caregiver so parents can continue providing for their children.²⁰



Family & Community

	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in foster care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Children exiting foster care to reunification with parent/primary caretaker		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	
	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2018-20	Change since 2013-15	2018-20	Change since 2013-15	2018-20	Change since 2013-15
Kentucky	13.3%	✓	53.7	✗	37%	✗	22.4	✓
Adair	11.9%	✗	61.8	✗	44%	✗	8.8	✓
Allen	17.2%	✓	51.0	✗	33%	=	10.7	✓
Anderson	7.2%	✓	43.6	✓	23%	✗	19.3	✓
Ballard	12.0%	✗	55.8	✗	43%	✗	25.9	✗
Barren	21.6%	✓	89.4	✗	49%	✗	13.9	✓
Bath	26.7%	✗	70.7	✗	15%	✗	5.6	✓
Bell	19.9%	✓	19.4	✗	42%	✗	43.1	✗
Boone	7.7%	✓	41.5	✗	47%	✗	10.4	✓
Bourbon	13.7%	✓	36.8	✗	33%	✗	14.3	✓
Boyd	12.2%	✗	94.4	✗	32%	✗	23.7	✓
Boyle	12.7%	✓	56.8	✓	41%	✓	14.7	✓
Bracken	7.3%	✓	39.4	✓	44%	✓	9.8	✓
Breathitt	14.5%	✓	66.6	✗	30%	✗	27.1	✓
Breckinridge	21.1%	✓	45.0	✓	40%	✗	23.6	✓
Bullitt	7.9%	✓	37.9	✗	46%	✓	19.9	✓
Butler	22.0%	✗	92.8	✗	33%	✗	16.1	✓
Caldwell	15.2%	✗	35.7	✗	20%	✓	21.3	✓
Calloway	7.4%	✓	59.1	✗	53%	✗	13.6	✓
Campbell	7.8%	✓	45.1	✓	18%	✗	21.9	✓
Carlisle	13.6%	✗	37.4	✗	73%	N/A	14.3	N/A
Carroll	20.8%	✓	77.4	✗	42%	✓	50.0	✗
Carter	12.4%	✓	105.4	✗	36%	✗	16.2	✓
Casey	29.9%	✓	19.4	✓	29%	✗	5.4	✓
Christian	13.2%	✓	34.0	✗	42%	✗	61.1	✓
Clark	12.2%	✓	58.3	✗	56%	✓	25.8	✓
Clay	26.4%	✓	84.1	✓	34%	✗	15.0	✗
Clinton	20.6%	✓	80.7	✗	16%	✗	11.4	✗
Crittenden	28.0%	✓	51.0	✗	46%	✗	13.7	✓
Cumberland	18.1%	✓	34.6	✗	63%	✓	21.8	✓



	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in foster care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Children exiting foster care to reunification with parent/primary caretaker		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	
	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14
Daviess	12.0%	✗	56.9	✗	44%	✗	26.6	✓
Edmonson	12.7%	✗	72.2	✓	41%	✓	*	N/A
Elliott	20.9%	✓	67.5	✓	27%	✓	*	N/A
Estill	16.5%	✓	53.3	✓	16%	✗	29.1	✗
Fayette	11.1%	✓	51.7	✓	30%	✗	31.4	✓
Fleming	30.5%	✗	36.6	✓	34%	⚖	6.1	✓
Floyd	16.0%	✓	60.6	✗	42%	✓	3.9	✓
Franklin	11.6%	✓	58.5	✗	50%	✓	32.0	✓
Fulton	9.7%	✓	63.7	✗	63%	N/A	28.6	✓
Gallatin	13.6%	✓	42.5	✗	47%	N/A	*	N/A
Garrard	10.1%	✓	39.9	✓	18%	✗	13.9	✓
Grant	13.5%	✓	58.3	✗	42%	✗	21.2	✓
Graves	17.4%	✓	55.3	✓	25%	✓	33.0	✗
Grayson	17.1%	✗	89.2	✗	38%	✓	13.3	✓
Green	11.0%	✓	24.5	✗	33%	✗	25.9	✗
Greenup	9.5%	✓	38.1	✗	52%	✓	12.8	✓
Hancock	10.3%	✓	30.5	✗	*	N/A	18.3	✗
Hardin	7.6%	✓	79.7	✗	39%	✓	9.1	✓
Harlan	22.0%	✓	23.8	✗	43%	✓	21.7	✗
Harrison	17.1%	✗	51.4	✗	52%	✓	16.0	✓
Hart	36.2%	✓	53.9	✗	27%	✗	13.1	✓
Henderson	12.8%	✓	27.4	✗	35%	✗	65.7	✗
Henry	16.6%	✗	28.9	✓	31%	✗	9.7	✗
Hickman	12.7%	✓	33.6	✗	*	N/A	39.2	✓
Hopkins	13.8%	✓	32.0	✗	54%	✗	36.6	✗
Jackson	25.8%	✓	95.9	✗	37%	✗	13.8	✗
Jefferson	13.3%	✓	40.8	✗	35%	✗	34.9	✗
Jessamine	9.5%	✓	54.0	✗	36%	✗	26.6	✓
Johnson	12.8%	✓	46.8	✓	38%	✓	3.0	✓
Kenton	12.0%	✓	53.1	✗	39%	✗	15.2	✓

✓ Better ⚖ No Change ✗ Worse

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



Family & Community

	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in foster care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Children exiting foster care to reunification with parent/primary caretaker		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	
	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14
Knott	23.8%	✓	31.6	✓	38%	✓	9.8	✓
Knox	19.6%	✓	80.9	✗	41%	✗	21.9	✓
LaRue	9.1%	✓	51.1	✗	44%	✗	21.8	✓
Laurel	18.2%	✓	54.1	✗	47%	✗	15.8	✓
Lawrence	15.5%	✓	56.1	✗	42%	✓	10.6	✗
Lee	17.0%	✓	57.7	✗	*	N/A	44.2	✓
Leslie	18.6%	✓	60.6	✗	57%	✓	*	N/A
Letcher	19.1%	✓	23.5	✓	46%	✗	17.1	✓
Lewis	17.9%	✗	49.2	✗	44%	✓	38.1	✗
Lincoln	19.6%	✓	48.7	✗	34%	✗	14.6	✓
Livingston	9.6%	✓	54.8	N/A	33%	✗	9.4	✗
Logan	15.2%	✓	45.9	✗	30%	✗	20.0	✓
Lyon	10.8%	✓	66.1	✓	49%	✓	24.8	✗
McCracken	10.3%	✓	66.7	✗	36%	✗	55.2	✓
McCreary	11.6%	✓	108.5	✗	34%	✗	6.6	✓
McLean	11.9%	✓	28.1	✗	23%	✗	25.2	✗
Madison	9.3%	✓	62.9	✗	32%	✗	21.1	✓
Magoffin	16.2%	✓	39.1	✓	30%	✗	14.6	✗
Marion	12.2%	✓	34.7	✗	35%	✗	12.7	✓
Marshall	9.0%	✓	53.7	✗	25%	✗	23.7	✗
Martin	24.5%	✗	90.5	✗	52%	✓	7.5	✓
Mason	14.0%	✓	57.5	✗	41%	✗	5.5	✓
Meade	8.5%	✗	59.9	✗	41%	✗	13.5	✓
Menifee	18.2%	✓	101.6	✓	19%	✓	40.3	✗
Mercer	8.0%	✓	39.7	✗	44%	✓	*	N/A
Metcalfe	14.8%	✓	60.7	✗	49%	✗	10.5	✓
Monroe	13.9%	✓	46.8	✗	63%	✗	17.9	✓
Montgomery	14.2%	✓	91.0	✗	53%	✓	7.3	✓
Morgan	15.9%	✗	87.2	✗	45%	✓	17.7	✗
Muhlenberg	13.4%	✓	30.3	✗	62%	✓	9.5	✓
Nelson	7.4%	✓	27.6	✗	39%	✓	10.8	✓



Find detailed county profiles at kyyouth.org

	Births to mothers without a high school degree		Children in foster care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)		Children exiting foster care to reunification with parent/primary caretaker		Youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system (rate per 1,000 children ages 10-17)	
	2016-18	Change since 2011-13	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14	2017-19	Change since 2012-14
Nicholas	28.1%	✗	30.1	✓	35%	✗	34.6	✗
Ohio	17.3%	✓	83.0	✗	46%	✗	27.0	✓
Oldham	6.4%	✗	11.6	✓	32%	✗	6.5	✗
Owen	13.9%	✓	71.7	✗	24%	✗	16.6	✓
Owsley	14.0%	✓	49.9	✓	*	N/A	18.4	✓
Pendleton	8.1%	✓	52.0	✗	48%	✓	30.7	✓
Perry	17.5%	✓	130.2	✗	32%	✗	10.5	✓
Pike	14.5%	✓	35.5	✗	31%	✗	3.0	✓
Powell	12.8%	✓	70.5	✗	21%	✗	40.1	✓
Pulaski	13.5%	✓	101.8	✗	43%	✗	11.8	✓
Robertson	16.4%	=	32.4	✓	0%	N/A	*	N/A
Rockcastle	13.0%	✓	53.4	✓	48%	✓	15.1	✗
Rowan	8.0%	✓	131.9	✗	37%	=	15.8	✓
Russell	16.8%	✓	77.1	✗	33%	✗	8.9	✓
Scott	9.5%	✓	36.0	✓	30%	✗	19.8	✓
Shelby	15.1%	✓	32.2	✓	34%	✗	10.1	✓
Simpson	9.7%	✓	37.6	✗	35%	✓	12.5	✓
Spencer	6.9%	✗	23.2	✗	40%	✗	3.8	✓
Taylor	12.6%	✓	44.7	✓	46%	✓	12.5	✓
Todd	36.6%	✗	36.8	✗	57%	✗	19.5	✗
Trigg	27.9%	✗	30.3	✗	76%	✓	20.1	✗
Trimble	13.8%	✗	55.3	✗	46%	✗	10.2	✗
Union	11.7%	✓	51.8	✗	15%	✗	50.9	✗
Warren	14.8%	✗	70.4	✗	27%	✗	10.5	✓
Washington	10.2%	✓	22.3	✓	37%	✗	8.0	N/A
Wayne	19.0%	✓	50.5	✗	52%	✓	17.3	✓
Webster	21.2%	✗	24.5	✓	61%	✓	40.7	✗
Whitley	15.9%	✓	89.1	✗	39%	✓	17.6	✓
Wolfe	17.0%	✓	197.3	✗	46%	✓	31.6	✓
Woodford	8.7%	✓	29.1	✗	48%	✗	7.7	✓

✓ Better = No Change ✗ Worse

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

DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

ECONOMIC SECURITY

CHILDREN IN POVERTY is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty threshold. The data reflect model-based estimates which combine data from administrative records, population estimates, and estimates from the American Community Survey to produce single-year data for all counties. For context, the poverty threshold in 2019 for a family with two adults and two children was \$25,926. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.** The most recent available estimates were processed on February 4, 2021.

CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold. A family's poverty status is determined using inflation-adjusted income and household size. For example, 200 percent of the poverty threshold in 2019 for a family with two adults and two children was \$51,852. The report does not determine the poverty status of children living in group quarters or of children under the age of 15 who are living with unrelated caregivers, such as children in foster care. The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the

survey response. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Table B17024.** The most recent available estimates were processed on February 4, 2021.

HIGH RENTAL COST BURDEN is the percentage of renters whose household income is not sufficient to afford the average cost of rent plus utilities, without having to spend 30% or more of their income on those costs. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Table DP04.** The most recent available estimates were processed on September 10, 2021.

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

The most recent available estimates were processed on September 10, 2021.

EDUCATION

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION RATE is the number of uses of out-of-school suspension per 100 enrolled students. The denominator for the rate calculation is the student membership count. Student membership counts were not verified by superintendents using the traditional process due to the pandemic. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card.** The data for were processed on September 29, 2021.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATING ON TIME is the percentage of high school students who graduated within four years. The percentage is derived using the four-year cohort method, which tracks students over a four-year period and controls for student population changes within the cohort. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card.** The most recent available data were processed on September 29, 2021.

STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS is the percentage of students with disabilities provided special educational services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The data reflect students ages

3 up to 21. The denominator for the percent calculation is the student membership count (including preschoolers). Student membership counts were not verified by superintendents using the traditional process due to the pandemic. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card.** *The most recent available data were processed on September 29, 2021.*

STUDENT HOMELESSNESS

is the percentage of students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes students who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”). The denominator for the percent calculation is the student membership count. Student membership counts were not verified by superintendents using the traditional process due to the pandemic. **SOURCE: Kentucky Department of Education, School Report Card.** *The most recent available data were processed on September 29, 2021.*

HEALTH

SMOKING DURING

PREGNANCY is the percentage of births to mothers who reported smoking at any point during pregnancy. Data were reported by mother’s place of residence. When the information for this variable was missing, the case was

excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. **SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center.** *The data are as of September 28, 2020.*

LOW-BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES

is the percentage of all infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds. Data were reported by mother’s place of residence. When the information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. **SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center.** *The data are as of September 28, 2020.*

CHILDREN UNDER 19 WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

is the percentage of children under age 19 covered by any health insurance. The data reflect model-based estimates enhanced by administrative data to produce single-year data for all counties. Primary data included in the model derive from, but are not limited to, inputs such as the American Community Survey, federal tax returns, the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid/CHIP participation, and population estimates.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.

The most recent available estimates were processed on September 10, 2021.

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 19-25) WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

is the percentage of young adults ages 19 to 25 covered by any health insurance. The data represent health insurance coverage at the time of the survey; interviews are conducted throughout the year. **SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey Estimates, Table S2701.** *The most recent available estimates were processed on September 14, 2021.*

TEEN BIRTHS is the number of births to teenagers ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data were reported by mother’s place of residence. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. The denominator for the rate calculation is the summation of the population estimates for the same three-year time period. **SOURCES: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. Teen population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center.** *The data are as of September 28, 2020.*

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE

is the percentage of all live births to women with no high school degree or its equivalent. Data were reported by mother's place of residence. When information for this variable was missing, the case was excluded from the total number of live births. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Vital Statistics Branch, processed by the Kentucky State Data Center. The data are as of September 28, 2020.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE is the number of children under age 18 per 1,000 children in this age group who lived in foster care due to abuse or neglect. Foster care includes placements in homes with relatives or unrelated caregivers, or institutional placements such as group homes or residential treatment facilities. Data are collected to reflect the county of the case manager's office, which usually corresponds with the county in which a family is being served. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. The denominator for the rate calculation is the population estimate for the midpoint year of the three-year time period. **SOURCES:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family

Services, Department for Community Based Services. Child population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. The data are as of August 27, 2021.

CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE TO REUNIFICATION is the percentage of children exiting foster care who are reunified with their parents or primary caretakers. Data are collected to reflect the county of the case manager's office, which usually corresponds with the county in which a family is being served. The numerator and denominator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. **SOURCE:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services. The data are as of August 27, 2021.

YOUTH INCARCERATED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM is the number of children per 1,000 children ages 10 to 17 booked into a secure juvenile detention facility. The numerator for the rate calculation is the summation of the three-year time period. A child may have been booked more than once during those years. The denominator for the rate calculation is the population estimate for the midpoint year of the three-year time period. **SOURCES:** Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. Child population data for rate calculation is from the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, processed by Kentucky Youth Advocates. The data are as of May 24, 2021.



ENDNOTES

Data disaggregated by rural/urban status uses collapsed categories from the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. Suburban counties include: Boone, Bracken, Bullitt, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Henry, Kenton, Oldham, Pendleton, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble. Small/mid-size metro counties include: Allen, Bourbon, Boyd, Butler, Christian, Clark, Daviess, Edmonson, Fayette, Greenup, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Jessamine, Larue, McLean, Meade, Scott, Trigg, Warren, and Woodford. Excluding Jefferson County, the remaining counties are rural.

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School district funding and student ratios



Academic proficiency and graduation rates



Young adult college and career readiness and transitions

HEALTH



Prenatal care, births to teens, and birth outcomes



Infant, child, and teen mortality



Health insurance coverage



Childhood obesity, lead poisoning, and asthma

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY



Child population demographics



Family structure



Juvenile justice system involvement



Child protection and foster care system involvement





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