



# Mercer County

## Youth Development Data

Data provided in this issue of Kentucky: By The Numbers were **compiled to correspond to the issues** covered in the **Youth Development** section of the University of Kentucky

### Cooperative Extension Statewide Community Needs Assessment

<https://extension.ca.uky.edu/community-assessment-0>

The statewide needs assessment was conducted to identify and prioritize community needs, issues, and/or opportunities that Extension could address through targeted educational programming and engagement efforts. The survey was divided into 4 sections: 1) Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2) **Youth Development**, 3) Family and Individual Development, and 4) Community and Economic Development.

These data have been compiled to assist in using the survey results for local planning. Data from nearly 40 different sources were selected and links to each data source are provided at the end. Secondary data for the other survey sections are available at <https://kybtn.ca.uky.edu/>. To learn more about Cooperative Extension at the University of Kentucky go to: <http://extension.ca.uky.edu/>.

*For questions about the assessment or the survey results, contact: Dr. Lola Adedokun (lola.adedokun@uky.edu)  
For additional data or data-related assistance, contact: Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman (jzimm@uky.edu)*

## Youth Development Survey Section

State Results, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Statewide Community Needs Assessment

In your opinion, to what extent is practical education/assistance in each of the following topics a need in your community?  
1 = Not a need, 2 = Low need, 3 = Moderate need, 4 = Very high need, 5 = Very high need



**Youth Populations**

**Population Estimates<sup>1</sup> (2022)**

	County
Population under 5 years old	1,263
Population ages 5-9 years old	1,352
Population ages 10-14 years old	1,491
Population ages 15-19 years old	1,361

**Population Projections<sup>2</sup> (2035)**

	County
Population under 5 years old	1,386
Population ages 5-9 years old	1,433
Population ages 10-14 years old	1,495
Population ages 15-19 years old (2035)	1,390

**Population under 19 Years Old<sup>1</sup> (2022)**

	County
Total Population under 19	5,467
<b>Race</b>	
Black or African American	174
American Indian or Alaska Native	18
Asian	55
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	9
White	4,937
2 or more races	274
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Hispanic	284

**Disability<sup>3</sup> (2018-2022)**

	County
Population Ages 5-17 with a Disability	307 (+/- 155)
Percent of Population Ages 5-17 with a Disability	8.4% (+/- 4.2%)

**Youth Vulnerability**

**Food Insecurity<sup>6</sup> (2021)**

	County
Overall Food Insecurity Rate	10.8%
Number of Food Insecure Persons	2,430
Child Food Insecurity Rate	11.0%
Number of Food Insecure Children	550

**Poverty<sup>4</sup> (2022)**

	County
Child Poverty Rate (under 18 years old)	18.0% (12.3% - 23.7%)
Number of Children (under 18 years old) below Poverty	880 (599 - 1,161)

**Health Insurance<sup>5</sup> (2021)**

	County
Population under 19 without Health Insurance	237 (+/- 67)

**Food Assistance<sup>7</sup> (2022 monthly average)**

	County
Number of children receiving aid from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ( <b>SNAP</b> )	904
Number of infants and children receiving Women, Infants, and Children assistance ( <b>WIC</b> )	411

**Youth Vulnerability** *(continued)*

<b>Youth at School<sup>8</sup></b> (2022-2023 Academic Year)	
	<b>County</b>
Number of Students who are Economically Disadvantaged (based on being program or income eligible for free or reduced-priced meals)	1,835
Number of Students with Disabilities who have an Individual Education Program (IEP)	628
Number of Students Identified as English Learners	64*
Number of Students Identified as Homeless	107*
Number of Students Identified and Served as Migrant	53*

*\* = Due to confidentiality, data are undisclosed, or county total does not include schools/districts with undisclosed data.*

<b>School Behavior Events<sup>8</sup></b> (2022-2023 Academic Year)	
	<b>County</b>
Number of Behavior Events at School resulting in a State Resolution...	398
... Assault, 1st degree	0
... Other Assault or Violence	16*
... Weapons	3
... Harassment (includes bullying)	58
... Drugs	20*
... Alcohol	0
... Tobacco	104

*\* = Due to confidentiality, data are undisclosed, or county total does not include schools/districts with undisclosed data.*

**Youth Workforce Development**

<b>High School Opportunities<sup>8</sup></b> (2022-2023 Academic Year)	
	<b>County</b>
Number of Students Participating in Career and Technical Education (CTE)	355
Number of Students Enrolled in Dual Credit Courses	202
Number of Students Enrolled in AP Courses (Advanced Placement)	115

*\* = Due to confidentiality, data are undisclosed, or county total does not include schools/districts with undisclosed data.*

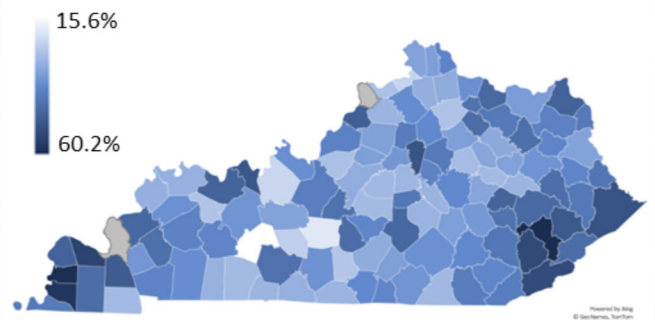
<b>High School Graduates<sup>9</sup></b> (2020-2021 Graduates)	
	<b>County</b>
Number of High School Graduates	227
<b>Percent of 2020-2021 High School Graduating class...</b>	
... who were Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch	44.9%
... Earning an Industry Certificate	16.7%
... who Enrolled in at Least One Advanced Placement (AP) Course	30.0%
... who Earned College Credit prior to Graduation	36.1%

**Youth Workforce Development** *(continued)*

**College-Going<sup>9</sup>**  
(2020-2021 High School Graduates)

	County
Number of 2020-2021 High School Graduates Entering College	97
Overall College-Going Rate	42.7%
College-Going Rate - Males	29.7%
College-Going Rate - Females	59.6%
College-Going Rate for Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	29.4%

**College-Going Rate for Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch<sup>9</sup>**  
(2020-2021 Graduates)



**Data Sources**

- 2022 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.  
<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-detail.html>
- Population Projections. Vintage 2022. Kentucky State Data Center.  
<http://ksdc.louisville.edu/data-downloads/projections/>
- Table S1810. 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.  
[https://data.census.gov/table?t=Disability&g=040XX00US21,21\\$0500000&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Subject%20Tables](https://data.census.gov/table?t=Disability&g=040XX00US21,21$0500000&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Subject%20Tables)
- Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>
- Small Areas Health Insurance Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie.html>
- Map the Meal Gap. Feeding America.  
<https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2021/child>
- Kids Count Data Center. Annie E. Casey Foundation.  
<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data?location=KY#KY/2/0/char/0>
- Kentucky School Report Card. Kentucky Department of Education.  
<https://www.kyschoolreportcard.com/home?year=2023>
- High School Feedback Report, August 2023. Kentucky Center for Statistics (KY Stats).  
<https://kystats.ky.gov/Latest/HSFRStatic>

**Margins of Error**

For counties with small populations and small population groups, the **margins of error** (indicated by a +/- \_\_\_) or confidence intervals (indicated by a range) can be quite large.

The margin of error or confidence interval tells us how precise the estimate is by indicating the **range within which the estimate most likely falls**.

For help in understanding the margin of error, see the brief *Kentucky: By The Numbers* publication

*“And Now for the Grain of Salt.”*

Additional data are available at:  
**Kentucky: By The Numbers**  
(<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/snarl/Index.htm>)

