

2026 KIDS COUNT® DATA PROFILE

# KENTUCKY

OVERALL SCORE <b>498</b> BETTER	OVERALL RANK <b>36</b>
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<b>ECONOMIC WELL-BEING</b>	SCORE	RANK
	<b>507</b> BETTER	<b>39</b>

	UNITED STATES			KENTUCKY		
<b>Children in poverty</b> US 11,117,000   KY 192,000	17% 2019	15% 2024	↓ BETTER	22% 2019	19% 2024	↓ BETTER
<b>Children whose parents lack secure employment</b> US 18,420,000   KY 287,000	26% 2019	25% 2024	↓ BETTER	31% 2019	28% 2024	↓ BETTER
<b>Children living in households with a high housing cost burden</b> US 22,385,000   KY 232,000	30% 2019	31% 2024	↑ WORSE	23% 2019	23% 2024	STABLE
<b>Teens not in school and not working</b> US 1,218,000   KY 20,000	6% 2019	7% 2024	↑ WORSE	8% 2019	8% 2024	STABLE

<b>EDUCATION</b>	SCORE	RANK
	<b>429</b> WORSE	<b>22</b>

	UNITED STATES			KENTUCKY		
<b>Young children (ages 3 and 4) not in school</b> US 4,277,000   KY 70,000	52% 2015-19	54% 2020-24	↑ WORSE	59% 2015-19	63% 2020-24	↑ WORSE
<b>Fourth graders not proficient in reading</b> US N.A.   KY N.A.	66% 2019	70% 2024	↑ WORSE	65% 2019	67% 2024	↑ WORSE
<b>Eighth graders not proficient in math</b> US N.A.   KY N.A.	67% 2019	73% 2024	↑ WORSE	71% 2019	76% 2024	↑ WORSE
<b>High school students not graduating on time</b> US N.A.   KY N.A.	14% 2018-19	13% 2023-24	↓ BETTER	9% 2018-19	8% 2023-24	↓ BETTER

N.A.: Not available

**Note:** Rankings show how states compare. Scores range from 0 (worst) to 1,000 (best) and reflect child well-being relative to a 2019 baseline; changes over time indicate progress or decline. Scores are not percentages or a finish line; higher scores indicate better outcomes.

Explore data on children and families at [datacenter.aecf.org](https://datacenter.aecf.org).



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HEALTH	UNITED STATES			KENTUCKY		SCORE	RANK
	2019	2024	TREND	2019	2024	556 BETTER	31
<b>Low birth-weight babies</b> US 308,966   KY 4,640	8.3%	8.5%	↑ WORSE	8.7%	8.8%	↑ WORSE	
<b>Children without health insurance</b> US 4,648,000   KY 54,000	6%	6%	STABLE	4%	5%	↑ WORSE	
<b>Child and teen deaths per 100,000</b> US 21,189   KY 335	25	27	↑ WORSE	29	31	↑ WORSE	
<b>Children and teens (ages 10 to 17) who are overweight or obese</b> US N.A.   KY N.A.	31%	30%	↓ BETTER	37%	33%	↓ BETTER	

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	UNITED STATES			KENTUCKY		SCORE	RANK
	2019	2024	TREND	2019	2024	501 BETTER	44
<b>Children in single-parent families</b> US 23,472,000   KY 316,000	34%	34%	STABLE	36%	34%	↓ BETTER	
<b>Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma</b> US 7,868,000   KY 103,000	12%	11%	↓ BETTER	11%	10%	↓ BETTER	
<b>Children living in high-poverty areas</b> US 5,419,000   KY 109,000	9%	7%	↓ BETTER	15%	11%	↓ BETTER	
<b>Teen births per 1,000</b> US 137,273   KY 2,975	17	13	↓ BETTER	25	20	↓ BETTER	

N.A.: Not available

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Kentucky Youth Advocates | [kyyouth.org](http://kyyouth.org) | 502.895.8167

Find additional data on this state's children and families at [datacenter.aecf.org/KY](http://datacenter.aecf.org/KY).

Learn about child well-being and state scores and rankings at [www.aecf.org/databook](http://www.aecf.org/databook).