

## 2008 Kentucky Facts and Solutions that were displayed in the Capitol tunnel during Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol

**FACT:** Almost 10% of Kentucky's children do not have health insurance of any kind. *(2006 United State Census Bureau)*

**Solution:** Improve Access to Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program by simplifying enrollment.


**FACT:** Only 45% of Kentucky's dentists serve children on Medicaid. *(2007 Kentucky Dental Provider Workforce Analysis by University of Louisville)*

**SOLUTION:** Improve Access to Dental Care Services for Children by offering loan forgiveness for dentists who serve in underserved areas.

**FACT:** Only 35% of low-income children received dental services in 2006. *(2007 Kentucky KIDS COUNT Databook by Kentucky Youth Advocates)*

**SOLUTION:** Improve Access to Dental Care Services for Children by ensuring that all children see a dentist before enrolling in school.

**FACT:** Kentucky's high school graduation rate is 83%. *(2007 Kentucky KIDS COUNT Databook by Kentucky Youth Advocates)*

**SOLUTION:** Ensure an integrated, birth-to-five, early learning system by expanding access to pre-kindergarten for children in families. 

**FACT:** 32% of Kentucky children were in public preschool in 2007. *(2007 Kentucky KIDS COUNT Databook by Kentucky Youth Advocates)*

**SOLUTION:** Ensure an integrated, birth-to-five, early learning system by instituting a collaborative grant process that places pre-k programs in diverse community settings.

**FACT:** 52% of young children are read to everyday in Kentucky. *(2007 Kentucky Early Childhood Profile by the National Center for Children in Poverty)*

**SOLUTION:** Ensure an integrated, birth-to-five, early learning system by ensuring adequate funding for quality child care programs.

**FACT:** 48% of low-income children have a parent who works full-time. *(2007 Kentucky Early Childhood Profile by the National Center for Children in Poverty)*

**SOLUTION:** Enhance resources for accessible child care services by allowing additional low-income working families to have access to the child care subsidy program.

**FACT:** Kentucky child poverty rate is consistently higher than the national average. *(2007 Kentucky KIDS COUNT Databook by Kentucky Youth Advocates)*

**SOLUTION:** Protect families from abusive lending practices by setting a cap on the fees check-cashing establishments can charge Kentucky's low-income families.

**FACT:** One out of five children in Kentucky lives in poverty everyday. *(2007 Kentucky KIDS COUNT Databook)*

**SOLUTION:** Provide tax relief by offering a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to Kentucky's hard working families.

**FACT:** Over 15,000 children in Kentucky were victims of child abuse in 2006. *(2007 Kentucky KIDS COUNT Databook by Kentucky Youth Advocates)*

"We get a report at least once a week that there's kids home alone (because child care costs are unaffordable)". - Kentucky Case Worker

"I had to miss school to go with my mom to the hospital to translate. I had to tell my mom that she had cancer. I had to know first." - Kentucky Youth

"Payday lenders have you in a squeeze. My mom always says, 'They take you for a fool.' But if she won't let me use her bank, then it is either the payday place or nothing." - Kentucky Resident

"I was always told I was a bad kid. Apparently, people here believe something different." - Kentucky Youth

"There are at least 5 dentists here and one who takes Medicaid – and he is not taking any new patients." - Kentucky Parent