

Using the 2008 County Data Book

The Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book provides statistics for professionals, state policymakers, and community members who work to improve the lives of children in Kentucky. The indicators selected for this book represent various measurements of children's economic well-being, education, health, and safety.

The County Data Book presents a discussion of each indicator, including definitions and data sources, and the most current data for Kentucky and all 120 counties. Where available, data are disaggregated by race to identify systemic inequities in policies and programs that have created disparities among racial groups.

The data included in this book were provided by or available from state and federal agencies. Standard mathematical formulas were used to convert data to rates or percents. (See Important Data Reminders below.) The included graphs and maps were developed by Kentucky Youth Advocates and the Urban Studies Institute, University of Louisville.

Making Sense of the Data

There are several ways to gather meaning from the numbers presented in the KIDS COUNT book.

- ▶ For indicators with rates, which account for differences in population size, compare the rate for your county to the rate for the state as a whole and the rates for surrounding counties.
- ▶ Many indicators include data for different time periods. See if the number has increased or decreased over time.
- ▶ If the indicator also provides rates for different time periods, see how your county has changed over time, taking into account changes in the population.

- ▶ For indicators without rates, you can estimate the extent of participation in your county. For example, for KCHIP participation, calculate the percent of all KCHIP participants who live in your county (by dividing your county's number of participants by the statewide total number of participants). Compare that percent to the percent of Kentucky children who live in your county (by dividing your county's child population by the statewide child population). The percents will be similar if your county follows the statewide trend.

- ▶ Race is reported according to the categories used by the source.

Important Data Reminders

- ▶ Data are based on different time intervals (i.e., calendar year, fiscal year, academic year, and three-year averages). Readers should check each indicator, definition, and data source to determine the reported time period.
- ▶ For counties where the incidence of an indicator is too small to be considered meaningful, no rates are reported. The same is true for raw numbers for some indicators.
- ▶ Indicators may be reported as either raw data, as rates, or both.
- ▶ Reported rates may vary. Readers should review each heading definition to interpret the rates (i.e., percent, which is rate per 100; or rate per 1,000 or 100,000).
- ▶ Percentages are rounded and, therefore, may not add up to 100.

Accessing County Profiles

Readers may also access specific county profiles on the Kentucky Youth Advocates website (www.kyyouth.org). The county profiles provide a snapshot of the data from all of the indicators for a single county.

Additional Web Resources

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, which funds Kentucky KIDS COUNT, offers data on the KIDS COUNT data web page, <http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter>. Data available on the site includes state-level data, legislative-district data, data for large cities, as well as county-level data submitted by Kentucky Youth Advocates available through CLIKS (Community-Level Information on Kids). Users can generate a number of reports, including profiles, graphs, maps, and rankings.