



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

KENTUCKY
YOUTH
ADVOCATES

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2010 Bicycle Friendly State Rankings Announced
Kentucky Shows Improvement but More Needs to be Done

Jeffersontown, KY - To coincide with Bike to Work Day and Bike to Work Week, the [League of American Bicyclists](#) announced the third annual [Bicycle Friendly State \(BFS\) rankings](#). A Bicycle Friendly State is defined as a state that promotes cycling through legislation, policies and programs, creates new places to ride, educates motorists and cyclists, and encourages people to bike for transportation and recreation.

Kentucky ranked 22nd this year, compared to 27th in 2009 and 29th in 2008. This shows that Kentucky is making an effort to promote active transportation such as bicycling, which ultimately increases physical activity in the state.

“Kentucky is improving in its focus on bicycling and physical activity, but there is much more to be done, particularly in the area of infrastructure,” said Lacey McNary, Deputy Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates, and Kentucky Safe Routes to School Network Organizer.

While Kentucky received a grade of A for enforcement, it received a D for infrastructure, education and encouragement, and evaluation and planning. The first category, enforcement, refers to the types of training that law enforcement officers and traffic court judges receive to ensure protection of cyclists’ rights to the road and safe travel on shared roadways. The latter three categories refer to the amount of facilities and spending for bicycling, the amount of bicycling education in the state for adults and youth alike and how bicycling is incorporated into each state’s yearly planning.

“We envision a state where streets are designed with all people in mind, including bicyclists, pedestrians, bus passengers, and those with disabilities,” said McNary. “When a state is bicycle friendly, safe routes to school can be implemented more effectively.”

Safe routes to school provide a variety of benefits to children and their communities including increasing physical activity, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and enhancing neighborhood safety.

The city of Louisville adopted a policy in 2008, called “Complete Streets,” which greatly benefits safe routes to school, and Lexington is currently in the process of adopting a similar policy. Both Louisville and Lexington received a Bronze award in these rankings for being bicycle friendly communities, particularly in the area of engineering. These two communities are taking the lead in Kentucky to build the proper infrastructure to encourage bicycling.

View an entire [state ranked list](#) and a [breakdown of how states fared](#) in each evaluation category. Also view a detailed [Bicycle Friendly America map](#). Click on each state for information.

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[Kentucky Youth Advocates](#) is a non-partisan, non-profit, children's advocacy organization. KYA represents a voice for Kentucky's most precious asset – its youth. We believe that Kentucky's youth deserve the opportunities and resources necessary to ensure their productive development and health.

[Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) Kentucky State Network](#) Kentucky Youth Advocates organizes the Kentucky Safe Routes to School State Network which is connected to the [Safe Routes to School National Partnership \(SRTSNP\)](#). This partnership includes more than 400 nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, and professionals working together to advance the SRTS movement in the United States.