



Press Release
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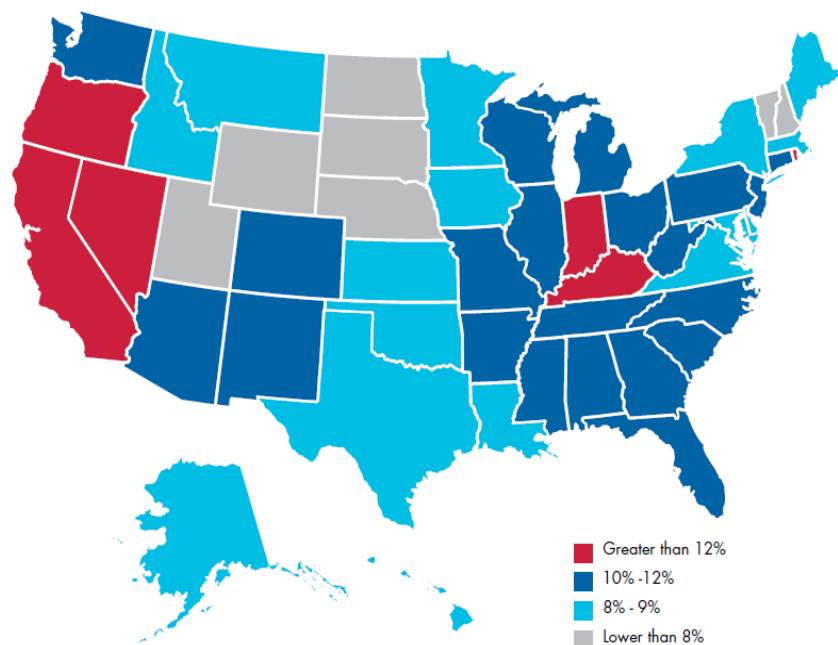
More than One in Eight Kentucky Children Have an Unemployed Parent

Jeffersontown, KY – A new report analyzing national and state unemployment rates reveals that more than 1 in 8 Kentucky children have at least one unemployed parent, totaling nearly 126,000 children. Kentucky's rate is higher than the nationwide rate of 1 in 10 children. Approximately 7.7 million children nationwide have an unemployed parent looking for work.

“Although national experts have declared the recession ‘over,’ these staggering numbers indicate that Kentucky families are still suffering from the recession, and children are not immune to the effects of job losses,” said Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates. “In fact, the recession has doubled the number of children nationally with an unemployed parent.”

The analysis released by [First Focus](#), a national bipartisan child advocacy organization, reports that between January and September 2010, Kentucky experienced an unemployment rate of 10.5 percent. According to the report, kids with an unemployed parent are more likely to experience homelessness, suffer from child abuse, fail to complete high school or college, and live in poverty as adults than other children.

Kentucky among States with Highest Percentage of Children with an Unemployed Parent



“It is imperative that Congress moves now to ensure the continuity of much needed services that are of immense value to low-income and unemployed families with children. Unemployment benefits kept one million children out of poverty in 2009. We urge Congress to continue this program through 2011 in order to protect our most vulnerable children,” said Bruce Lesley, president of First Focus.

Kentucky’s rate of 13 percent of children with unemployed parents is only slightly lower than the highest rate in the country, held by Nevada at 16 percent. “This should serve as a wake-up call to our federal congressional delegation that children and families are still suffering greatly and are in need of help,” Brooks said.

[Click here to download the analysis by First Focus with state-specific data.](#)

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[Kentucky Youth Advocates](#) is home to the Kentucky Tax and Budget Initiative. We work to promote an adequate, sustainable and transparent budget upon which we can build strong public structures and the long-term economic vitality of the Commonwealth.