Economic Security

Good news
• Pre-pandemic poverty levels were moving in the right direction

Bad news
• Only 3 states had higher child poverty rates
• Almost one-fifth of kids were food insecure
Education

Good news
• Continued improvement in on-time high school graduation and Kindergarten readiness

Bad news
• Almost half not sufficiently prepared for Kindergarten
• Persistent and significant racial disparities in graduation rates

Kentucky Kids Count
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Good news
• Huge improvements in teen births and proportion of mothers smoking during pregnancy
• Record high insurance coverage for kids

Bad news
• Low-weight births remain stubbornly high
• Coverage gap for Latinx children
Good news
• Decline in youth incarceration

Bad news
• Persistent increases in youth in foster care and fewer being reunified with parents
• Pervasive racial disparities throughout the system of juvenile justice

Family & Community
FACING THE DUAL PANDEMICS

OF COVID-19

AND RACIAL INJUSTICE
More than half of Kentucky households with children reported losing income from employment since the pandemic began, and more than a third expected to lose income in the month ahead.

Only 60 percent of Kentucky adults in households with children reported being employed in the past 7 days, and disparities exist by race.

- **Lost employment income since March 13, 2020**
  - KY Total: 60%
  - Black Households: 45%
  - White Households: 63%

- **Expected to lose employment income in the next 4 weeks**
Even before the pandemic, more than one in three students of color lacked adequate technology at home, putting them at higher risk of falling behind.

The percent of children receiving routine vaccinations has dropped substantially across age groups due to COVID-19.

- **Students of color**: 35%
- **All Kentucky students**: 30%

- **Ages 0–2**: DOWN 11%
- **Ages 3–6**: DOWN 27%
- **Ages 7–13**: DOWN 31%
- **Ages 14–18**: DOWN 41%
EVEN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC
KENTUCKY’S CHILD CARE SECTOR
WAS INSUFFICIENT FOR FAMILIES
AND UNSTABLE FOR
CHILD CARE CENTERS
HALF
of Kentucky communities are
CHILD CARE DESERTS
WHERE FAMILIES HAVE LIMITED OR NO ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

12% of Kentucky children have had a PARENT INCARCERATED
AND KENTUCKY RANKS 3RD HIGHEST in the nation

Please visit:

kyyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/
kyyouth.org/race-equity/
datacenter.kidscount.org/ky
THRIVING COMMUNITIES
launch strong families.

SUCCESSFUL KIDS
launch a prosperous future for Kentucky.

BLUEPRINT for KENTUCKY’S CHILDREN

STRONG FAMILIES
launch successful kids.
Questions?

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