

WHAT'S NEXT, KENTUCKY?

Let's Talk About Our Future

A Guide for Community Discussions

What's Next, Kentucky? is a non-partisan, statewide initiative to encourage community-based conversations about our state's future and to help communities plan actions based on their own ideas for building a stronger Kentucky. It is being organized by a broad—and growing—network of state and local partners from non-profit, philanthropic, governmental, educational, and faith-based organizations—the **Kentucky Network for Public Life**.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Kentuckians from all walks of life are encouraged to come together in productive conversations and to localize the discussion to the needs and opportunities in their own communities. Here's how we can help.

The **Kentucky Network for Public Life** will offer regional workshops and ongoing assistance for those who want to convene and facilitate local discussions. They will provide discussion guides for community members and support materials for local planning teams.

As communities come together to hold conversations and set directions, the **Kentucky Network for Public Life** will provide coaching and other assistance to help communities turn ideas into actions.

Along the way, **What's Next, KY?** will share your stories so that Kentuckians can find out what their neighbors are doing to create a more prosperous future. We'll also be sharing insights with others who are working to build strong local communities throughout Kentucky and the nation.

TO GET STARTED...

Visit www.whatsnextky.org

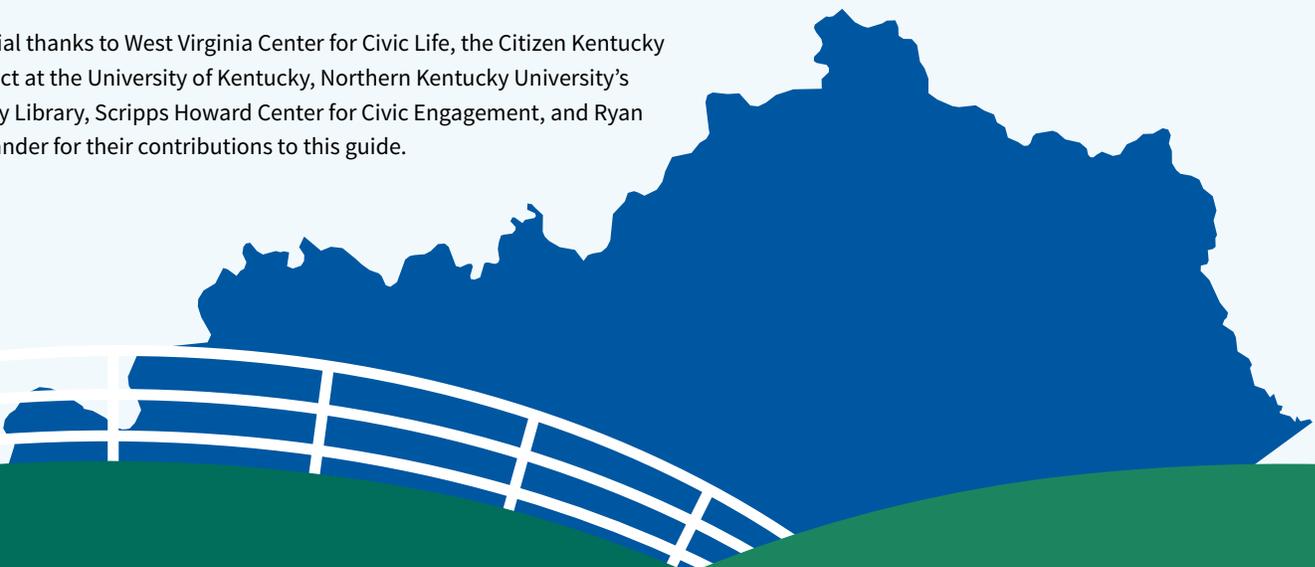
Call the Kentucky Network for Public Life at 859-572-7614

Email execdirector@kycompact.org

ABOUT THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

The ideas and examples in this guide represent the diverse thinking and actions of our state's residents, and not necessarily those of the project sponsors. This project is based on *What's Next, West Virginia?* and is supported by Kentucky Campus Compact.

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WHAT'S NEXT, KENTUCKY?

This discussion guide is intended to help you learn about Kentucky's health, education, and economy, hear about some of the work that's happening around the state, and connect with helpful resources.

Most of all, it is intended to help you have discussions in your community that connect people who are already working to build a stronger Kentucky—while bringing many new people into the conversation!

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THINKING TOGETHER ABOUT A STRONGER KENTUCKY

Born of exploration as the nation moved west, Kentuckians continued to explore. Audubon gave us “Birds of America.” Lincoln gave us the Gettysburg Address and a new birth of freedom. John Marshall Harlan gave us his great Supreme Court dissents, turning our nation’s conscience toward equal rights. In the arts, a raft of writers populate the Kentucky literary canon, from Harriet Simpson Arnow to Barbara Kingsolver. Here is a state where a genre of improvisational music, bluegrass, was born as was one of the world’s most innovative automobile factories – the Toyota plant in Georgetown.

So what does the 21st Century hold? What’s next, Kentucky?

We are a state that grew from the land and its resources – hemp, tobacco, timber, coal, and, briefly, iron. What part of our futures rests with extraction and agriculture? Will energy, which has for decades been an industrial staple, continue to be that in the age of renewable sources? Is our educational system positioned to carry us toward the future we imagine? Is our health care system optimal?

THIS CONVERSATION IS ABOUT ASKING OURSELVES SUCH QUESTIONS – AND TRYING TO ANSWER THEM. TOGETHER, LET’S WORK TOGETHER TO:

- Better understand the issues involved.
- Identify issues, but also opportunities.
- Consider benefits and drawbacks of different approaches.
- Explore how to work together on opportunities.
- Identify actions that can be supported with time, energy, and resources.
- Identify next steps for discussion and action.

So let’s talk Kentucky. Let’s discover whether a state rich in heritage, rich in natural resources, and rich and talent and ideas can harness those for common good. For the commonwealth.

ECONOMY

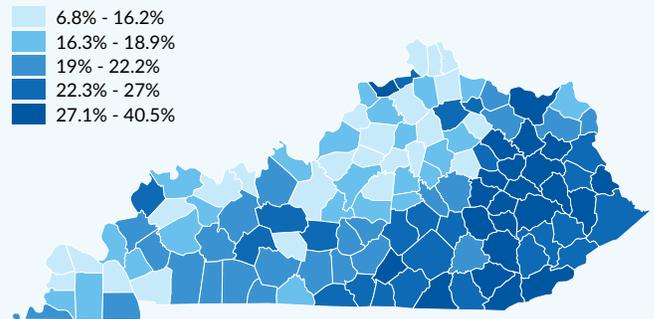
Kentucky's People

Kentucky Population: 4,425,092 U.S. Population: 321,418,821

RACE	KY	U.S.
White	87.8%	72.4%
Black or African American	7.8%	12.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.9%
Asian	1.1%	4.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.2%
Some other race	1.3%	6.2%
Two or more races	1.7%	2.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3.1%	16.3%



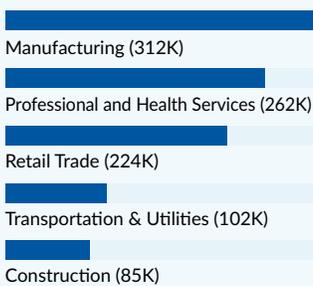
Percentage of Population Living in Poverty



Top 5 Industries - 1980 vs. 2014

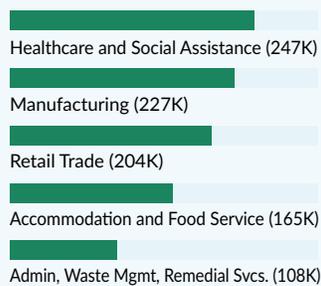
1980

1,388,046 Total Employed

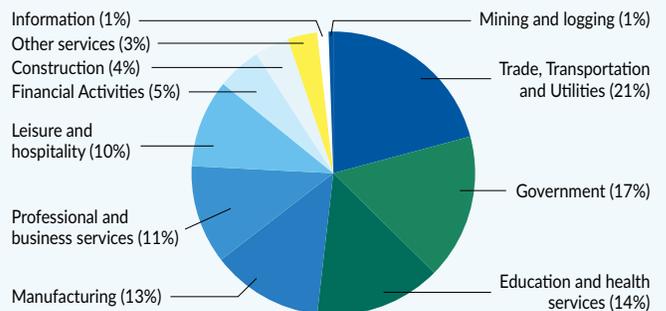


2014

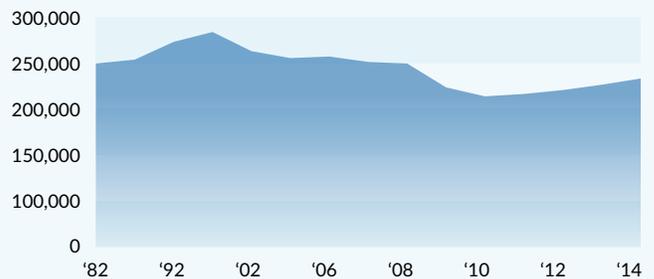
1,535,417 Total Employed



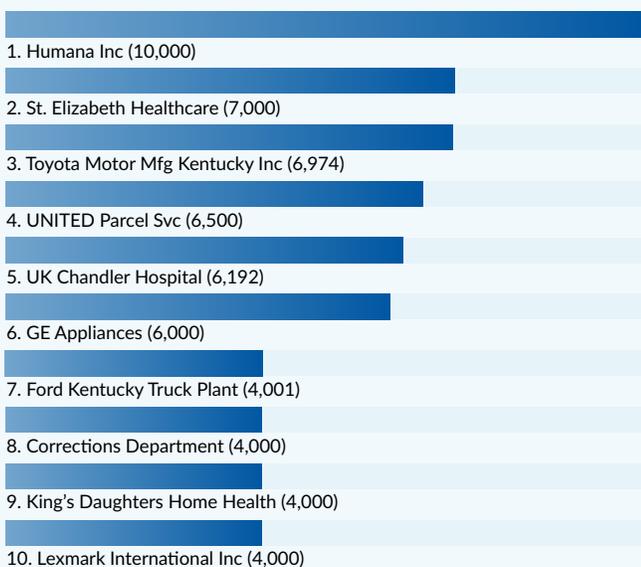
Employment Distribution by Sector (2016)



Manufacturing Jobs Since the 1980s



Top 10 Largest Employers



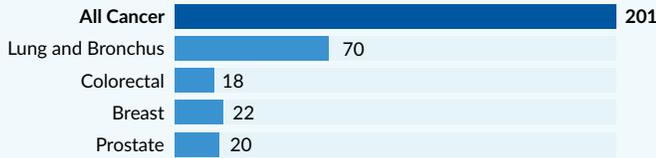
Coal Mining Jobs Since the 1980s



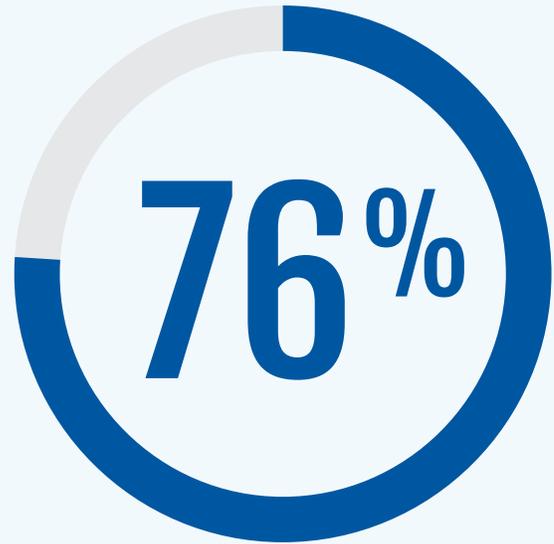
*References on page 19

HEALTH

Number of cancer deaths per 100,000 people

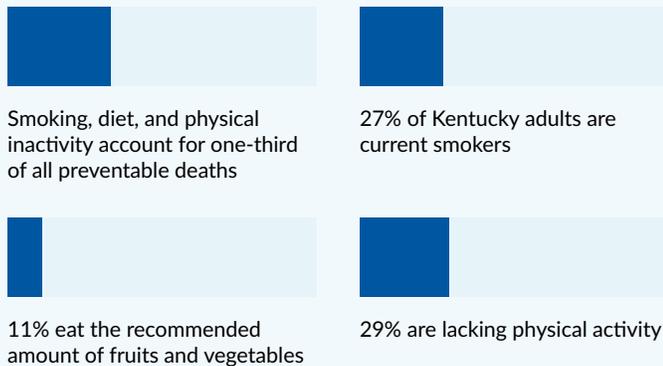


Substance Abuse



of Kentucky Adults report good health
83% of adults nationwide report good health

Smoking, diet, and physical activity



Oral Health

- 24% of Kentucky adults are missing 6 or more teeth.
- Two out of five 3rd and 6th graders have untreated cavities.
- Kentucky has the 5th highest rate of "toothlessness" in the country among adults 65 and older.
- 1.7 million Kentucky adults lack dental insurance.

Mental Health

- 24% of Kentucky adults are diagnosed with depressive disorders (compared to 19% in the U.S.)
- Kentuckians experience 5 mentally unhealthy days per month.



of Kentucky adults have healthcare coverage



of Kentucky adults do not have healthcare coverage



of Kentuckians are enrolled in Medicaid

*References on page 19

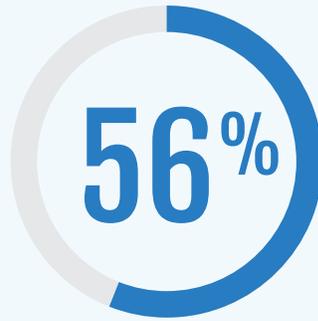
EDUCATION



The percentage of Kentucky Kindergarten students who are ready for Kindergarten



The graduation rate for Kentucky's universities (6-year Bachelor's Degree)



The percentage of Kentucky High School students who are ready for college by graduation



The percentage of Kentucky High School students who are ready for career by graduation

College readiness of recent Kentucky High School graduates who are entering Kentucky Institutions

	Prepared	Underprepared
4-Year Institutions	83.8%	16.2%
Kentucky Community and Technical College System	46.2%	53.8%
Total	70.5%	29.5%

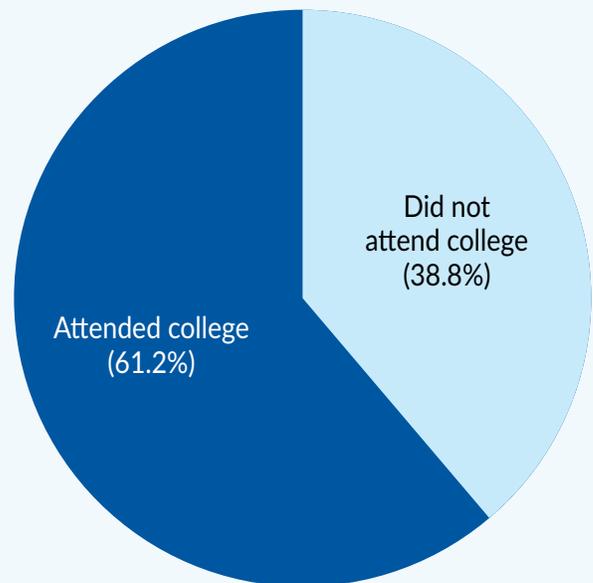
Educational Attainment

	KY	U.S.
Less than a high school diploma or equivalent	17%	13.9%
High school diploma or equivalent	34%	28.1%
Some college but no degree	20.5%	21.2%
Associate degree	7.1%	7.8%
Bachelor's degree	12.8%	18%
Graduate or professional degree	8.8%	10.8%

High school graduation rate

	KY (2014-15)	U.S. (2013-14)
High school graduation rate	88%	82%

Overall College Going Rates for 2012 Public High School Graduates



Financial Aid

How much financial aid did 2012 public high school graduates from Kentucky receive in 2013?

	Average	Awards
Kentucky Ed. Excellence Scholarships (Kees)	\$1,075	39,081
State need-based grants	\$561	6,175
State non-need-based grants	\$1,229	18,451
Federal Pell grants	\$2,030	10,681
Federal need-based loans	\$1,513	7,163
Federal non-need-based loans	\$1,047	7,010
Institutional grants	\$2,001	7,128

*References on page 19

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KENTUCKY?

Across the state, Kentuckians are pioneering new models aimed at creating a healthy future for their communities. Here is a sampling of their work. You'll find many more examples at www.whatsnextky.org.



HIGH TECH - MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY'S SPACE SCIENCE PROGRAM (MOREHEAD, KY)

MSU's Space Science program is one of only five space science programs in the country. Its Space Science Center is an important center for research in nanosatellite technologies, such as CubeSats. Students and faculty are also involved in designing, launching, and monitoring satellites used by NASA and other aerospace firms. <http://www.moreheadstate.edu/College-of-Science>



TRADITIONAL INDUSTRY - EKCEP'S TEKY INITIATIVE (HAZARD, KY)

The TechHire Eastern Kentucky (TEKY) Initiative is a public/private partnership that trains the region's workers to become computer coders or other skilled tech professionals. EKCEP, a nonprofit workforce development agency headquartered in Hazard, Ky., serves 23 Appalachian coalfield counties. The agency provides an array of workforce development services. <http://www.ekcep.org>



DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION - THE KENTUCKY MAIN STREET PROGRAM

The Kentucky Main Street Program is dedicated to improving local communities in Kentucky by assisting with revitalization efforts. The program encourages downtown revitalization and economic development through historic preservation. By revitalizing Main Streets across the state, the program has created new jobs, businesses, housing opportunities, and investments. <http://heritage.ky.gov/mainstreet/>



ARTS COMMUNITIES – APPALSHOP (WHITESBURG, KY)

Since 1969, Appalshop has been enacting cultural organizing and place-based media, arts and education to document the life, celebrate the culture, and voice the concerns of people living in Appalachia and rural America. Located in the heart of the central Appalachian coalfields, Appalshop houses an art gallery, 150-seat theater, community radio station, regional archive, and media production and training facilities. <https://www.appalshop.org/>



TOURISM – KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF TRAVEL

Kentucky has a spirit of adventure that’s perfect for outdoor recreation. Whether you’re hiking, horseback riding, caving, rock climbing, zip lining, boating, fishing, or hunting, Kentucky has it all. Kentucky is home to the world’s longest cave system, Mammoth Cave, as well as 900,000 acres of national forests and 52 state parks. <http://www.kentuckytourism.com/outdoor-adventure/>



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES – SOAR’S APPALACHIAN HEALTH HACK-A-THON (PIKEVILLE, KY)

This three-day event in October 2016 brought communities together to create innovative solutions to some of the toughest issues in health and medicine. Teams focused on action-oriented innovation for the future of health, and the winners received prize money and recognition for their innovations. <http://www.soar-ky.org/hackathon>





AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOOD – LOUISVILLE GROWS (LOUISVILLE, KY)

Louisville Grows mission is to grow a just and sustainable community through urban agriculture, urban forestry, and environmental education. Their programs include Community Gardens, Community Food Forests, Love Louisville Trees reforestation initiative, Healthy House wellness education and arts programming, Citizen Forester and Citizen Gardener volunteer training programs, Urban Growers Series hands-on gardening education program, Hope Farm Refugee Training Farm and CSA, and Seeds and Starts plant sales. <http://www.louisvillegrows.org/>



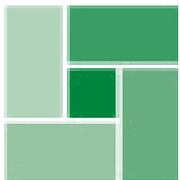
ENERGY – RICHARDSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY)

Kentucky is home to the Nation's first net zero school, Richardsville Elementary School. The school produces as much clean energy with solar panels as it consumes in energy, making it operate without energy cost. The school's design combines rooftop solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling, and other 'green technologies' to drastically reduce energy consumption and return energy back to the grid, helping up to 50 homes and businesses in the area. <http://www.warrencountyschools.org/20/Home>



ENTREPRENEURSHIP – UPTECH (COVINGTON, KY)

UpTech is a tech accelerator program for startups seeking equity funding. UpTech selects 10 startups annually to go through their 6-month accelerator program driven by intensive entrepreneurship education, one-on-one mentoring, and extensive community involvement. 174 full and part-time jobs have been created as a result of the program. <http://uptechideas.org/>



EDUCATION – THE PRICHARD COMMITTEE STUDENT VOICE TEAM

The Prichard Committee Student Voice Team is an initiative of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. They work to integrate students as partners to improve Kentucky schools. The team uses civic engagement to elevate the voices of young people in education decision-making. Their team consists of approximately 100 students, elementary school through college, from across Kentucky. <http://prichardcommittee.org/>



LET THE DISCUSSION BEGIN!

A better future can mean different things to different people. It can mean having a good job, a house, enough money to make ends meet, plus a little extra to sit aside. A better future can mean living in a place with laws and policies that give everyone a fair chance to succeed. It can also mean having many friends or being in a position to give to others. It can mean having a strong cultural heritage, feeling content with your life, living in a beautiful landscape, or living in a place where people help each other. There are lots of ways to think about building a more positive future. It's up to your community to decide what's the best fit.

THE CONVERSATION BEGINS:

Where are we now?

This is a discussion about achieving our goals. It's time to strategize and consider next steps that will move us forward.

FOR DISCUSSION...

- How would you describe your community today? How would you describe its health, education, or economy? What factors led us to where we are?
- Think about what our community was like in the past. What would we like to retain or recapture?
- Think about the kind of community or future we want. What does it look like?
- What are the greatest strengths of our community?
- What work is already underway in our community to build a stronger future? To build our community's health, education, or economy?
- What have we learned together today about our community?
- What other information do we need to move forward? Who else needs to be involved?

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES:

Where do we want to go?

This is a discussion about options for making positive changes in our community. We'll think deeply about different perspectives, weigh potential actions, and set directions together. Let's think boldly about ways to strengthen our community's future.

FOR DISCUSSION...

- What do we already have in place to build on?
- What options should we consider for improving our community? For improving our health, education, or economy?
- What differing perspectives do we hear?
- For each option, what are:
 - Strengths
 - Opportunities
 - Resources
 - Trade-offs
- What would be the impacts of the actions we're considering?
- What are we most excited to see happen?
- Who else needs to be involved?

THE CONVERSATION MOVES TO ACTION:

How will we get there?

This is a discussion about achieving our goals. It's time to strategize and consider next steps that will move us forward.

FOR DISCUSSION...

- If we can't do everything at once, where should we start?
- What actions are most doable—in terms of time, resources, and public will?
- What actions will have the greatest positive impact?
- What challenges to anticipate? How can we deal with these challenges?
- What do we need to put in place to help us move forward?
- Who else needs to be involved?
- How and when will our work together continue? What are our next steps?

RESOURCES

Across Kentucky, many resources are available to help you think about, plan, and take action to build a better future for your community. This list is intended to show the scope of what's available, but you'll find many more resources at whatsnextky.org.

The **UK Cooperative Extension Service** has agents specializing in community development placed regionally around the state who are great resources on regional topics. To find out the agents in your area, check out this county list: <http://extension.ca.uky.edu/county>

Each county belongs to an **Area Develop District** whose director is knowledgeable about conditions in your area. Check out this list to find the one closest to you: <http://www.kcadd.org/contact-us/>

The **KY Small Business Development Centers** have small business coaches available on a regional basis to assist people with starting and expanding small businesses: <https://www.ksbdc.org>

The **Kentucky Innovation Network** is a network of business leaders and mentors that encourage relationships, grow companies new and existing, and create jobs. Check here to find one of their 12 offices closest to you. <http://kyinnovation.com/locations-map/>

From youth programs, to business development, to rural community health, the **Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky's** mission is to catalyze positive change to build engaged communities and vibrant economies. <http://cedik.ca.uky.edu/>

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Campus Compact
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**WHAT'S NEXT,
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