

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program

Head Start 5-Year

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

**2023
Update**

Head Start



Big Sandy Area Community Action Program
Head Start
2023
Community Assessment Update

Executive Summary

Purpose

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) 2023 Update to the 2020 5-Year Head Start Community Assessment was conducted to help plan the continued implementation of Head Start Preschool Program services in the five (5) county service area of Eastern Kentucky: Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike Counties.

Methodology

Data and input regarding community trends, perceptions, and strengths and needs which could potentially impact recruitment, selection criteria, program operations; and identification of community partners and program goals and objectives were reviewed to conduct the assessment process. Information was gathered through program based self-assessments, classroom observations, family services, interagency feedback, and community input. Additionally, published data and the results of a community survey were reviewed and analyzed.

The resulting compilation of information was incorporated into the community assessment report under nine (9) main areas:

- BSACAP Services;
- Geography;
- Demographics;
- BSACAP Head Start Program Services;
- Other Child Service Programs;
- Vulnerable Populations;
- Education, Workforce, Health & Nutrition, and Social Needs;
- 2022 Head Start Community Survey;
- Community Resources.

The sources of published data that were reviewed as part of the assessment process included:

References

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Key Considerations

Key considerations were identified during the assessment process.

Population and Economic Growth

Will Big Sandy Area population continue to decline or will there be sufficient economic initiatives and growth to help the region thrive?

With mining having been the primary industry for generations, the closing of area coal mines over the last several years has forced families to leave Eastern Kentucky to obtain employment elsewhere. While the Big Sandy Area in Eastern Kentucky has experienced a decline, population for the commonwealth as a whole has increased.

State initiatives have been put into place to train and retrain workers in the high demand areas of health care and industry trade in hopes of creating a work ready force to entice new business industry to the area. The Governor’s Office created the Kentucky AgriTech Department, focusing on developing partnerships with private businesses to *GrowKentucky*. One such business, AppHarvest, is a high tech, self-sustaining greenhouse in Eastern Kentucky large enough to grow and supply tomatoes to the nation’s entire eastern seaboard.

Other initiatives include:

- Completion of the Mountain Parkway through Magoffin and Floyd Counties;
- An Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant for project Health Care Employment Around Resource Training (HEART) to create a learning environment focused on educating high school students about careers in health care;

- Team Kentucky Entrepreneurship – support for the entrepreneurial ecosystem and small business start-ups.

Even with such initiatives, **and some of the highest state declines of percentage points in annual unemployment rates for 2021-2022**, Eastern Kentucky is continuing to experience **high unemployment rates. Magoffin County recorded the highest unemployment rate in Kentucky in 2022 at 10.5% followed by Martin County as the fourth highest at 7.3%**. A number of area businesses were not able rebound from the economic devastation of the pandemic. According to the 2022 Head Start Community Assessment, the highest area of concern in the community is unemployment, underemployment or availability of jobs that pay wages that are sufficient to support one’s family. While *Help Wanted* signs can be seen along the streets, offering higher wages than pre-pandemic times, these jobs tend to be part-time without benefits.

The current rise in the cost of fuel, food, and basic necessities has many families working two or three minimum wage jobs, barely making ends meet. As inflation continues to increase, a ripple effect is likely to be seen on service and recreational businesses, as people “cut back” to afford gas to get to work, food, and other basic necessities for their families.

The closing of area businesses, the rapid increase in inflation, and the inability of many to secure full-time jobs that pay a liveable wage, may cause Eastern Kentucky to continue experiencing a decline in population.

Additionally, the decision to re-locate to other areas to find employment would most likely have an emotional impact on families, as there is a strong cultural pride and connectiveness that permeates the Appalachian culture. This is reflected by the many comments listed for the 2022 Community Assessment question, *What are the things you like best about living or working in the Big Sandy Area?* (pages 57-59).

Internet Access

Relative to more populated areas of the nation, internet broadband services are somewhat new to the Big Sandy region. In 2016, the Kentucky Wired State Wide Broadband Network Initiative began planning and engineering procedures to install a fiber optic cable network system to provide high-speed, high-capacity internet service across the commonwealth. Survey procedures have been conducted in Eastern Kentucky to connect to the state-wide network. Installation of fiber optic cable is in progress in the Northern and Eastern Kentucky. Until the

completion of the initiative, many Kentuckians in smaller rural communities, including those in the Big Sandy Area have limited access to internet and cell phone service. Hopefully, recent funding for the last mile internet broadband service will lessen or eliminate the digital divide felt by Eastern Kentucky families.

Quality Child Care Options

The Big Sandy Area had a total of 17 state regulated child care providers in 2022, serving 325 preschool aged children with a population of 3,079 children ages 3 and 4. In addition to regulated child care, KYSTATS Early Childhood Profile 2020 reported a total of 160 children enrolled in state funded self-contained preschool programs. Funded enrollment for Big Sandy Area Head Start is 1,113. Total early childhood services in the Big Sandy Area, including state regulated child care providers, state funded preschool, and Head Start were available to 1,287 children out of a population of 3,079 children or 42% of the population ages 3 and 4.

In addition to economic initiatives that provide liveable wages, there is a need for high quality, affordable child care services in the region so that families can afford to join the workforce and know that their children are well cared for in quality settings.

Mental Health Services

As Kentuckians, along with the rest of the nation, transition from living under two (2) years of emergency COVID restrictions, the mental well-being of families will need to be given special consideration. The pandemic, loss of income, the ending of direct financial support to families, and the inflation the country is currently experiencing, are having an impact on the levels of anxiety and stress felt by families. Support and awareness of the mental well-being of children and their families will be important to the growth and development of young children served by Head Start.

Family Support

During the pandemic, public schools were essential to the support of children and families. In addition to providing meals to children through age 18, computer equipment and Wi-Fi spots were made accessible to students.

Those services have since been greatly reduced. Meal programs that were offered consistently through the two-year pandemic period, have been significantly reduced. Summer meal

programs for school age children during the 2022 summer are typically being offered for two (2) to four (4) weeks out of the two (2) months or longer summer break.

In addition to a reduction in the public school meal program, federal and state sponsored programs that provided pandemic SNAP benefits, presumptive Medicaid coverage, and monthly stimulus payments for children have ended.

Several respondents of the 2022 Head Community Assessment Survey expressed concern about children not having access to food and other resources, especially during the summer months.

In-Person Classes for the 2022-2023 School year

One hundred percent (100%) of the respondents to the 2022 Head Start Community Assessment indicated that they are comfortable having preschool aged children (ages 3-5 years old) attend in person classes.

BSACAP Head Start was able to meet to meet full enrollment without **the option of** virtual instruction **for the 2022-23 school year.**

Updating Demographic Information

It will be important to update the demographics of this Community Assessment Report when the Census Bureau publishes the results of the United 2020 Census

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Introduction

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, Inc., (BSACAP) serves as the Head Start Grantee for the Eastern Kentucky counties of Pike, Martin, Magoffin, Floyd, and Johnson. BSACAP is a private, non-profit organization which operates an extensive range of social programs and services targeting low-income households. The range of services provided can vary with the needs of each community.

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, originally called Big Sandy Area Development Council, was formed in 1964 in response to Lyndon B. Johnson's declaration of War on Poverty. For the past fifty-eight years, BSACAP has developed programs that strive toward the organization's mission: to provide a vast array of services to assist families and individuals in obtaining self-sufficiency and, through collaborative efforts of community and organizational partnerships, improve the overall quality of life within the community.

In general, BSACAP provides the following services within the five county area:

Early Childhood Education

- Head Start

Family Services

- Social Security/SSI Representative Payee
- Chapter One Case Management
- Safelink Cell Phone Program

Home, Food and Utilities Assistance

- Community Services Block Grant Garden Seed Program
- Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – Winter Heating & Spring/Summer Cooling
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Weatherization
- Wintercare
- Emergency Food and Shelter Grant Program

Education and Work Experience

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Community Services Block Grant Scholarship Program
- Year-Round Youth Program
- Senior Community Services Employment Program
- Community Service Block Grant Job, Employment and Training Program (JET)

Rental Assistance/Housing

- Homeless Prevention
- Rapid Re-Housing

- Supportive Housing
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)

Coronavirus Impact Assistance

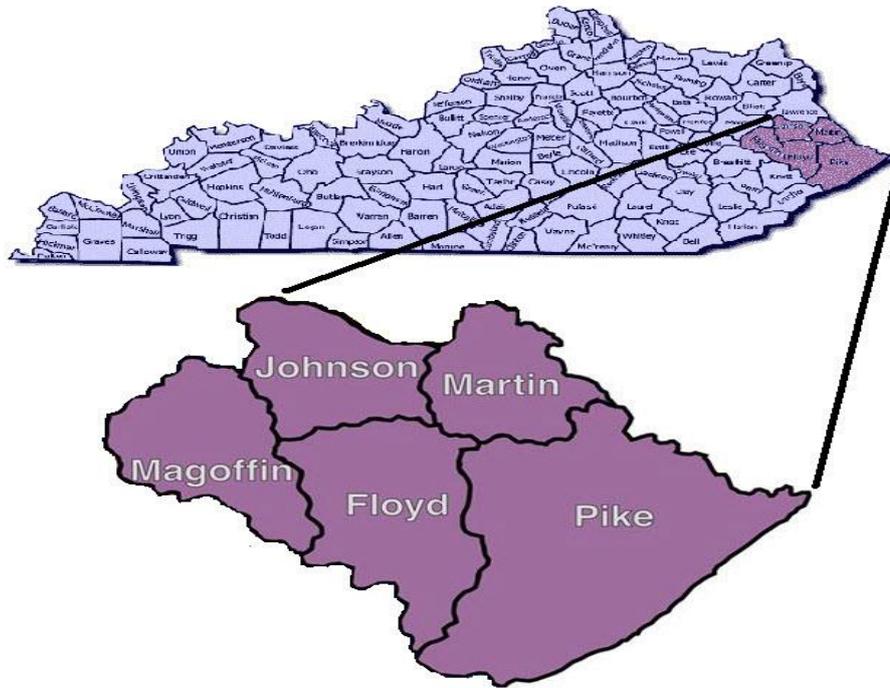
- American Rescue Plan Fund
- Kentucky CARES Funds

The Mission of the Big Sandy Community Action Program is:

**To provide comprehensive services that:
People need to live independently,
Partners work together to support, and
Communities receive to improve quality of life.**

Geographic Information

Big Sandy Community Action Program Coverage Area



Floyd County



History of Floyd County

Floyd County was formed on June 1, 1800 from Fleming, Montgomery, and Mason counties to become the 40th county in Kentucky. The county was named for John Floyd, Surveyor and Pioneer. The original 3,600 square mile tract was later divided to form all or part of fifteen counties. The county seat is Prestonsburg, formerly named Preston's Station.

Prestonsburg was a Confederate stronghold during the Civil War, but two battles fought in the area were Union victories: The Battle of Ivy Mountain and the Battle of Middle Creek. During the Civil War, engineers recognized the signs of immense bituminous coal seams in the area and relayed the information to northern industrialists. With the establishment of the railroad in 1903, coal soon became an important economic resource.

Until the hard-surfaced Mayo Trail was built in 1920, travelers mostly arrived on rutted wagons trails. The Mountain Parkway, completed in 1962, and US23/460 further opened the area. In 1949, Dewey Dam was completed to provide flood control and formed Dewey Lake. The lake is the focus of Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, which was completed in 1954.

Floyd County Location, Geographic Size, and Topography

Floyd County is bordered by Johnson, Martin, Pike, Knott, and Magoffin counties. It covers an area of 393.35 square miles. Floyd County is part of the Cumberland Plateau of the Appalachian Mountain range and is drained by the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River. The county's elevation ranges from 641 feet above sea level at Prestonsburg to more than 2,000 feet. Communities include Prestonsburg, Allen, Martin, and Wheelwright.

Johnson County



History of Johnson County

Johnson County was formed on April 1, 1843 from Floyd, Lawrence and Morgan counties to become the 90th county in Kentucky. The county was named for Richard M. Johnson, War of 1812 General, U.S. Representative, Senator, and the Vice President of the United States. The county seat is Paintsville.

Coal mining has long dominated the economic history of Johnson County. Largely through the efforts of John C.C. Mayo, the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad extended its line to Paintsville in 1904. Shortly, thereafter, major coal companies began to develop the mineral wealth of the county. Coal mining in Johnson County has slowly declined since 1946.

In 1980, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed work on a dam at the juncture of Little Paint Creek and Open Fork. Paintsville Lake, four miles west of the city, stretches for eighteen miles and covers more than 11,000 acres. Recreational facilities have been added to make the lake accessible for boating, fishing, swimming, and camping.

Johnson County Location, Geographic Size, and Topography

Johnson County is bordered by Morgan, Lawrence, Floyd, and Magoffin counties. It covers an area of 261.95 square miles in the watershed of the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River.

Communities include Paintsville, Staffordsville, Flat Gap, Hager Hill, East Point, Offutt, Thelma, Oil Springs, Van Lear, and West Van Lear.

Magoffin County



History of Magoffin County

Magoffin County was formed on February 22, 1860 from Floyd, Johnson, and Morgan counties to become the 108th county in Kentucky. The county was named for Governor Beriah Magoffin (1859-62). Salyersville is the county seat and originated from an early settlement previously named Adamsville.

After WWI, coal companies dominated the economy in Magoffin County, making residents dependent on them for jobs. During the Great Depression and the post WWII era, the demand for coal was low and the area suffered greatly. The county was able to ease its dependence on the coal industry in the late twentieth century with the completion of the Mountain Parkway. The Parkway, created during Governor Bert Combs' administration, made Magoffin County more available to industry.

Magoffin County Location, Geographic Size, and Topography

Magoffin County is bordered by Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Morgan, and Wolfe counties. It covers an area of 308.44 square miles. Magoffin's topography is quite mountainous with ridge tops reaching an elevation of 1,100 to 1,400 feet. Communities include Salyersville, Royalton, Wonne, Edna, Elsie, and Hendricks.

Martin County



History of Martin County

Martin County was formed on September 1, 1870 from Floyd, Johnson, Pike, and Lawrence counties to become the 116th county in Kentucky. The county was named for Col. John P. Martin, a state senator and U.S. Congressman from Prestonsburg. The county seat was moved from Warfield to Inez in 1873.

Coal mining began in Martin County in the late nineteenth century. One of the first major mining operations was in 1918 at Himmerville, where Hungarian immigrant Martin Himmler began mining coal. The company was sold in 1929 and the town was renamed Beauty in an improvement effort.

President Lyndon B. Johnson visited Martin County on April 24, 1964 to initiate the War on Poverty, but the standard of living did not improve until the infusion of coal company wages. Most employment in the county still depends directly on the coal industry, with the largest employers being mining, transportation, public utilities, retail trade, and services.

Martin County Location, Geographic Size, and Topography

Martin County is bordered by Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence, and Pike counties and by the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River on the east. It covers an area of 229.61 square miles. The land is very mountainous, with high elevations and narrow valleys cut by streams. Elevations rise to 1,500 feet above sea level. Communities include Inez, Warfield, Pilgrim, and Tomahawk.

Pike County



History of Pike County

Pike County was formed on December 19, 1821 from Fayette, Bourbon, Mason, and Floyd counties to become the 70th county in Kentucky. The county was named for General Zebulon M. Pike, the U.S. Army officer and explorer who discovered Pike's Peak. The county seat, Pikeville, was named after the county.

Pike County is home to the infamous Hatfield-McCoy Feud, which took place in the late 1800s. The feud is known as one of the bloodiest and most notorious feuds in American history, and is still frequently referenced in the national media. Pike County's abundance of historical sites and markers regarding the Hatfield-McCoy Feud brings tourists year after year.

Located in the heart of the Appalachian coal fields, Pike County has long been one of the world's top producers of bituminous coal. Before the national decline in coal production and stricter EPA regulations of 2011, over 35 million tons were mined in Pike County each year. This was approximately twenty percent of Kentucky's coal production. Pike County is also

Kentucky's third largest financial center, behind only Louisville and Lexington in banking assets.

The Pikeville Cut-Through is one of the largest earth-moving projects in history. Over twelve million cubic yards of rock and dirt was moved to divert the Big Sandy River, the railroad, and several major highways. The 1,300 foot-wide, 500 foot-deep, one and a half mile long cut through Peach Orchard Mountain provided enough material to fill most of the old riverbed, thereby eliminating frequent flooding to downtown Pikeville. The \$78 million project took fourteen years to complete and opened up hundreds of acres of property in and around Pikeville for development.

The Breaks Interstate Park, located in Pike County and neighboring Virginia, is a massive draw for some of the nation's most exhilarating white water rafting and recreational activities. Known as the "Grand Canyon of the South", the massive canyon brings tourists and locals year-round for breathtaking sights.

Pike County Location, Geographic Size, and Topography

Pike County is bordered by Martin, Floyd, Knott, and Letcher counties, by Virginia on the southeast, and West Virginia by the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River. Pine Mountain, which is the county's highest elevation point, forms the border with Virginia. The county is part of the Central Appalachia Highlands, a plateau with alternating steep, narrow ridges and valleys extending in all directions. Pike County is drained by the two forks of the Big Sandy River, the Levisa, and the Tug. Communities include Pikeville, Belfry, Phelps, Virgie, Coal Run, and Elkhorn.

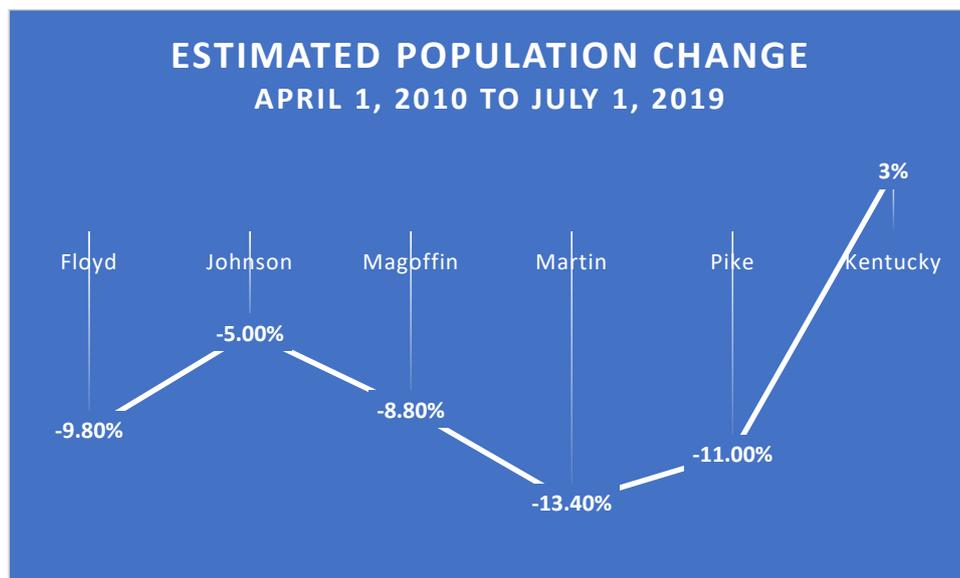
Demographics

Population

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Population Estimates July 1, 2019	35,589	22,188	12,929	11,195	57,876
Population Estimates Base April 1, 2010	39,450	23,359	13,333	12,929	65,029
Population, percent change April 1 2010 to July 1, 2019	-9.87%	-5.0%	-8.8%	-13.4%	-11.0%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	39,451	23,356	13,333	12,929	65,024

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau Annual Estimates of the Resident Population in the five Big Sandy Area counties, there has been a steady decrease in population since the 2010 Census.



Additionally, the 2019 updated Kentucky Preschool Development Grant (PDG B-5) Aligned Need Assessment and Strategic Plan projects a significant decrease in population for ages birth to four from 2017 through 2030 in all but one of the Big Sandy Area counties.

Updated Kentucky PDG B-5 Population Projections: Ages 0-4 from 2017 to 2030

County	Increase/Decrease
Floyd	-19.9%
Johnson	+2.6%
Magoffin	-25.1%
Martin	-11.6%
Pike	-9.1%

Kentucky Preschool Development Grant (PDG B-5) Aligned Need Assessment & Strategic Plan

Age and Sex

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Persons under 5 years	5.8%	5.4%	5.9%	4.7%	5.3%
Persons under 18 years	21.8%	21.8%	22.3%	19.6%	20.6%
Persons 65 years and over	18.4%	18.4%	17.2%	16.6%	18.8%
Female persons	51.1%	51.0%	50.0%	45.1%	51.2%

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Race and Hispanic Origin

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
White	97.6%	97.7%	98.5%	91.9%	97.8%
Black or African American	1.1%	0.5%	0.2%	6.7%	0.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%
Asian alone	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	>0.0%	>0.0%	0.0%	>0.0%	>0.0%
Two or more races	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino	0.8%	0.9%	1.1%	3.3%	1.0%
White, not Hispanic or Latino	96.9%	97.0%	97.6%	88.8%	96.9%

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Population Characteristics

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Veterans 2014-2018	1,647	1,288	313	425	2,700
Percentage of Foreign Born Persons	0.4%	1.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.8%

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Housing

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Housing Units July 1, 2019	18,623	10,666	6,134	5,329	31,150
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2014-2018	70.4%	72.3%	71.2%	72.3%	72.6%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2014-2018	\$72,700	\$96,300	\$72,300	\$67,500	\$78,400
Median selected monthly owner costs-with a mortgage, 2014-2018	\$965	\$1,080	\$850	\$978	\$1,042
Median gross rent 2014-2018	\$619	\$622	\$548	\$577	\$666
Median selected monthly owner costs-without a mortgage, 2014-2018	\$326	\$352	\$300	\$311	\$398
Building Permits	3	0	NA	NA	8

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Family & Living Arrangements

2014-2018

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Households	15,163	8,737	5,084	4,112	25,768
Persons per household	2.38	2.55	2.47	2.57	2.30
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year	89.0%	89.2%	90.7%	85.3%	88.0%
Language other than English spoken at home, present of persons age 5 year+	0.9%	2.2%	0.1%	2.4%	1.2%

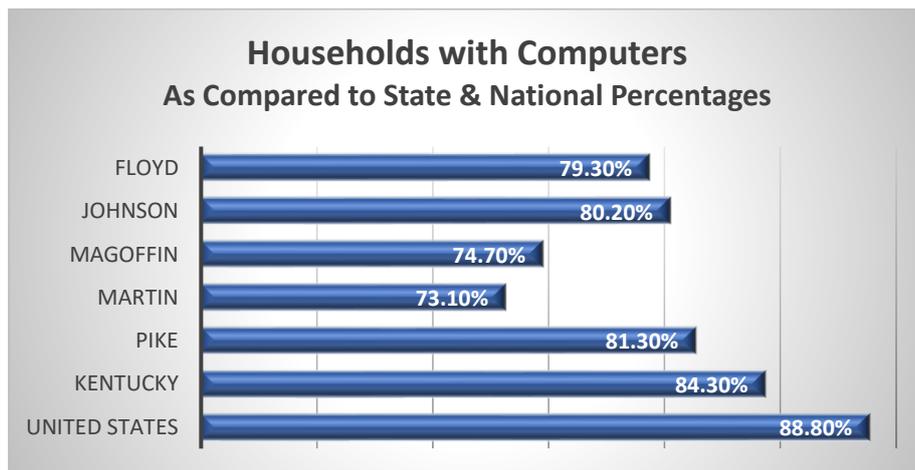
United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Household Computer and Internet Use

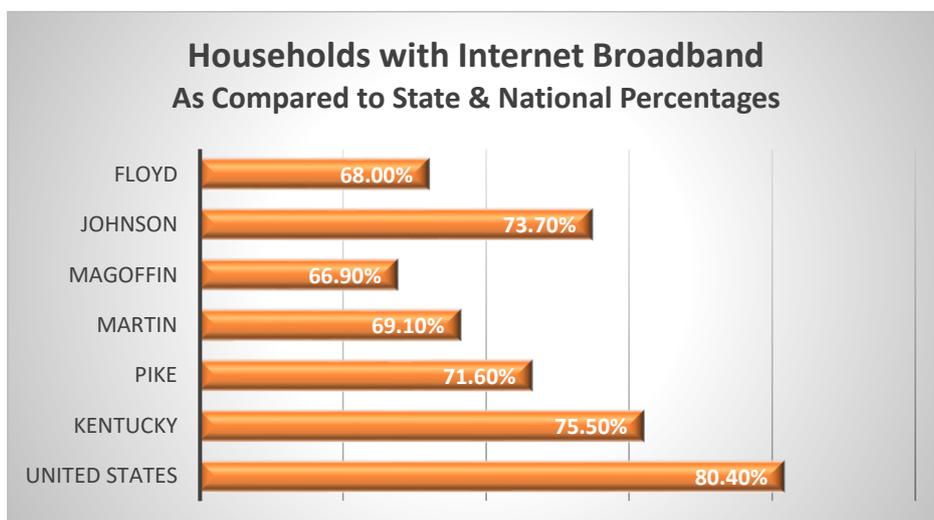
2014-2018

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Households with a computer	79.3%	80.2%	74.7%	73.1%	81.3%
Households with internet broadband	68.0%	73.7%	66.9%	69.1%	71.6%

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)



United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)



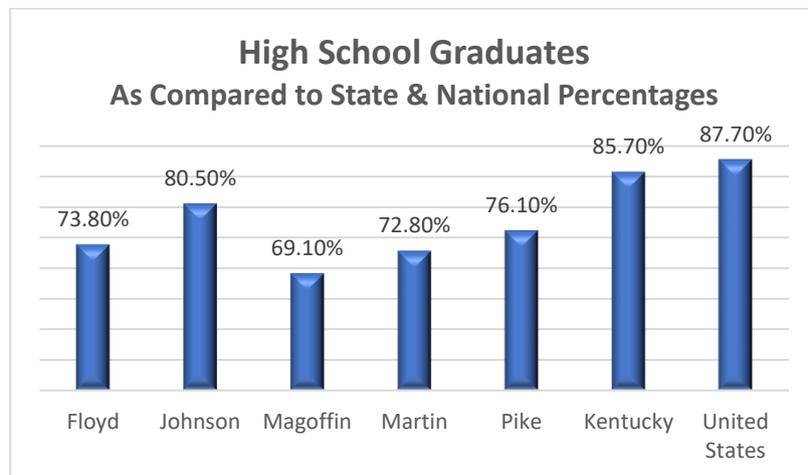
United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Education

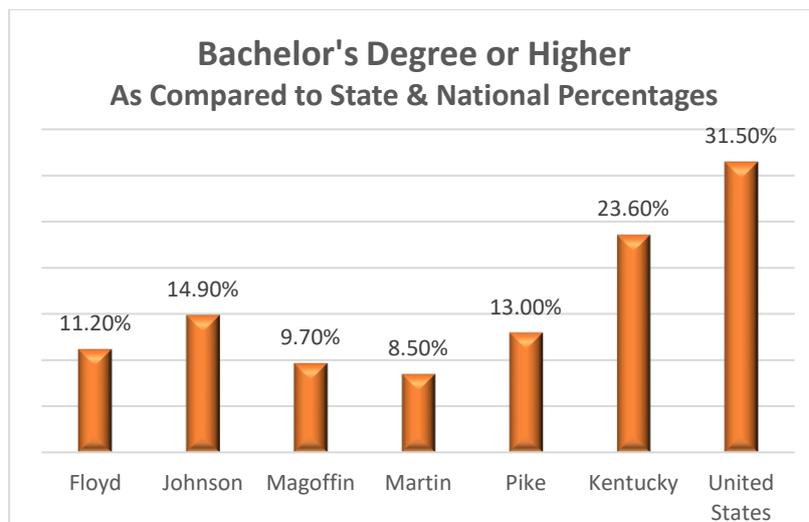
2014-2018 Percentage of Persons Age 25 Years +

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
High school graduate	73.8%	80.5%	69.1%	72.8%	76.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	11.2%	14.9%	9.7%	8.5%	13.0%

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)



United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)



United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Health

2014-2018 Percentage of Population Under Age 65 Years

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
With a disability	22.6%	20.5%	25.3%	24.3%	22.1%
Persons without health insurance	7.5%	6.3%	8.3%	7.0%	7.6%

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Key Health Indicators for Kentucky	
<u>Fertility Rate</u>	62.6 (births per 1,000 women 15-44 years of age)
<u>Teen Birth Rate</u>	25.0 (births per 1,000 females 15-19 years of age)
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	5.0 (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)
<u>Life Expectancy (at Birth)</u>	75.3 years (2018)
<u>Marriage Rate</u>	6.3 (marriages per 1,000)
<u>Divorce Rate</u>	3.4 (divorces per 1,000)
<u>Leading Cause of Death</u>	Heart Disease
<u>Drug Overdose Death Rate</u>	32.5 (per 100,000) ¹
<u>Firearm Injury Death Rate</u>	14.9 (per 100,000) ¹
<u>Homicide Rate</u>	5.9 (per 100,000) ¹
<u>COVID-19 Death Rate (Q4, 2020)</u>	203.4 (per 100,000) ²
<u>COVID-19 Death Rate (12 months ending in Q4 2020)</u>	75.0 (per 100,000) ²

¹2019 Death rates, age adjusted

²Data are provisional and subject to change. Quarterly estimates reflect geographic changes in the pandemic's toll over each three-month period. The 12-month period ending in December 2020 includes the pre-pandemic period in the first weeks of 2020.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/kentucky/ky.htm>

Economy

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 year+, 2014-2018	40.0%	41.3%	40.9%	38.8%	45.6%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2014-2018	36.1%	37.1%	40.1%	35.8%	40.5%
Total accommodation and food services sales 2012 (\$1,000)	36,322	*	6,355	6,257	91,769
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2012 (\$1,000)	198,656	84,551	20,196	18,310	579,915
Total manufacturers' shipments, 2012 (\$1,000)	30,730	*	0	*	219,022
Total merchant wholesaler sales, 2012 (\$1,000)	395,442	57,157	*	*	483,206
Total retail sales, 2012 (\$1,000)	448,252	383,024	61,128	93,767	936,224
Total retail sales per capita, 2012 (\$1,000)	\$11,509	\$16,380	\$4,687	\$7,358	\$14,588

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

*Suppressed data due to confidentiality

Businesses

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Total employer establishments, 2017	735	370	151	142	1,207
Total employment	8,318	3,799	1,101	1,452	17,873
Total annual payroll, 2017 (\$1,000)	290,966	127,906	33,150	45,777	727,715
Total employment, percent change, 2016-2017	-9.3%	-3.5%	-2.0%	-11.4%	4.1%
Total non-employer establishments, 2018	2,302	1,341	606	466	2,824

All firms 2012	3,014	1,763	771	468	4,183
Men-owned firms, 2012	1,835	1,020	346	227	2,384
Women-owned firms, 2012	674	539	374	190	1,158
Minority-owned firms, 2012	69	78	<25	<25	56
Non-minority owned firms, 2012	2,863	1,619	740	427	3,894
Veteran owned firms, 2012	205	252	<25	37	240
Non-veteran owned firms, 2012	2,694	1,443	711	401	3,663

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Transportation

2014-2018 Number of Minutes

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Mean travel time to work, workers age 16 years+	24.3	28.6	33.2	33.0	24.5

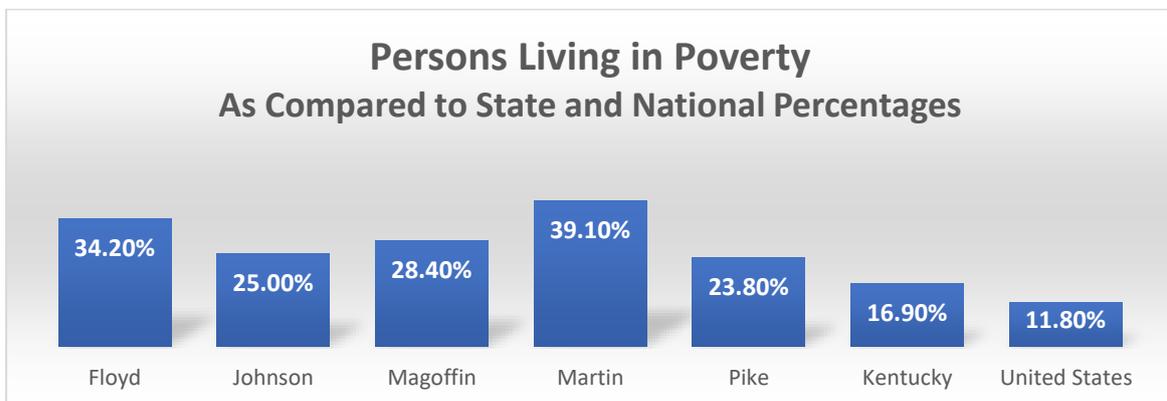
United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Income & Poverty

2014-2018

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Median household income (in 2018 dollars)	\$31,267	\$37,559	\$29,516	\$35,125	\$34,081
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2018 dollars)	\$18,462	\$21,089	\$18,233	\$15,492	\$21,646
Persons in poverty, percent	34.2%	25.0%	28.4%	39.1%	23.8%

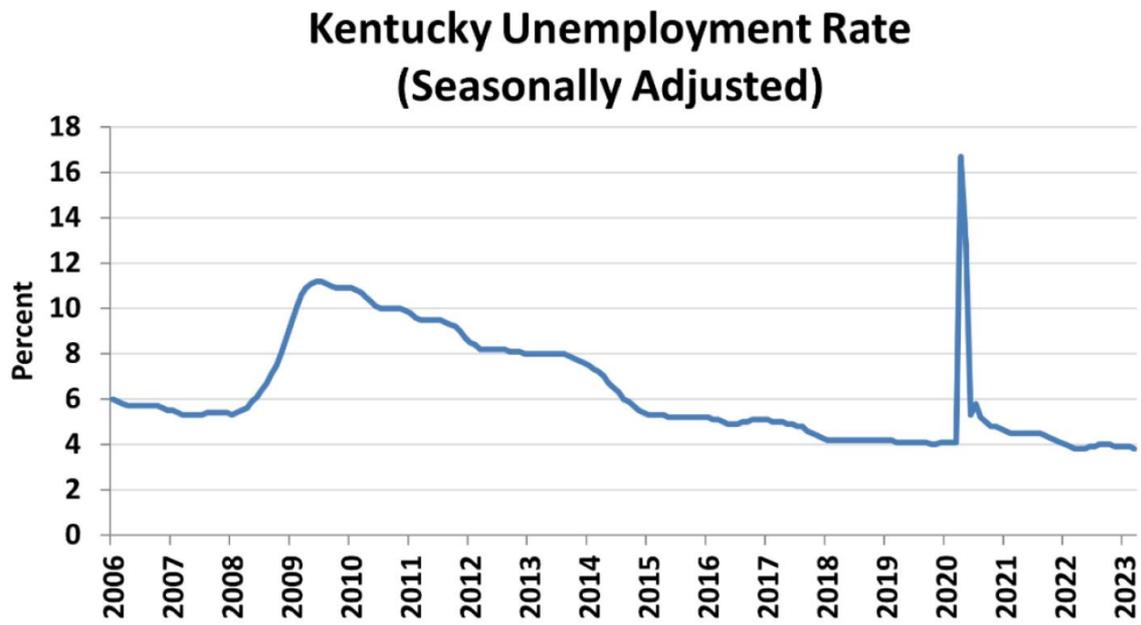
United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)



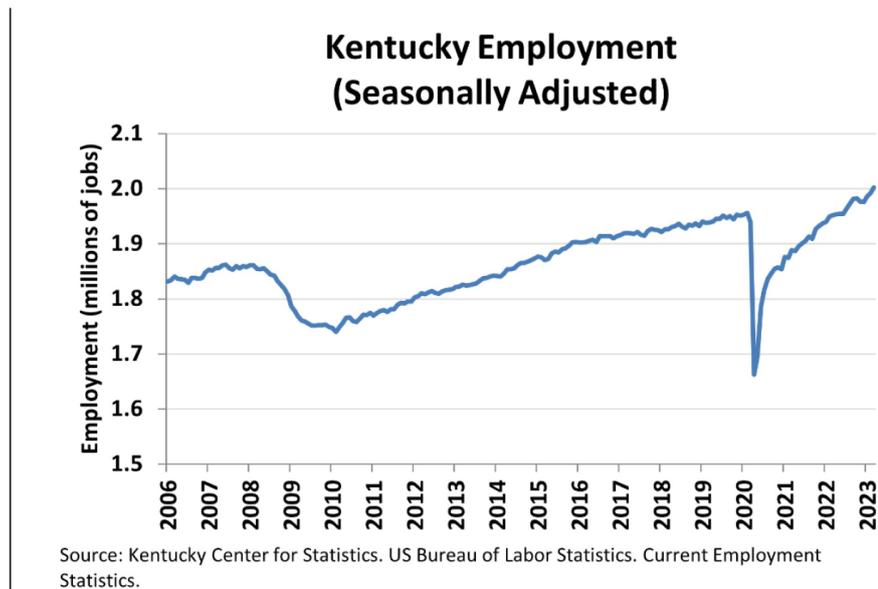
United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2019)

Kentucky Unemployment Rates

March 2023



Source: Kentucky Center for Statistics. US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.



Source: Kentucky Center for Statistics. US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Employment Statistics.

The Kentucky Education and Workforce Cabinet released annual unemployment data for 2022.

FRANKFORT, KY (April 24, 2023) – Annual unemployment rates decreased in 102 Kentucky counties in 2022, increased in 12 and stayed the same in six counties, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

The annual jobless rates for Scott and Woodford counties were the lowest in the commonwealth in 2022 at 3% each. It was followed by Boone, Carroll and Fayette counties. 3.1% each; Anderson, Cumberland, Jessamine and Todd counties. 3.2% each and Campbell, Harrison, Kenton, Marion, Monroe and Oldham counties, 3.3% each.

Magoffin County recorded the state’s highest annual unemployment rate in 2022 at 10.5%. It was followed by Elliot County, 8%; Breathitt and Martin counties, 7.3% each; Lewis County, 7.2%; Carter County, 7%; Owsley County, 6.9%; Leslie County, 6.6%; Harlan County, 6.3%; and Knott and Letcher counties, 6.1% each.

In contrast to the monthly national and state data, unemployment statistics for counties are not seasonally adjusted. The comparable, unadjusted annual state unemployment rate for the state was 3.9% for 2022, and 3.6% for the nation. For more information regarding seasonal fluctuations, visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.htm#why.

In 2022, 75 counties were above the comparable, unadjusted annual state unemployment rate of 3.9%, while 40 were below the state unadjusted rate and five (Clark, Gallatin, Henry, Madison and Warren counties) matched it.

Counties with the largest decline in annual unemployment rates from 2021 to 2022 were Harlan, -1.6% percentage points, Martin; -1.3 percentage points; Magoffin and Letcher counties, -1 percentage point each; and Leslie, Johnson, Menifee, Livingston and Barren counties, --0.9 percentage each.

Unemployment statistics are based on estimates and are compiled to measure trends rather than actually to count people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The statistics in this news release might revised in the future.

Three (3) of the five (5) Big Sandy Area counties (Johnson, Magoffin and Martin) have had the largest decline in annual unemployment rates from 2021 to 2022. At the same time, two (2) of these counties (Magoffin and Martin) had the highest unemployment rates in the state for 2022.

A number of Eastern Kentuckians travel outside the area and even outside the state to earn a liveable wage. The rising price of fuel may have an impact on the ability for people to continue to travel distances to jobs. This may have a “chain” reaction on the number of people who remain in the region where population has been on a decline over the last several years.

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) Head Start

Enrollment

As Head Start Grantee, the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) receives funding to provide Head Start services for 1,113 children within the five counties of the BSACAP coverage area. Since the area is very rural and facilities are limited in comparison with the vast number of children in poverty that need services, there has been a long-standing partnership between the BSACAP agency and the local school districts to make sure the Head Start Program provides children and families with the best preschool experience possible that emphasizes school readiness and a smooth transition into kindergarten. In order to provide that experience, BSACAP delegates services to six local school districts in five counties while directly operating a small three percent of the total funded enrollment. Johnson and Pike counties each have two programs that provide Head Start services. In Johnson County, the Johnson County Board of Education serves the entire county except for the city of Paintsville which is the county seat. The Board of Education for the Paintsville Independent School District serves the children within the Paintsville City limits.

In Pike County, the Pike County Board of Education serves the entire county, except for the City of Pikeville which is the county seat. Model City Head Start serves children within the Pikeville City limits.

The Boards of Education (BOE) for Floyd County, Magoffin County, and Martin County serve the entirety of their respective counties.

The breakdown of this grantee-delegate funded enrollment is as follows:

Program	Funded Enrollment	# Sites Centers	# Class-rooms	Delegate/Direct Operation
Floyd County BOE	253	7	16	Delegate
Johnson County BOE	115	5	7	Delegate
Magoffin County BOE	124	3	7	Delegate
Martin County Board BOE	104	3	6	Delegate
Model City Head Start	68	1	4	Direct
Paintsville City BOE	39	1	2	Delegate
Pike County BOE	410	10	21	Delegate
BSACAP Program Totals	1113	30	63	6 Delegates 1 Direct

Program Options

After two consecutive years of providing Head Start services through non-conventional models, including virtual instruction and hybrid models the 2022-2023 school year was the first full school year that provided all in-person services since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration Ends May 11, 2023.

Program Demographics

5-Year BSACAP Head Start Child and Family Demographics

Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)

Gender & PIR Age

School Year	Gender		PIR Age			
	Male	Female	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6
2017-2018	787	661	55	459	930	0
2018-2019	724	702	72	455	895	2
2019-2020	729	691	57	492	864	2
2020-2021	563	556	44	414	660	0
2021-2022	604	603	54	429	722	2

Ethnicity and Race

School Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Hispanic	21	18	18	14	16
Asian	6	3	4	0	4
Bi-racial/Multi-racial	44	36	44	28	26
Black	3	3	1	2	1
Native American	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2	2	2	1	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	1	0	0
Unspecified	2	1	1	2	10
White	1386	1379	1367	1083	1164

Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)

Child's Primary Language

School Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
African Languages	0	0	1	0	0
English	1441	1422	1414	1117	1202
European Languages	1	0	1	0	0
Far Eastern Asian Languages	0	0	0	0	2
Middle-Eastern Languages	0	0	0	0	0

Native Central American/South	0	0	0	0	0
Native North American	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Island Languages	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish	2	0	2	2	3

Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)

According to the 2021-2022 demographics from the Big Sandy Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA), the program has seen a slight increase in the number of Spanish speaking children. Spanish was the primary language for three (3) children and the secondary language for an additional (4) children for the 2021-2022 school year.

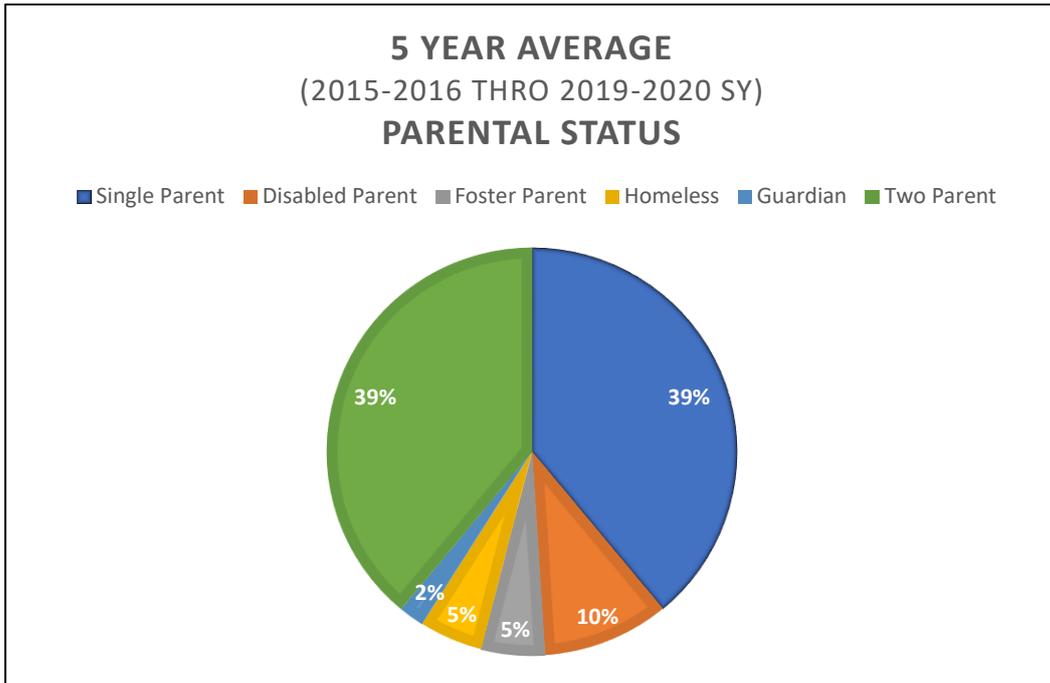
Disability

School Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	201-2022	2022-2023
Certified IEP	342	310	259	189	222
Suspected	49	74	139	69	87

Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)

Primary Disability

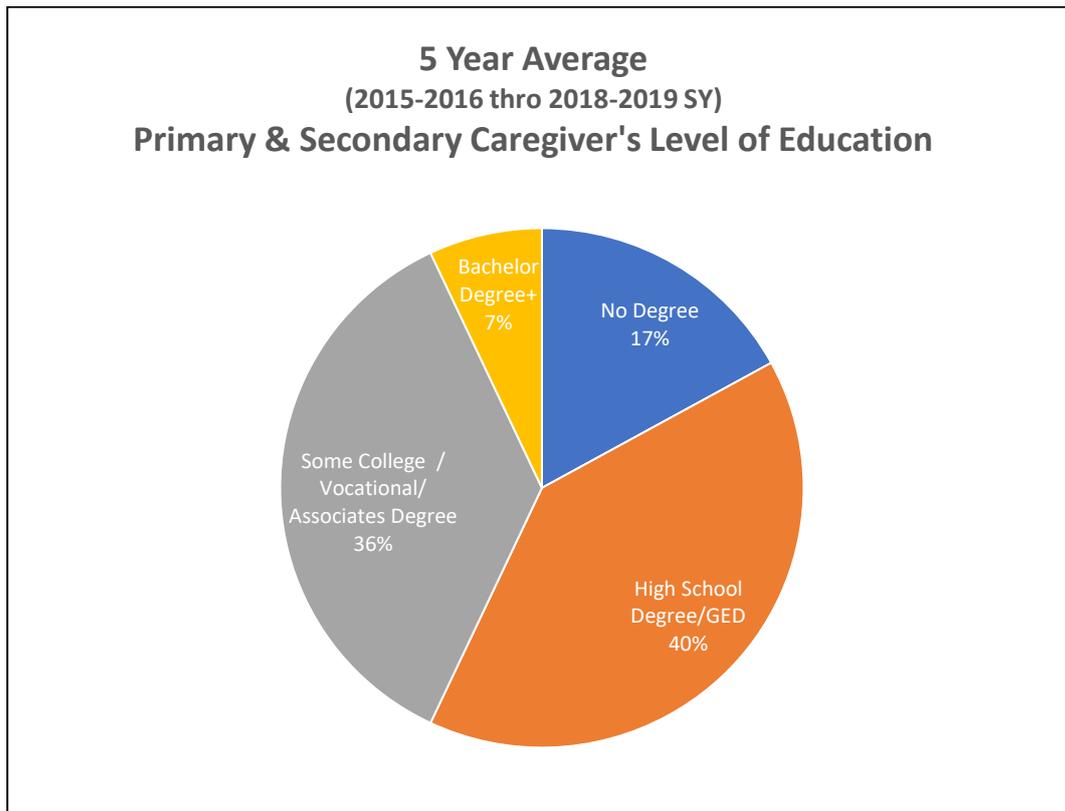
School Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Autism	16	17	16	9	13
Emotional/Behavioral	0	0	0	0	0
Health Impairment	3	3	2	1	1
Hearing Impairment/Deaf	2	2	3	4	3
Learning Disability	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Disabilities	2	0	1	0	0
Non-Categorical/ Developmental Delay	71	76	63	26	40
Orthopedic	1	0	2	2	3
Other Impairments	0	1	1	0	0
Speech/Language	238	207	163	146	164
Traumatic Brain Injury	0	0	0	0	0
Visual Impairment/Blind	3	2	2	3	1



Teen Parent: <1%

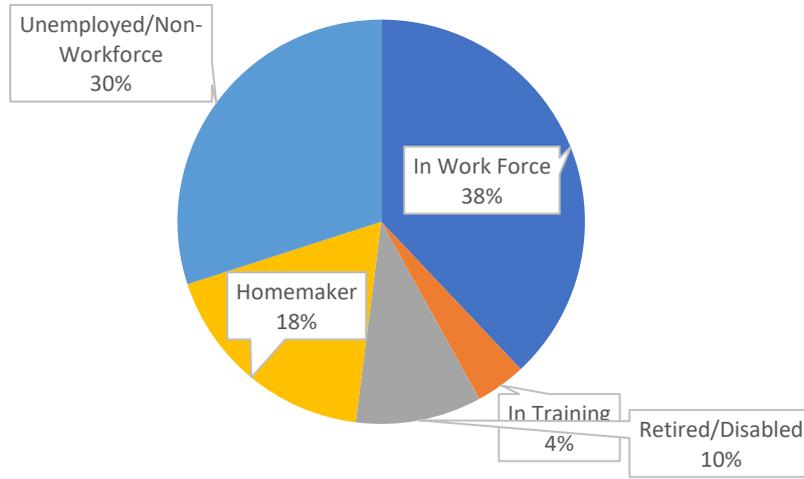
Dual Custody: <1%

Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)



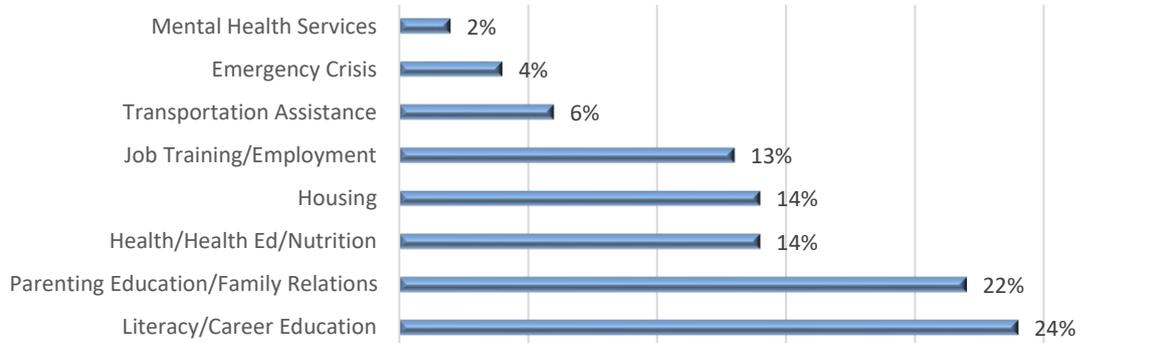
Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)

**5 Year Average
(2015-2016 thro 2018-2019 SY)
Primary & Secondary Caregiver Employment**

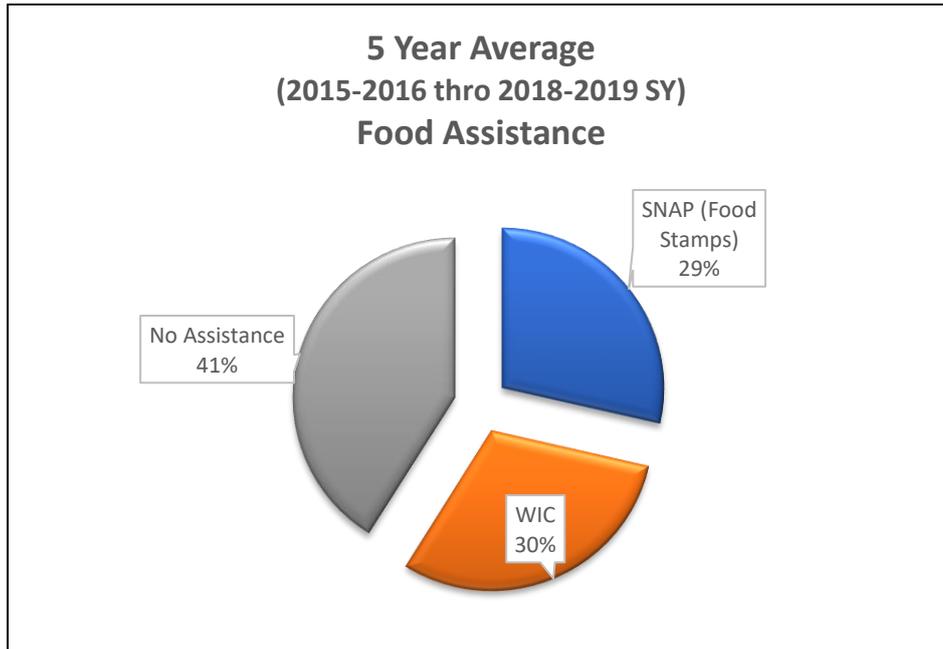


Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)

**5 Year Average
(2015-2016 thro 2018-2019 SY)
Top Family Service Needs**



Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)



Source: Big Sandy Head Area Head Start Child Outcome Planning & Assessment Software (COPA)

Other Child Service Programs

Child Population

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike	BSA Total
Number of Children:						
0-2 Year-Olds	1,265	772	408	307	1,766	4,518
3-4 Year-Olds	828	478	282	203	1,288	3,079
5-6 Year Olds	875	571	330	217	1,347	3,340

Source: 2022 Early Childhood Profile, Kentucky Center for Statistics

Licensed or State Certified Child Care Providers

County	Number of Providers	Capacity for Preschool Aged 3-5*
Floyd	5	85
Johnson	5	101
Magoffin	1	21
Martin	0	0
Pike	6	118
Big Sandy Area Total	17	325

Source: kynect.ky.gov/benefits/child-care-provider

*Capacity based on phone interviews with Child Care Center Directors

**Enrolled Stated Funded Preschool
At Risk 4 Year-Olds At or Below 160% of the Federal Poverty Level**

County	Number of Children
Floyd	41
Johnson	19
Magoffin	16
Martin	13
Pike	85
Big Sandy Area Total	174

Source: 2019 KY All STARS and Early Childhood Programs, Kentucky Center for Statistics

Number of Head Start Income Eligible Children (100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) Compared to Other Higher Income Eligible Preschool Programs & Services

County	Number of Children Under Age 6 Income Eligible Levels			
	% of Federal Poverty Income Level	100% of Poverty Income Eligible	150% of Poverty Over-Income	200% of Poverty Over-Income
Floyd		853	1,011	138
Johnson		185	780	841
Magoffin		409	480	661
Martin		112	280	363
Pike		1,476	1,887	2,372
Big Sandy Area Total		3,035	4,438	4,375

Source: 2022 Early Childhood Profile, Kentucky Center for Statistics

**Families Served by First Steps
Infant/Toddler Developmental Services**

County	Number of Families
Floyd	60
Johnson	17
Magoffin	11
Martin	0
Pike	43
Big Sandy Area Total	131

Source: 2019 KY All STARS and Early Childhood Programs, Kentucky Center for Statistics

Vulnerable Populations

Economic Security of Kentucky Children

COUNTY	CHILDREN IN POVERTY (below 100% of the federal poverty level)		CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES (below 200% of the federal poverty level)		CHILDREN LIVING IN FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS		HIGH RENTAL COST BURDEN	
	2015	2020	2011-15	2016-20	2018	2020	2011-15	2016-20
Floyd	43.1%	40.9%	64%	56%	31.7%	25.9%	57%	5-%
Johnson	34.4%	28.0%	61%	46%	24.3%	19.5%	54%	52%
Magoffin	45.1%	38.6%	60%	47%	36.6%	32.6%	63%	57%
Martin	45.3%	37.2%	73%	74%	25.5%	22.2%	75%	45%
Pike	32.0%	27.7%	55%	58%	27.6%	23.8%	50%	53%
Kentucky	25.3%	19.4%	48%	44%	18.9%	16.1%	48%	43%

2020 & 2022 Kentucky KIDS COUNT

AT RISK BIRTHS	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
2022					
Preterm Babies (born before 37 weeks)	63 (15.2%)	32 (14.1%)	23 (16.7%)	14 (12.7%)	73 (13.4%)
Births that are Low Weight	11.8%	11.0%	8.7%	10.9%	10.1%

Source: 2022 Early Childhood Profile, KY Statistics

2018-2020	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Smoking During Pregnancy	25.0%	21.2%	29.6%	38.4%	19.9%
Teen Births per 1,000	56.1	27.5	34.6	34.4	34.3
Rank of 120	120	38	78	76	75

Source: 2022 KIDS COUNT

Nutrition

County	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike	BSA Total
Children Receiving WIC*	1,274	542	411	336	1,649	4,212
Families Served by HANDS**	237	223	102	110	227	899
CACP Count***	81	84	10	0	211	386

*WIC: Special Supplemental Program for Woman, Infants, and Children

** HANDS: Health Access Nutritional Development Services Program

***CCAP: Child Care Assistance Program

BSA = Big Sandy Area

Source: 2019 KY All STARS and Early Childhood Programs, Kentucky Center for Statistics

Big Sandy Area Children in Foster Care

County	Children in Foster Care (rate per 1,000 children ages 0-17)				Children Exiting Foster Care to Reunification			
	2012- 2014	2014- 2016	2017- 2019	2019- 2021	2012- 2014	2014- 2016	2017- 2019	2019- 2021
Floyd	29.6	31.3	50.3	58.5	49%	24%	37%	31%
Johnson	78.5	64.6	46.7	52.1	33%	32%	46%	28%
Magoffin	58.5	50.0	58.3	69.3	42%	43%	18%	41%
Martin	47.2	58.4	85.1	85.9	48%	54%	41%	38%
Pike	16.5	22.7	36.1	50.8	44%	31%	26%	28%
Kentucky	37.2	41.1	51.1	53.7	41%	38%	37%	33%

2022 County Profile, KIDS COUNT & Kentucky KIDS COUNT 2020 County Data Book

Cases of Child Maltreatment

Maltreated Children Reported in 2019	
Floyd	1,046
Johnson	523
Magoffin	361
Martin	368
Pike	1,146

Source: 2022 Early Childhood Profile, Kentucky Center for Statistics

Screened-in Infants with Prenatal Substance Abuse

Kentucky 2018	Number of Children
Number Children < 1 year old	8,625
Number Prenatal Exposure	1,025
Percent Prenatal Exposure	11.9%
National Ranking for Prenatal Exposure	12 th *

*Ranking based on 42 States Reporting

Source: Child Maltreatment 2018

U.S. Department of Health & Human Service
Administration for Children, Youth and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

Homeless

Percentage of Homeless Students in the Big Sandy Area

Student Homelessness	2015-2016	2019-2020
Floyd County	3%	1%
Johnson County	1%	1%
Paintsville Independent	1%	5%
Magoffin County	11%	5%
Martin County	1%	1%
Pike County	7%	7%
Pikeville Independent	2%	Data Supressed
Kentucky	4%	3%

Kentucky KIDS COUNT 2020 Data Book

Homeless Students in Kentucky

Kentucky Public School Data As of January 1, 2019	Number of Students
Total Number of Homeless Students	23,964
Total Number of Unaccompanied Homeless Students	2,446
Night-time Residence: Unsheltered	2,799
Night-time Residence: Shelters	2,369
Night-time Residence: Hotels/Motels	1,003
Night-time Residence: Doubled Up	17,793

Percentage of Homeless Population State-Wide: 0.72%

Source: United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Children with Incarcerated Parents

According to the *National Survey on Children's Health, 2017-2018*, as cited by *Kentucky KIDS COUNT 2020 County Data Book*, "12% of Kentucky children have had a parent incarcerated; and Kentucky ranks 3rd highest in the nation for the percentage of children with a parent incarcerated." Further, of those incarcerated, female inmates are more likely to be a parent than male inmates; and "women are more likely than men to be incarcerated for

Education, Workforce, Health & Nutrition, and Social Needs

Big Sandy Area Education Levels

As of February 2020	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
High School Graduation Rate	95%	97%	96%	98%	95%
Some College or Higher Degree	43%	51%	41%	37%	43%
Associate Degree or Higher	18%	25%	16%	17%	21%
Working Age Population without H.S. Diploma/GED	20%	15%	25%	19%	19%

Working Age Population 18 – 64 years
Source: Kentucky Center for Statistics

Big Sandy Area Workforce Statistics

As of February 2020	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Total Population	36,926	22,843	12,666	11,919	60,483
Working Age Population	22,686	13,820	7,762	7,732	37,448
Veteran Population	1,647	1,288	313	425	2,700
Living in Poverty	32%	23%	28%	26%	26%
Workforce Participation	36.9%	38.1%	28.7%	32.8%	40.8%
Unemployment	6.6%	6.9%	13.2%	6.5%	5.9%
Median Household Income	\$31,914	\$37,754	\$28,207	\$33,495	\$34,376

Working Age Population 18 – 64 years
Source: Kentucky Center for Statistics

Health Insurance

Previous Years: Big Sandy Area Percent of Children Without Health Insurance

County	2009-2013	2010-2014	2011-2015	2012-2016	2013-2017
Floyd	6.5%	4.5%	S	3.8%	S
Johnson	S	S	S	S	S
Magoffin	S	S	S	S	S
Martin	S	S	S	S	13.3%
Pike	5.6%	4.6%	4.6%	3.8%	4.1%
Kentucky	5.9%	5.5%	5.2%	4.7%	4.4%

S= Suppressed. Data Point was suppressed if the estimate was deemed unreliable
Updated 6/17/2019
Source: KIDS COUNT data center

Kentucky 2020 Medicaid Expansion

Due to health needs related to the pandemic, Medicaid eligibility was expanded. Referred to as Presumptive Medicaid, all Kentuckians, regardless of income, were eligible for Medicaid coverage.

According to a survey taken from June 25 through July 21, 2020, as cited by the 2020 Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book, “compared to the nation, more Kentucky adults in households with children have health insurance, even among those who lost income.” Presumptive Medicaid is set to end June 30, 2021. Only those who meet Medicaid eligibility will continue Medicaid coverage. The extent of the impact of ending Presumptive Medicaid is unknown at this point.

Telehealth Services

The use of telehealth services for children with Medicaid and Kentucky Children’s Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) increased significantly during the pandemic. According to the 2020 Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book and the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services, the number of children’s services billed to Medicaid and KCHIP was 3,612 in 2019, as compared to 289,625 in 2020, representing an increase of 8,200%. On the “flip side” of telehealth services, the percent of children receiving vaccinations dropped significantly. According to the Kentucky Department for Public Health the number of children ages 0-2 receiving routine vaccinations was down 11%. The number of children ages 3-6 receiving routine vaccinations was down 27%.

The Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration Ends May 11, 2023. Along with the end of the Public Health Emergency Declaration comes a decrease in the number of children and families eligible for medical care assistance.

Big Sandy Area Health Statistics

Big Sandy Area Health	Floyd	Johnson	Magoffin	Martin	Pike
Teen Pregnancy Rate	1.9%	1.0%	1.9%	1.7%	1.3%
Obesity Rate	52.5%	55.4%	45.3%	46.7%	51.4%
Overall Health Index Relative to other Kentucky Counties	-1.57	-0.84	-0.75	-1.41	-0.86

Source: Kentucky Center for Statistics

Big Sandy Area Health Outcomes	Big Sandy Area	Kentucky
Premature Death (years lost per 100,00 population) 2014-2018	12,127	9,034
Total Mortality (per 100,00 population) 2014-2018	1,122	919
Motor Vehicle Deaths (count) 2018	39	724
Heart Disease Deaths (per 100,000 population) 2014-2018	247	195
Stroke Deaths (per 100,000 population) 2014-2018	37	39

Source: Kentucky State Data Center – Vital Statistics kentuckyhealthfacts.org

Kentucky Health Statistics

Kentucky Leading Causes of Death 2017	Deaths	Rate***	State Rank*	U.S. Rate**
Heart Disease	10,343	195.9	9 th	165.0
Cancer	10,145	185.7	1 st	152.5
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	3,480	64.5	1 st	40.9
Accidents	3,264	72.9	3 rd	49.4
Stroke	2,050	39.4	18 th	37.6
Alzheimer's Disease	1,765	35.0	22 nd	31.0
Diabetes	1,474	27.7	5 th	13.0
Kidney Disease	1,024	19.4	5 th	13.0
Septicemia	979	18.5	2 nd	10.6
Flu/Pneumonia	932	18.1	9 th	14.3

Rates are per 100,000 total population

*Rankings are from highest to lowest

**Rates for the U.S. Include the District of Columbia and U.S. territories

***Death rates are age adjusted

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Kentucky Mortality Data 2017	Deaths	Rates**	U.S. Deaths	U.S. Rate***
Firearm Deaths	730	16.2	39,773	12.0
Homicide	310	7.3	19,511	6.2
Drug Overdose Deaths	1,566	37.2	70,237	21.7

Rates are per 100,000 total population

**Rates for the U.S. Include the District of Columbia and U.S. territories

***Death rates are age adjusted

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Kentucky Infant Mortality Rate	State	U.S.
Deaths per 1,000 Live Births	6.5	5.8

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

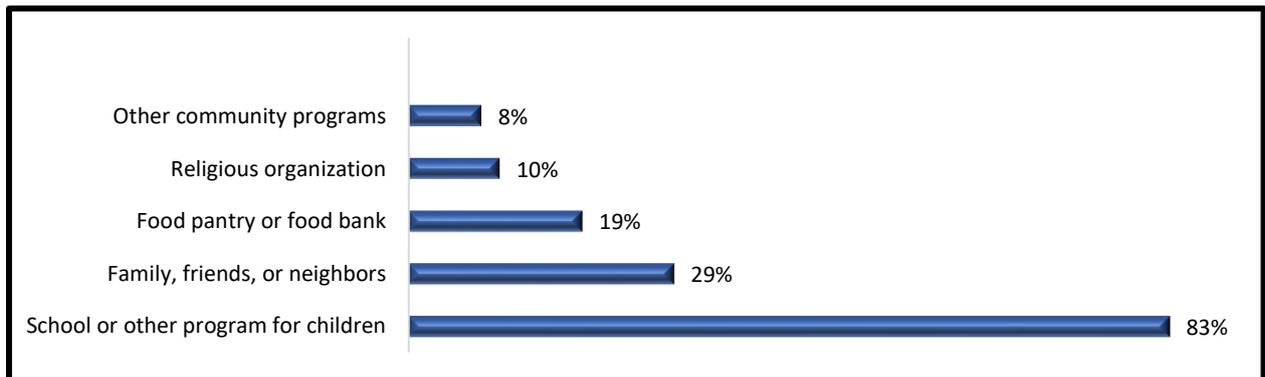
Food Insecure Households

Based on responses from August 19 - September 14, 2020:

- Nearly 1 in 6 Kentucky households with children did not have enough food in the past 7 days.



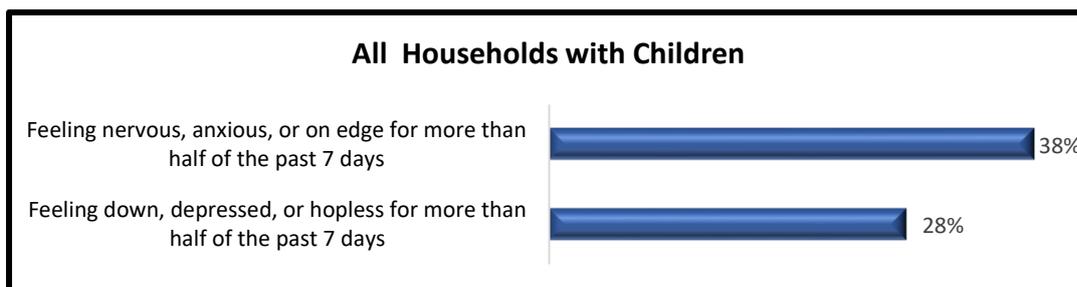
- Kentucky households with children who did not have enough food received free food from a number of sources.



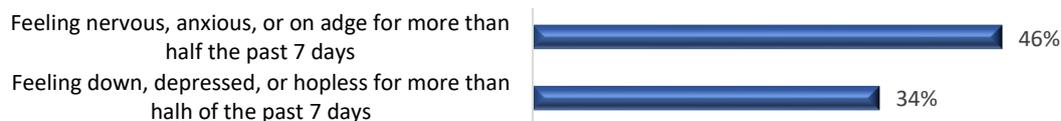
2020 Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book

Mental Health and Social Needs

Based on responses from June 25 through July 21, 2020, many Kentucky adults with children in the household reported regularly feeling anxiety or depression.



Households with Children that Lost Income Since March 13, 2020



2020 Kentucky KIDS COUNT County Data Book

Mental Health Prevalence & Treatment

Kentucky Prevalence of Mental Illness & Access to Care	National Ranking*
Overall Ranking for Adult and Youth	22
Adult Ranking	32
Youth Ranking	15

*Low Ranking indicates higher prevalence of mental illness and lower rates of access to care (1-51, including DC)
Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Prevalence of Mental Illness	National Ranking**
Prevalence of Mental Illness	32

**High Ranking indicates lower prevalence of mental health and substance use issues (1-51, including DC)
Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Access to Mental Health Care Rankings	National Ranking***
Access to Care	25

***High Access Ranking indicates that a state provides relatively more access to insurance and mental health treatment (1-51, including DC)
Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Adult Prevalence	Percentage of Population	National Ranking****
Adults with Any Mental Illness	21.30%	49
Adult Alcohol Dependence	3.06%	22
Adult Illicit Drug Use: Marijuana	12.34%	21
Adult Illicit Drug Use: Heroin	0.59%	40
Adult Illicit Drug Use: Cocaine	1.69%	26
Adults with Serious Thoughts of Suicide	4.66%	47

****Higher Ranking indicates higher prevalence (1-51, including DC)
Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Youth Prevalence	Percentage of Population	National Ranking****
Youth with Any Mental Illness	11.5%	12
Youth Alcohol Dependence	0.82%	6
Youth Illicit Drug Use: Marijuana	11.68%	14
Youth Illicit Drug Use: Heroin	0.17%	48
Youth Illicit Drug Use: Cocaine	0.56%	24
Youth with Severe Major Depressive Episode	5.5%	2

****Higher Ranking indicates higher prevalence (1-51, including DC)
Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Adults with Any Mental Illness (AMI) Access to Care	Percentage of Population	National Ranking****
Adults with AMI who Did Not Receive Treatment	50.6%	11
Adults with AMI Reporting Unmet Need	23.3%	42
Adults with AMI who are Uninsured	8.1%	6
Adults with Disability Could Not See Doctor due to Cost	15.38%	10

****Higher Ranking indicates higher prevalence (1-51, including DC)

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Youth with Major Depressive Episode (MDE) Access to Care	Percentage of Population	National Ranking****
Youth with MDE Who Did Not Receive Treatment	64.9%	35

****Higher Ranking indicates higher prevalence (1-51, including DC)

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Youth with Severe Major Depressive Episode (MDE) Access to Care	Percentage of Population	National Ranking+
Youth with Severe MDE Who Received Some Consistent Treatment	19.5%	38

+Higher Ranking indicates lower prevalence of treatment/poorer outcomes (1-51, including DC)

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Children	Percentage of Population	National Ranking++
With Private Insurance that Did Not Cover Mental or Emotional Problems	5.8%	15

++Higher Ranking indicates lower prevalence of insurance coverage (1-51, including DC)

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Students	Percentage of Population	National Ranking++
Students Identified with Emotional Disturbance for an Individualized Education Program (IEP)	7.2%	27

++Higher Ranking indicates poorer outcomes based on lower percentages of children receiving IEP services (1-51, including DC)

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Kentucky Mental Health Availability	Percentage of Population	National Ranking+++
Mental Health Workforce Availability	560:1	29

+++Higher Ranking indicates lower prevalence of services (1-51, including DC)

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2018, Mental Health America

Broadband Access

According to BroadbandNow, <https://broadband.com/Kentucky>, Kentucky ranks 40th in in the nation for broadband access, as measured by access to low price plans, wired broadband coverage, and friendliness to broadband competition. Speeds of 100+ Megabits Per Second (MBPS) are considered high quality broadband access. The average broadband speed in Kentucky is 62.8 MBPS.

In rural, eastern Kentucky, where there are fewer homes per square mile combined with rugged terrain, expanding high-speed internet broadband service has presented ongoing challenges. While Kentucky Department of Education initiatives included working with internet providers to provide low to no cost internet service to low-income families, internet access remained unavailable to homes, including homes in the Big Sandy Area, where the terrain hindered installation of wired service. Additionally, access through Disc providers, where available, offer services that are low speed with limited data, and are extremely expensive. Even with school districts providing computer equipment, children from low-income families with no access to internet services and no transportation to travel to Wi-Fi Hotspots were unable to participate in online instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. Recent legislation approved by the Kentucky General Assembly has allocated “\$250 million for last mile broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas and allows electric cooperatives (which are already providing electrical services to these areas) to add broadband service, if it is in the best interest of co-op consumer-members.” Hopefully, such legislation will lessen and eventually eliminate the digital divide, especially in rural areas of Eastern Kentucky.

2022 BSACAP Head Start Community Survey

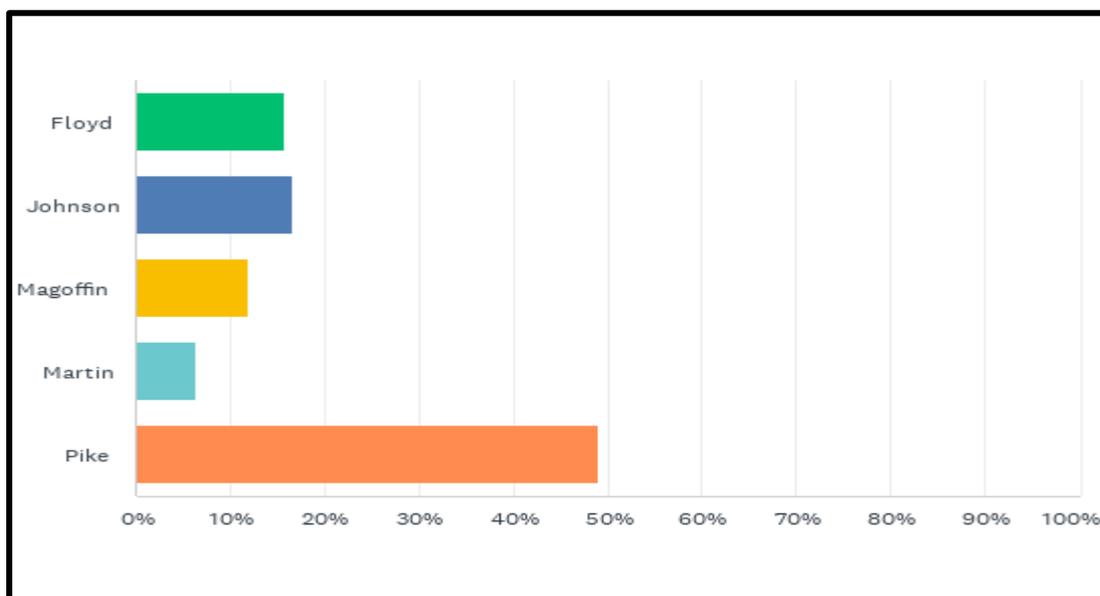
The purpose of the 2022 Community Assessment Survey was to update the results of a 2020 survey regarding a variety of factors that affect young children (birth to age five) and their families who live in the Big Sandy Area (Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike Counties); and help plan the continued provision of Head Start preschool services in our communities. Of particular interest was obtaining feedback from families and educators regarding their comfort level with attending full-time, on-site classes for the first time since Spring 2020.

The 2022 Community Assessment Survey was made available electronically from May 24, 2022 through June 3, 2022. It was distributed to Head Start Policy Council Members, BSACAP Head Start Staff and Families, and Community Service Members, via email. There were 112 responses, all submitted anonymously.

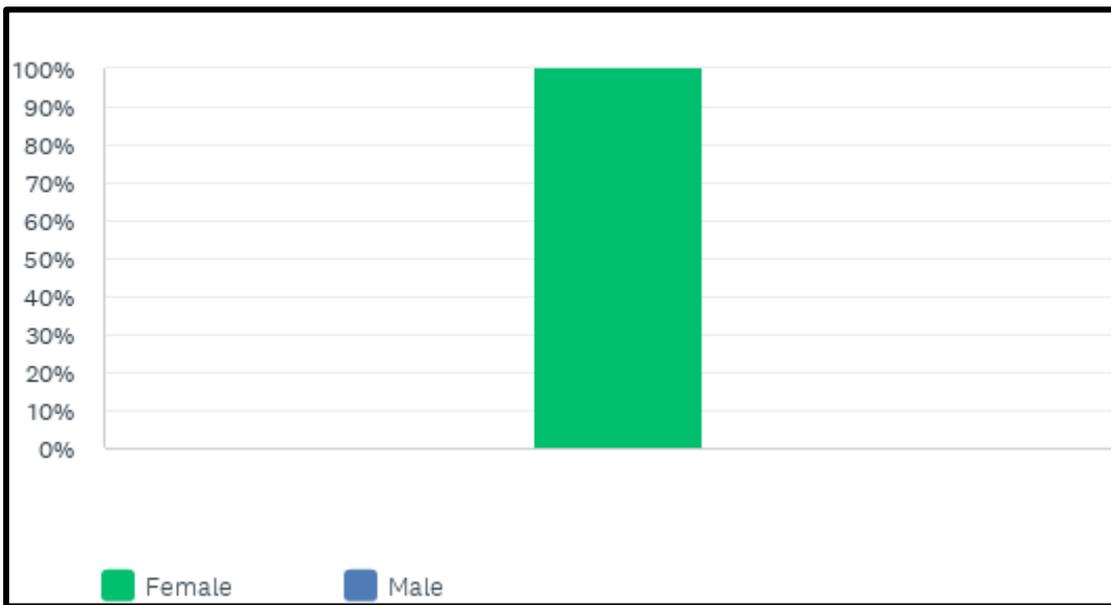
2022 Survey Results

Demographic Breakdown of Respondents

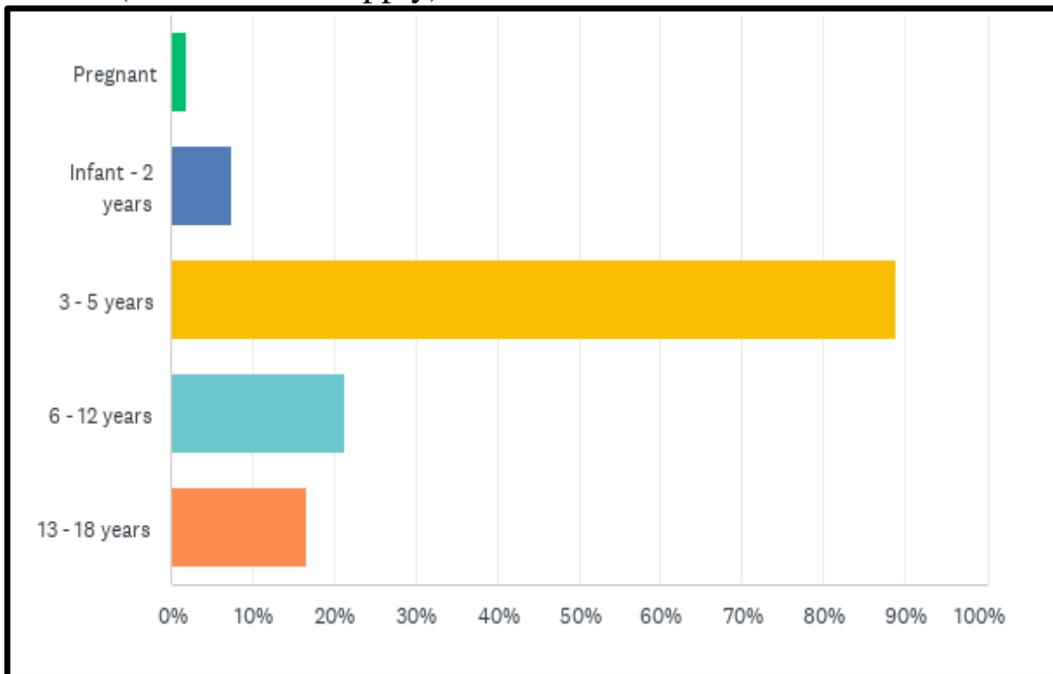
What county do you live in or provide services in?



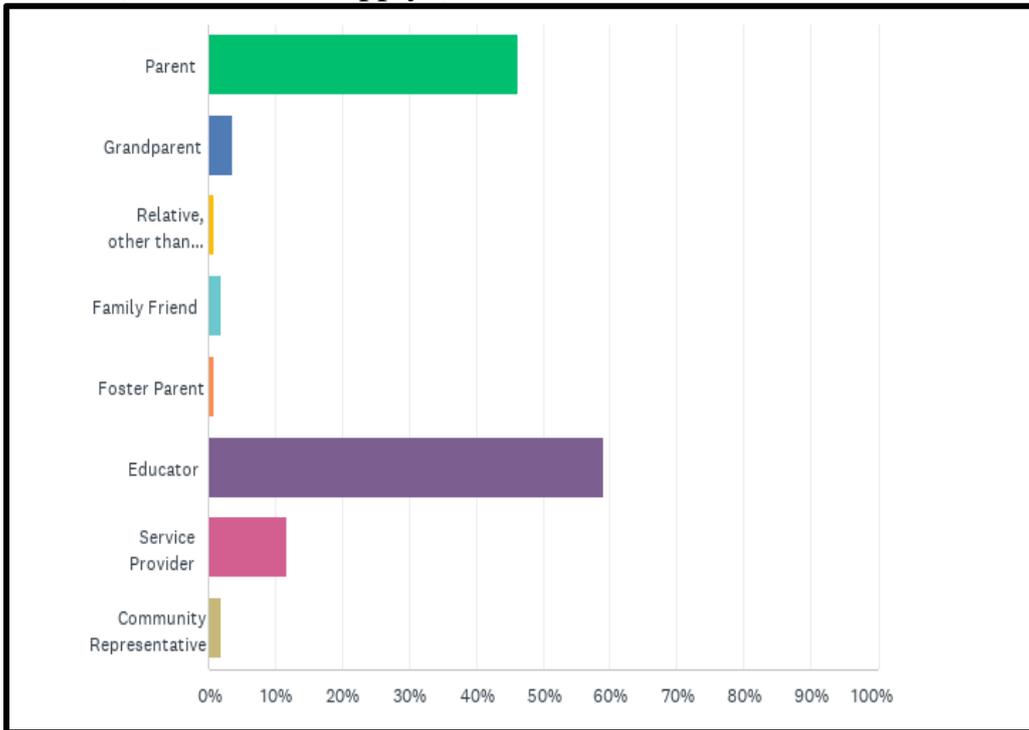
What is your gender?



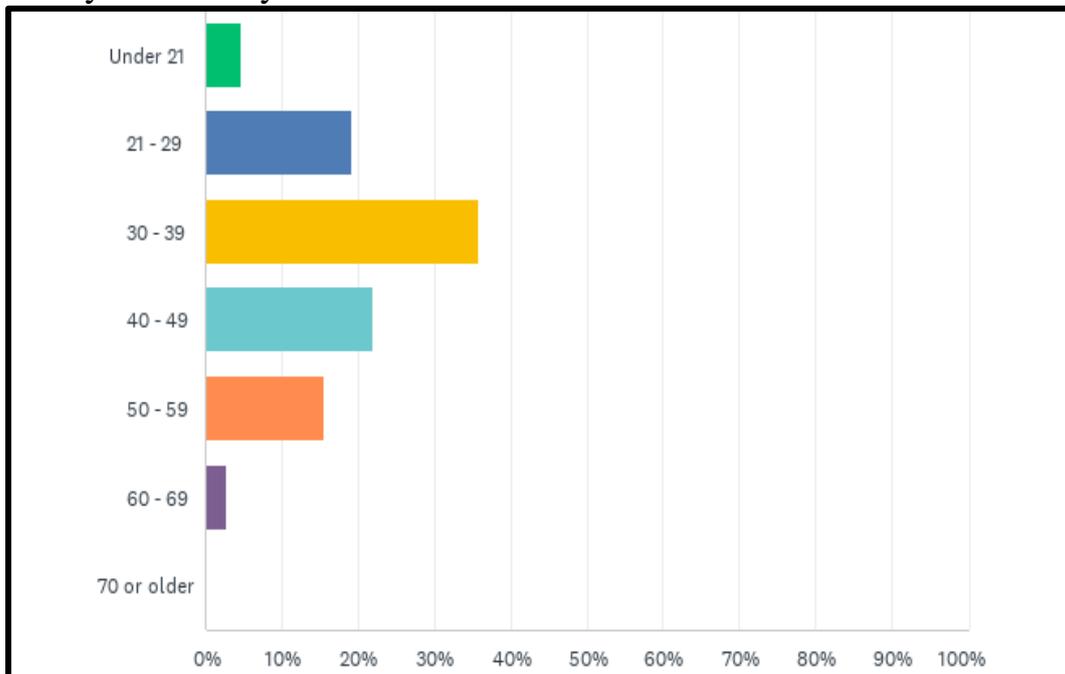
What age are the children in your home or the age of the children you serve? (Check all that apply)



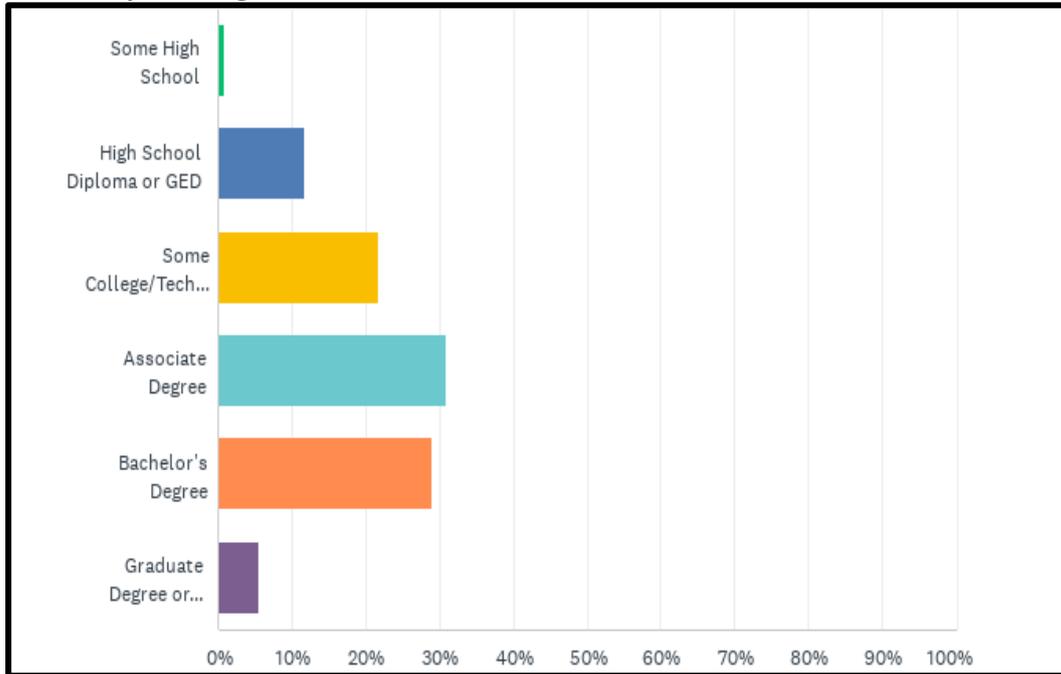
What is your relationship to the children in your home or the children you serve? (Check all that apply?)



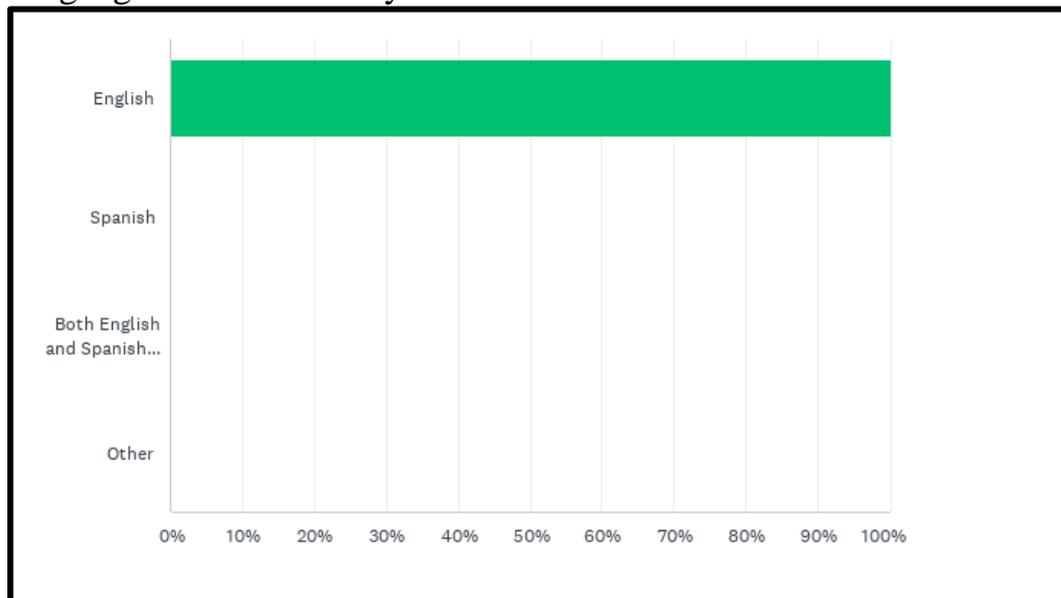
What category does your age fall into or the primary age group of the adult family members you serve?



What is your highest level of education?

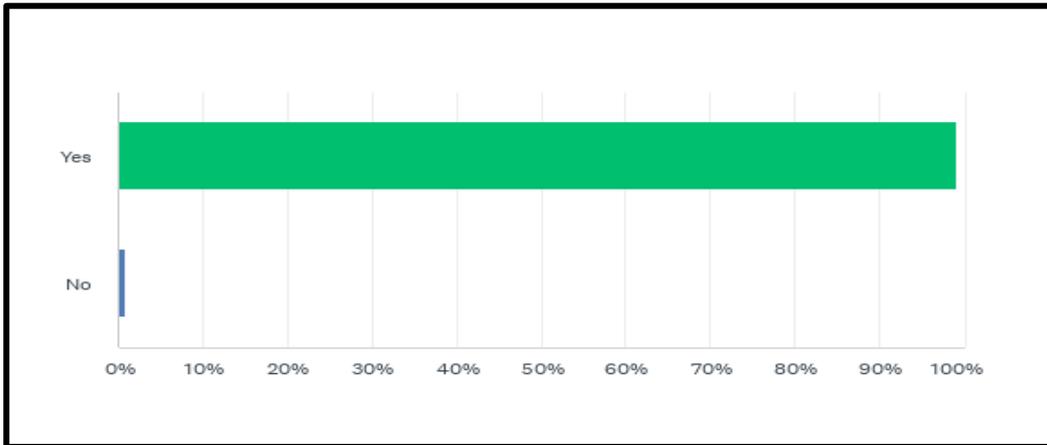


What is the primary language spoken in your home or the primary language of the families you serve?

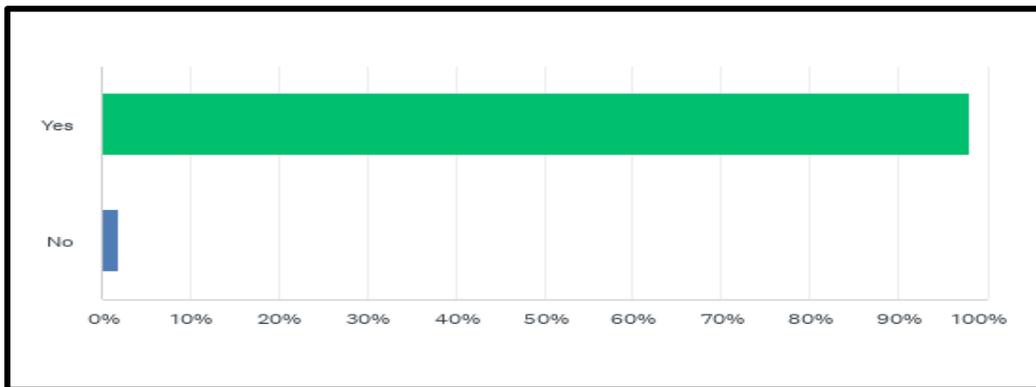


Electronic Communication Responses

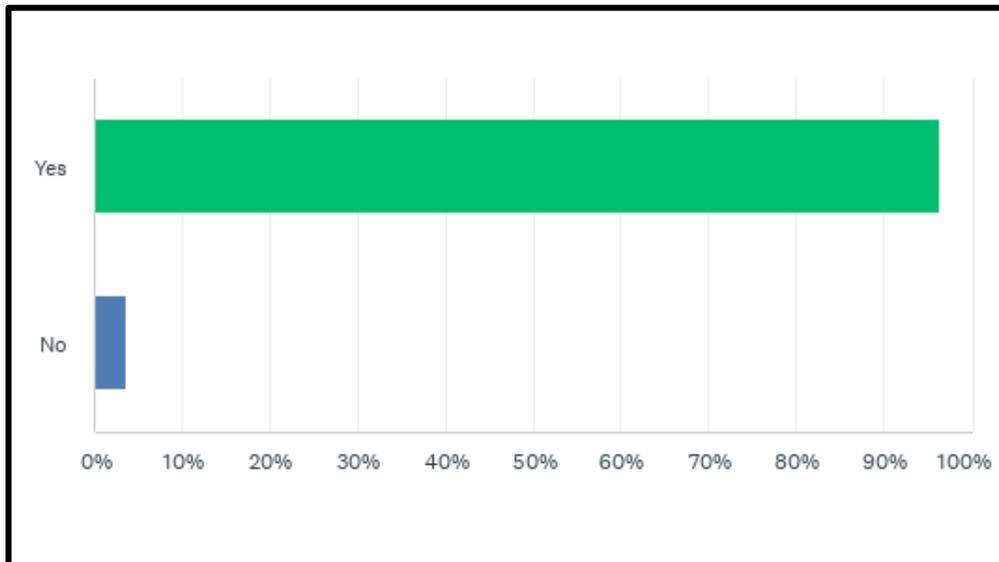
Do you have access to internet in your home?



Do you have a smart phone?

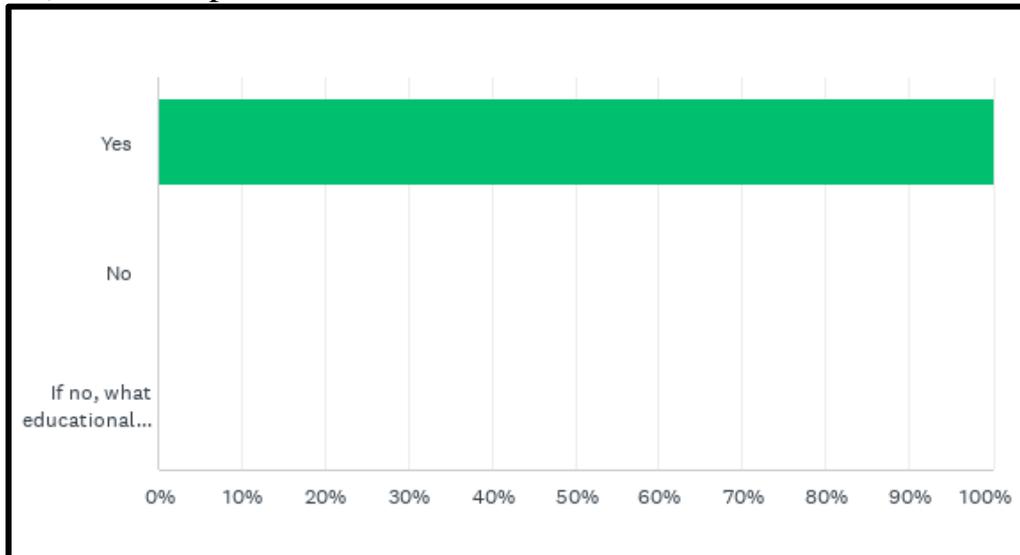


Do you own a computer, laptop, iPad or other tablet or electronic device?

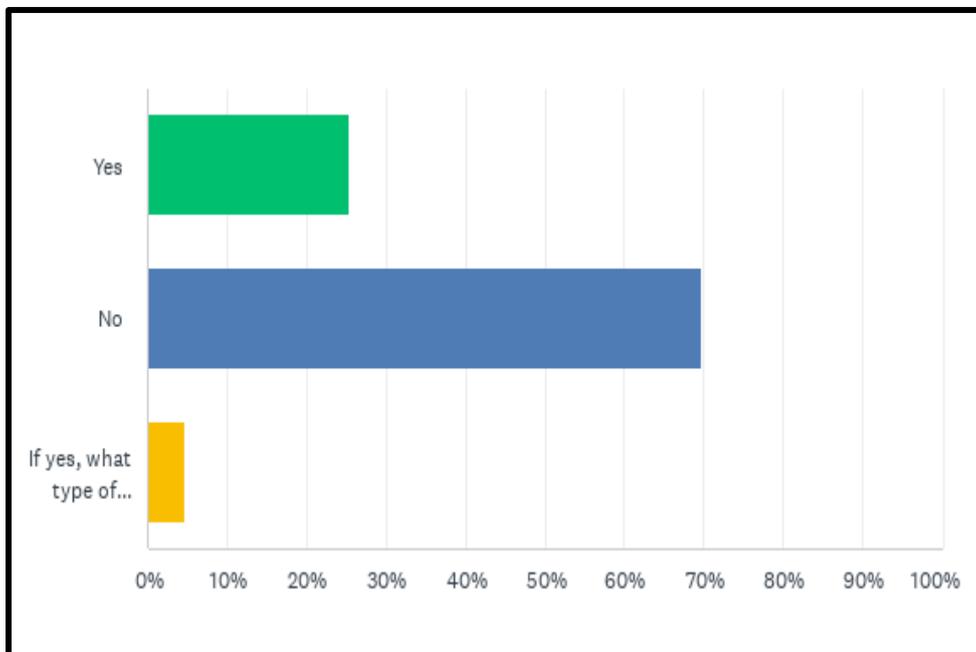


Head Start Preschool Responses

Do you feel comfortable having preschool aged children (ages 3-years old) attend in person classes?



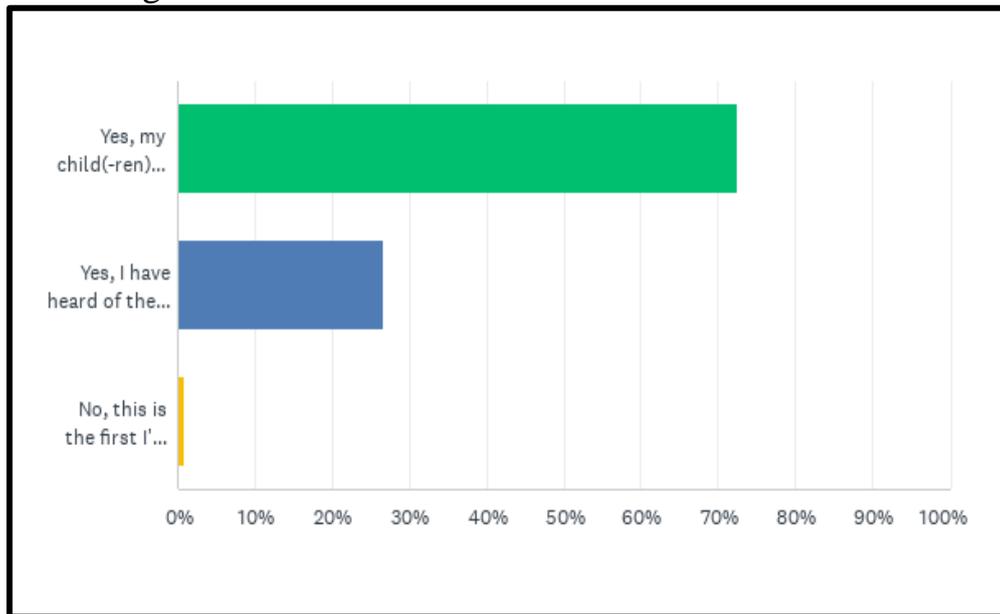
Do you believe special precautions related to COVID need to be taken for preschool aged children (ages 3-5 years old who attend in person classes)?



Five (5) Individual Responses to *If yes, what type of precautions:*

- 1.Masking
- 2.Smaller class size to give some distance, face masks, and lots of sanitizing
- 3.Extra cleaning
- 4.Lower class sizes
- 5.Simple precautions as followed already, washing hands and sanitizing regularly

Before this survey, were you familiar with the Big Sandy Area Head Start Program?



Responses Related to Accessing Needs and Services

Respondents were asked to rate the ease of access to needs and services by selecting one of the following answer choices:

- Very easy
- Easy
- Neither easy nor difficult
- Difficult
- Very Difficult

Accessibility of Needs and Services	Response Percentages				
	Very Easy	Easy	Neither Easy nor Difficult	Difficult	Very Difficult
Affordable recreational facilities, parks, camp, or after school programs	21.78%	30.69%	25.74%	17.82%	3.96%
High quality preschool educational services	30.69%	41.58%	19.80%	5.94%	1.98%
High quality childcare near home or work	9.90%	18.81%	36.63%	21.78%	12.87%
High quality childcare when you need it (before/after school care, non-school days, non-traditional/virtual school days, weekends)	9.90%	15.84%	32.67%	25.74%	15.84%
Affordable housing	4.95%	14.85%	41.58%	23.76%	14.85%
Reliable transportation	27.00%	29.00%	31.00%	9.00%	4.00%
Having healthy food to eat	23.76%	39.60%	17.82%	15.84%	2.97%
Enough food to eat	28.71%	36.63%	24.75%	9.90%	0.00%
Affordable medical care	15.00%	36.00%	28.00%	18.00%	3.00%
Prenatal care	17.00%	37.00%	43.00%	2.00%	1.00%
Affordable dental care	16.00%	40.00%	19.00%	20.00%	5.00%
Mental health services	16.83%	35.64%	28.71%	13.86%	4.95%
Affordable health insurance	11.88%	31.68%	23.76%	27.72%	4.95%
General parenting support or child development information	16.83%	40.59%	31.68%	8.91%	1.98%
Services/care for children with special needs	12.00%	24.00%	33.00%	24.00%	7.00%

Perceptions of Community Issues and Concerns

Respondents were asked to rate their concern regarding the prevalence of community issues by selecting one of the following answer choices:

- A great deal
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- None at all

Community Issues	Response Percentages				
	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	None at all
Unemployment, underemployment or availability of jobs that pay wages that are sufficient to support your family	29.47%	22.11%	27.73%	17.89%	3.16%
Crime or safety issues	10.31%	20.62%	26.80%	21.65%	20.62%
Discrimination (racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy)	4.12%	9.28%	13.40%	29.90%	43.30%
Alcohol/substance abuse	36.08%	18.56%	17.53%	5.15%	22.68%
Teen pregnancy	9.38%	13.54%	29.17%	26.04%	21.88%
Children with challenging behaviors	23.96%	25.00%	36.46%	10.42%	4.17%
Overweight children, lack of physical activity for children	16.67%	28.13%	30.21%	19.79%	5.21%

Comments Question Responses

Survey Question: What are the things you like best about living or working in the Big Sandy Area

Seventy-three (73) responses:

- Togetherness
- Love area people
- Bible belt
- Small town communities
- The small community and people you work with
- Probably the school programs
- It's home
- Sense of community
- The small community
- We're close to family
- I love working with the children. Helping them learn new things each day
- Community
- The closeness of the families

- The small town feel
- The community! Everyone I am around strives daily to (do) their best
- It's a great place to live/work
- The people and close connections that are formed
- Helping other people
- Sports
- Friendly families and good schools
- I love the small town feel and how everyone feels like family
- Mak(ing) sure our children are taking care of and family
- The area mountains and family
- Small community
- The people
- Close to family
- The people are very friendly
- The small communities offer friends and neighbors that are like family
- I love my community and the area I serve
- It's very family oriented
- Family environment and friends
- Small. Have beautiful state parks
- The communities are small, so you get to know families on a more personal level and know more
- Family
- Close to family
- Small towns and mountain life
- I love the small town community feeling and knowing the families I serve personally or through past experiences with them or someone related to them. I love the closeness with the people I work with and the relationships we are able to have since working in such a small school
- It's beautiful. I have my family around to help
- Mountains
- Small community, friendly neighbors
- The culture and the meaning of true community is what I like best about living in the Big Sandy Area. Everyone comes together in times that are most needed and they always lend a hand to help a neighbor.
- My co-workers
- I like the people I work with and go to church with
- The people
- The people you get to meet and work with
- Friendly people
- Helping children and parents in their time of need!
- The tight knit community
- Small town feeling. Everyone is nice and willing to help one another out
- A close community
- Caring, understanding people that treat others with respect
- It's close to my home
- The friendliness of a small town
- Family and the love people have for each other
- We take care of our family

- Close to home
- Close family
- Most family are in this area
- The environment, the work ethics of the people in the region and being able to just get out and meet people
- I like working in the Big Sandy Area due to the fact that the needs of the children are always a priority
- Everyone is very friendly and willing to help each other
- Friendly staff and families
- I love my co-workers; they are my second family
- People are mostly nice, and everyone acts like family
- Close to home
- Community support
- Peaceful, slow pace, relaxing rural living
- Providing services for the families in need
- The land
- Lots of stuff
- Getting to know the families and the things that are accessible to them. We lack tremendously in our area for the needs of most families. Sometimes it is frustrating not being able to supply the needs of most. Overall, being able to help someone succeed is rewarding.
- I love working with students and families

Survey Question: What programs or services have benefited you and your family and/or other families you know?

Fifty-eight (58) responses

- SNAP
- Preschool Head Start
- Families I know have benefited from WIC, SNAP, financial aid resources, housing, heat/air assistance, food pantries, and so on and so forth
- Head Start program
- Head Start
- Head Start
- Local food programs have helped our families in the communities
- Head Start, Snap, Medicaid
- I recently received my CDA and I was able to obtain it with the help of the program
- Head Start, SNAP, Housing
- COVID health insurance
- I know that snap and medical cards have helped tons of families in our area
- SNAP program and Medicaid program
- Head Start program
- Medical cards and food stamps are the only ones I'm aware of
- Head Start
- Head Start program has been wonderful
- LIHEAP, Head Start, SNAP, WIC
- Head Start

- COVID food programs (EBT and school food give away)
- None. I work so no service is available for me
- Head Start offers children an extra boost to social and educational experiences that some have not been exposed to in their own household
- LIHEAP and Christian Appalachian
- Head Start, LIHEAP, HANDS, WIC, EBT/SNAP, Medicaid, SkillsU, Ready to Work
- Save the Children, Community Action Program, churches
- Getting to know the families on a personal level
- Head Start program because of the multiple services that are provided for different challenges
- Head Start, food stamps when school kids got them, Medicaid when COVID was bad
- Head Start, First Steps, Hands, WIC
- Food/clothing giveaways from the school or community. Free haircuts at the beginning of school donated from beauticians and organized by the Family Resource and Youth Services Center at my school
- Head Start, LIHEAP, garden program, home repair program
- I work so I get nothing
- Something that was provided to families with school age children was the SNAP food benefits during the pandemic. This helped so many families out with their grocery bill. I think it would be great that not just low income families get this, but the families as well. That takes a big stress off knowing their groceries are paid for. Just a thought
- BSACAP
- Big Sandy CAP
- Big Sandy CAP
- LIHEAP
- P-EBT, Wellcare
- Head Start
- Whatever I need, I can find help
- Head Start
- WIC, Medicaid
- SNAP
- I would have to say Christian Appalachian Project
- Free health care during COVID
- SNAP, WIC
- Head Start, unemployment, WIC, Food Stamps, health care
- Head Start has always benefited not only my family, but my community as well
- Head Start (period) has helped lots of families
- Helping to pay for college classes
- Head Start, WIC, Food Stamps, Child Care assistance, LIHEAP
- Head Start
- Head Start
- P-EBT
- Head Start has provided so many areas of assistance for parents and children
- WIC, Head Start
- Head Start
- LIHEAP has helped tremendously to most of the families I serve

Survey Question: What programs or services, that as far as you know aren't currently available, would most benefit you, your family, and/or other families you know?

Forty-eight (48) Responses:

- ?
- Day cares. After school day care
- None
- Many families in our area lack education. It needs to be easier or people that are limited to be educated on ways to care for their children and families. Cooking, cleaning, hygiene, etc. LIFE SKILLS, this will help break the cycle families in our area that don't know any better because the way they live is all they know
- I'm not sure
- Day care so people can work and find jobs
- Area for children with disabilities to play
- None
- I know transportation is a huge barrier in this area
- Any programs related to help with future education
- After school programs. Day Cares
- In person Cabinet for Health and families
- I'm not entirely sure of any programs
- Free internet service for those children who cannot afford it
- My family could benefit from the EBT program. Grocery prices are ridiculous and it's hard to afford to eat
- WIC services
- Access to early learning for families that do not qualify for Head Start
- Healthy food purchase assistance: healthy food is a lot more expensive than junk food and many people would purchase fruits/vegetables if they had assistance on being able to afford those items
- None
- Transportation
- Affordable childcare in the area and childcare assistance
- Free community events in locations already established. For example, free fishing weekend, free ice cream at DQ
- I feel they should do the P-EBT every summer to make sure all kids eat
- In my opinion extra food benefits for the summer would help families a lot because of the increases in food bills
- Not sure
- Affordable vehicle and health insurance. A clinic that is open 24 hours a day.
Childcare
- Local childcare
- Affordable or free vision and dental care
- P-EBT
- Neither
- LIHEAP
- LIHEAP and Head Start
- Something to do for kids
- Not sure

- None
- I think children with disabilities have to travel too far to receive diagnosis and treatment. Parents get a brochure on how to work with the kid or an appointment to come back in 6 weeks. Parents feel helpless!!! We need support groups and we need to have a place where parents can meet and share concerns.
- Transportation
- Childcare

Survey Question: Other comments or concerns about young children and families in the Big Sandy Area.

Twenty-five (25) Responses:

- Not enough special services
- Homes, food
- No comment
- Children in this area have more and more disabilities whether it is mental (behavior), speech, physical, or delays; and the families don't have or know services that can help them
- The staff is completely underpaid, It is sad that they work so hard for such a minimum wages. We work harder than school staff. We wouldn't be the #1 Head Start in the state of KY if we didn't work hard. Raises are needed. The federal employees received the \$15.00 minimum wages last year, so why didn't Head Start? We are federal employees as well
- We are seeing more autistic and special needs children, yet there are fewer special needs aides hired. This is more stressful on the teaching staff with negative effects on learning for all the children in the classroom. Also, the process of getting an IEP for a child without a previous diagnosis is more lengthy, even taking over a year in RTI. I feel there needs to be more support for children with special needs and their families.
- Parents need to be more informed on the importance of early education for children
- None
- Need more jobs and places to have more jobs. Bring some businesses in like Toyota in Georgetown. Pikeville has that new industrial park. Use it and factories up there
- With rising costs of food and essential items, I fear students having what they need during months off from school and parents not having access to resources to get these type of things
- Too many parents not raising their kids
- Grandparents and other relatives raising young children that don't have the education or knowledge for young children
- Parents need to instill more discipline
- Parents need to instill more discipline in their children
- Children or getting to come to school
- Head Start is a great program and very beneficial
- Need more activities for kids to do in this area
- There are a lot of special needs children that need more one on one
- Not a whole back here to make families feel welcome or inviting
- I love working in Head Start and feel it helps children and their families tremendously
- Drugs are destroying our community

- Drug abuse
- Young children are out of the home and into Kinship or Foster Care every day. Children are with parents that are unaware of special needs services
- I think that all families whether they have a high income or low income should be able to participate in all the good things the program provides
- We need more child care centers in Floyd County. And I sure wish the level for Head Start children went up so more people had the opportunity!

Community Resources in Addition to BSACAP Services

Educational and Career Development Resources

- Kentucky U-Skills – Free GED Classes and No-Fee GED Exam;
- Work Ready Kentucky - Tuition free career coursework in healthcare, manufacturing, construction/trades, logistics, business or IT through the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS);
- Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority Scholarship Programs;
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) Services;
- Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center;
- State and Private Higher Education Institutions offering on-site and on-line coursework and technical skill development:
 - Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS);
 - Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College;
 - Morehead State University;
 - Eastern Kentucky University;
 - University of the Cumberlands;
 - Pikeville University;
 - Alice Lloyd College;
 - Gallen College of Nursing;
 - American National University;
 - eKAMI – eKentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute
 - South Eastern Beauty Academy.

Business and Industry Resources and Initiatives

- Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR);
- Kentucky AgriTech – Promotion of Biotechnology & Bioengineering, particularly in Eastern Kentucky;
- Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grants
- Team Kentucky Entrepreneurship

Health, Nutrition, and Safety Services

- Area Hospitals
 - Pikeville Medical Center;
 - ARH (Appalachian Regional Health) Medical Centers and Clinics;
 - King’s Daughters Center, Ashland and satellite sites;
 - University of Kentucky Children’s Hospital, Lexington;
 - Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio;
- Big Sandy Health Care Centers;
- Annual County Health Fairs;
- County Health Department Programs:
 - Smoking Cessation;
 - Diabetes Support Groups;
 - Fitness Programs;
- Mountain Home Place Clinics;
- KY Vision Program;
- Mountain Comprehensive Care Centers- Various mental health, trauma and recovery services throughout the area;
- Catholic Charities;
- Addiction Recovery Centers – Inpatient and outpatient services;
- Strengthening Families Network – Family Cafes;
- United Helping Hands, Pikeville;
- Local Food Pantries;
- School-wide Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs;
- Summer Lunch Programs;
- Senior Citizens Centers Meal Programs;
- Christian Appalachian Project, Hager Hill;
- Sandy Valley Transportation Services;
- AppalReD Legal Aid.

Housing Assistance

- East Kentucky House of Hope – homeless shelter, Prestonsburg;
- Westcare Emergency Shelter, Pikeville;
- USDA Rural Development – Single family home loans and home repair grants.

Child and Youth Focused Services

- County Library programs, such as Family Fun Days, Story Hour and school partnerships;
- Health Department educational partnerships with area schools;
- Floyd County Early Childhood Interagency Council;
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library;
- United Way Born Learning Academies;
- Berea College Partners for Education Program - Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (Gear Up);
- Youth Sports Leagues.

Adult and Young Adult Services and Recreational & Cultural Activities

- County Library talks, book clubs, and adult learning opportunities;
- Mountain Arts Center, Prestonsburg;
- Appalachian Wireless Arena, Pikeville;
- Country Music Highway Museum, Paintsville;
- Country Music Highway Road to Fame Competition;
- Sipp Theater, Paintsville;
- Kentucky Chautauqua[®], Kentucky Humanities Council.

Family Focused Recreational & Cultural Activities

- Jenny Wiley Theatre, Prestonsburg and Pikeville;
- Magoffin County Historical Society Pioneer Village, Salyersville;
- Roy Collier Community Center, Inez;
- Dawkins Line Rail Trail Mountain Bike Trail, Johnson and Magoffin Counties;
- Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Prestonsburg;
- Paintsville Lake State Park, Staffordsville;
 - Mountain HomePlace
- Breaks Interstate Park, Southeastern Kentucky/Southwestern Virginia;
- County and City Annual Festivals

Key Considerations

Population and Economic Growth

Will Big Sandy Area population continue to decline or will there be sufficient economic initiatives and growth to help the region thrive?

With mining having been the primary industry for generations, the closing of area coal mines over the last several years has forced families to leave Eastern Kentucky to obtain employment elsewhere. While the Big Sandy Area in Eastern Kentucky has experienced a decline, population for the commonwealth as a whole has increased.

State initiatives have been put into place to train and retrain workers in the high demand areas of health care and industry trade in hopes of creating a work ready force to entice new business industry to the area. The Governor's Office created the Kentucky AgriTech Department, focusing on developing partnerships with private businesses to *GrowKentucky*. One such business, AppHarvest, is a high tech, self-sustaining greenhouse in Eastern Kentucky large enough to grow and supply tomatoes to the nation's entire eastern seaboard.

Other initiatives include:

- Completion of the Mountain Parkway through Magoffin and Floyd Counties;
- An Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant for project Health Care Employment Around Resource Training (HEART) to create a learning environment focused on educating high school students about careers in health care;
- Team Kentucky Entrepreneurship – support for the entrepreneurial ecosystem and small business start-ups.

Even with such initiatives **some of the highest declines of percentage points within the state in annual unemployment rates for 2021-2022**, Eastern Kentucky is continuing to experience **high unemployment rates. Magoffin County recorded the highest unemployment rate in Kentucky in 2022 at 10.5% followed by Martin County as the fourth highest at 7.3%**. A number of area businesses were not able rebound from the economic devastation of the pandemic. According to the 2022 Head Start Community Assessment, the highest area of concern in the community is unemployment, underemployment or availability of jobs that pay wages that are sufficient to support one's family. While *Help Wanted* signs can be seen along the streets, offering higher wages than pre-pandemic times, these jobs tend to be part-

time without benefits.

The current rise in the cost of fuel, food, and basic necessities has many families working two or three minimum wage jobs, barely making ends meet. As inflation continues to increase, a ripple effect is likely to be seen on service and recreational businesses, as people “cut back” to afford gas to get to work, food, and other basic necessities for their families.

The closing of area businesses, the rapid increase in inflation, and the inability of many to secure full-time jobs that pay a liveable wage, may cause Eastern Kentucky to continue experiencing a decline in population.

Additionally, the decision to re-locate to other areas to find employment would most likely have an emotional impact on families, as there is a strong cultural pride and connectiveness that permeates the Appalachian culture. This is reflected by the many comments listed for the 2022 Community Assessment question, *What are the things you like best about living or working in the Big Sandy Area?* (pages 57-59).

Internet Access

Relative to more populated areas of the nation, internet broadband services are somewhat new to the Big Sandy region. In 2016, the Kentucky Wired State Wide Broadband Network Initiative began planning and engineering procedures to install a fiber optic cable network system to provide high-speed, high-capacity internet service across the commonwealth. Survey procedures have been conducted in Eastern Kentucky to connect to the state-wide network. Installation of fiber optic cable is in progress in the Northern and Eastern Kentucky. Until the completion of the initiative, many Kentuckians in smaller rural communities, including those in the Big Sandy Area have limited access to internet and cell phone service. Hopefully, recent funding for the last mile internet broadband service will lessen or eliminate the digital divide felt by Eastern Kentucky families.

Quality Child Care Options

The Big Sandy Area had a total of 17 state regulated child care providers in 2022, serving 325 preschool aged children with a population of 3,079 children 3 and 4. In addition to regulated child care, KYSTATS Early Childhood Profile 2020 reported a total of 160 children enrolled in state funded self-contained preschool programs. Funded enrollment for

Big Sandy Area Head Start is 1,113. Total early childhood services in the Big Sandy Area, including state regulated child care providers, state funded preschool and Head Start were available to 1,287 children out of a population of 3,079 children or 42% of the population ages 3 and 4.

In addition to economic initiatives that provide liveable wages, there is a need for high quality, affordable child care services in the region so that families can afford to join the workforce and know that their children are well cared for in quality settings.

Mental Health Services

As Kentuckians, along with the rest of the nation, transition from living under almost two and a half years of emergency COVID restrictions, the mental well-being of families will need to be given special consideration. The pandemic, loss of income, the ending of direct financial support to families, and the inflation the country is currently experiencing, are having an impact on the levels of anxiety and stress felt by families. Support and awareness of the mental well-being of children and their families will be important to the growth and development of young children served by Head Start.

Family Support

During the pandemic, public schools were essential to the support of children and families. In addition to providing meals to children through age 18, computer equipment and Wi-Fi spots were made accessible to students.

Those services have since been greatly reduced. Meal programs that were offered consistently through the two-year pandemic period, have been significantly reduced. Summer meal programs for school age children during the 2022 summer are typically being offered for two (2) to four (4) weeks out of the two (2) months or longer summer break.

In addition to a reduction in the public school meal program, federal and state sponsored programs that provided pandemic SNAP benefits, presumptive Medicaid coverage, and monthly stimulus payments for children have ended.

Several respondents of the 2022 Head Community Assessment Survey expressed concern about children not having access to food and other resources, especially during the summer months.

In-Person Classes for the 2022-2023 School year

One hundred percent (100%) of the respondents to the 2022 Head Start Community Assessment indicated that they are comfortable having preschool aged children (ages 3-5 years old) attend in person classes.

BSACAP Head Start was able to meet to meet full enrollment without **the option of** virtual instruction **for the 2022-23 school year.**

Updating Demographic Information

It will be important to update the demographics of this Community Assessment Report when the Census Bureau publishes the results of the United 2020 Census.

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