Big Sandy Area Community Action Program

Head Start 5-Year

**Community Assessment**

**Head Start 2025**

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**Big Sandy Area Community Action Program**

# Head Start

# 2025

# Community Assessment

# Executive Summary

**Purpose**

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) 2025 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;
* 2025 Head Start Community Survey;
* Community Resources.

**Big Sandy Area Community Action Program**

**2024 Update**

# Head Start

# Community Assessment

**Table of Contents**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Introduction………………………………………………………………………………. | 6 |
| Geographic Information………………………………………………………………...... | 8 |
| Demographics……………………………………………………………………………. | 13 |
| Population……………………………………………………………………………. | 13 |
| Age and Sex………………………………………………………………………….. | 14 |
| Race and Hispanic Origin……………………………………………………………. | 15 |
| Population Characteristics……………………………………………………………. | 15 |
| Housing………………………………………………………………………………. | 15 |
| Family & Living Arrangements……………………………………………………… | 16 |
| Household Computer and Internet Use………………………………………………. | 16 |
| Education…………………………………………………………………………….. | 16 |
| Health………………………………………………………………………………… | 17 |
| Economy……………………………………………………………………………... | 18 |
| Businesses……………………………………………………………………………. | 18 |
| Transportation………………………………………………………………………... | 18 |
| Income & Poverty……………………………………………………………………. | 19 |
| March 2024 Kentucky Unemployment Rates…………………………………………  March 2024 Kentucky Employment Rates……………………………………………  April 2024 Kentucky Education and Workforce Cabinet Release on Unemployment. | 20  20  21 |
| Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) Head Start…………………... | 23 |
| Enrollment……………………………………………………………………………. | 23 |
| . |  |
| Program Demographics……………………………………………………………… | 24 |
| Other Child Service Programs…………………………………………………………… | 30 |
| Child Population……………………………………………………………………... | 30 |
| Licensed or State Certified Child Care Providers……………………………………. | 31 |
| Enrolled State Funded Preschool…………………………………………………….. | 31 |
| Number of Head Start Eligible Children Compared to Other Higher Income Eligible | 32 |
|  |  |
| Vulnerable Populations…………………………………………………………………... | 32 |
| Economic Security of Kentucky Children……………………………………………  At Risk Births…………………………………………………………………………  Nutrition………………………………………………………………………………. | 33  33  33 |
| Big Sandy Area in Foster Care……………………………………………………….. | 34 |
| Cases of Child Maltreatment…………………………………………………………. | 34 |
| Screened-in Infants with Prenatal Substance Abuse…………………………………. | 34 |
| Homeless Students in the Big Sandy Area…………………………………………… | 34 |
| Homeless Students in Kentucky……………………………………………………… | 35 |
| Children with Incarcerated Parents…………………………………………………... | 35 |
| Education, Workforce, Health & Nutrition, and Social Needs…………………………... | 35 |
| Big Sandy Area Education Levels…………………………………………………… | 35 |
| Big Sandy Area Workforce Statistics………………………………………………… | 36 |
| Health Insurance……………………………………………………………………… | 36 |
| Previous Years Big Sandy Area Percent of Children Without Health Insurance……. | 36 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Big Sandy Area Health Statistics…………………………………………………….. | 36 |
| Kentucky Health Statistics…………………………………………………………… | 37 |
| Food Insecure Households…………………………………………………………… | 38 |
| Mental Health Prevalence & Treatment……………………………………………… | 39 |
| Broadband Access……………………………………………………………………. | 40 |
| 2022 BSACAP Head Start Community Survey………………………………………….. | 42 |
| Demographic Breakdown of Respondents…………………………………………… | 42 |
| Community Role……………………………………………………………………… | 43 |
| Demographic Information……………………………………………………………. | 43 |
| Areas of Need……………………………………….………………………………... | 47 |
| Employment………………………………………………………………………….. | 48 |
| Housing……………………...……………………………………………………….. | 51 |
| Community Resources, Services…………………………………………………………. | 52 |
| Education……………………………………….……………………………………. | 55 |
| Health…………………………………………………………………………………. | 57 |
| Civic Engagement…………………………………………………………………….. | 60 |
| Why Community Action is Important ……………………….…………………….... | 62 |
| Key Findings and Initial Conclusions………………………………………………... | 62 |
| References………………………………………………………………….…………… | 63 |
|  |  |
|  |  |

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 sixty 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:**

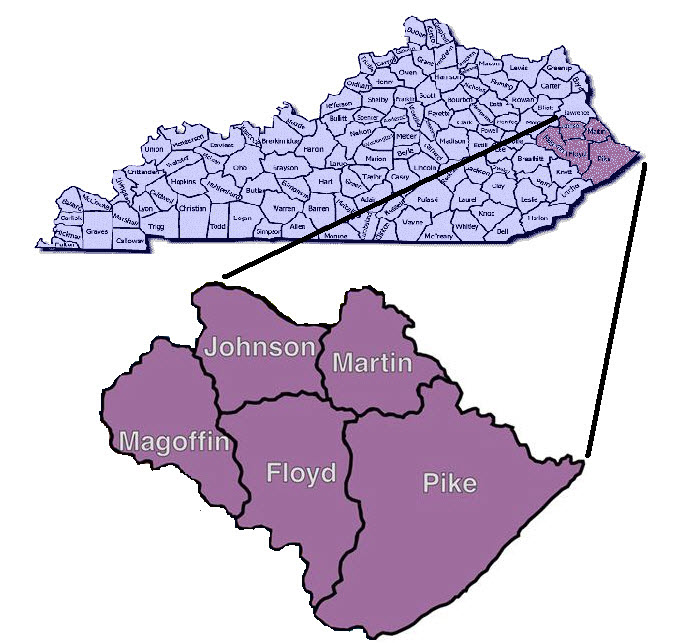
**People need to live independently,**

**Partners work together to support, and**

**Communities receive to improve quality of life.**

# Geographic Information

**Big Sandy Community Action Program Coverage Area**



**Floyd County**

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Kentucky_highlighting_Floyd_County.svg)**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

**[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Kentucky_highlighting_Johnson_County.svg)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

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Kentucky_highlighting_Magoffin_County.svg)**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, Wonnie, Edna, Elsie, and Hendricks.

Martin County

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Kentucky_highlighting_Martin_County.svg)**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

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Kentucky_highlighting_Pike_County.svg)**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 andrecreational 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, 2024 | 34,532 | 22,098 | 11,118 | 10,696 | 55,430 |
| Population Estimates Base April 1, 2020 | 35,942 | 22,678 | 11,639 | 11,287 | 58,668 |
| Population, percent change April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2024 | -3.9% | -2.6% | -4.5% | -5.2% | -5.5% |
| Population, Census, April 1, 2020 | 35,942 | 22,680 | 11,637 | 11,287 | 58,669 |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

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 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 | 5.6% | 5.3% | 5.9% | 5.0% | 4.9% |
| Persons under 18 years | 22.4% | 22.1% | 22.7% | 19.2% | 20.3% |
| Persons 65 years and over | 20.3% | 19.6% | 19.4% | 18.1% | 20.8% |
| Female persons | 50.9% | 50.6% | 49.9% | 43.7% | 50.6% |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Race and Hispanic Origin**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| White | 97.8% | 97.5% | 98.0% | 89.7% | 97.5% |
| Black or African American | 0.8% | 0.5% | 0.4% | 8.5% | 0.9% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.2% |
| Asian alone | 0.3% | 0.7% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.6% |
| Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander | >0.0% | >0.0% | 0.0% | >0.0% | >0.0% |
| Two or more races | 0.9% | 1.1% | 0.9% | 1.1% | 0.9% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 0.9% | 1.0% | 0.6% | 3.5% | 1.3% |
| White, not Hispanic or Latino | 97.0% | 96.7% | 97.5% | 86.5% | 96.4% |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Population Characteristics**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| Veterans 2019-2023 | 1,300 | 865 | 371 | 170 | 2,201 |
| Percentage of Foreign Born Persons | 0.4% | 1.7% | 0.4% | 0.9% | 0.7% |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Housing**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| Housing Units July 1, 2023 | 17,579 | 10,600 | 5,523 | 4,888 | 29,209 |
| Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2019-2023 | 72.1% | 66.4% | 75.5% | 80.2% | 75.1% |
| Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2019-2023 | $93,300 | $125,300 | $88,300 | $84,900 | $104,200 |
| Median selected monthly owner costs-with a mortgage, 2019-2023 | $1,179 | $1,168 | $1,164 | $1,301 | $1,239 |
| Median gross rent 2019-2023 | $713 | $698 | $633 | $441 | $837 |
| Median selected monthly owner costs-without a mortgage, 2019-2023 | $382 | $387 | $385 | $376 | $410 |
| Building Permits 2023 | 4 | NA | NA | NA | 10 |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Family & Living Arrangements**

**2019-2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| Households | 14,460 | 8,843 | 4,564 | 3,935 | 24,449 |
| Persons per household | 2.38 | 2.48 | 2.49 | 2.48 | 2.30 |
| Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year | 91.3% | 90.5% | 89.7% | 92.0% | 88.3% |
| Language other than English spoken at home, present of persons age 5 year+ | 0.9% | 1.8% | 1.1% | 1.4% | 1.3% |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Household Computer and Internet Use**

**2019-2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| Households with a computer | 88.2% | 90.2% | 85.8% | 86.4% | 87.8% |
| Households with internet broadband | 82.8% | 86.5% | 83.0% | 81.1% | 80.4% |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Education**

**2019-2023 Percentage of Persons Age 25 Years +**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| High school graduate | 81.1% | 82.3% | 74.9% | 73.7% | 80.8% |
| Bachelor’s degree or higher | 15.1% | 16.6% | 13.2% | 10.7% | 16.0% |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Health**

**2019-2023 Percentage of Population Under Age 65 Years**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| With a disability | 20.4% | 20.8% | 22.5% | 22.6% | 24.0% |
| Persons without health insurance | 7.1% | 6.7% | 7.6% | 6.6% | 7.0% |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Health Indicators for Kentucky** | |
| [Fertility Rate](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/fertility_rate/fertility_rates.htm) | **61.1** (births per 1,000 women 15-44 years of age) |
| [Teen Birth Rate](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/teen-births/teenbirths.htm) | **21.8** (births per 1,000 females 15-19 years of age) |
| [Infant Mortality Rate](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/infant_mortality_rates/infant_mortality.htm) | **5.77** (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) |
| [Life Expectancy (at Birth)](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/life_expectancy/life_expectancy.htm) | **72.3 years** (2021) |
| [Marriage Rate](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/state-marriage-rates-90-95-99-19.pdf) | **6.2** (marriages per 1,000) |
| [Divorce Rate](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/state-divorce-rates-90-95-99-19.pdf) | **3.0** (divorces per 1,000) |
| [Leading Cause of Death](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/kentucky/ky.htm#lcod) | **Heart Disease** |
| [Drug Overdose Death Rate](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/drug_poisoning_mortality/drug_poisoning.htm) | **53.2** (per 100,000)¹ |
| [Firearm Injury Death Rate](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm) | **18.8** (per 100,000)¹ |
| [Homicide Rate](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/homicide_mortality/homicide.htm) | **8.3** (per 100,000)¹ |

12022 Death rates, age adjusted

**2**Data are provisional and subject to change. 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+, 2019-2023 | 43.9% | 46.2% | 37.7% | 32.6% | 43.3% |
| In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2019-2023 | 42.1% | 43.9% | 30.8% | 31.8% | 39.7% |
| Total accommodation and food services sales 2022 ($1,000) | 39,527 | 34,257 | 12,294 | 10,662 | 128,506 |
| Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2022 ($1,000) | 355,036 | 90,617 | 37,695 | 21,944 | 1,059,891 |
| Total retail sales, 2022 ($1,000) | 548,928 | 494,668 | 80,499 | 119,490 | 1,335,745 |
| Total retail sales per capita, 2022 ($1,000) | $15,720 | $22,247 | $7,094 | $10,769 | $23,718 |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Businesses**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| Total employer establishments, 2022 | 695 | 348 | 157 | 135 | 1,109 |
| Total employment, 2022 | 7,727 | 3,462 | 1,246 | 968 | 16,601 |
| Total annual payroll, 2022 ($1,000) | 337,498 | 129,980 | 41,717 | 33,949 | 801,807 |
| Total employment, percent change, 2021-2022 | 6.7% | -1.6% | 5.0% | -10.2% | 1.7% |
| Total non-employer establishments, 2022 | 2,156 | 1,294 | 670 | 376 | 2,782 |
| All firms 2022 | 537 | 230 | 123 | 109 | 756 |
| Men-owned firms, 2022 | S | 129 | 80 | 48 | 483 |
| Women-owned firms, 2022 | 102 | S | S | S | 86 |
| Minority-owned firms, 2022 | 19 | S | S | S | 8 |
| Non-minority owned firms, 2022 | S | S | 92 | 92 | 604 |
| Veteran owned firms, 2022 | 7 | 4 | 6 | S | 50 |
| Non-veteran owned firms, 2022 | S | S | 104 | 92 | 557 |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**\*S does not meet publication standards**

**Transportation**

**2019-2023 Number of Minutes**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| Mean travel time to work, workers age 16 years+ | 25.9 | 26.4 | 32.2 | 32.7 | 25.0 |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

**Income & Poverty**

**2019-2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| Median household income (in 2022 dollars) | $41,582 | $43,014 | $33,632 | $46,185 | $42,179 |
| Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2022 dollars) | $26,142 | $24,579 | $20,024 | $29,000 | $26,111 |
| Persons in poverty, percent | 26.5% | 25.0% | 29.2% | 48.1% | 23.4% |

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

United States Census Bureau Quick Facts (V2024)

A graph showing the number of unemployment rate

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A graph showing the number of employment rates

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet Releases March 2025 Unemployment Report**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 17, 2025)** — Kentucky’s seasonally adjusted preliminary March 2025 unemployment rate was 5.2%, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

The preliminary March 2025 jobless rate was down 0.1 percentage points from February 2025 and up 0.4 percentage points from one year ago.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted jobless rate for March 2025 was 4.2%, which was up 0.1 percentage points from February 2025, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, are based upon estimates from the Current Population Survey of households. The survey is designed to measure trends in the number of people working and includes jobs in agriculture and individuals who are self-employed.

Kentucky’s civilian labor force was 2,117,625 in March 2025, an increase of 2,773 individuals from February 2025. The number of people employed in March increased by 3,111 to 2,006,555 while the number unemployed decreased by 338 to 111,070.

“For the past three months, workers have been finding jobs at a faster pace than they are entering the labor market,” said University of Kentucky’s Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) Director Mike Clark, Ph.D. “This resulted in a slight decrease in the state’s unemployment rate.”

In a separate federal survey of business establishments that excludes jobs in agriculture and people who are self-employed, Kentucky’s seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 6,300 jobs to 2,053,900 in March 2025 compared to February 2025. Kentucky’s nonfarm employment was up 18,600 jobs or 0.9% compared to March 2024.

Nonfarm data is provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Current Employment Statistics program. According to the survey, employment increased from February to March for seven of Kentucky’s major nonfarm North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) job sectors in March 2025, decreased for three, and was unchanged for one.

The number of positions in the construction sector jumped by 3,500 jobs from February 2025 to March 2025 and was up 7,500 positions or 8% from one year ago.

“Kentucky’s construction sector reported two months of strong employment growth—4,200 additional jobs in February and 3,500 additional jobs in March,” said Clark.

Employment in Kentucky’s manufacturing sector increased by 2,600 jobs from February 2025 to March 2025. Employment was up by 2,100 jobs in the durable goods manufacturing subsector and 500 jobs in the non-durable goods manufacturing subsector. Kentucky’s manufacturing employment rose by 2,400 positions or 0.9% compared to March 2024.

Employment in the leisure and hospitality sector rose by 1,400 jobs in March. Employment in this sector was unchanged from one year ago. The accommodations and food services subsector was up by 1,300 positions from February to March. The arts, entertainment and recreation subsector added 100 jobs in March.

The educational and health services sector added 800 positions in March 2025, all of which came from gains in the health care and social assistance subsector. Since last March, this sector has grown by 7,500 jobs or 2.4%.

The trade, transportation and utilities sector increased by 100 positions from February to March and was up 1,800 jobs compared to a year ago. Among the subsectors, employment was down 200 jobs in wholesale trade; up 300 positions in retail trade; and unchanged in transportation, warehousing and utilities.

The financial activities sector added 100 jobs from February 2025 to March 2025. The finance and insurance subsector gained 200 jobs, but these gains were partially offset by a loss of 100 jobs in the real estate, rental and leasing subsector. This sector had 500 fewer positions compared to March 2024.

Employment in Kentucky’s information services sector increased by 100 positions from February to March. The industries in this sector include traditional publishing as well as software publishing; motion pictures and broadcasting; and telecommunications. The number of jobs in this sector dropped by 100 positions from one year ago.

In the government sector, employment was unchanged from February 2025 to March 2025. Employment did not change within each of the three government subsectors: federal, state and local. The total number of government jobs rose by 4,100 positions or 1.3% compared to March 2024.

The state’s mining and logging sector decreased by 100 jobs in March. This sector had 700 fewer jobs in March 2025 compared to March 2024.

The other services sector dropped by 300 jobs from February to March but was 300 positions higher than one year ago. This sector includes repairs and maintenance, personal care services and religious organizations.

Kentucky’s professional and business services sector decreased by 1,900 jobs in March 2025. Among the subsectors, employment was up 200 jobs in professional, scientific and technical services; up 100 jobs in management of companies; and down 2,200 jobs in administrative, support and waste management. The sector had 3,700 fewer positions compared to March 2024.

“The administrative, support and waste management subsector includes employment services and temporary help services,” said Clark. “While the workers who fill these jobs are reported in this subsector, they are often temporarily assigned to positions in other sectors, such as manufacturing. A decrease in these jobs could occur when employers cut temporary workers from their payrolls. It can also occur when employers make these positions permanent. When this happens, employment in the administrative, support and waste management would decrease, but employment in other sectors would increase.”

Civilian labor force statistics include nonmilitary workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks.

Kentucky’s statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are seasonally adjusted. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events, such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. However, due to the small sample size, county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

To learn more about Kentucky labor market information, visit <http://kystats.ky.gov/KYLMI>.

# 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 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** |
| 2020-2021 | 563 | 556 | 44 | 414 | 660 | 0 |
| 2021-2022 | 604 | 603 | 54 | 429 | 722 | 2 |
| 2022-2023 | 724 | 668 | 54 | 439 | 726 | 7 |
| 2023-2024 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 2024-2025 | 523 | 583 | 41 | 405 | 658 | 2 |

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

**Ethnicity and Race**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School Year | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
| Hispanic | 14 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 13 |
| Asian | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Biracial/Multi-racial | 28 | 26 | 26 | 32 | 33 |
| Black | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Native American | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pacific Islander | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unspecified | 2 | 10 | 13 | 6 | 3 |
| White | 1083 | 1164 | 1176 | 1181 | 1065 |

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

**Child’s Primary Language**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School Year | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
| African Languages | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| English | 1117 | 1202 | 1215 | 1225 | 1104 |
| European Languages | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Far Eastern Asian Languages | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 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 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

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

**Disability**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School Year | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
| Certified IEP | 189 | 222 | 188 | 202 | 190 |
| Suspected | 69 | 87 | 42 | NA | 77 |

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

**Primary Disability**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School Year | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
| Autism | 9 | 13 | 11 | 27 | 47 |
| Emotional/Behavioral | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Health Impairment | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Hearing Impairment | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Learning Disability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Multiple Disabilities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Non-Categorical/Developmental Delay | 26 | 40 | 32 | 54 | 77 |
| Orthopedic | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Other Impairments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SpeechLanguage | 146 | 164 | 136 | 116 | 147 |
| Traumatic Brain Injury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Visual Impairment/Blind | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

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

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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 | 6 | 125 |
| Magoffin | 1 | 21 |
| Martin | 0 | 0 |
| Pike | 6 | 118 |
| Big Sandy Area Total | 18 | 349 |

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

\*Capacity based on phone interviews with Child Care Center Directors

**Enrolled State 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 | 1095 | 1,288 | 1,419 |
| Johnson | 464 | 878 | 1,042 |
| Magoffin | 501 | 616 | 656 |
| Martin | 259 | 419 | 459 |
| Pike | 1,138 | 1,484 | 1,953 |
| Big Sandy Area Total | 3,457 | 4,685 | 5,529 |

Source: 2025 Early Childhood Profile, 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 BURDERN** | |
| **2017** | **2022** | **2013-2017** | **2018-22** | **2020** | **2022** | **2013-17** | **2018-22** |
| **Floyd** | 39.0% | 49.8% | 63% | 57% | 29.5% | 30.8% | 57% | 49% |
| **Johnson** | 29.7% | 31.3% | 45% | 56% | 19.5% | 25.4% | 55% | 49% |
| **Magoffin** | 39.3% | 36.9% | 63% | 64% | 32.6% | 35.8% | 66% | 46% |
| **Martin** | 45.9% | 40.2% | 63% | 60% | 22.2% | 29.3% | 54% | 72% |
| **Pike** | 35.8% | 30.7% | 59% | 57% | 23.8% | 27.7% | 51% | 52% |
| **Kentucky** | 22.1% | 20.6% | 47% | 44% | 16.1% | 20.7% | 46% | 44% |

2024 Kentucky Kids Count

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AT RISK BIRTHS** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2020-2022** | **Floyd** | **Johnson** | **Magoffin** | **Martin** | **Pike** |
| 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 | 11.5% | 10.5% | 10.2% | 11.4% | 11.5% |

2024 Early Childhood Profile, KY Stats

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2020-2022** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Smoking During Pregnancy | 22.4% | 19.4% | 23.2% | 29.3% | 18.5% |
| Teen Births per 1,000  Rank of 120 | 47.6  114 | 24.2  38 | 39.0  102 | 36.4  94 | 29.2  70 |

2024 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 | |
|  | 2016-2018 | 2021-2023 | 2016-2018 | 2021-2023 |
| Floyd | 39.3 | 54.9 | 38% | 4% |
| Johnson | 48.1 | 52.2 | 40% | 31% |
| Magoffin | 61.2 | 78.7 | 17% | 39% |
| Martin | 75.3 | 75.9 | 57% | 27% |
| Pike | 33.4 | 64.4 | 27% | 34% |
| Kentucky | 47.3 | 45 | 36% | 32% |

2024 County Profile, KIDS COUNT & Kentucky KIDS COUNT 2024 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 Statistocs

**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 | 12th\* |

\*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 K*entucky 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.”

# **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 | 2910-2014 | 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= Supressed. Data Point was supressed if the estimate was deemed unreliable

Updated 6/17/2019

Source: KIDS COUNT data center

**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 | 9th | 165.0 |
| Cancer | 10,145 | 185.7 | 1st | 152.5 |
| Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 3,480 | 64.5 | 1st | 40.9 |
| Accidents | 3,264 | 72.9 | 3rd | 49.4 |
| Stroke | 2,050 | 39.4 | 18th | 37.6 |
| Alzheimer’s Disease | 1,765 | 35.0 | 22nd | 31.0 |
| Diabetes | 1,474 | 27.7 | 5th | 13.0 |
| Kidney Disease | 1,024 | 19.4 | 5th | 13.0 |
| Septicemia | 979 | 18.5 | 2nd | 10.6 |
| Flu/Pneumonia | 932 | 18.1 | 9th | 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.

**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 | 19 |
| Adult Ranking | 12 |
| Youth Ranking | 33 |

\*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 2024, Mental Health America

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kentucky Prevalence of Mental Illness | National Ranking\*\* |
| Prevalence of Mental Illness | 26 |

\*\*High Ranking indicates lower prevalence of mental health and substance use issues (1-51, including DC)

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2024, Mental Health America

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kentucky Access to Mental Health Care Rankings | National Ranking\*\*\* |
| Access to Care | 20 |

\*\*\*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 2024, Mental Health America

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kentucky Adult Prevalence | Percentage of Population | National Ranking\*\*\*\* |
| Adults with Any Mental Illness | 23.77% | 22 |
| Adult with Substance Use Disorder | 17.41% | 14 |
| Adults with Serious Thoughts of Suicide | 5.41% | 30 |

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

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2024,, Mental Health America

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kentucky Youth Prevalence | Percentage of Population | National Ranking\*\*\*\* |
| Youth with Any Mental Illness | 19.50% | 17 |
| Youth with Substance Use Disorder | 8.40% | 17 |
| Youth with Severe Major Depressive Episode | 12.94% | 12 |

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

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2024, Mental Health Americ

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kentucky Adults with Any Mental Illness (AMI) Access to Care | Percentage of Population | National Ranking\*\*\*\* |
| Adults with AMI who Did Not Receive Treatment | 69.57% | 2 |
| Adults with AMI Reporting Unmet Need | 23.0% | 8 |
| Adults with AMI who are Uninsured | 5.60% | 14 |
| Adults with Disability Could Not See Doctor due to Cost | 25.28% | 33 |

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

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2024, 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 | 54.10% | 26 |

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

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2024, Mental Health America

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kentucky Children | Percentage of Population | National Ranking++ |
| With Private Insurance that Did Not Cover Mental or Emotional Problems | 10.7% | 40 |

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

Source: The State of Mental Health in America 2024, Mental Health America

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kentucky Students | Percentage of Population | National Ranking++ |
| Students Identified with Emotional Disturbance for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) | 6.17% | 26 |

++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 2024, Mental Health America

**Broadband Access**

According to Broadband Now, <https://broadband.com/Kentucky>, Kentucky ranks 36th 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.

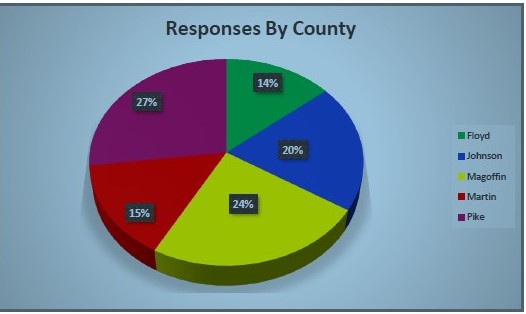
Recent legislation approved by the Kentucky General Assembly has allocated “$250 million for last mile broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas and allows electric cooperatives (which are already providing electrical services to these areas) to add broadband service, if it is in the best interest of co-op consumer-members. “Hopefully, such legislation will lessen and eventually eliminate the digital divide, especially in rural areas of Eastern Kentucky.

**Needs Reported Through BSACAP Needs Assessment Survey**

The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program conducted the annual needs assessment process from August 2024 to March 2025. Raw data was gathered from **1166** respondents using Agency assessment survey forms. To compile a comprehensive and accurate community cross-section, assessment forms were distributed to community members throughout the five-county service region.

The complete results, as well as a list of locations where the surveys were conducted, can be found in the appendices. The survey was available online or completed in the presence of staff at the local service offices. The results were compiled and tallied. As proven by the responses, the need for services that assist the impoverished is great.

With Kentucky having one of the highest national poverty levels, the survey results will help us align programs to assist individuals and families living in poverty.



The graph above indicates the survey responses by county. As indicated, Pike County had the largest number of responses. We find this year that survey responses varied by county whereas the past years roughly aligned with the population distributed throughout the BSACAP. Assessments were completed by low-income representatives, individual program

participants, faith-based organization representatives, local service providers, community partners, educational institution staff, members of the board, and members of both the private and the public sector.

A green circle with colorful stripes and a number of text

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The graph above indicates the category of community member that respondents felt they most represented. A large portion of the respondents this year, 90.31%, came directly from our clients or members of the low-income community. Less than one-third came from representatives of the health, education, public, private, and nonprofit sectors. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 27% of the population we serve in the Big Sandy Area are living in poverty. This is higher than both the state and the national poverty levels. This information is shown in the table below.

A screenshot of a table

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Demographic Information

Respondents were asked several questions regarding their demographic categorization, including age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, and military status.

A graph with numbers and a bar

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As the graph above indicates, over 54% of respondents were middle-aged, between 25 and 54 years of age. Thus, the responses to the survey are largely from people who are in their prime working years who may be caring both for children and aging parents. The next highest number of responses came from those age 55-59 who are nearing or have entered retirement age. Aside from age group 75+ with only 19 responses, the fewest number of responses came from those under age 18 with only 1 response.

A colorful pie chart with black text with Crust in the background

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The graph above shows the percentage of the population living below the poverty line by age groups in the Big Sandy Area. A total of 139,368 people lives in the 1,979.6 square mile report area defined for this assessment according to the American Community Survey 2023. The population density for this area, estimated at 69.2 persons per square mile, is less than the national average population density of 98 per square mile.

A graph with a bar and text

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As the graph above indicates, the majority of respondents of the 2024 Community Needs Assessment were female. This number suggests a potential gender bias in the Community Needs Assessment survey participation and could indicate that community needs resonate more with women than other genders.

A graph of poverty and poverty

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

According to data from the Census Bureau, the graphs above identify residents in the Big Sandy Area living in poverty by gender and age group. The largest demographic living in poverty are females between the ages of 55 and 64 at 7.63%. The smallest demographic living in poverty are females with an age of 5 at 0.659%. Overall, adult females have a slightly higher population 6 % Poverty by Race and Ethnicity Series 1 Education Level 600 500 400 300 200 100 0 Grades 0-8 Grades 9-12 High School Graduate/GED 12th Grade + some 2 or 4 years College Graduate of Other Post Secondary Graduate Post-Secondary School Education Level in poverty than males. This could also be indicative as to the cause of the gender bias for the Community Needs Assessment survey participation. The results of the questions regarding race and ethnicity indicate that the vast majority of respondents in our area were White, Non-Hispanic or Latino people, which reflects local demographic information showing that the BSACAP service area is approximately 97% White and more than 99% Non-Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origins. The graphs below show the poverty level averages by race and ethnicity. Chart showing race is also compared to state levels of poverty by race. You can see from the charts that the poverty by race aligns with the demographic information above.

A screenshot of a graph

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

As the chart above indicates, while nearly 42% of respondents have their high school diploma or equivalent, another 30% of respondents either did not attend or did not complete high school. Just over 15% of respondents have attended but not completed some post-secondary education, while 10% completed a two or four-year degree course or higher. BSACAP did have 1% of the respondents to the Community Needs Assessment that were Graduates of Other Post-Secondary Schools. The survey was completed by 23 military veterans this year and 0 active military. This number has decreased since last years’ responses, but we still have a long way from having reliable data for our area regarding veterans. These survey response results do indicate a need on the part of the agency to conduct outreach to current and former military members and to continue strengthen the partnerships with local veterans’ service programs.

Areas of Need

Respondents were asked to mark their top three most important needs (in no particular order) among the agency’s planning areas: health, employment, education, housing, income and asset building, support services, and civic engagement. The chart below indicates what the community ranks as the most important services needed. This data is extremely helpful to the agency when deciding next steps.

A graph with text and numbers

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Employment was identified as the most needed service in the 2024 Community Needs Assessment with nearly 62% of respondents marking it as a top priority, followed by housing, support services, education, health, civic engagement, and income and asset building.

A chart with text on it

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Respondents were then asked to mark their top three concerns among several subcategories within each service area to determine the aspects of each area respondents find most challenging to overcome.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment was ranked as the top need among survey respondents. The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program considers Employment to be a community-level need. Within the service area of employment, barriers to self-sufficiency rose to the top of list of concerns. Chief among those concerns was that our community needed more jobs with better pay and benefits. Other top concerns by respondents were that the area needs more training for the types of jobs available in the area as well as affordable childcare during work hours and affordable transportation to and from work and the need to improve the workforce readiness skills of people who are able to work.

A graph with text on it

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The agency’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program participates in a wide variety of economic development initiatives in partnership with other local service organizations in addition to several other job seeker services. The agency acts as the area’s One- Stop Operator meaning that comprehensive workforce services and support services can be accessed at our local offices. The agency also hosts an annual East Kentucky Workforce Partners Conference in order to allow all area organizations to improve communication and work toward common goals. BSACAP’s local county offices are Kentucky Career Center Jobsight Affiliated Access Points. The individual centers provide job seekers access to services carried out by a wide network of partners operating within one physical location.

Staff operate in conjunction with the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP), local Offices of Employment and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation, and others, as well as serve with the local Work Ready Community initiatives. The agency also has an Employer Account Representative who acts as a liaison between the private sector and the nonprofit sector. The Employer Account Representative can coordinate employer needs with agency services such as creating incumbent worker trainings, job fairs, vetting and hiring of employees, connections to economic development projects, and more to ensure that businesses that open in the area have what they need to succeed.

Unfortunately, most new businesses in the area do not offer a living wage or benefits. The chart below shows the median annual income for households in the Big Sandy Area based on data from the US Census Bureau. On average, residents in the Big Sandy Area annually earn approximately $24,000 lower than the state average and approximately $41,000 lower than the national average. According to the US Census Bureau data for 2023, Kentucky is ranked 5th of the 50 states with highest poverty rates, following only 4 other states (Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, and West Virginia) with higher poverty levels. Many people move out of the Big Sandy Area to obtain employment elsewhere.

A close-up of a table

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The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program’s service area is predominately rural with a mean commute time for workers of 27.8 minutes, according to recent census data, and virtually no public transportation. The graph below indicates the average daily commute for the Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike counties as well as the state average. Without a reliable personal vehicle and the ability to afford repairs, employment is difficult to maintain. Similarly, lack of affordable childcare options prevents many from entering or remaining in the workforce, especially the working poor. During the global pandemic in the previous few years, unemployment increased and many in our area lost vehicles due to lack of payment. In addition to other barriers, recent flooding has left households without transportation.

A graph with colorful lines

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Transportation remains a top concern for respondents of the Community Needs Assessment for Big Sandy Area Community Action Program when trying to find employment. Within the 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 Pike Co. Floyd Co. Johnson Co. Martin Co. Magoffin Co. United States Kentucky Average Commute (minutes) 11 service area, over 11% of the total number of households do not have a motor vehicle. This is higher than both the state level at 7% and the national level at 6%.

HOUSING

The second highest ranked service category in 2024 according to the Community Needs Assessment was Housing. The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program considers Housing to be a community-level need. Nearly 56% of respondents to the Community Needs Assessment considered Housing to be in the top three overall needs of the community.

A list of housing costs

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BSACAP operates a housing program that provides rental and utility assistance with funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the form of Tenant-Based Rental Assistance and Emergency Solutions grant monies. The program is financially exhausted nearly as soon as funds are available and always maintains a waitlist. These two programs assist clients in alleviating the cost of rental costs in the form of rent payments, security deposits, utility deposits, and utility allowances.

According to Census data for Kentucky for 2023, roughly 42.2% of all renter households were cost-burdened, meaning households are spending at least 50% of their income on housing. Approximately 69% of households with income between 20k – 35k are spending more than 30% of their income on housing, and 24.3% of households with the same income spend more than 50% on housing. Between 2022 and 2023, there has been virtually no change in income in Kentucky, however the cost of rent continues to rise. The median rent increased to $929 in 2023 from $891 in 2022. This rising cost continues to burden families in Kentucky and families nationwide.

The agency also operates the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, both of which aim to reduce the burden of utility costs. The LowIncome Household Water Assistance Program also helps reduce the burden of utility costs. In addition to strengthening our referrals to home repair groups, the agency could benefit from assisting with financial education and pathways to homeownership for low-income people.

There are currently four emergency shelters in the five-county service area. Two of these are homeless shelters that house 45 individuals each and the other two are emergency shelters for women and children escaping sexual assault or domestic violence that house even less. Of these 4 shelters, 3 are in the same county leaving the other 4 counties that are served by BSACAP with low options for homeless individuals or families. Partnerships with local churches continue to help BSACAP assist some homeless families in the area. Searching for partners that will assist homeless families through community support is another way we can accomplish this.

As we see a greater number of our senior population fall into the range of poverty, we are also seeing a greater need for home repair and home accessibility programs.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Support Services was found to be the second priority for the agency. The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program considers Support Services to be a family-level need.

A table with text on it

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BSACAP uses the Emergency Food & Shelter Program to provide financial assistance to local food banks and makes referrals to area food banks, community meals, and the USDA’s summer feeding program in which local schools participate. Data gathered by County Health Rankings & Roadmaps shows that roughly 20% of our service area lacks adequate access to food. This is higher than the state and national average of Kentucky at 13% and the United States at 10%. In 2023, Magoffin County had the third highest prevalence of food insecurity at 25.1%.

A graph of a number of household insecure

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According to data provided by the Kentucky Youth Advocates’ 2022 County Data Book, an average of 44% of children live in low-income homes and nearly 16% of children across the service area live in food insecure homes. This is a 2% increase from the previous year’s data at 14% of children in the area living in a food insecure home. According to the USDA’s latest Household Food Insecurity in the United States report, 662,660 people in Kentucky are struggling with hunger. The graph below shows that 20% of the population in the Big Sandy Area face hunger and compares it to the 13% of Kentucky and the national level of 12%.

The images below from Data USA show the difference in food insecurity for our service area in 2020 compared to 2023. We can see that the prevalence of food insecurity in Kentucky is on the rise.

A screenshot of a map

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

The agency’s SCSEP program assists people aged 55 and over to enter or re-enter the workforce. Referrals are also made to the Big Sandy Area Development District which manages several services for the elderly designed to help them stay in their homes and remain as independent as possible.

It is widely known that central Appalachia and eastern Kentucky is in the heart of the nation’s prescription drug abuse (opioid and other) epidemic, and that the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine is prevalent. The agency’s WIOA currently runs the Opportunity Youth Program. This program targets youth ages 18-24 who have been involved in the criminal justice 15 system by providing mentorship, educational opportunities, one-on-one job and career counseling to help them recover from their mistakes. Providing targeted assistance to families suffering from substance abuse through drug-free housing, employment of ex-convicts, and programs for child victims of parental substance abuse can be ways that we engage with the community on these issues.

EDUCATION

The Community Needs Assessment data showed that Education ranked fourth among those surveyed. Education is deemed a family-level need for Big Sandy Area Community Action Program.

A list of information on a computer

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You can see in the chart above that our community felt the top needs in Education were more accessible transportation to and from school, affordable childcare, access to education resources in the community, ability to earn diploma/GED in addition to accessibility to post-secondary education, among other needs.

A graph of a high school graduate

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The graph above shows the population, per county, that has a high school diploma or equivalent versus the total population. Roughly 82% of the Big Sandy Area has a diploma or equivalent according to US Census Bureau data. This is lower than the state and national average with Kentucky at 89.5% and the United States at 89.8%.

A graph of a number of people

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The graph above shows the population age 25 years or older, per county, that has a bachelor’s degree or higher versus the total population. Roughly 17% of the Big Sandy Area age 25 or older has a bachelor’s degree or higher according to US Census Bureau data. This is lower than the national average with Kentucky at 27.9% and the United States at 36.2%.

All BSACAP programs have an educational component. The WIOA program connects people with colleges and trade schools, assists with paperwork and technical assistance, and offers financial assistance with tuition, required books and tools, test fees, and travel. The Head Start program not only addresses the needs of early childhood but offers financial assistance to parents and teachers who wish to further their education or obtain early childhood credentials. The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) assists participants with earning their GED and offers computer and customer service training. The CSBG program offers workshops on going back to school, scholarships, and financial assistance.

While graduation rates are on the rise, roughly a quarter of the area’s population is without their high school diploma or GED. Of those able to attend, many people believe they cannot afford higher education and are unaware of the financial aid available to them. Additionally, there is a need for trade work and trade school to be incorporated into “college and career ready” discussions. The agency must continue to find ways to share knowledge of educational opportunities and best practices for parenting.

HEALTH

The fifth highest ranked concern in 2024 by survey respondents to the Community Needs Assessment survey was Health. The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program considers this to be a family-level need.

A screenshot of a health checklist

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The agency’s CSBG program offers yearly Community Health Fairs in our service counties. The Community Health Fairs offer free preventative health screenings such as dental screenings, Hepatitis A vaccinations, A1C tests, EKGs, cholesterol, blood pressure, school physicals, and others. This allows CSBG staff to work with community partners from health agencies such as the county health departments and medical clinics in the area. The agency also assists clients with accessing the Kentucky Vision Project year-round to help residents obtain assistance with eye exams and prescription eyeglasses.

The agency addresses mental and physical well-being in its monthly workshops. Workshops provide opportunities for clients to come into the local service offices or to community partners to interact socially. The agency also promotes good nutrition with its Garden Seed Program each year. The Garden Seed Program provides vouchers for garden seeds, plants, and fertilizer to allow families to raise and preserve nutritious foods. Follow-up to the Garden Seed program included classes providing education to people in the community on how to preserve items that were grown in the garden.

With additional CARES funding, the agency created a 5-county resource guide to assist the community with resources from agency partners, many of whom are in the health field. This guide is used to reach out to partners to assist the community with health care concerns not covered by the agency.

The Big Sandy area, and the majority of eastern Kentucky, report high rates of smoking, obesity and lack of exercise. The County Health Rankings-Kentucky report for 2023 reports that all five counties in our service area are near the bottom of the rankings list. Out of 120 counties, Floyd County ranks 108th, Johnson County ranks 99th, Magoffin County ranks 114th, Martin County ranks at 98th, and Pike County ranks 100th. These rankings are based off metrics such as quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care, in addition to other factors.

The graphs below show how each of the counties we service compare to state and national average for adult smoking, adult obesity, and access to exercise opportunities.

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A screenshot of a graph

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As shown in the table above, according to 2022 data from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Big Sandy area’s uninsured population makes up slightly less than 10% of the area’s total population. Health insurance coverage promotes positive health outcomes by increasing the use of health care services. Uninsured people will often rely on emergency rooms to receive care only when needed. According to data from America’s Health Rankings, uninsured adults have far worse health outcomes than their insured counterparts. This includes higher rates of mortality and premature death, inadequate access to preventative services, and higher rates of cancer mortality.

A purple and white shoe

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic Engagement was found to be the sixth priority among those surveyed. Civic Engagement is deemed by Big Sandy Area Community Action Program to be an agency- level need but has continued to rank last in the seven domain categories.

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The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program strives for community participation in all programs administered by the Agency, and realizes the importance of Civic Engagement, identified as the seventh priority. Customers are informed about and invited to volunteer in the Agency and are elected or invited to participate on Agency boards, policy councils, or advisory committees. The interagency meetings coordinated by BSACAP provide valuable linkages to faith- and community-based organizations across the area. Staff from education based and 21 health-based organizations are also part of the interagency meetings. BSACAP encourages customer suggestions and participation in the Agency’s community needs assessment process.

Finding opportunities for low-income people to have a stake their communities is critical to the success of the area as it could provide a significant portion of the population with a say in decision-making and an understanding of how political changes affect their lives, along with empowering them to speak out on behalf of their communities’ needs.

INCOME & ASSET BUILDING

The seventh priority for the agency, according to the Community Needs Assessment survey results, was Income & Asset Building. The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program considers Health to be a family-level need.

A screenshot of a computer screen

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

In addition to CSBG workshops regarding budgeting and financial health, through an agreement with the Social Security Administration, the Agency receives Social Security and Supplemental Security Income checks for referred clients through the Social Security Representative Payee Program.

Cyclical and generational poverty have plagued eastern Kentucky for decades. Many families struggle to maintain subsistence levels of income and assets, so future planning has been difficult for most to envision. The area is also serviced by a large number of predatory “payday” lenders (i.e. seven payday lenders in a town with a population of 4,312 (2023 data) which trap people in a repayment cycle that is difficult for them to break. Clients need education on how to make the most of a small income and potential pathways to 22 homeownership and savings.

Assisting clients with information regarding financial opportunities for low-income people is something the agency must research further. Several federal programs are available through HUD and the USDA that provide pathways to homeownership for the working poor, for instance, and such information should be disseminated to agency clients. The Big Sandy Area Community Action Program does have strong relationships with both partners and often gives referrals to people looking for assistance in this area.

Why Community Action is Important

The final question on the 2024 Community Needs Assessment Survey was “What do you think is the most important reason you or your community needs Community Action?” Below is a cross-section of some of the responses collected in the respondents’ own words.

• “To help us survive”

• “Because it help the people with low income pay some of the bills”

• “To Help people in need”

• “To help to pay for necessities like water and heat”

• “It is the only agency that helps with utility bills”

• “To help those that struggle”

• “It is a blessing”

• “To give people the help they need”

• “High electric bills”

• “Rental assistance”

• “To help those not able to meet their basic needs”

• “To help families with utilities and other programs”

• “To make ends meet”

Key Findings and Initial Conclusions

• More agencies and community officials must be encouraged to attend interagency meetings

to build stronger communication about available resources, which can be shared with

those in need at even more entry points into the system.

• The agency needs to conduct outreach to current and former military members and to form

stronger partnerships with local veterans’ service programs.

23

• The agency needs to work on finding transportation opportunities for the area.

• The agency must continue to work toward finding more program funding/grant

opportunities so that a greater number of people can be served.

• While the agency currently works with partners to provide vision services the area, we need

to look for further options and build strong partnerships to assist people with health services

including dental and hearing services.

• The agency must continue to work toward getting more parents involved in student’s

education.

• The agency needs to look for ways to provide financial education and pathways to

homeownership for low-income people, especially seniors.

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