



Mercer County Data Profile

Mercer County's Data Profile is provided by the **Kentucky: By The Numbers** program in the Department of Community and Leadership Development for the Community Assessments conducted by the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service. These secondary data profiles supplement the survey, focus groups, and key informant interviews conducted in each county across the state through the County Extension Offices and coordinated by Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK).

The overall goals for the Community Assessments are:

- To gain a better understanding of the county's pressing issues;
- To enhance Extension's place-based approach by providing information on locally relevant issues in counties;
- To gain a better understanding of how Extension can support important community change to improve Kentucky;
- To provide a statewide view of how top issues are distributed across the state.

For more information on the Community Assessment process, visit <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/communityassessment>

For additional data or other data-related assistance, contact: Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman (jjimm@uky.edu)

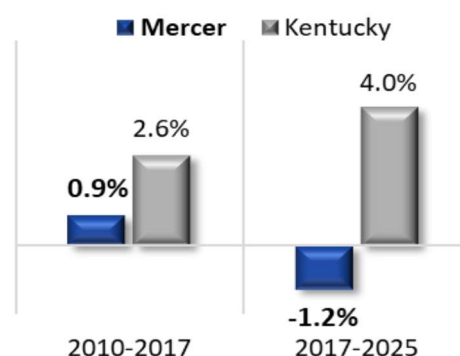
County Demographics

Population	2010 ¹	2017 ²	2025 ³
Total	21,331	21,521	21,255
Ages 65 and over	3,395		4,832

	2010-2017 ⁴
Net Migration (in/out)	268

Race/Ethnicity	2010 ¹	2016 ⁵
White	19,635	19,591
Black or African American	753	731
Asian	76	128
Other and 2 or more races	377	454
Hispanic	490	573

Percent Change Total Population⁶
2010-2017 and 2017-2025



- From 2010 to 2017, the total population in Mercer County **increased** by **190** people.²
- Between April 2010 and June 2017, there was an estimated **net in migration** of **268** people.⁴
- In 2016, the composition of Mercer County's population is estimated to be **91.2%** White, **3.4%** Black/African American, **0.6%** Asian, **2.1%** other and 2 or more races, and **2.7%** Hispanic.⁵
- From 2017 to 2025, the total population in Mercer County is **projected** to **decrease** by **-266** people.³
- As baby boomers are entering retirement, between 2010 and 2025 the population ages 65 and over in Mercer County are **projected** to **increase** by **42.3%** compared to 51.9% for the state as a whole.³



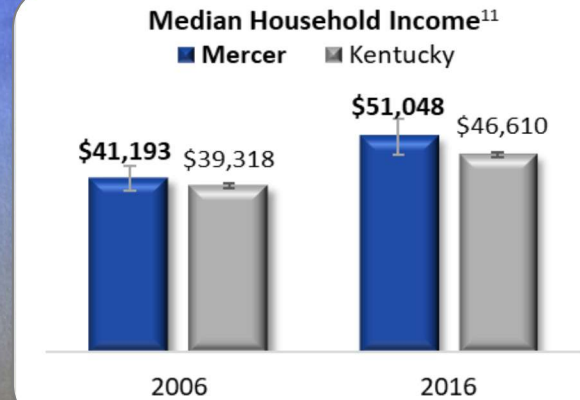
University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING

Mercer County Data Profile

Families and Households

Families	2010 ¹	2012-2016 ⁷
Married couple		
... with own children	1,733	1,437 (+/- 173)
Female householder		
... with own children	530	406 (+/- 118)
Male householder		
... with own children	204	209 (+/- 112)
Nonfamily households (live alone/unrelated)	2,629	2,673 (+/- 278)
Poverty		2012-2016⁷
Percent of families with related children who are below poverty		20.8% (+/- 4.8%)
Percent 65 and over below poverty		11.8% (+/- 3.3%)

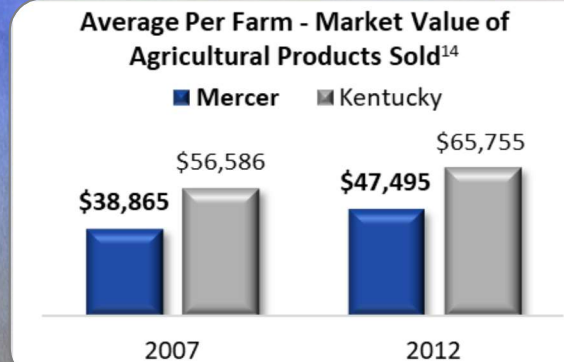


Grandparents living with and raising grandchildren ³	2012-2016⁷ 220 (+/- 108)
--	---

- In 2016, Mercer County's official poverty rate was **14.5%** (11.7% - 17.3%), compared to 18.2% (17.9% - 18.6%) for the state as a whole.⁸
- In 2017, there were **8** child care centers in Mercer County. Of these **7** were STARS certified.⁹
- Between 2012-2016, **3.2%** (+/-1.0%) of people ages 5 and over spoke a language other than English at home.⁷
- The Urban Institute estimates that **17%** people in Mercer County with a credit bureau record in 2016 had student loan debt compared to 16% for the state.¹⁰

Agriculture (Data from the 2017 Ag Census will be available in 2019)

Farms*	2007 ¹²	2012 ¹³
Total number of farms	1,111	1,067
Percent of land in farms	88.9%	90.6%
Average farm size (acres)	127	135
		2012¹³
Income from agri-tourism and recreational services		\$119,000
Number of farms marketing products directly to retail outlets		15
Average value per farm of agricultural products sold directly to individuals for human consumption		\$3,043



Percent of Principal Operators	2012¹³
... who are female	9.9%
... under age 35	8.7%
... farming as primary occupation	40.9%

- In 2012, the total market value of agricultural products sold in Mercer County was **\$50,677,000**.¹³
- Of the total market value of agricultural products sold, **18.6%** was the value of crops and **81.4%** was the value of livestock, poultry, and their products.¹³
- The total farm production expenses (average per farm) was **\$50,447** compared to \$62,002 for the state.¹³
- In Mercer County, there were **650** hired farm labor workers on **215** farms.¹³
- 93.1%** of farms were operated by a family or an individual compared to 91.0% for the state.¹³

* A farm must sell at least \$5,000 to be defined as a farm operation.

Mercer County Data Profile

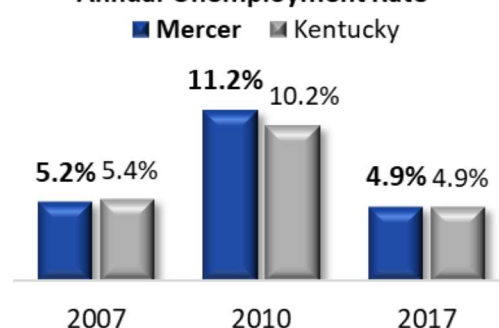
Jobs, Economy, and Labor Force

Jobs and Businesses	2010	2016
Total Employment (# of jobs) ¹⁵	9,693	10,107
Total Establishments (w/ employees) ¹⁶	373	350
... % with 1-9 employees	80.2%	79.1%
... % with 10-20 employees	11.5%	12.6%
Total NonEmployer Establishments (w/o employees) ¹⁷	1,524	1,493

Education

Percent of population 25 and over	2012-2016⁷	
... with HS or higher	84.7% (+/- 1.7%)	
... with bachelors or higher	18.5% (+/- 1.8%)	
	Men	Women
Median Earnings (2012-16) ⁷	\$33,490 (+/- \$3,619)	\$24,309 (+/- \$2,557)

Annual Unemployment Rate²⁰



Avg Weekly Wage¹⁸

	2017
... All Industries (Private & Govt)	\$905
... Goods-producing (Private)	\$1,269
... Service-providing (Private)	\$699

- In 2017, the number of private establishments covered by unemployment insurance in Mercer County was **80** for goods-producing, **351** for service-providing, and **47** for hospitality & leisure.¹⁸
- Between 2012 and 2016, of the **9,281** (+/- 388) workers ages 16 and over, **53.0%** (+/- 3.6%) worked inside the county, **46.3%** (+/- 0.5%) worked outside the county and **0.7%** (+/- 0.5%) worked outside Kentucky.⁷
- Between 2012 and 2016, **3.0%** (+/- 1.4%) of workers ages 16 and over who worked full-time year round were below poverty compared to 3.5% (+/- 0.1%) for the state as a whole.⁷
- 15.5%** of 2016 HS graduates in the county earned an industry certificate compared to 19.2% for the state.¹⁹

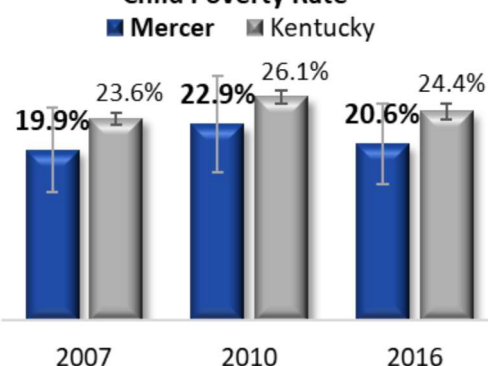
Youth

Population by Age	2010¹	2017²	2025³
Under 5 years old	1,275	1,194	1,236
5-9 years old	1,337	1,339	1,279
10-14 years old	1,462	1,349	1,346
15-19 years old	1,441	1,263	1,223

Children by Relationship to Householder

	2012-2016⁷
... Own Children (Biological, Adopted, Stepchild)	4,003 (+/- 201)
... Grandchild	701 (+/- 206)
... Other Relative	17 (+/- 19)
... Foster/Unrelated	71 (+/- 52)

Child Poverty Rate²³



27.1% of students entered KY public postsecondary institutions underprepared in one or more subjects (2015).²¹

- Between 2012-2016, there were an estimated **280** (+/- 126) youth ages 5-17 who had a disability.⁷
- 33.1%** of 3rd grade students in Mercer County scored proficient or distinguished on math in the 2015-16 school year compared to 47.7% for the state.²²
- 1,394** (+/- 269) youth under age 18 lived in households that received supplemental security income (SSI), cash public assistance, or food stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months (2012-2016).⁷

Mercer County Data Profile

Health and Wellness

Percent of Adults

... reporting poor or fair health (2016) ²⁴	19.9% (19.1%-20.7%)
... with hypertension (2013-15) ²⁵	52.2% (36.2%-67.7%)
... with obesity (2014-16) ²⁵	37% (23.5%-53.7%)
... with diabetes (2014-16) ²⁵	22.2% (11.5%-38.5%)

Number of Individuals

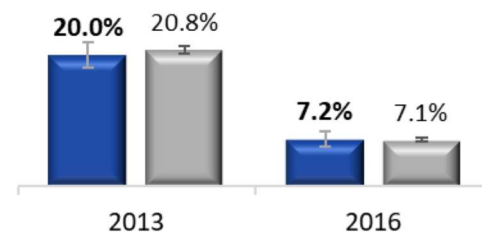
... receiving SNAP (food stamps) (2017) ²⁶	2,848
... who are food insecure (2016 estimate) ²⁷	2,970

Number of Overdoses²⁸

	<u>2008-2010</u>	<u>2015-2017</u>
... fatal overdoses	9	17
... nonfatal overdoses	171	304

Percent of Population Ages 18-64 who are Uninsured²⁹

■ Mercer ■ Kentucky



Number of Care Providers²⁴

... Primary Care Physicians (2015)	8
... Dentists (2016)	5
... Mental Health Providers (2017)	23

- The estimated food insecurity rate for Mercer County is **13.9%**, compared to 15.5% for the state.²⁷
- From 2010 to 2016, the number of grocery stores **decreased** by **42.9%**, from **7** to **4** stores.¹⁶
- In 2013-2015, **33.7%** (26.9%-41.1%) of adults ages 20 and over reported no leisure time physical activity.²⁴
- The Urban Institute estimates that **27%** of people in Mercer County with a credit bureau record in 2016 had medical debt in collections compared to 27% for the state as a whole.¹⁰
- **9.8%** (3.4%-25.0%) of adults reported that there was a time in past year when they needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost.²⁵

Sources

- 2010 Decennial Census. U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder.
- 2017 Population Estimates. Kentucky State Data Center.
- Population Projections – Vintage 2016. Kentucky State Data Center.
- 2017 Population Estimates Components of Change. Kentucky State Data Center.
- 2016 Population Estimates. U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder.
- Chart: 2010 Decennial Census, 2017 Population Estimates, Population Projections – Vintage 2016. Kentucky State Data Center.
- 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder.
- 2016 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). U.S. Census Bureau.
- 2017 Early Childhood Profile. Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS).
- Debt in America: An Interactive Map. Urban Institute.
- Chart: 2006 and 2016 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). U.S. Census Bureau.
- 2007 Census of Agriculture. U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- 2012 Census of Agriculture. U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Chart: 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture. U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Regional Economic Accounts. Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- County Business Patterns. U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder.
- NonEmployer Statistics. U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder.
- Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- 2018 High School Feedback Report. Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS).
- Chart: 2007, 2010, and 2017 Annual Unemployment Rate. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. Kids Count Data Center.
- 2017 Early Childhood Profile. Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS).
- Chart: 2007, 2010, and 2016 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). U.S. Census Bureau.
- 2018 County Health Rankings. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Kentucky Health Facts. Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.
- Food and Nutrition Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Map the Meal Gap. Feeding America.
- Custom Data Request. Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC).
- Chart: 2013 and 2016 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE). U.S. Census Bureau.

Websites

2012 Census of Agriculture.
<https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/>
 American FactFinder. <https://factfinder.census.gov>
 BEA Regional Economic Accounts.
<https://apps.bea.gov/itable/itable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1>
 County Health Rankings. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>
 Debt in America: An Interactive Map.
<https://apps.urban.org/features/debt-interactive-map/>
 Food and Nutrition Service. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>
 Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS). <https://kystats.ky.gov/>
 Kentucky Health Facts. <http://www.kentuckyhealthfacts.org/>
 Kentucky State Data Center. <https://factfinder.census.gov>
 Kids Count Data Center. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>
 Local Area Unemployment Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/lau/>
 Map the Meal Gap. <http://map.feedingamerica.org/>
 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).
<https://www.bls.gov/cew/>
 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE).
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie.html>
 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE).
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saie.html>

Additional data are also available at:

Kentucky: By The Numbers (<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/snarl/index.htm>),
 the FCS Building Strong Families profiles (<http://hes.uky.edu/StrongFamilies>),
 and the CEDIK county profiles (<https://cedik.ca.uky.edu/CountyDataProfiles>).