



## Welfare Reform "By the Numbers" Mercer County



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Across the nation, welfare reform presents a new challenge: how to shift from a program based on income maintenance to one focused on employment. Meeting this challenge calls for both more and new information on which to base decisions. **Welfare Reform "By The Numbers"** is aimed at supplying the most recent data and information useful for local decision-making processes surrounding welfare reform. This series is provided in conjunction with the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Welfare Reform Implementation Task Force -- Community Resources Group.

	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
<b>Poverty</b>		
Poverty Rate (1993)	15.9	19.7
Number of Individuals Living in Poverty (1993)	3,168	748,007
Total Number of K-TAP Recipients (1997)*	508	145,465
Percent of K-TAP Recipients Who Are Children (1997)*	66.9%	68.2%
Percent People under 18 Living in Poverty (1993)	22.9%	28.1%
Percent Participation in the Free and Reduced School Lunch Program (Avg. across districts) (1995-96)	34.2%	43.9%
Percent K-TAP Cases with Benefits 2 Yrs <u>or Less</u> (1997)*	45.7%	42.4%
Percent Population 65 and Over Below Poverty Level (1990)	17.9%	20.60%
<b>Local Economy</b>		
Average Unemployment Rate (Jan-Sept, 1997)	4.1	5.31
Percent of Adults Receiving K-TAP Who Are Either Employed or have a Work History (1997)*	64.3%	79.2%
Top 3 Employment Sectors (% of Total Jobs) (1995)	Manuf 27%	Services 24.7%
	Services 17.5%	Retail 17.5%
	Farm 14.5%	Manuf 15.3%
Percent Employment: Manufacturing, Retail, and Services (1995)	58.6%	57.5%
Percent of Women-Owned Businesses (1992)	30.7%	31.4%
Percent of Farmers with Farming as Primary Occupation (1992)	45.9%	44.5%
Percent of Jobs that are in Farming (1995)	14.5%	5.4%
Percent Working at Home (1990)	5.6%	3.0%
Percent of Teenagers Employed (Ages 16-19 Years) (1990)	40.1%	36.0%
Percent of Labor Force that is Female (1990)	45.8%	44.70%
Median Household Income (1993)	\$27,291	\$25,222
Income Maintenance as Percent of Total Transfer Payments (1995)	9.0%	10.7%
Food Stamp Payments (1995)	\$1,583,000	\$411,827,000

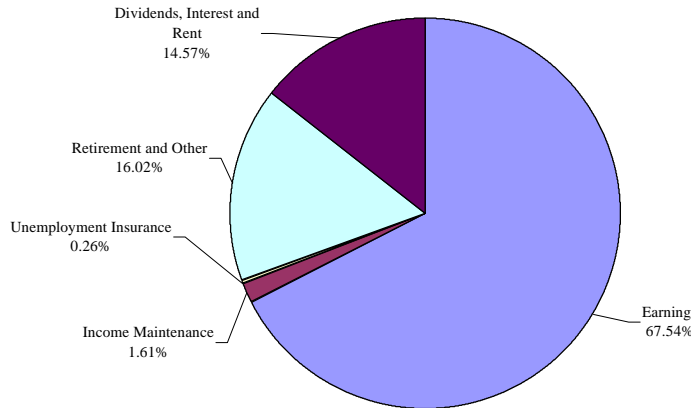
<b>Work Force</b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>State</u></b>
Expenditures per Student (Avg. across Districts) (1994-95)	\$4,380	\$4,685
Child Care Slots (1997)*		
Licensed	666	121,255
Certified	18	3,768
Unregulated	86	50,121
Adult K-TAP Recipients w/ High School, GED <u>or More</u> (1997)*	44.3%	48.7%
Percent 18 yrs + with a High School Degree <u>or More</u> (1990)	64.1%	66.1%
Percent 18 yrs + with <u>Less than</u> a 9th Grade Education (1990)	18.5%	16.7%
<b>Transportation</b>		
Percent of Housing Units Without Personal Transportation (1990)	8.5%	11.5%
Average Travel Time to Work (in Minutes) (1990)	22.8	20.7
Percent of Workers Working Outside County of Residence (1990)	40.0%	25.9%
Percent of Population Living on Farms (1992)	10.9%	4.7%
Percent of Workers Either Drive or Share a Ride to Work (1990)	90.3%	90.9%
Percent Commuting 45 Minutes <u>or More</u> to Work (1990)	17.5%	9.6%
<b>Housing</b>		
Median Gross Rent (1990)	\$290	\$319
Percent Households Paying 30% + of Income For Rent (1990)	38.8%	38.1%
Total Number of Rental Housing Units (1990)	2,166	457,136
Rental Vacancy Rate (1990)	6.7	8.3
Percent of Occupied Housing that is Renter Occupied (1990)	27.2%	30.4%
Percent of Housing Units that are Mobile Homes (1990)	6.9%	12.1%
Percent Housing Units Built After 1980 (Incl. Mobile Homes) (1990)	19.3%	20.0%
Percent of Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing (1990)	2.1%	2.9%
Percent of Housing Units with Sewage Disposal other than Sewer, Septic Tank or Cesspool (1990)	5.0%	3.8%
Percent of Housing Units Without Telephones (1990)	11.2%	10.2%
<b>Social</b>		
Total Resident Population (1997)	20,447	3,908,124
Number of Family Resource Youth Service Centers (1997)*	2	588
Percent of Births to Mothers 15-19 Years of Age (1993)	13.5%	16.4%
Percent of Births to Mothers <u>Less than</u> 20 Years of Age (1993)	13.9%	16.8%
Percent Households w/ Children Headed by a Single Parent (1990)	6.2%	7.5%
Percent of Population Under 6 Years (1990)	7.4%	8.2%
Percent of Population Ages 10-13 Years (1990)	5.8%	6.1%
Percent of Population Ages 14-19 Years (1990)	8.7%	9.2%
Percent of Population Under 18 Years (1990)	24.3%	25.9%

\* These data are dated June 1997 and were generously supplied by the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children. K-TAP refers to the Kentucky Temporary Assistance Program which replaces the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

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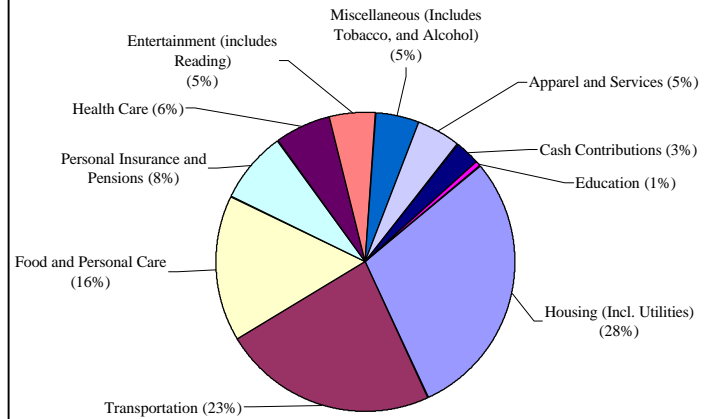
**Mercer County  
Income by Source, 1995**



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis

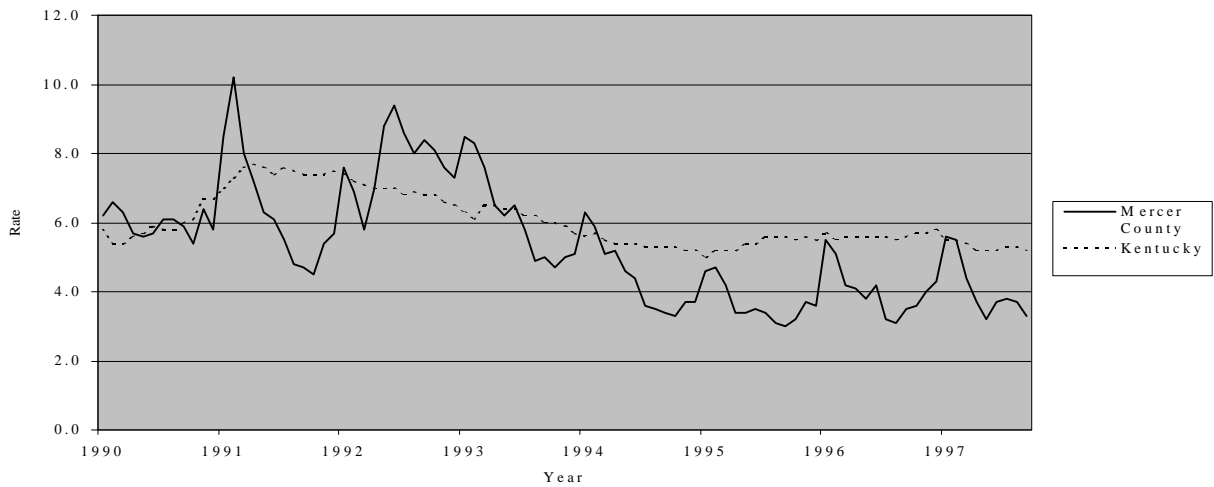
**Average Household Expenditures: Southern Region,  
Income Group \$20-\$29,999**

(Data are not specific to this county, but are for the same income group in the Southern Region as the median income estimated in 1993 for this county.)

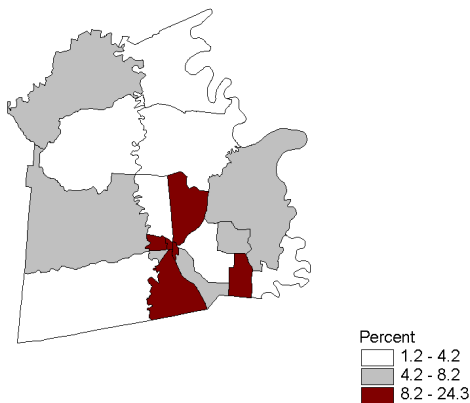


Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1994-5

**Monthly Unemployment Rates, 1990-1997**

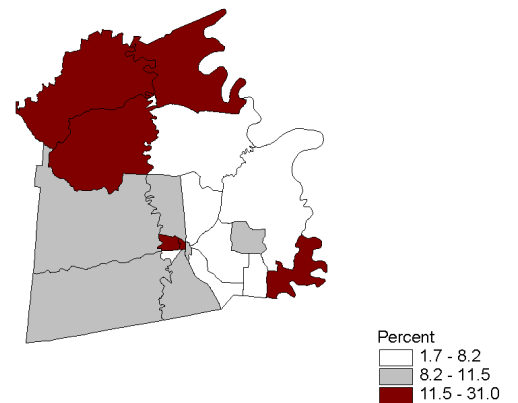


**Households Without Personal Transportation  
Mercer County**



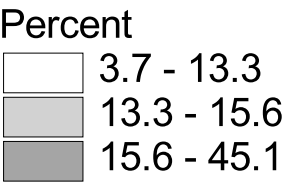
Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing

**Households Without Telephones  
Mercer County**



Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing

# Population Living Below Poverty Level Mercer County



Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing