

VISIONING KENTUCKY'S FUTURE **measures and milestones 2000**



THE KENTUCKY LONG-TERM POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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introduction

What is our vision of Kentucky's future?

In 1994, the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and the Kentucky Center for Public Issues jointly conducted 15 public forums around the state to engage citizens in a dialogue about their vision of Kentucky's future. Approximately 300 people participated in these forums, sharing the goals they believe are essential to a bright future for the Commonwealth.

Based upon a distillation of the many goals citizens across the state set forth, a draft vision statement was developed for dissemination. In a series of mailings, this draft vision statement was introduced to thousands of people around the Commonwealth and to approximately 250 people who attended the Center's October 3, 1995, conference, *Visioning Kentucky's Future*, which was held in Lexington. The public was invited to comment and contribute to the final vision statement. After considering all of the many comments received as well as the input of interested individuals from across the state, the following vision statement was developed:

We envision a future for the Commonwealth of Kentucky that unites us in common purpose and builds on the strengths of our heritage and our resources. We see vibrant, nurturing communities, lifelong, quality educational opportunities, a sustainable, prosperous economy, a clean, beautiful environment, and honest, participatory government at all levels.

How will we get there from here?

The vision statement developed by the Center and its Board sought to capture public expressions of the hopes and dreams citizens share for the future of the Commonwealth. In order to realize this vision of the future, 26 long-term goals were formulated, based on the five broad themes of the vision statement. These goals represent the core factors deemed critical to Kentucky's future.

These long-term goals for the future of the Commonwealth were developed by the Center's Board of Directors after careful study of similar plans in other states and the strategic plans that had been developed by various entities in Kentucky. The Board created goals that were believed appropriate for circumstances in our state and consistent with the citizen goals expressed in the vision statement. The goals are:

vibrant, nurturing communities

- GOAL 1: *Kentucky communities will be safe and caring places that enable all citizens to lead productive, fulfilling lives.*
- GOAL 2: *Kentucky's communities and citizens will share responsibility in helping families succeed.*
- GOAL 3: *Kentuckians will have decent, safe, and affordable housing.*
- GOAL 4: *All Kentuckians will have access to affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive health care that stresses the importance of preventive care.*
- GOAL 5: *Kentucky communities will have high levels of trust and civic pride realized from broad citizen participation in their con-*



The goals . . .

tinuous development.

GOAL 6: *Kentucky communities will value and respect all individuals regardless of culture, race, ethnic background, religion, or gender.*

lifelong, quality educational opportunities

GOAL 7: *Kentuckians will have an education system of lifelong learning that exemplifies excellence.*

GOAL 8: *Kentuckians will have equal opportunity to obtain an internationally competitive education.*

GOAL 9: *Kentucky's children will come to school ready and able to learn.*

GOAL 10: *Kentucky's children will have safe, stable learning environments.*

GOAL 11: *Kentuckians will promote partnerships among parents, schools, and communities to enhance the social and academic development of children.*

GOAL 12: *Kentuckians will have opportunities to appreciate, participate in, and contribute to the arts and humanities and historic preservation.*

a sustainable, prosperous economy

GOAL 13: *Kentucky will end poverty and alleviate its adverse consequences and debilitating effects.*

GOAL 14: *Kentucky will have diversified long-term development that stresses competitiveness and a rising standard of living for all citizens while maintaining a quality environment.*

GOAL 15: *Kentucky will benefit from participation in an integrated global economy.*

GOAL 16: *Kentucky will maintain and enhance a strong farm economy through diversification, internal networks, and agricultural*

processing industries.

- GOAL 17: *Kentucky will develop and enhance its physical infrastructure to support and sustain economic development and a high quality of life.*
- GOAL 18: *Kentucky will develop a state-of-the-art technological infrastructure that complements its learning culture and bolsters its competitive position in the world economy.*
- GOAL 19: *Kentucky will establish a fair, competitive, and responsible fiscal, tax, and regulatory structure.*
- GOAL 20: *Kentucky will create an entrepreneurial economy.*

a clean, beautiful environment

- GOAL 21: *Kentucky will protect and enhance its environment through the responsible stewardship of its natural resources and the preservation of its scenic beauty.*
- GOAL 22: *Individuals, communities, and businesses will use resources wisely and reduce waste through recycling.*
- GOAL 23: *Kentucky communities will foster and promote a high level of environmental awareness and pollution abatement.*

honest, participatory government at all levels

- GOAL 24: *Government at all levels will be accountable, open, participatory, and responsive to the changing needs of Kentuckians.*
- GOAL 25: *Kentucky will ensure a fair, equitable, and effective system of justice.*
- GOAL 26: *Citizens should continue to broaden their understanding of issues, play a role in the civic life of their communities, and recognize the enduring importance of their participation.*

Are we making progress toward the goals?

To measure progress toward the realization of these 26 goals for the future of the Commonwealth, the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center sought broad input into the development of benchmarks or “indicators of progress.” These indicators of progress help us approximate how well the state is doing with respect to each of the 26 goals. For example, indicators of progress for Goal One, *Kentucky communities will be safe and caring places that enable all citizens to lead productive, fulfilling lives*, include measures of how safe people feel in our communities, how the state’s crime rate compares to national rates, how many neighbors and friends people feel they can rely upon in times of need, and how accessible public buildings are.

In addition to the indicators, the Center sought to determine, with a statewide survey, how citizens feel about the progress we are making on these 26 goals. In June 1999, the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center mailed surveys to 2,500 randomly selected Kentucky households. The survey asked citizens for their assessment of whether the state is “making progress,” “losing ground,” or “standing still” on each of the 26 long-term goals.¹ The survey also asked citizens to list, in order of importance, the three goals they think are most important for Kentucky’s future. The full results of this citizen assessment of Kentucky’s progress are presented here.

Do citizens think we are making progress? Generally, citizens who responded to the survey believe that Kentucky is making progress toward most of the goals. Figure 1 shows, for example, that 20 of the goals are in “making progress” territory; in other words, they received a higher percentage of “making progress” votes than “losing ground” votes.² Conversely, we are seen as, on

¹ The surveys were mailed in June 1999, and the survey was closed on September 1, 1999. The Center received a total of 566 eligible responses.

balance, “losing ground” in our progress toward six goals.

In Figure 1, we rank all 26 goals in terms of citizen assessment of overall progress. In this chart, a higher positive number indicates a perception of more progress. Conversely, the lower the number, the less progress citizens perceive. Negative numbers are possible in this scoring method; these goals are considered to be losing ground. In terms of making progress, the top four goals of the 2000 assessment are:

Citizens see the most progress in our efforts to protect the environment through stewardship of the state’s natural resources and preservation of its abundant natural beauty.

⇒ Goal 21: *Kentucky will protect and enhance its environment through the responsible stewardship of its natural resources and the preservation of its scenic beauty.*

⇒ Goal 12: *Kentuckians will have opportunities to appreciate, participate in, and contribute to the arts and humanities and historic preservation.*

⇒ Goal 15: *Kentucky will benefit from participation in an integrated global economy.*

⇒ Goal 22: *Individuals, communities, and businesses will use resources wisely and reduce waste through recycling.*

While citizens feel the state is losing ground on six goals, one goal got a disproportionately high number of negative votes:

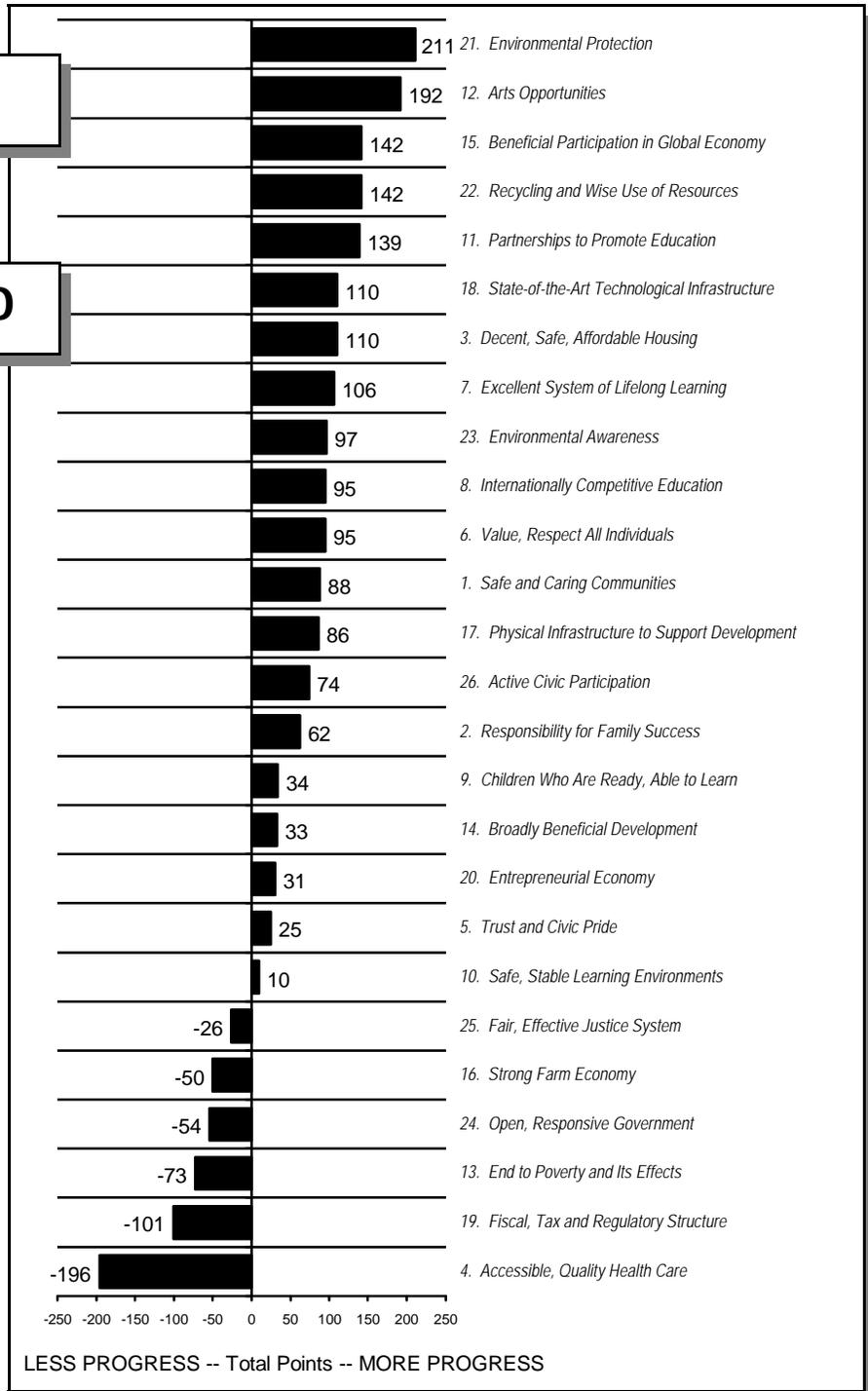
⇒ Goal 4: *All Kentuckians will have access to affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive health care that stresses the importance of preventive care.*

² We gave +1 point to each goal that a respondent felt the state was “making progress” toward realizing and -1 point to each goal on which he or she believed the state was “losing ground.” A response of “standing still” received no points. For example, Figure 1 shows Goal 21 with 211 points, more than any other goal. This is the sum of +1 multiplied by 311 “making progress” votes, -1 multiplied by 100 “losing ground” votes, and 0 multiplied by 148 “standing still” votes.

Where do citizens think we stand on the goals?

Figure 1

Year 2000



How did citizen assessments change?

Some interesting differences—and similarities—are noteworthy between the 1998³ and 2000 citizen assessments of our progress toward realization of the 26 long-term goals set forth for the Commonwealth. Among the noteworthy differences shown on page 10:

from 1998 to 2000

⇒ In 1998 and 2000, the same goal came in last place. Citizens see the least evidence of progress on Goal 4, *All Kentuckians will have access to affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive health care that stresses the importance of preventive care*. As discussed on page 11, citizens now rank this goal as the most important to our future.

⇒ Five goals experienced a large decrease in the percentage of the population who think the state is making progress on the goal (see Table 1). The five goals are about the global economy (Goal 15), civic pride (Goal 5), the tax and regulatory structure (Goal 19), technology infrastructure (Goal 18), and education partnerships (Goal 11).

⇒ The goal that received the most votes in 2000 for “making progress,” Goal 21, *Kentucky will protect and enhance its environment through the responsible stewardship of its natural resources and the preservation of its scenic beauty*, ranked sixth in terms of progress in 1998.

⇒ The goal that fell the most spots from 1998 to 2000 is Goal 5, *Kentucky communities will have high levels of trust and civic pride realized from broad citizen participation in their continuous development*. In 1998 it ranked 10th, but fell to 19th in the 2000 assessment.

⇒ The goal that jumped the most spots from 1998 to 2000 is Goal 7, *Kentuckians will have an education system of lifelong learning that exemplifies excellence*. This goal ranked 14th in 1998 but moved up to the 8th position in results from the 2000 survey.

⇒ Goal 10, *Kentucky’s children will have safe, stable learning environments*, moved from “losing ground” territory to “making progress.”

Between 1998 and 2000, according to citizen surveys, safe, stable learning environments moved from “losing ground” territory to “making progress” in spite of a spate of violent incidents in schools around the country.

³ These results are presented in *Visioning Kentucky’s Future: Measures and Milestones 1998*, which is available at the Center’s web site: www.kltprc.net.

Percentage of points each goal received

Table 1

	GOAL	<i>Making Progress</i>		<i>Losing Ground</i>		<i>Standing Still</i>	
		1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
1	Safe and Caring Communities	38%	38%	35%	39%	27%	23%
2	Responsibility for Family Success	35	35	43	42	22	24
3	Decent, Safe Affordable Housing	41	44	37	32	22	24
4	Accessible, Quality Health Care	18	17	30	30	52	53
5	Trust and Civic Pride	39	30	41	45	20	25
6	Value, Respect for All Individuals	38	40	41	38	21	23
7	Excellent System of Lifelong Learning	43	44	28	31	28	25
8	Internationally Competitive Education	41	41	37	36	23	24
9	Children Who Are Ready, Able to Learn	35	36	39	35	27	30
10	Safe, Stable Learning Environments	32	35	28	31	40	34
11	Partnerships to Promote Education	52	45	30	34	18	20
12	Arts Opportunities	47	48	40	38	13	13
13	End to Poverty and its Effects	18	20	43	48	39	33
14	Broadly Beneficial Development	36	31	40	45	23	25
15	Beneficial Participation in Global Economy	57	45	27	37	16	19
16	Strong Farm Economy	28	29	37	33	36	38
17	Physical Infrastructure to Support Development	40	37	42	42	19	22
18	State-of-the-Art Technological Infrastructure	45	38	40	44	16	18
19	Fiscal, Tax and Regulatory Structure	29	21	40	40	31	39
20	Entrepreneurial Economy	33	28	45	49	22	22
21	Environmental Protection	51	55	27	27	22	18
22	Wise Use of Resources & Recycling	51	48	31	30	17	22
23	Environmental Awareness	45	41	38	36	17	23
24	Open, Responsive Government	28	25	41	40	32	35
25	Fair, Effective Justice System	24	28	44	39	32	33
26	Active Civic Participation	41	36	41	42	18	22

What goals are most important to citizens?

We asked citizens to list the three goals they think are most important for Kentucky's future.⁴ The goal that received the most votes is Goal 4, *All Kentuckians will have access to affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive health care that stresses the importance of preventive care*. The second and third most important goals, according to Kentucky citizens, are Goal 7, *Kentuckians will have an education system of lifelong learning that exemplifies excellence*, and Goal 1, *Kentucky communities will be safe and caring places that enable all citizens to lead productive, fulfilling lives*. According to citizens, the least important goal is Goal 12, *Kentuckians will have opportunities to appreciate, participate in, and contribute to the arts and humanities and historic preservation*.⁵

Citizens believe the least progress has been made toward the most important goal— high-quality, preventive health care for all.

Comparison of the survey results from 1998 and 2000 shows that citizens have changed their prioritization of the 26 long-term goals. Figure 2 lists the goals by order of importance. Respondents to the most recent survey continue to rank Goals 4, 7, and 1 in the top three, but the order of these three has changed. While Goal 7 (Excellent System of Lifelong Learning) garnered, by far, the most votes in 1998, Kentuckians now feel that Goal 4 (Accessible, Quality Health Care) is the most important. Goal 1 (Safe and Caring Communities) dropped from second to third place. Finally, the goal that citizens rank as most important to our future (Goal 4, Accessible, Quality Health Care) is the goal toward which they conclude we have made the least progress.

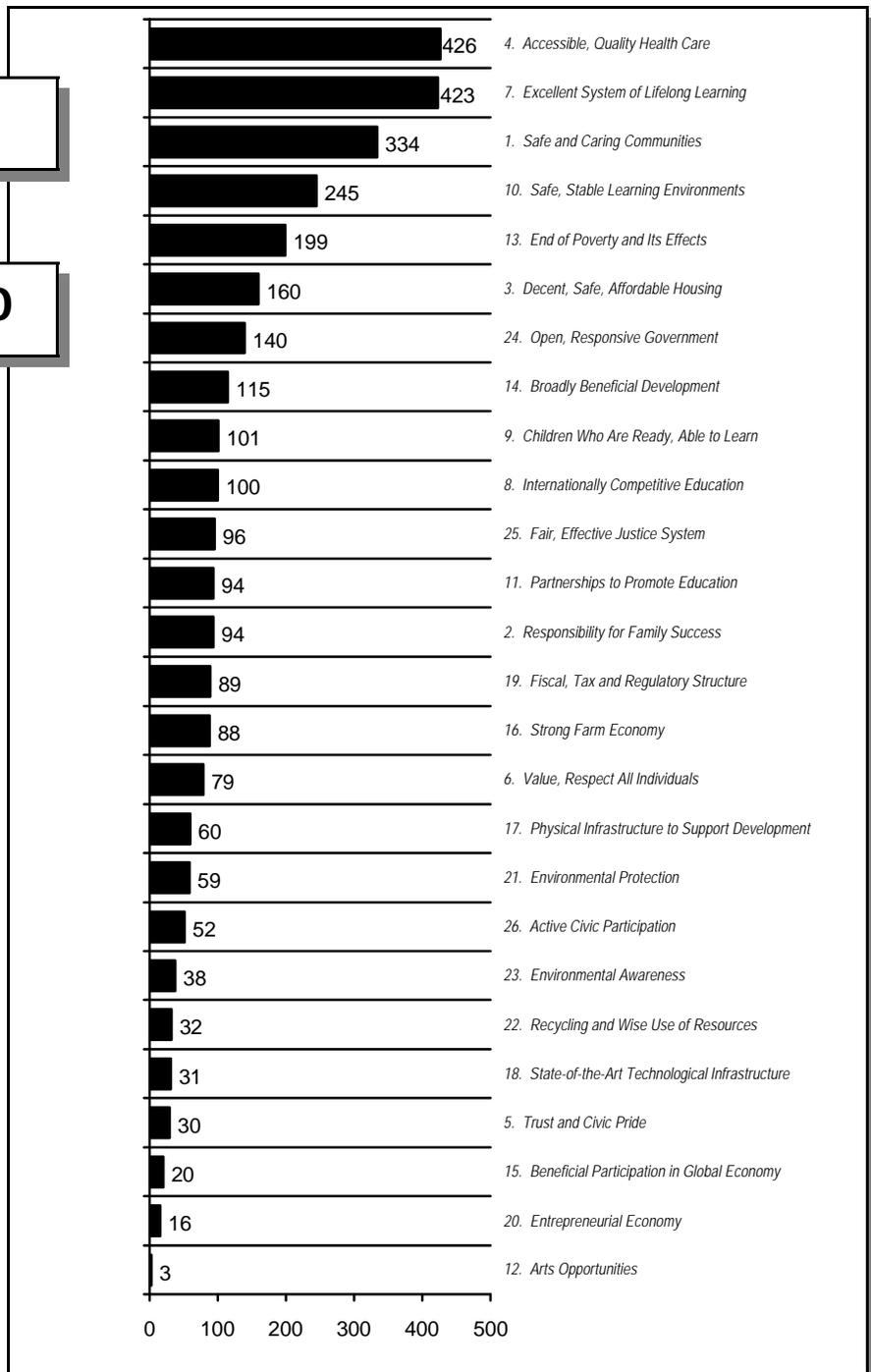
⁴ We gave 3 points to the goal each respondent listed as the *most* important, 2 points to the goal each respondent listed as the *second most* important, and 1 point to the goal each respondent listed as the *third most* important. In this way, we can rank each of the goals by points to determine which goals are deemed most important.

⁵ The wording of this goal did not include “and historic preservation” on the 1998 survey.

How did citizens rank the goals by importance?

Figure 2

Year 2000



the goals

Goal 1

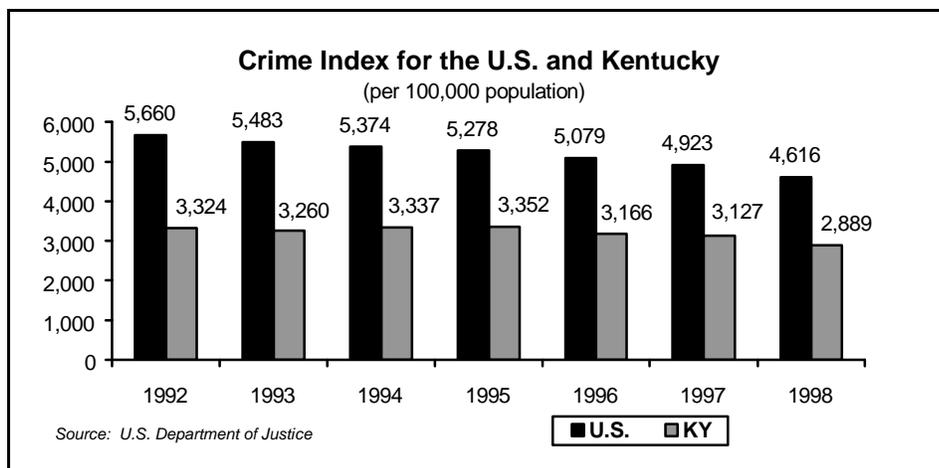
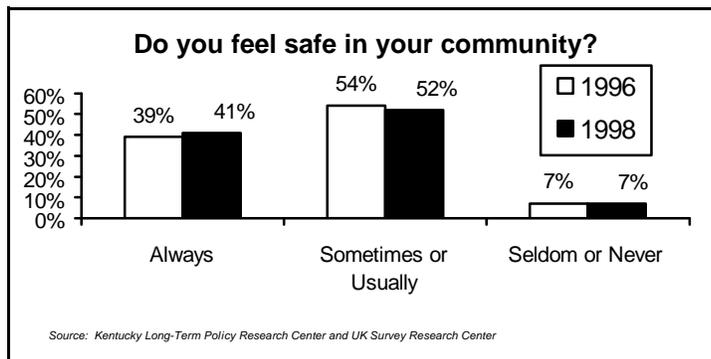
Kentucky communities will be safe and caring places that enable all citizens to lead productive, fulfilling lives.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	38%	38%
Standing Still	35%	39%
Losing Ground	27%	23%

Healthy communities offer a nurturing, supportive environment that enables all people to realize their fullest potential. In turn, these communities reap the considerable rewards of involved, engaged citizens who work to preserve and improve quality of life. Thus, the community's very source of strength is constantly being replenished. Citizens rank this as the third most important goal for our future, but few believe we are making progress. Perceptions changed little from 1998 to 2000.

1.1 Personal Safety. Perhaps the most elemental way to gauge our sense of community is to determine how safe individuals believe

they are. Two surveys to date, conducted in the spring of 1996 and 1998, have helped us track this measure of the health of Kentucky communities. To the Commonwealth's benefit, the percentage of people who "always" feel safe in their communities has increased slightly, while the percentage of those who "never" or "seldom" feel safe has remained unchanged.



1.2 Crime. The crime index consists of selected offenses that are reported to law enforcement, including murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Both these measures

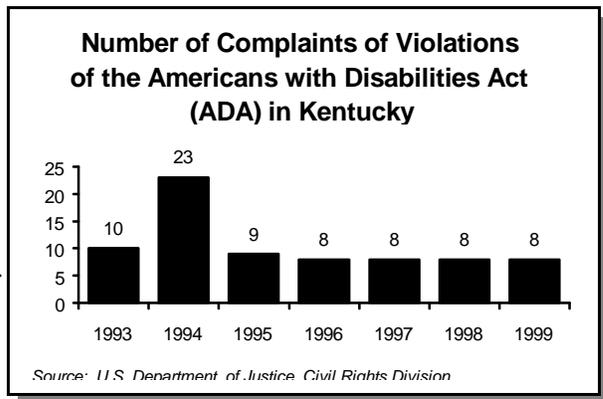
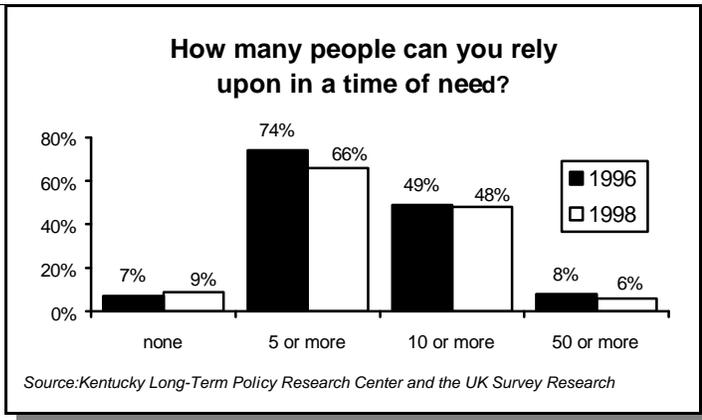


have declined over the past few years, and Kentucky's crime index is far below the national rate.

1.3 Neighborliness. The sense of support we think of as neighborliness is another important barometer of community health. Data for this indicator were also collected for the first time in a 1996 survey and updated in the spring 1998 survey. Both

ask: "Not counting your family, approximately how many people in your community, such as neighbors, do you feel you can rely upon for assistance in times of need (for example, if your car breaks down or you need a babysitter on short notice)?" The percentage of people who claimed they have no one other than family to count on increased, while those answering five or more decreased by almost 10 percentage points.

1.4 Access for Persons with Disabilities. Modern democratic governments embrace the concept of inclusion. A public building that denies access to any citizen is inimical to the spirit of a democratic community. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination towards persons on the basis of a disability. The ADA addresses employment and access to programs, services and activities of state and local governments as well as public accommodations and commercial facilities of private businesses and nonprofit organizations. The Department of Justice (DOJ) may file lawsuits in federal court on behalf of complainants regarding ADA violations when the dispute cannot be settled through negotiations.



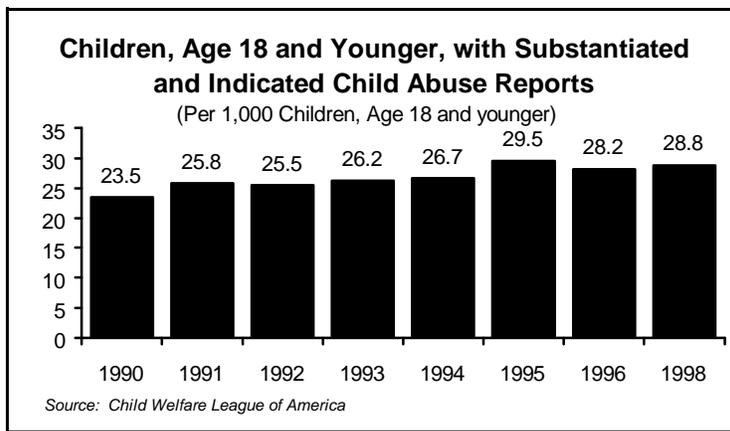
Goal 2

Kentucky's communities and citizens will share responsibility in helping families succeed.

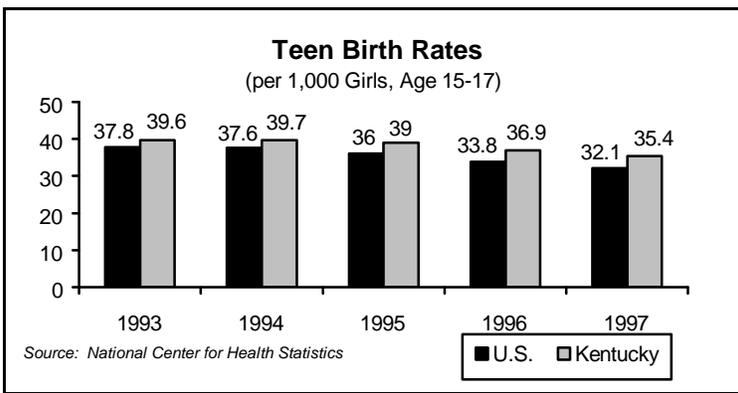
	1998	2000
Making Progress	35%	35%
Standing Still	43%	42%
Losing Ground	22%	24%

Families need networks of supportive individuals and institutions in order to flourish. The awful consequences of family failures inevitably become society's failures, exacting an inestimable and enduring toll. Conversely, many investments in improvements to children's lives have been shown to yield measurable returns. Citizen opinion on our progress toward this goal changed little from 1998 to 2000. Citizens place this goal near the median in level of importance and progress.

2.1 Child Abuse. Child abuse, again, is unquestionably our most disturbing family failure, one that is too often repeated when the child victim becomes an adult abuser. As shown, the number of



substantiated and indicated reports of child abuse has risen slightly in Kentucky over the past eight years, according to the Child Welfare League of America.

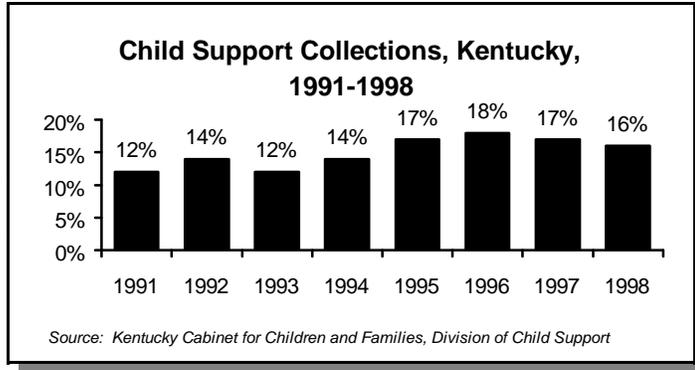


2.2 Teen Parents. A number of disturbing consequences have been linked to teen births. These data show birth rates per 1,000 women, ages 15-17, for Kentucky and the United States. While rates have declined at the state and national levels in recent years, Kentucky's rates are consistently higher than U.S. rates.

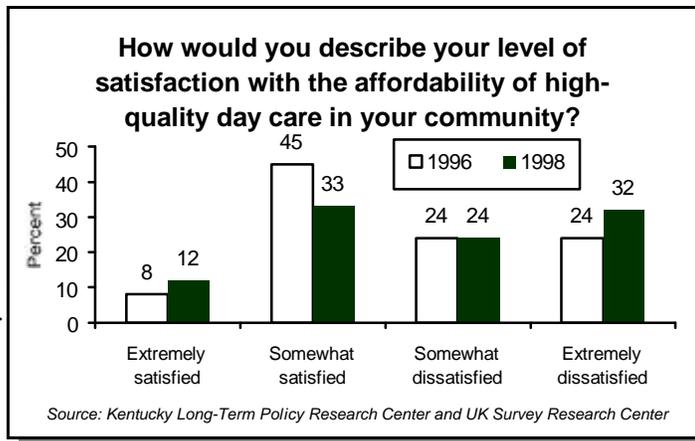
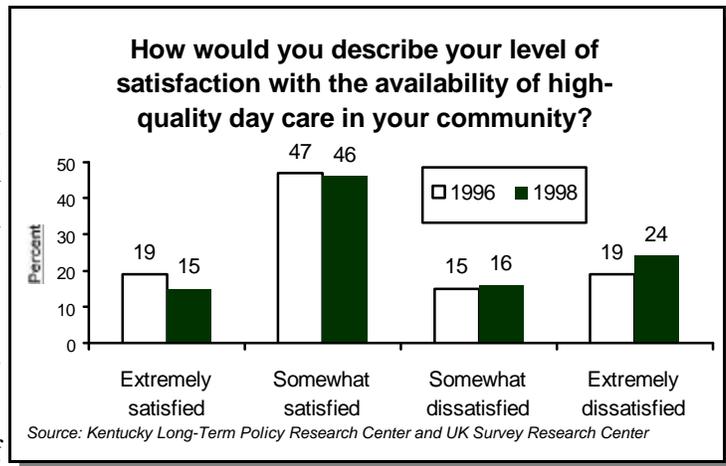
2.3 Child Support. The economic neglect of children also compels our attention. The success of efforts to hold parents accountable for unpaid child support has a direct impact on



the economic status of our state's children. As shown, only a small percentage of the child support owed families is successfully collected for those who file complaints with the Kentucky Cabinet for Children and Families. However, these data include current *and* past child support owed; about 45 percent of current child support payments were collected in 1997 and 1998.



2.4 Child Care. Recent studies show that high-quality child care yields benefits that persist into adulthood. Surveys conducted in 1996 and 1998 investigated how satisfied Kentuckians are with the availability and affordability of their child care. Overall, satisfaction with the availability of child care declined between 1996 and 1998, as dissatisfaction increased. However, the results of this assessment of affordability are somewhat mixed. Those who are “extremely satisfied” increased slightly, while those who are “somewhat satisfied” decreased by more than 10 percentage points. In addition, the somewhat dissatisfied category remained unchanged while extreme dissatisfaction with the affordability of child care increased.



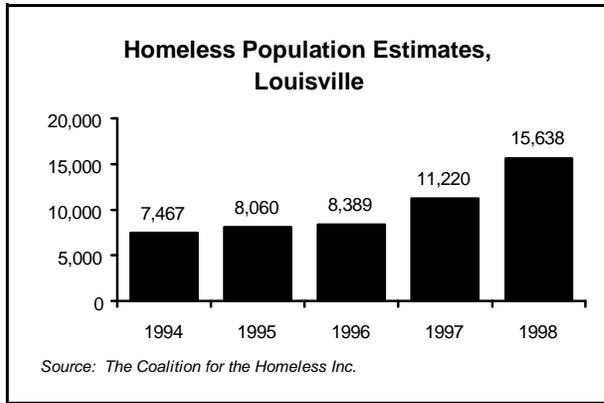
Goal 3

Kentuckians will have decent, safe, and affordable housing.

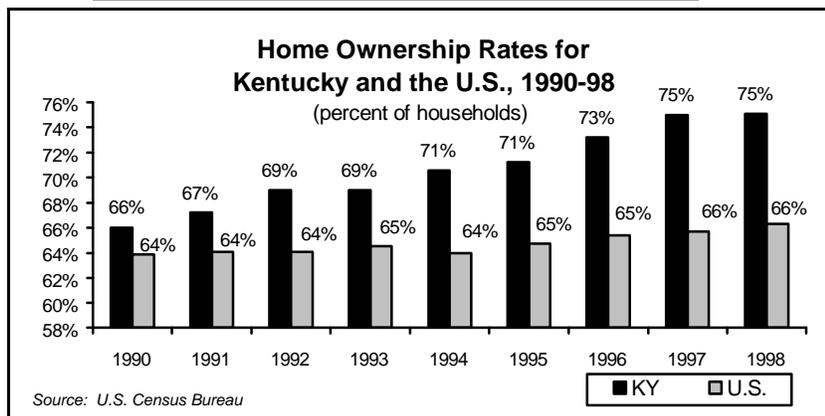
	1998	2000
Making Progress	41%	44%
Standing Still	37%	32%
Losing Ground	22%	24%

Because owning a home remains central to the American Dream, the relative affordability of housing in Kentucky has long been a strong asset for our state. But too many Kentuckians still cannot find affordable housing to rent or own. For some, the dream of home ownership remains just out of reach, others can afford only marginal or substandard housing, and still others are homeless. Most believe we are making progress toward the goal of decent, safe, affordable housing for Kentuckians. Between 1998 and 2000, citizen assessments of our progress shifted in a positive direction.

3.1 Homelessness.



Because population counts usually depend upon residency, it is difficult to measure homeless populations. The Coalition for the Homeless Inc. of Jefferson County, Kentucky, however, conducts a yearly census of persons served by overnight shelters in Louisville. While these numbers do not provide a comprehensive view of the true homeless situation in Kentucky, we use them here as an indicator of urban homelessness. This yearly census shows



increases in the number of persons utilizing services to the homeless. The most recent poll conducted by the Kentucky Housing Corporation in 1993 showed the rural homeless population at an estimated 4,450.

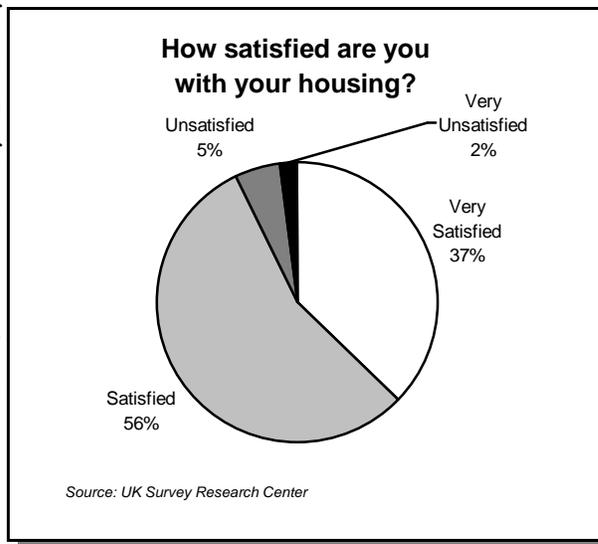
3.2 Housing Affordability.

Home ownership is central to the American Dream, but affordability

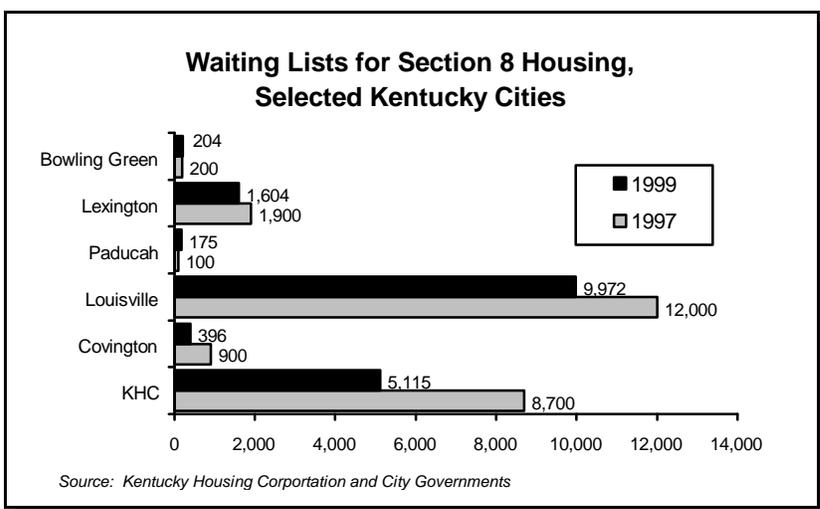


has long been a deterrent to its realization. The lack of affordable housing leads to lower homeownership rates in a given area. Over the past decade, home ownership rates steadily increased in Kentucky, and remained consistently higher than the national average.

3.3 Housing Adequacy. Some of the places that Kentuckians call home are woefully inadequate. The 1990 census showed that many citizens of our state still live in overcrowded housing without plumbing, kitchen facilities or heat. However, a more recent poll conducted by the UK Survey Research Center in the spring of 1998 showed that the majority of Kentuckians are satisfied to extremely satisfied with their housing.



3.4 Access to Subsidized Housing. Section 8 housing is subsidized by the government to give needy individuals and families access to affordable housing. Kentucky now has a total of 51,443 Section 8 housing units. The overall trend in Kentucky has been one of declining waiting lists in each of the selected cities we examined here and those administered by the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC).



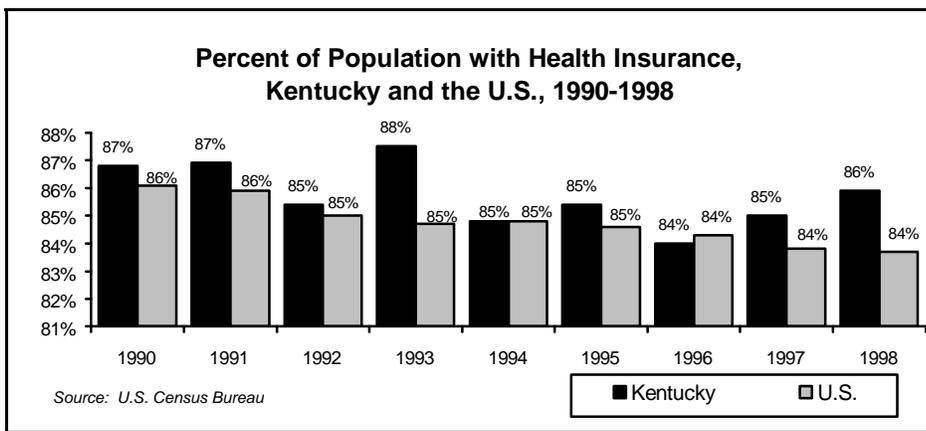
Goal 4

All Kentuckians will have access to affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive health care that stresses the importance of preventive care.

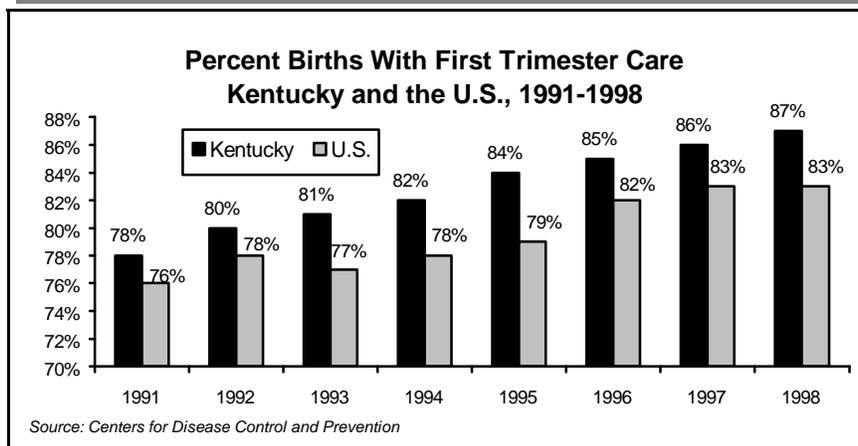
	1998	2000
Making Progress	18%	17%
Standing Still	30%	30%
Losing Ground	52%	53%

The long-term consequences—and costs—of inattention to the health care needs of citizens are far reaching. On our most recent survey, citizens ranked this goal as the most important to the future, but they believe we are losing ground. Indeed, by a wide margin, citizens expressed the belief that we have lost the most ground on this important goal. Clearly, much work is left to be done if we are to meet the health needs of all citizens and prevent needless and costly health consequences.

4.1 Health Insurance Coverage. Nationally, more than 44 million citizens were without health insurance in 1998. Most were poor.



While 16.3 percent of the U.S. population was without health insurance, 32.3 percent of the poor (11.2 million people) had no health insurance in 1998. The trend over time shows the percentage of Kentuckians who have health insurance has been at least equal to or greater than the U.S.



average. Nevertheless, more than half a million Kentuckians had no health insurance in 1998.

4.2 Prenatal Care. Babies born to mothers who did not receive prenatal care are four times more likely to die than babies whose mothers received adequate prenatal care in the

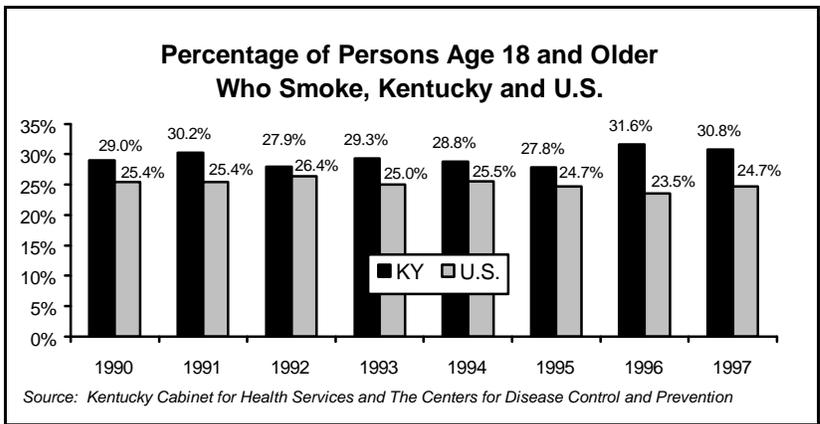
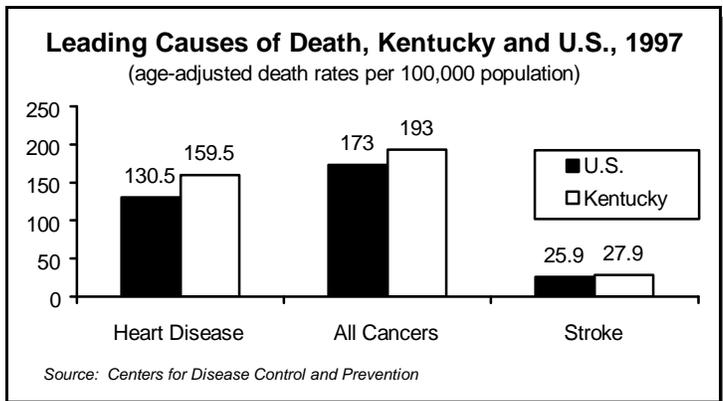


first trimester. Kentucky has taken several steps to insure more pregnant women and children through expanded Medicaid support. Kentucky is above the national average on this important measure of health.

4.3 Causes of Death. As our population ages, heart disease, cancer, and stroke have become the leading causes of death here and nationally. In 1996, Kentucky ranked sixth in deaths from heart disease and eleventh in deaths from stroke. Our ranking for deaths from cancer dropped from third to eighth in 1999. With the exception of strokes, death rates have varied little throughout the 1990s, but they are high here relative to the national average, indicating a poor health status.

4.4 Smoking Rates. Smoking is the most important single preventable cause of death in the United States, a message that has not resonated with Kentuckians. In 1997, 30.8 percent of Kentuckians age 18 and older reported being smokers, the highest rate in the nation. Indeed, the gap between state and national smoking rates has widened in recent

years. The objective of *Healthy Kentuckians 2000* is to reduce cigarette smoking to a prevalence of no more than 23 percent by the year 2000. It may be necessary to increase and strengthen health promotion and community mobilization efforts to achieve this important health goal.



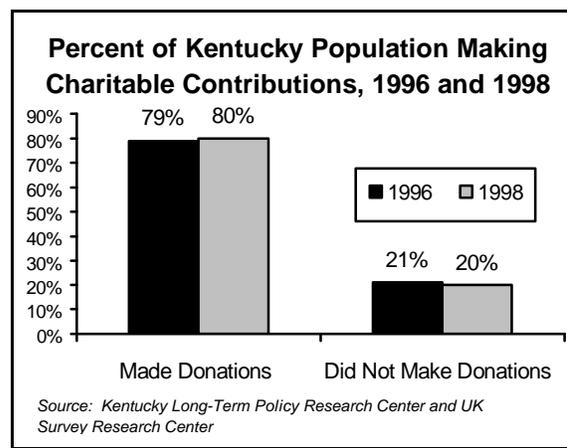
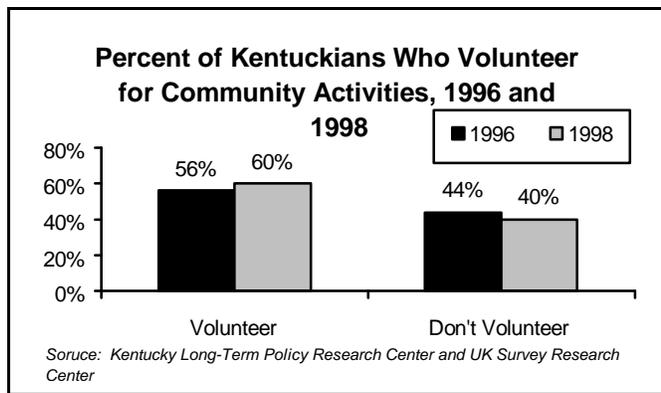
Goal 5

Kentucky communities will have high levels of trust and civic pride realized from broad citizen participation in their continuous development.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	39%	30%
Standing Still	41%	45%
Losing Ground	20%	25%

The work of building strong, vibrant communities cannot be done by government alone. Indeed, the quiet, often unsung contributions engaged citizens make to the civic life of their communities, some researchers conclude, may be the very ingredient that enables economic development and broad prosperity. Trust may be the essential ingredient. Our findings show that citizen opinion on our progress toward this important goal was considerably less positive in 2000 than just two years earlier.

5.1 Volunteerism. Two surveys conducted in 1996 and 1998 by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center asked Kentuckians if they had volunteered time for civic, community, charitable,



nonprofit, or church-related activities during the previous 12 months. A majority of survey respondents in both years replied that they had indeed participated in such activities. In addition, this majority increased from 56 percent in the 1996 poll to 60 percent in 1998. Nationally, the Census Bureau found that 48.8 percent of the population volunteered in 1995.

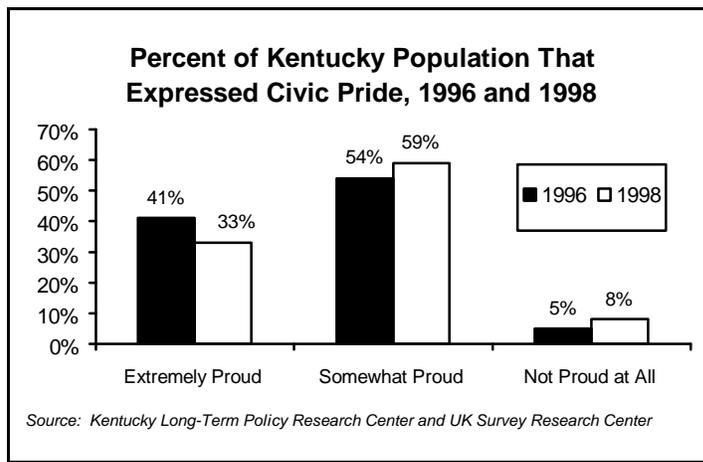
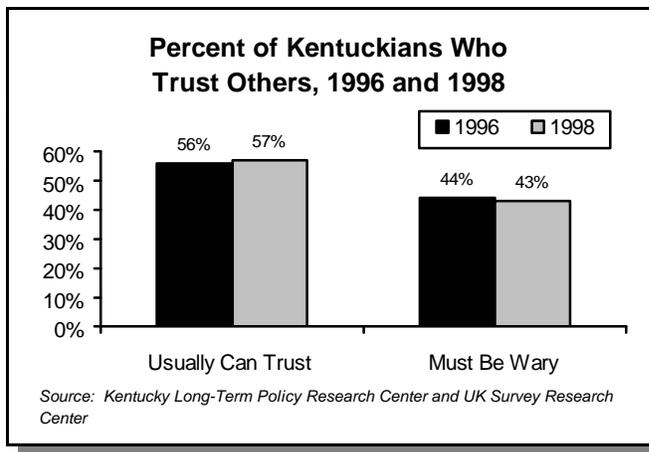
5.2 Charitable Giving. The same surveys asked whether respondents had made donations to charitable organizations during the previous 12 months. In both surveys approximately four fifths of Kentuckians indicated they



had done so. The national average for charitable givers stood at 68.5 percent in 1995, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

5.3 Trust. When Kentuckians are asked if they usually trust other people or are wary of them, more than 50 percent of respondents to surveys in 1996 and 1998 indicated that they are more likely to trust others. These are substantially higher average trust levels than those found around the country. A 1994 survey by the National Opinion Research Center showed that only 35 percent of Americans say that “most people” can be trusted.

5.4 Community Pride. Similarly, Kentuckians typically express high levels of pride in their communities, according to the results of these two surveys. While the percentages of those expressing pride remained relatively high compared to those who feel no pride at all, the percentage of those expressing “extreme pride” declined. This decline was split among the remaining two categories where we see increases in the percentage of those who are “somewhat proud” and in the percentage of those who claim to be “not proud at all.”



Goal 6

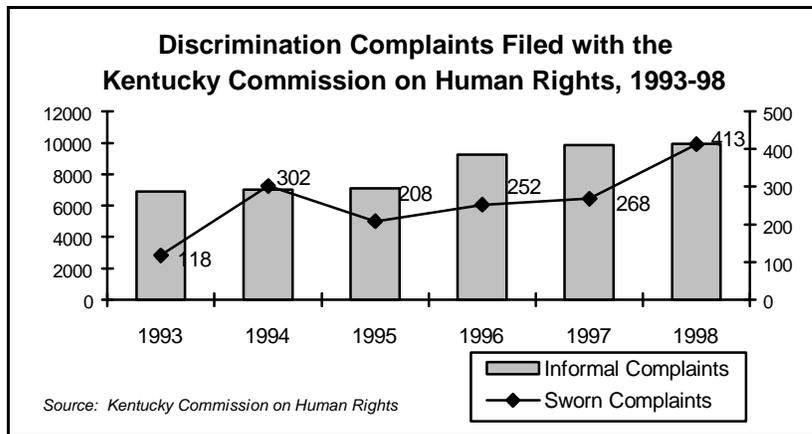
Kentucky communities will value and respect all individuals regardless of culture, race, ethnic background, religion, or gender.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	38%	40%
Standing Still	41%	38%
Losing Ground	21%	23%

The respect we accord our fellow citizens, without regard to their race, heritage, age, ability, health, or gender, is a measure of our ability to live together in harmony and of our progress toward the noble goals of this nation's founding architects. Increasingly, diversity is an attraction for educated migrants and high skills industries, making tolerance an economic as well as a social must. An increasing portion of citizens believe we are making progress on this key goal.

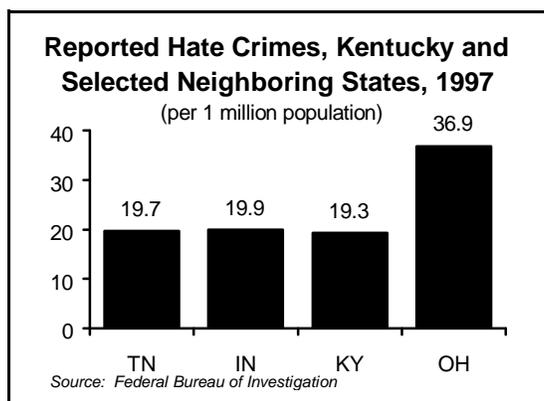
6.1 Discrimination. While large numbers of informal discrimination complaints come to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, a smaller number of signed, sworn complaints are investi-

gated each year. Informal complaints have greatly outnumbered signed, sworn complaints in Kentucky. Over the decade, informal complaints steadily increased.



6.2 Hate Crimes. A hate crime, also known as a bias crime, is a criminal offense committed against a person, property, or society that is

motivated in whole or in part by the offender's bias. In 1997, according to the FBI, 19.3 hate crimes per 1 million Kentuckians were committed, a rate comparable to that reported for Tennessee and Indiana, but significantly less than the rate reported for Ohio.

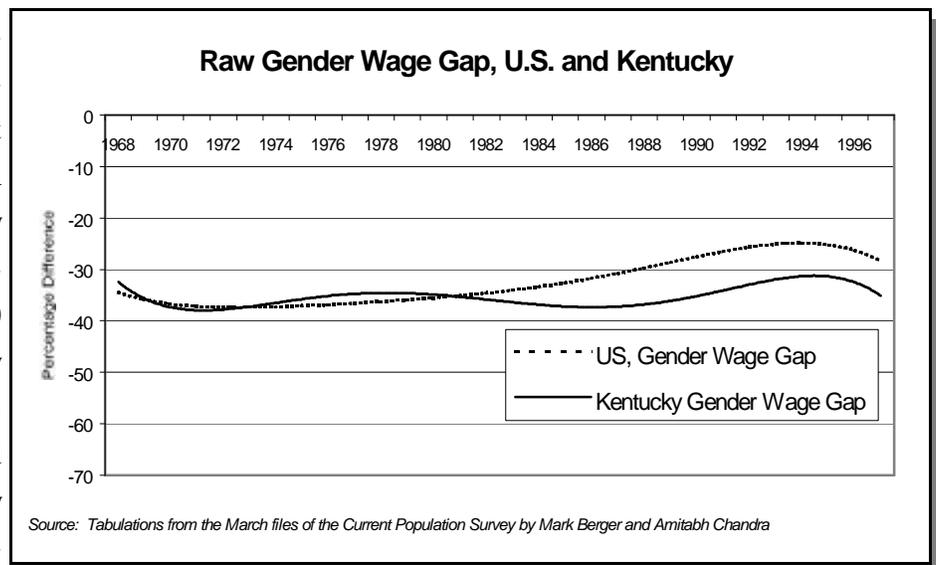
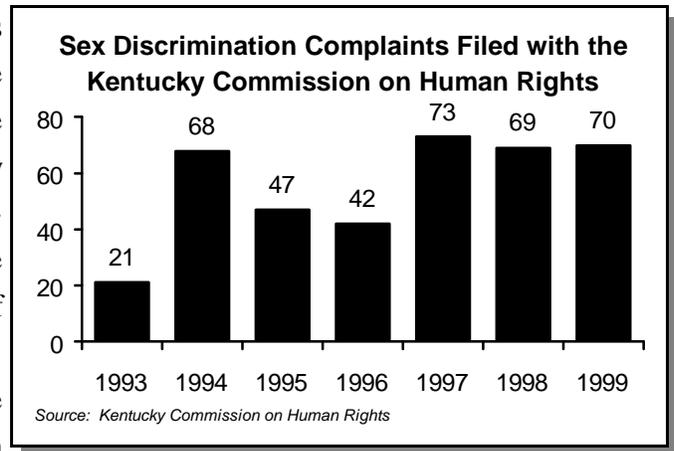


6.3 Sex Discrimination. No trend in the number of sex discrimination complaints filed



with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights was evident in this decade, but complaints have recently risen. The primary reasons cited in these complaints are job termination, issues of pay equity, and unfair treatment during or after pregnancy. The rising number of complaints may be partly attributable to a growing awareness of women's workplace rights.

6.4 Pay Equity. As shown, the gender wage gap as reflected in raw averages has been wider in Kentucky than nationally since the early 1980s, but recent work by economists Mark C. Berger and Amitabh Chandra at the University of Kentucky finds a more complex situation. When these economists controlled for factors such as education, experience and demographics and for occupations and industries of employment, they found that the gender gap had closed faster here than nationally and had paralleled the national rate for about 10 years. The raw gap, they conclude, may be attributable to downward pressure on wages caused by rising numbers of female labor force entrants, declining male entrants, and the jobs women are choosing.



Goal 7

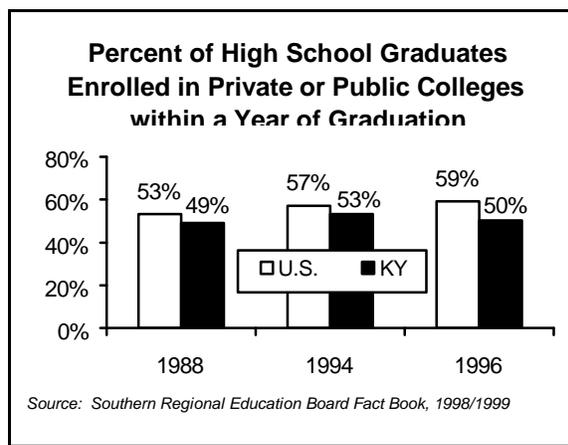
Kentuckians will have an education system of lifelong learning that exemplifies excellence.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	43%	44%
Standing Still	28%	31%
Losing Ground	28%	25%

We have made great strides in our efforts to instill a broader understanding of the importance—and the imperative—of education in today’s demanding economy and society.

Many signs indicate that Kentucky’s long history of relative indifference to educational achievement is gradually being reversed. Educational reform continues to elevate expectations and foster quality instruction at every level. Citizens rank this as the second most important goal for our future, and they saw progress in both 1998 and 2000. Overall, Goal 7 ranks eighth on our progress scale for 2000.

7.1 College Enrollment. While 1994 saw greater percentages of Kentucky high school graduates enrolling in institutions of higher education than a few years before, recent data show a decline to near



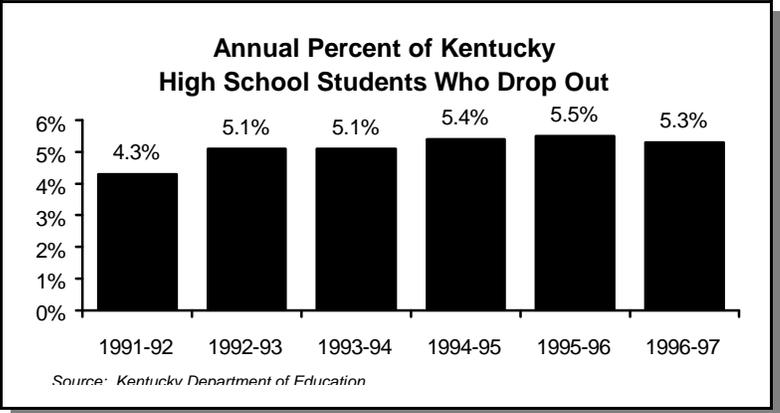
its previous level. In addition, Kentucky remains below the national average in enrollment levels. Moreover, only about 36.7 percent of first-time, full-time baccalaureate students who enroll in Kentucky’s four-year colleges each year finish their education within six years, according to a 1999 study by the Council on Postsecondary Education. Nationally, studies by American

College Testing (ACT) show that a higher percentage of students finish in a shorter amount of time. Specifically, ACT found that 42.9 percent of students in public institutions and 52.1 percent of students at all four-year institutions finish within *five years* of enrollment.

7.2 High School Dropouts. From a historical perspective, Ken-

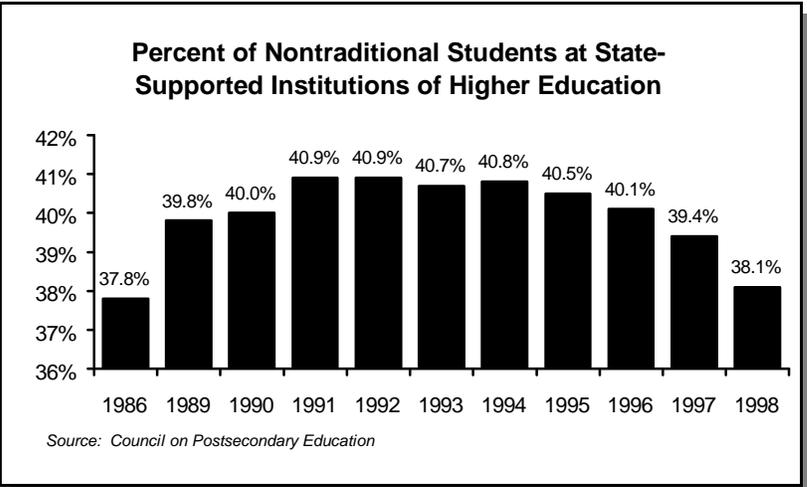


tucky has increased its high school completion rate significantly. But the dropout rate here is higher than the national average and, as illustrated, has increased somewhat in recent years. Some Kentucky dropouts eventually return and finish school or obtain a GED certificate, but the challenge of adult education has proven difficult. The Southern Regional Education Board reports that 82 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds in Kentucky had high school diplomas in 1996, compared to 86 percent nationally. While a gap remains, these data compare favorably to the adult (age 25 and older) population with a high school diploma, estimated at 77.9 percent in 1998.



7.3 Teacher Preparation. The NCES will not conduct an update of its Schools and Staffing Survey until after the 1999-2000 year.

7.4 Nontraditional Students. While their overall enrollment has declined somewhat in recent years, students age 25 and older now comprise a substantial proportion of postsecondary students in Kentucky's public institutions. Nontraditional students now represent about 4 in 10 of postsecondary students at Kentucky's state-supported schools, a rate close to the national average.



Goal 8

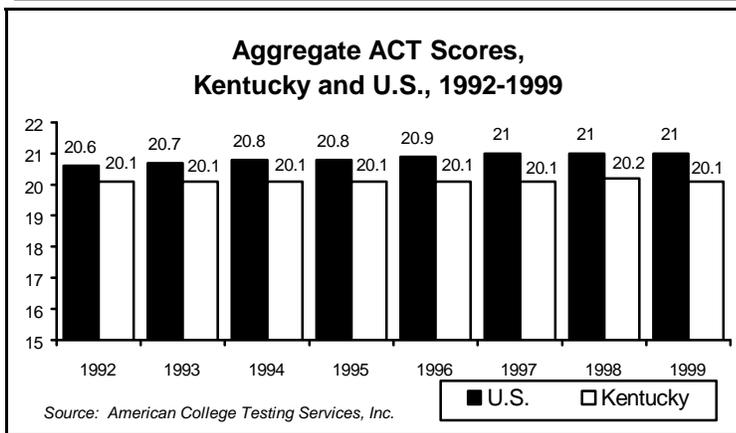
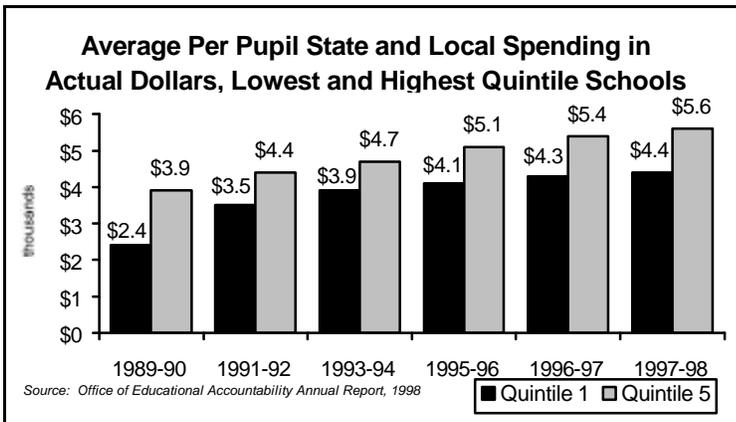
Kentuckians will have equal opportunity to obtain an internationally competitive education.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	41%	41%
Standing Still	37%	36%
Losing Ground	23%	24%

Kentucky has brought national attention to the compelling need for an equitably funded school system dedicated to the continuous improvement of instruction and the educational outcomes it fosters. Equal access to a quality education, regardless of income or residence, is especially important in a state such as ours where widespread poverty adversely affects academic performance and educational outcomes. Goal 8 ranked 10th on both the progress and the importance scales, and public opinion changed little between 1998 and 2000.

8.1 Funding Equity.

During the 1989-1990 school year, the combined state/local per pupil expenditure levels in the poorest one fifth of Kentucky schools was only 62 percent of that of the wealthiest one fifth. By 1997-98, the poorest schools were receiving 79 percent as much funding from these sources as the wealthiest districts. Federal programs augmented per pupil expenditures in the poorer districts.



8.2 Achievement Test Scores.

A record 68 percent of Kentucky high school students took the ACT exam in 1999 to prepare for college entrance, but scores here have not been rising at a pace comparable to national scores. One possible explanation is that Advanced Placement (AP) courses, which may help raise scores on college entrance exams, have only recently been expanded. As AP courses proliferate and schools improve,

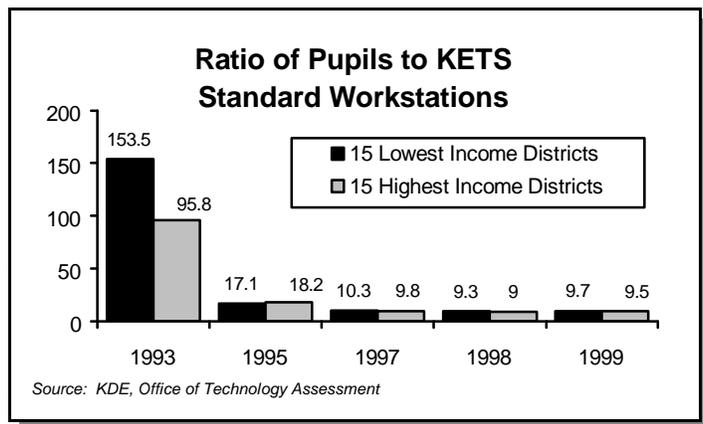


the picture should improve.

8.3 Performance Test Scores. For interstate comparison of student performance, we turn to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and reading exams. The most recent 1998 results are promising. These results show the percentage of Kentucky students reading at the basic level (“partial mastery” of skills necessary for higher performance) has surpassed the national average for both grades four and eight. At the proficient level (solid academic performance for the grade level), the percentage of fourth graders is equal to the national average. The most recent data on math skills are available for 1996 only and show improvement but not relative to the nation.

NAEP Math and Reading Test Results, Grades 4 and 8, Kentucky and the U.S., 1998				
	Percent At or Above Basic		Percent At or Above Proficient	
	KY	US	KY	US
1992 Grade 4 Reading	58%	60%	23%	27%
1994 Grade 4 Reading	56	59	26	28
1998 Grade 4 Reading	63	61	29	29
1998 Grade 8 Reading	74	72	29	31
1992 Grade 4 Math	51	57	14	19
1996 Grade 4 Math	60	62	17	22
1990 Grade 8 Math	43	51	10	15
1992 Grade 8 math	51	56	14	20
1996 Grade 8 Math	56	61	16	23

8.4 Computers in Schools. The 1993 Master Plan for Technology, which is being implemented by the Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS), is a multiyear effort to equip the state’s elementary and secondary schools with needed computer hardware. Now fully funded, \$560 million has been allocated for the Master Plan, including \$60 million in discounts made available by the federal Universal Service Fund. According to KETS, the Master Plan is now approximately 88 percent complete. Equipment purchased with these funds has been distributed equitably among the wealthiest and poorest districts.

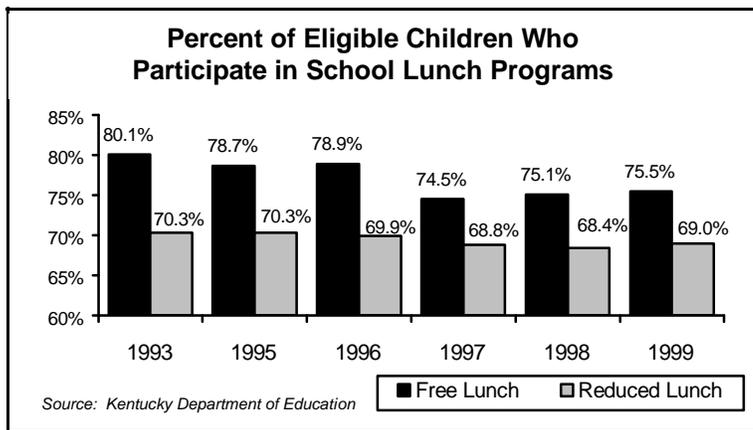
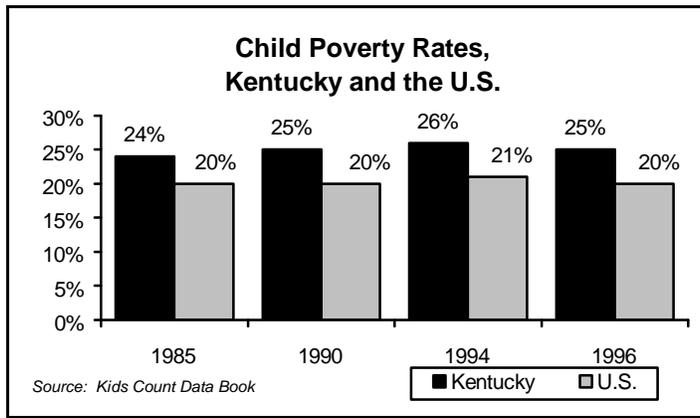


Goal 9

Kentucky's children will come to school ready and able to learn.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	35%	36%
Standing Still	39%	35%
Losing Ground	27%	30%

President Abraham Lincoln once observed, "A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started ... The fate of humanity is in his hands." Arguably, investments made in the health and well-being of our youngest citizens are those most likely to pay dividends in the future. Research by the RAND Corporation and others has found that child development programs yield measurable benefits that persist into adulthood. Short- and long-run achievement both were positively affected by early childhood programs. On this important goal, public opinion changed little between 1998 and 2000.



9.1 Child Poverty. Since data on child poverty were first collected in 1970, child poverty rates in Kentucky initially declined. Between 1980 and 1990, however, they increased sharply, as they did nationally. Recent data show that, on this important measure of child well-being, poverty rates for children here have remained fairly constant for a decade and continue to exceed the national average, which has also remained virtually unchanged.

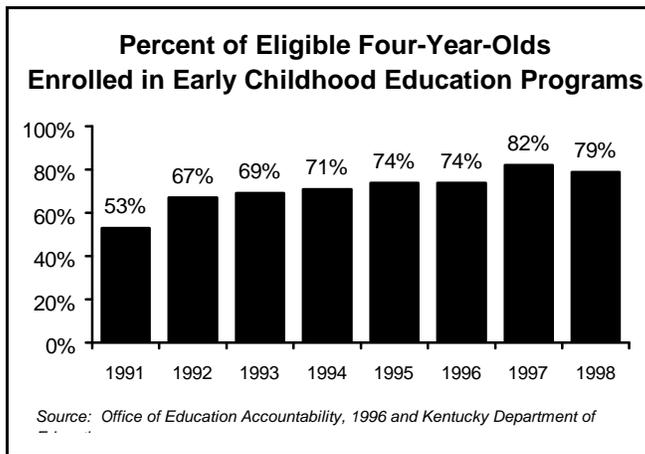
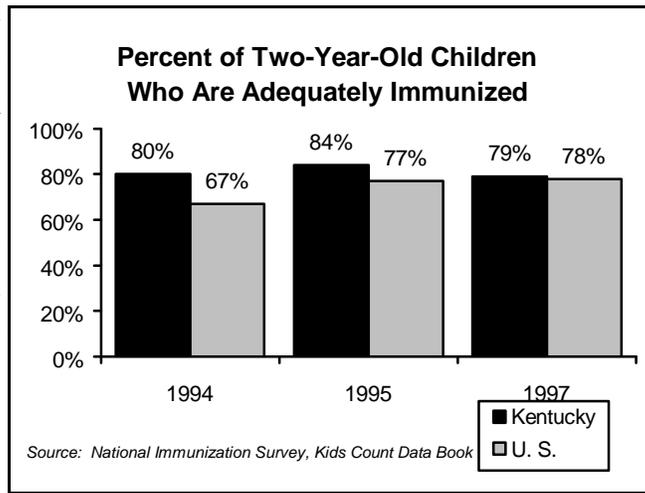
9.2 School Lunch Participation. During the 1998-99 school year, 39 percent of Kentucky school children



were eligible for free meals, and another 8.8 percent qualified for reduced price meals. The majority of children from low-income families are registered for the program, although some potentially eligible families do not apply. The stigma associated with subsidized lunches may be a deterrent to the participation of some families. Participation rates have been fairly consistent over recent years.

9.3 Child Immunizations. State and federally funded immunization programs, as well as community outreach efforts, have enabled Kentucky to increase immunization rates among children. The Commonwealth's immunization rate, which has fallen, exceeds the national average and is recognized as one of the highest rates in the nation.

9.4 Early Childhood Education. Like many other southern states, Kentucky only began providing kindergarten to five-year-olds over the past two decades, and it did not begin a significant prekindergarten program until 1990. Since then, Kentucky has made efforts to ensure that eligible children—those from impoverished homes or with learning or developmental problems—are served through these preschool programs. An estimated 20 percent of this population, however, is still not enrolled.

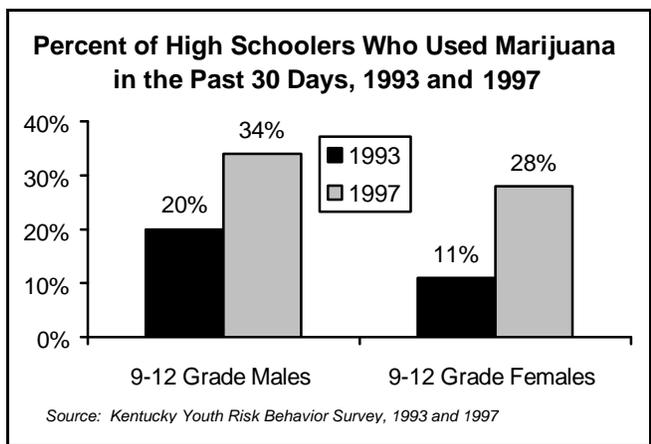
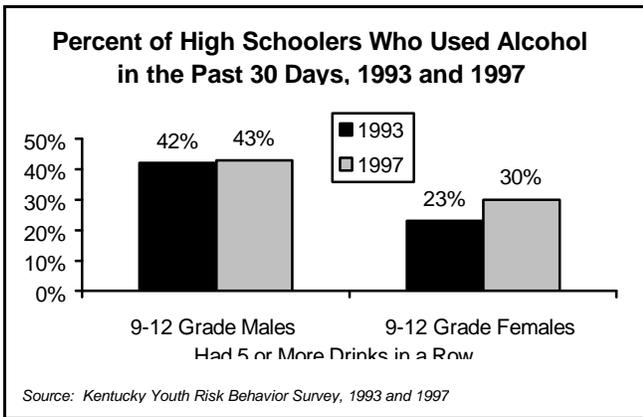


Goal 10

Kentucky's children will have safe, stable learning environments.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	32%	35%
Standing Still	28%	31%
Losing Ground	40%	34%

Children clearly cannot learn in an environment that is uncertain or even threatening, or when their individual abilities are impaired by drugs or alcohol. In recent years, Kentucky has taken steps to bring greater stability to the learning environments of its schools. Here, public opinion appears to have become somewhat more positive in regard to our progress toward a goal rated as the fourth most important. This positive movement in public opinion occurred even as incidents of school violence continued to occur in schools around the nation and to gain widespread, often sensational media coverage.



10.1 Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Only two years of data on youth alcohol and drug abuse are available to date. The results of the surveys conducted in 1993 and 1997 show an increase in the percentage of high school students who have used marijuana. The percentage of males who had used marijuana increased from 20 percent to 34 percent and the percentage of females more than doubled from 11 percent to 28 percent. Nationally, 30 percent of males and 21 percent of females used marijuana. The percent of males who had drunk five or more drinks in a row did not change much while the percentage of females increased. These averages are close to the national levels of 37 percent and 29 percent for males and females, respectively.

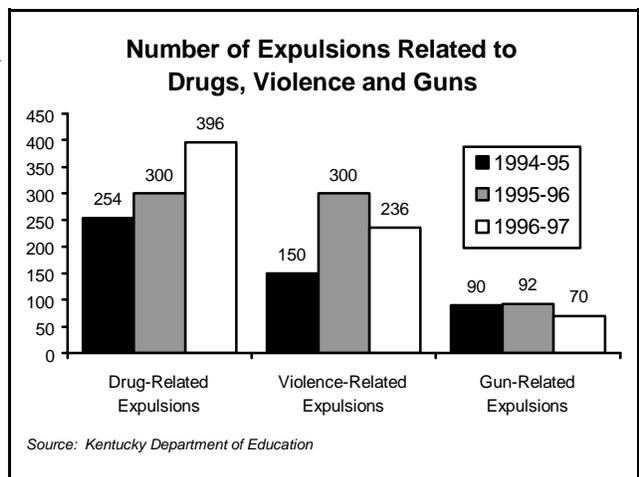
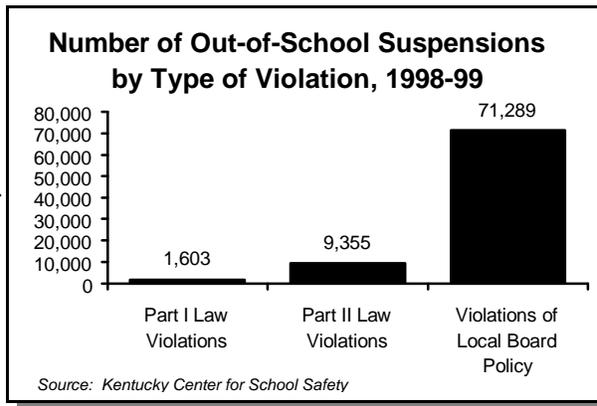
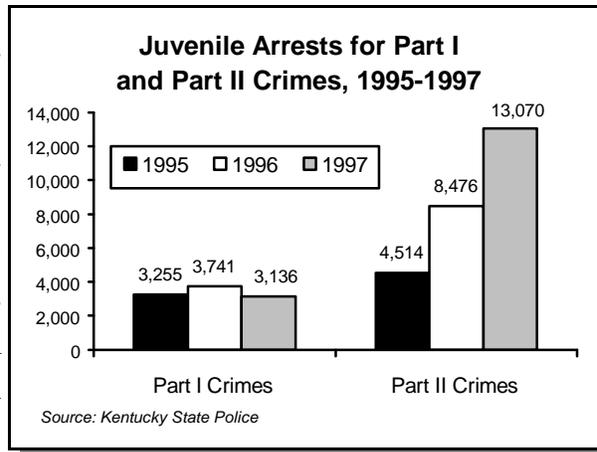
10.2 Juvenile Crime. Trends in criminal arrests of juveniles (children under 18) have varied depending on the type of crime. The data show a decline from 1996 to 1997 in arrests for "Part I"



offenses, which are more serious and often violent. However, a significant increase was seen in “Part II” offenses for all years. Over the 1995-1997 period, these nonviolent crimes increased 190 percent. Part II crimes include vandalism and drug violations.

10.3 Suspensions. In compliance with new federal and state guidelines, the Kentucky Safe Schools Data Project was formed to collect data on school prevention programs, the incidence of law and board policy violations and subsequent responses, and security measures taken by the schools. The 1998-99 school year was the pilot phase of this project during which data were collected from 179 school districts, or 1,437 schools, with an enrollment of 637,368 students. The data show that as the seriousness of the violation increases, incidences decrease.

10.4 Expulsions. The Alcohol Safe and Drug Free Schools Office reports the number of student expulsions related to drugs, violence, and guns. These expulsions provide a measure of the number of “hard-core” problem youth in Kentucky schools. These data show that gun- and violence-related expulsions declined by 21 percent and 24 percent respectively between 1995-1996 and 1996-1997. However, drug-related expulsions increased by 32 percent over the last year reported.



Goal 11

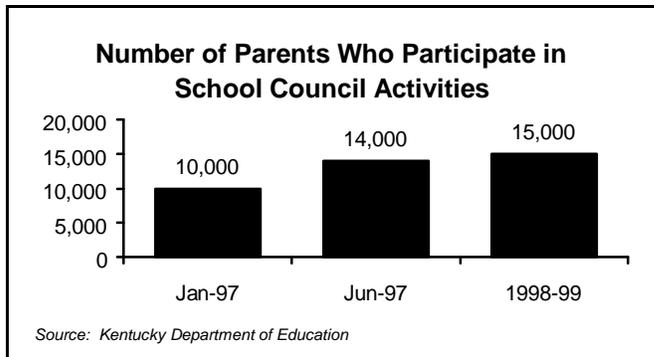
Kentuckians will promote partnerships among parents, schools, and communities to enhance the social and academic development of children.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	52%	45%
Standing Still	30%	34%
Losing Ground	18%	20%

Creating and cultivating partnerships that more fully engage parents, interested citizens, businesses, and institutions in the process of improving educational quality and outcomes has been one of the central goals of education reform since its inception here. Hence, we measure our progress toward an optimum educational system, in part, by how far we have come toward forging these critical partnerships. On this key goal, citizen confidence in our progress slipped between 1998 and 2000, but the overall rating of progress ranked fifth.

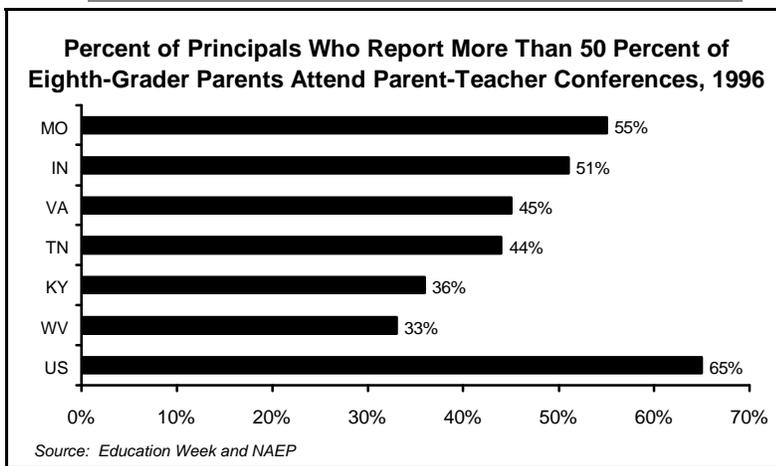
11.1 Parent Participation in Schools. At present, 1,238 schools in Kentucky are managed by school councils comprised of parents,

teachers, school administrators, and others. This joint decisionmaking vehicle was created by Kentucky's landmark school reform law. KRS 160.345 states that all schools in Kentucky will have a school-based decisionmaking council in place unless they are granted an exemption.



11.2 Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Parent-teacher meetings are gradually becoming as important as report cards, especially in elementary schools. Precise measures of this benchmark are unavailable; here we show a measure of "school climate" from "Quality Counts '98," a national report by *Education Week* and the Pew Charitable Trust. These data, which suggest poor parent participation in these conferences here relative to most surrounding

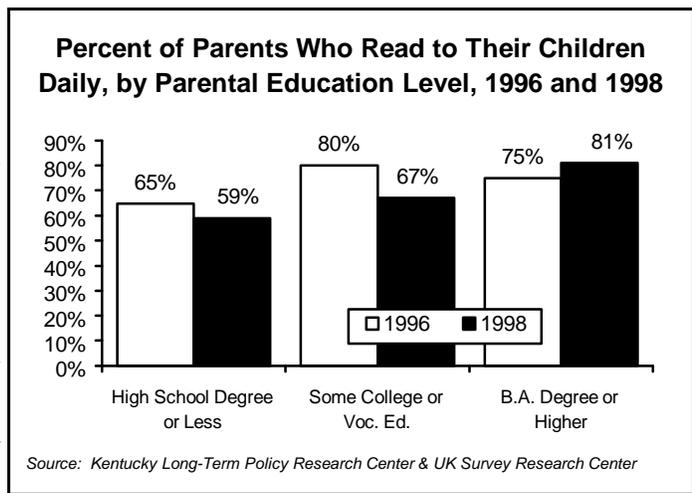
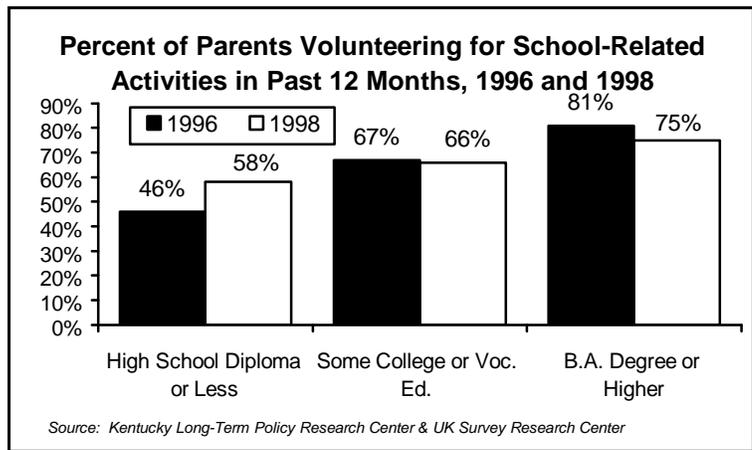




states, are from NAEP's national schools and staffing survey. Low ratings in this category appear to correlate with high poverty rates.

11.3 Parent Volunteerism. The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center commissioned polls in 1996 and 1998 by the University of Kentucky Research Center to learn more about parental involvement in school activities. While the results of both polls indicate that the percent of parents volunteering generally increases as parent education increases, the more recent survey shows a decline in the strength of this relationship. That is, while the data show higher parental education levels associated with high percentages of parents volunteering in or for the schools, this relationship is weaker in the more recent poll.

11.4 Parents Who Read to Their Children. The same polls asked how frequently parents read to their children (age eight and under). In both surveys, well over half the parents at all education levels said they read to their children every day. As with indicator 11.3, the percentage of parents who read to their children increases as educational attainment rises. Declining percentages of less-educated parents who read to their children daily may be indicative of the need to educate citizens about the importance of this activity to child development.

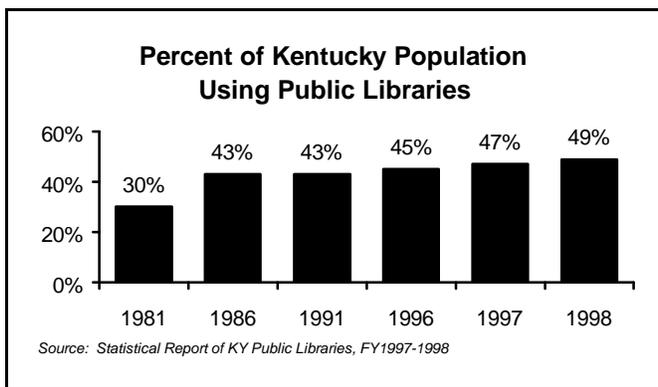


Goal 12

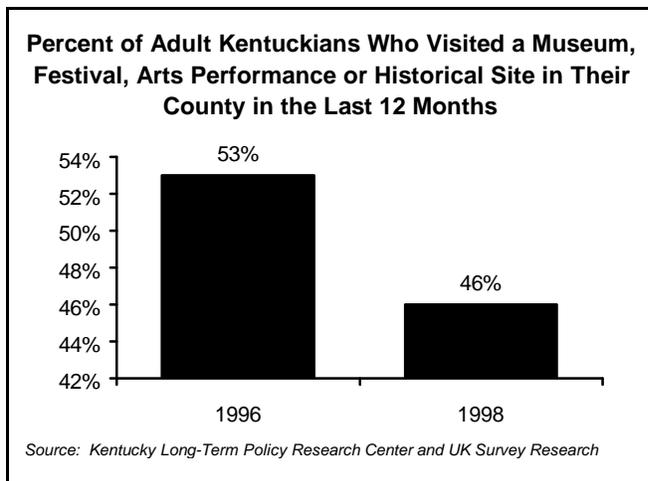
Kentuckians will have opportunities to appreciate, participate in, and contribute to the arts and humanities and historic preservation.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	47%	48%
Standing Still	40%	38%
Losing Ground	13%	13%

art, as those who aspire to it and who are inspired by it will attest, is a force that ennobles us. It elevates our spirits, expands our compassion, and enriches our lives. Moreover, some research suggests that art and music may aid the learning process. Without the opportunity for exposure to and participation in the arts and humanities, true development cannot be realized. Public opinion about our progress changed little between 1998 and 2000. Most citizens believe we are making progress on this goal, rating it the second highest for progress, but citing it as the least important of goals.



12.1 Library Use. The public library gives citizens from all walks of life an opportunity to experience the arts and humanities through an expanding range of media. Nearly half of all Kentuckians are now registered library users. Kentucky has increased the numbers of citizens who have become library users with each passing year. Over the past two decades, the percentage of library users has risen from 30 percent to 49 percent.

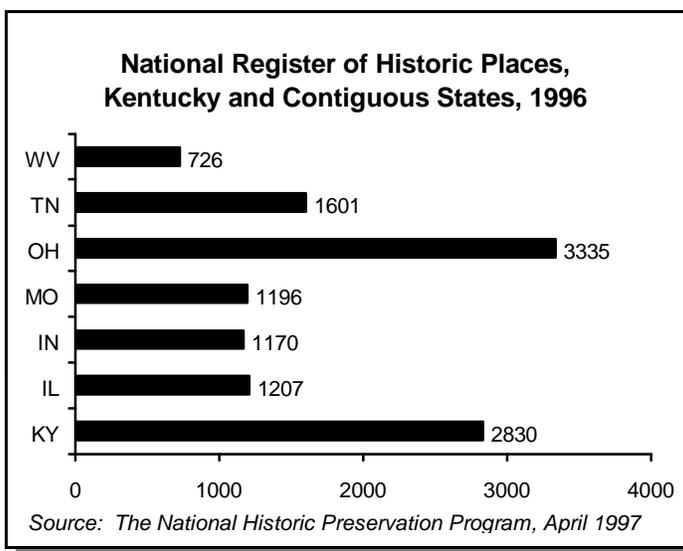


12.2 Cultural Opportunities. Two surveys conducted by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center asked citizens about their level of cultural activities in the last 12 months. The percentage of those who answered yes when asked if they had visited a museum, festival, arts performance or a historical site in the past 12 months, dropped from 53 percent in 1996 to 46 percent in 1998.

12.3 Historic Preservation. The designa-



tion of places as historic and worthy of preservation is the first step in understanding the value of historic resources. Kentucky has the fourth largest number of listings in the National Register of Historic Places. These 2,830 listings include over 38,651 historic properties. The National Register is the official listing of those districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. This national ranking is indicative of the value Kentuckians place on their heritage and of their willingness to participate in defining that significance through the nomination process.



12.4 Study of Arts & Humanities.

While advanced education is by no means the only approach to developing a rich appreciation of the arts and humanities, it may be the most significant influence on it. The university is an ideal setting for fostering appreciation of arts and humanities. Our universities and colleges also host cultural events and opportunities that offer the larger community diverse and rich experiences. To measure exposure to and benefits from the arts and humanities in the state's higher education communities, it will be necessary to examine institutional commitment to the arts as an educational goal as well as student assessments of the benefits. Here we may want to pursue some measure of how many arts and humanities courses are required. Data on this indicator, however, are currently unavailable.

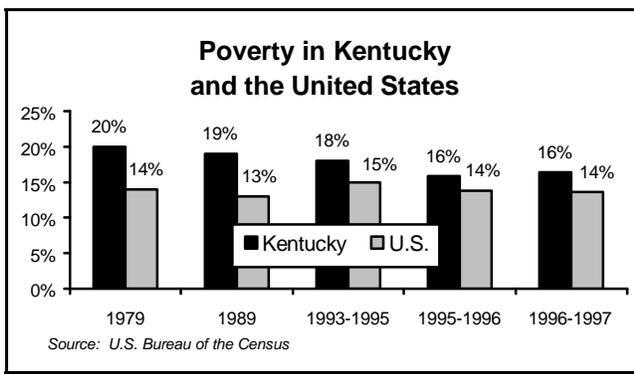
Goal 13

Kentucky will end poverty and alleviate its adverse consequences and debilitating effects.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	18%	20%
Standing Still	43%	48%
Losing Ground	39%	33%

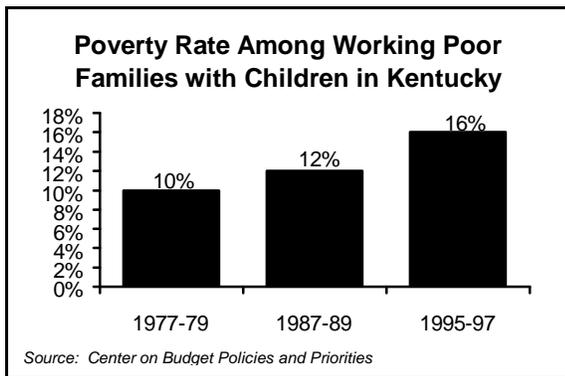
Scratch below the surface of virtually any problem we reckon with in Kentucky and persistent and widespread poverty will lie at its roots. The proven consequences of poverty are devastating to individuals and families, and they exact a high societal cost. Citizens rank this key goal as the fifth most important to the future of our state, yet only a small percentage believe we are making progress. Between 1998 and 2000, public opinion on our progress became somewhat more positive.

13.1 Poverty Rate. Since 1979, poverty levels have remained virtually unchanged at the national level, but data from the U.S.



Census Bureau's Current Population Survey suggest that the once-wide gap between poverty levels in Kentucky and the national average may have narrowed substantially. The two-year average for 1996-1997 shows only a two-percentage-point gap between poverty levels here and nationally, compared to a six-point gap in 1979 and 1989. At the national level, these data show no improvement in poverty over nearly a 20-year period.

Thus, poverty may have receded here during an era when poverty rates have remained fairly stagnant at the national level.

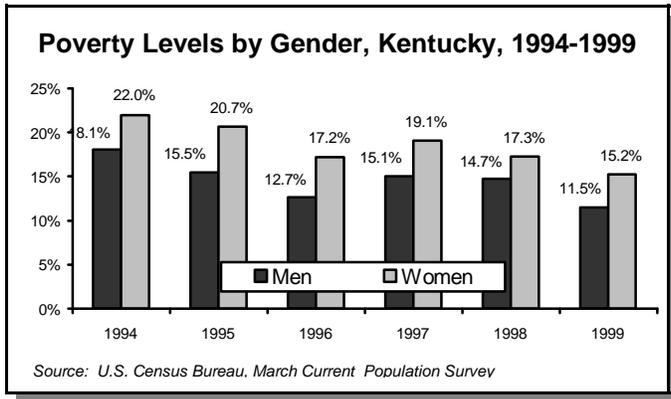


13.2 Poverty Despite Work. It is commonly assumed that employment means an escape from poverty. Unfortunately, this is not the case for 16 percent of Kentucky's working poor families, up from 10 percent just two decades ago. Many factors contribute to these circumstances, including difficulty finding good-paying, full-time, year-round jobs, the erosion in the value of the federal minimum wage, and the tax burden on the poor

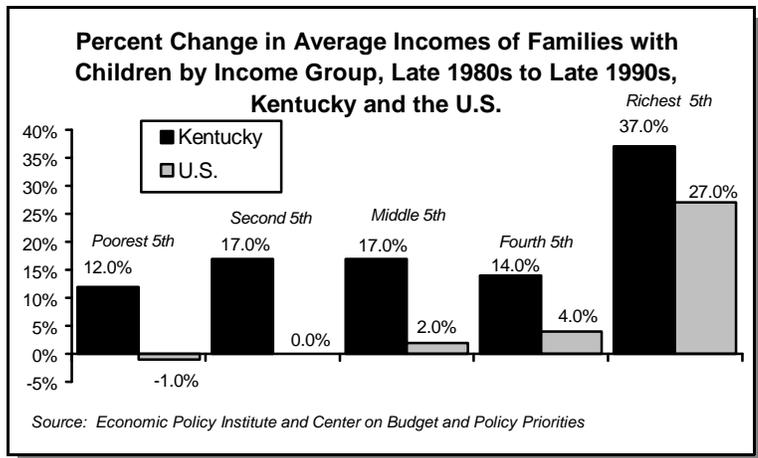


here in Kentucky and nationally. Policymakers at the state and federal level are beginning to respond to these trends. Proposed tax reforms and tax credits could help increase household incomes among the working poor.

13.3 Poverty by Gender. Women have consistently higher rates of poverty than men, a circumstance that is linked to a number of factors that create a cumulative lifetime effect. Women are more likely to work in low-wage jobs, to be responsible for children, and, in their senior years, far less likely to enjoy the benefits of a pension than men. As shown, however, the poverty gender gap appears to be narrowing.



13.4 Income Distribution. The gap between Kentucky's rich and poor is among the widest in the nation. An Economic Policy Institute and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis of Census Bureau data found income inequality here the ninth worst in the nation. After adjusting for inflation, the Center found that the poorest Kentucky families had not regained the incomes they enjoyed in the late 1970s. Between the late 1980s and the 1990s, however, Kentucky families at all income levels made greater gains than those at the national level. But the richest Kentucky families increased their incomes by 37 percent, more than twice the increase for middle income families and three times that of the poorest families.

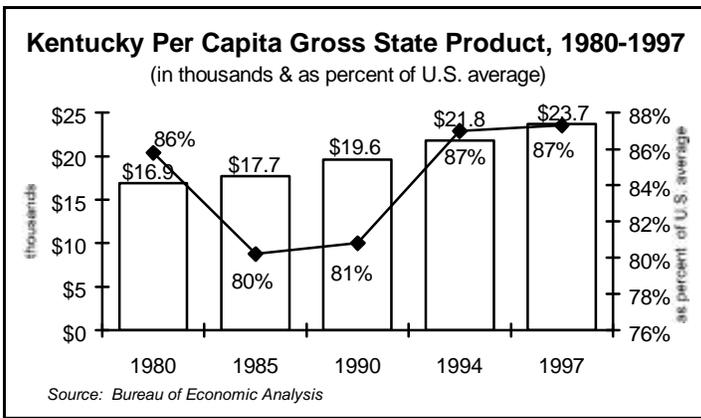


Goal 14

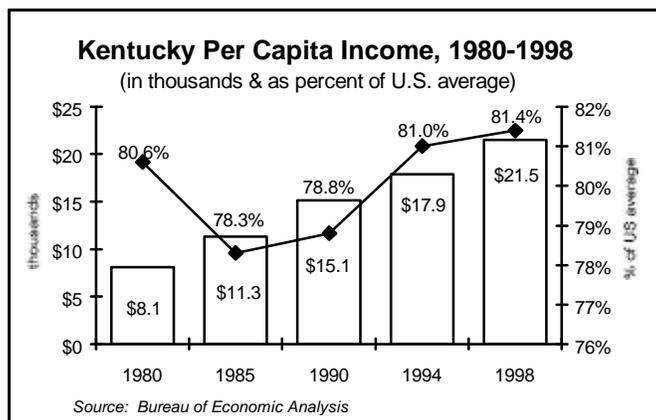
Kentucky will have diversified long-term development that stresses competitiveness and a rising standard of living for all citizens while maintaining a quality environment.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	36%	31%
Standing Still	40%	45%
Losing Ground	23%	25%

To reverse a legacy of poverty and underdevelopment, we must adapt to a dramatically transformed economy, one that has defied traditional measures while generating remarkable wealth and opportunity. Today's "New Economy" is being fueled by innovations in information technology and their seemingly limitless applications. Here, diversification of our economic base and the realization of our full potential for innovation and product development will be essential to the cultivation of an economy that enables broad prosperity. Kentuckians, however, have become less optimistic about our progress toward this critical economic goal, which they rank eighth in overall importance.

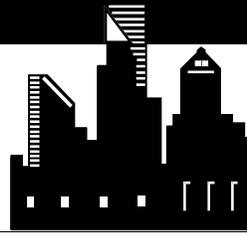


14.1 Gross State Product. The gross state product (GSP) measures the market value of goods and services created within the state. As illustrated, Kentucky has experienced a steady and consistent increase in both the per capita GSP and the GSP as a percentage of the U.S. average.

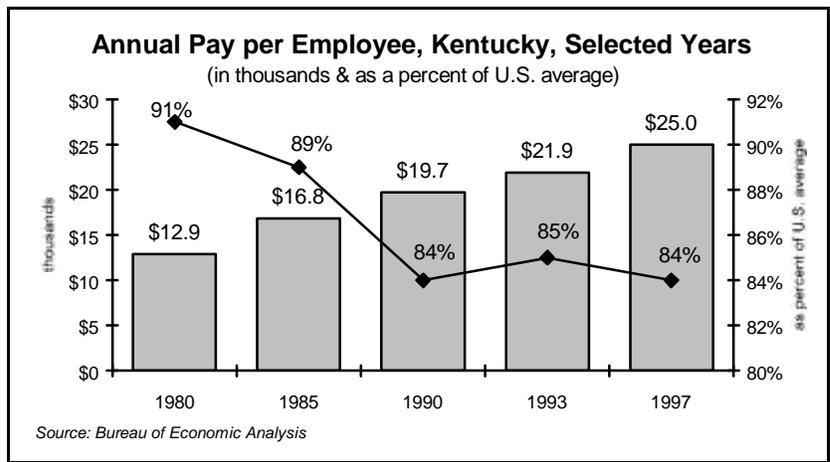


14.2 Income. The well-being of Kentuckians depends upon a rising standard of living. An often-cited indicator of the standard of living in a given place is per capita income (PCI). Per capita income has been rising in Kentucky since the mid-1980s. However, a significant discrepancy remains between the state PCI and the national average.

14.3 Wages. Wages in Kentucky have also risen steadily in recent years. As



shown, the most recent wage data show the state's average annual wage at \$25,000. However, as a percent of the U.S. average, wages in Kentucky have lost ground since the 1980s even as an economic boom fuels widespread growth. This trend leveled off over the past decade, but a slight decline occurred from 1993 and 1997.



14.4 Economic Diversity. Kentucky's economic diversity has declined significantly in the last two

years. Sectoral diversity measures how much income generated by the state's traded sector is dispersed across a range of industries rather than a select few. The dynamic scale measures diversity of employment change across traded industries. A lower rank indicates greater diversity. While Ken-

tucky enjoyed at least a top-10 ranking earlier in the decade, this status has dropped significantly in the past few years. Kentucky's sectoral diversity has not changed. Rather, the drop in rank from 10 to 12 is a

Kentucky's National Ranking for Sectoral and Dynamic Economic Diversity, 1994-1998					
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Sectoral Diversity	10th	9th	10th	10th	12th
Dynamic Diversity	9th	8th	10th	13th	27th

Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development

reflection of improving sectoral diversity in other states. However, the dramatic drop in our dynamic diversity ranking (13 to 27) reflects not only a decline relative to other states, but also a dramatic decline in the state's performance.

Goal 15

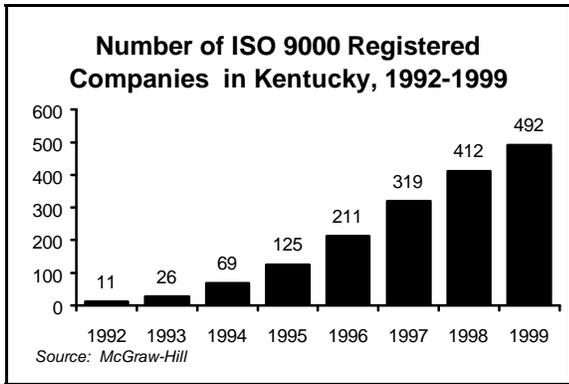
Kentucky will benefit from participation in an integrated global economy.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	57%	45%
Standing Still	27%	37%
Losing Ground	16%	19%

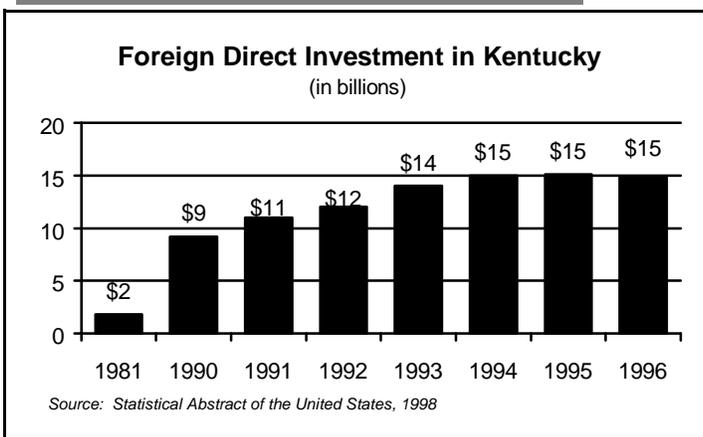
In spite of adverse consequences, the overall benefits of the global economy are increasingly evident. Even as jobs are lost to global competition, emerging markets are creating a growing demand for products. The growth of economies in developing nations is dramatically expanding markets and opportunities. In spite of its importance to economic growth, citizens rank this goal as the third least important for our future, and, as shown, they have lost confidence in our progress toward its realization. Relative to the other goals, however, they rank our progress the third highest.

15.1 Quality Standards. Firms achieve ISO 9000 status by rigorously demonstrating quality standards that are expected to meet

global customer and supplier expectations. The number of Kentucky firms that have met this test of preparedness for the international marketplace has increased sevenfold since 1994.



15.2 Foreign Direct Investment. Over the past two decades, working people in the Commonwealth have benefited significantly from foreign investment in the state. Toyota alone has spawned the development of a massive network of automotive suppliers. According to

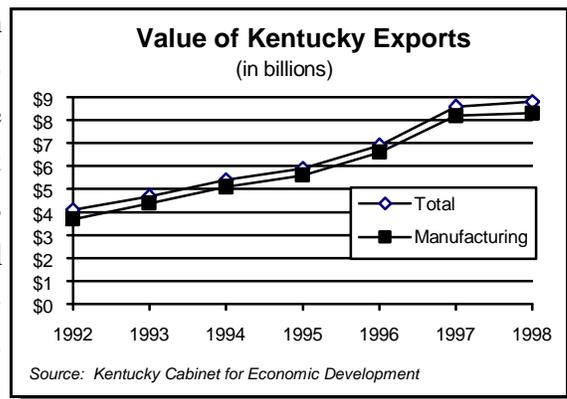


a 1995 study by the Barents Group, employees of American subsidiaries of foreign companies earn 11 percent more than the average American worker. In Kentucky, jobs in foreign-owned firms increased 225 percent between 1980 and 1995, 70 percent of which were in the manufacturing sector. Between 1981 and 1996, the amount of foreign direct investment in Kentucky increased by \$13 billion. The steady rise in the amount of



foreign direct investment indicates a growth in the value of gross property, plant, and equipment of U.S. affiliates of foreign companies here. Much of Kentucky's foreign investment can be attributed to automotive-related companies that chose to locate here because of the state's central location, its position in the new "Auto Alley," and Toyota's location here.

15.3 Value of Exports. Kentucky exports have risen steadily over the past decade. Manufactured goods accounted for over \$8.3 billion—about 94 percent of the state's total 1998 exports. Transportation equipment ranked first in export shipment value, with over \$2.8 billion in export sales. Kentucky ranked 11th in total transportation equipment export sales. Following transportation equipment were industrial machinery and chemicals and allied products. These three industries accounted for almost 60 percent of the state's total 1998 exports.



Important agricultural exports include livestock, soybeans and tobacco. At \$97 million in export sales, mining also contributed substantially to total exports with over 86 percent of sales from coal.

15.4 Export Ranking. Kentucky exported over \$8.8 billion of goods in 1998, ranking 22nd among the 50 states in value of exports. Kentucky's exports were 1.3 percent of total U.S. exports in 1998, compared to 1.0 percent in 1990. Canada continued to be Kentucky's largest foreign market, receiving almost \$2.6 billion in goods or nearly 30 percent of the state's total exports. Following Canada, Kentucky's major export markets were western Europe and the Pacific Rim. The state's higher ranking indicates an increase in its share of total U.S. exports relative to other states.

Kentucky's National Ranking in Exports, 1993-1997

Year	Rank
1993	25
1994	25
1995	24
1996	23
1997	22
1998	22

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

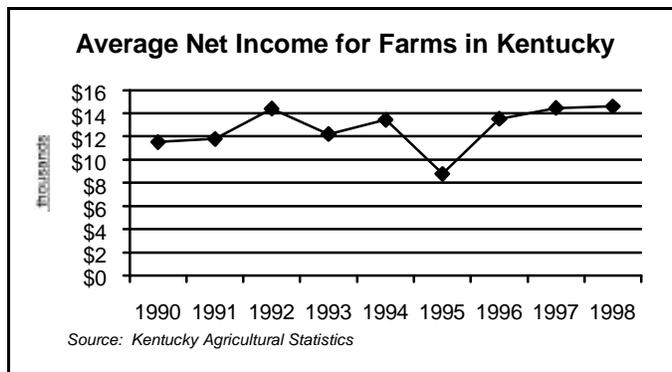
Goal 16

Kentucky will maintain and enhance a strong farm economy through diversification, internal networks, and agricultural processing industries.

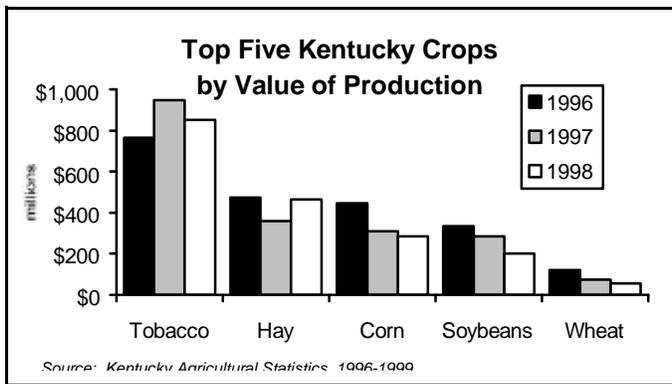
	1998	2000
Making Progress	28%	29%
Standing Still	37%	33%
Losing Ground	36%	38%

Kentucky's rural character was historically linked to the strength of its farm economy. Though rural economies have gradually shifted away from their agrarian roots and become more diversified, farming continues to play an important economic role. Ultimately, strengthening our agricultural economy will help improve quality of life in both rural and urban Kentucky. Citizens remained pessimistic about our progress on this goal, as it ranked among only six goals for which total citizen votes indicated a lack of progress.

16.1 Farm Income. Net income per farm in Kentucky, where small farms are still quite commonplace, fluctuated between \$11,000



and about \$14,500 between 1990 and 1998. The overall increase for the decade can be attributed to a decline in the number of farms combined with a historically rising trend in the value of major crops. However, as Indicator 16.2 shows, this trend was broken between 1997 and 1998, as the value of four of Kentucky's five major crops declined. Anticipated sharp declines in total tobacco production are expected to adversely affect this classic measure of the health of our farm economy in the coming years.



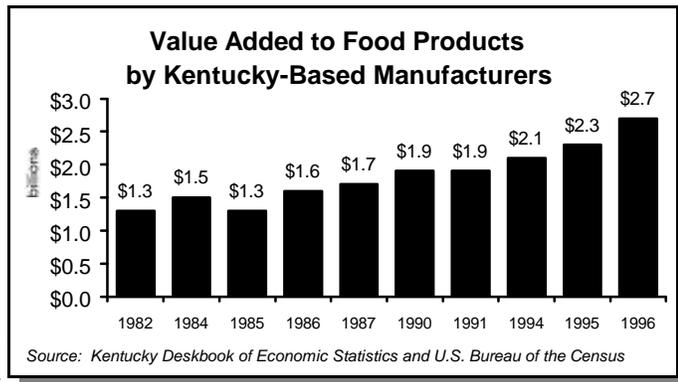
16.2 Agricultural Diversity. Diversity is widely recognized as one of the keys to improving Kentucky's farm economy. The value of crops produced by Kentucky farmers totaled \$1.86 billion in 1998, down 6 percent from 1997. Kentucky's top five crops declined in

value, with the exception of hay. Tobacco, which remains Ken-

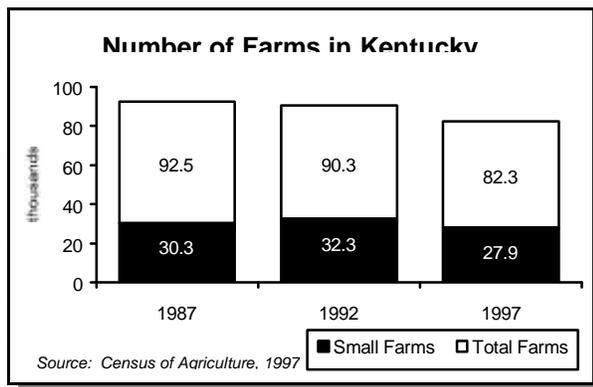


tucky's most profitable crop, declined 10 percent in total value from 1997 to 1998. Hay was up 30 percent in value from 1997. These top five crops still accounted for 90 percent of the total value of all crops grown in the Commonwealth, despite the decrease in value.

16.3 Value-Added Food Products. Kentucky farms have long produced hundreds of millions of dollars worth of meat, fruits, vegetables, grains, and various other commodities. But many of these products are shipped to other states for processing where significant value is added to the raw product. Kentuckians could derive further economic benefits from indigenously grown commodities by investing in and creating businesses that refine or produce new food products within the state. The data indicate a steady rise in the value added to food products by Kentucky-based manufacturers, especially in the past decade.



16.4 Farms. By tracking the change in the total number of farms and small farms (less than 50 acres), we can monitor one of the many ways in which Kentucky's farm economy and its rural communities are changing. From 1987 to 1997, Kentucky experienced a decline in the total number of farms, as well as the number of small farms. The declining number of farms is linked to a number of trends, including the decline in Kentucky's leading cash crop, the shift toward agribusiness operations, and the urbanization of the population.



Goal 17

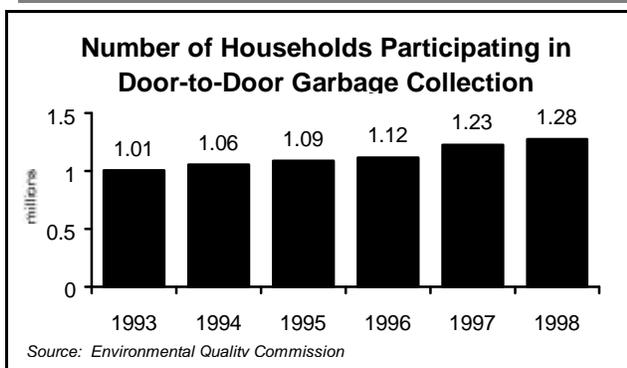
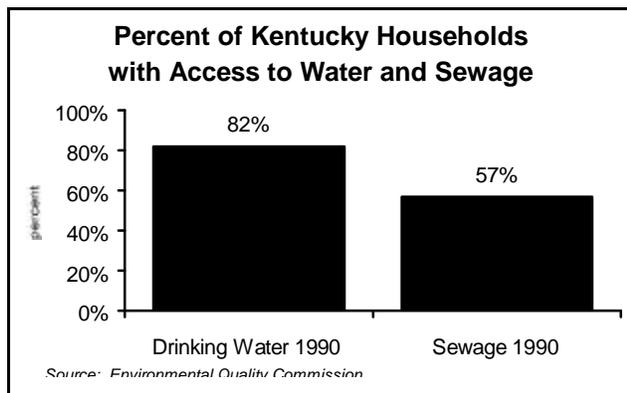
Kentucky will develop and enhance its physical infrastructure to support and sustain economic development and a high quality of life.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	40%	37%
Standing Still	42%	42%
Losing Ground	19%	22%

a state-of-the-art physical infrastructure not only enables economic development, it elevates quality of life. Modern, well-maintained roads, bridges, airports, and drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities, as well as efficient waste collection and disposal systems, are the essential underpinning of a higher standard of living in the Commonwealth. Here, citizen confidence in our progress flagged somewhat between 1998 and 2000.

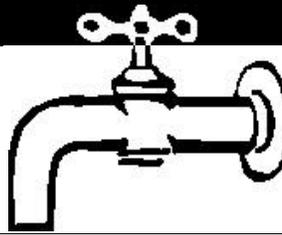
17.1 Access to Water, Sewer Systems and Garbage Collection.

While just over 80 percent of Kentucky households received treated drinking water in 1990 and almost 60 percent were connected to a sewer system, many Kentuckians do not have access to these basic conveniences. The number of households participating in door-to-door trash collection has steadily risen over the past decade, but about 25 percent continue to dispose of their garbage illegally. In 1990 the state adopted a universal collection law to help curb open dumping. As a result, 113 counties now have door-to-door garbage collection. Nevertheless, the cost of open dump cleanups in the state reached \$4.1 million in 1997.



17.2 Roads and Highways. Historically, about 90 percent of Kentucky's roads and highways have been in fair or better condition, but conditions have declined in recent years. All roads, including secondary and rural secondary, are included in the annual assessment of Kentucky's roadways. Many

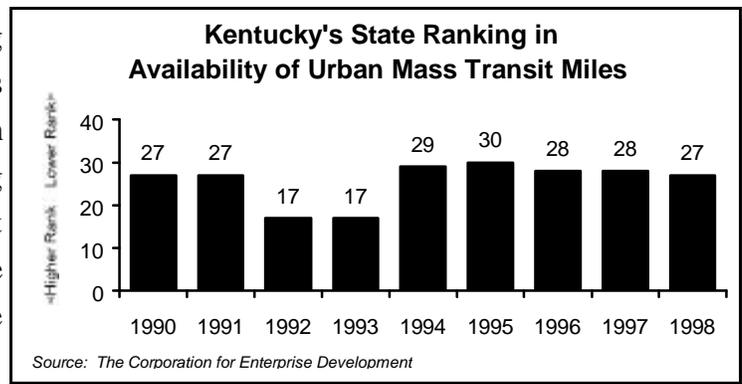
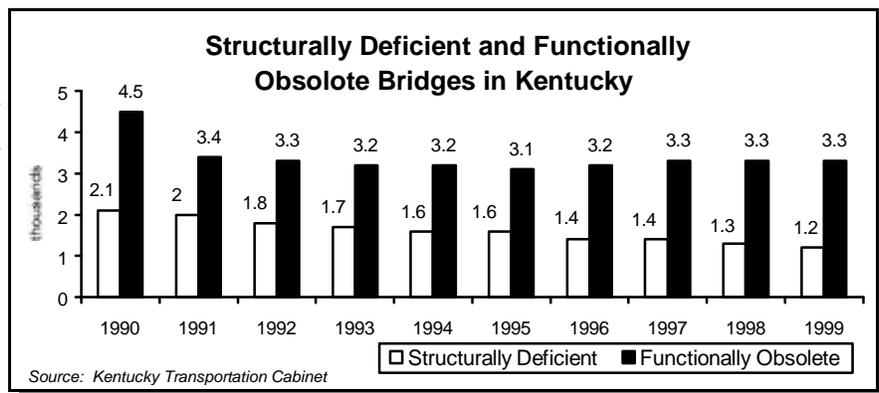
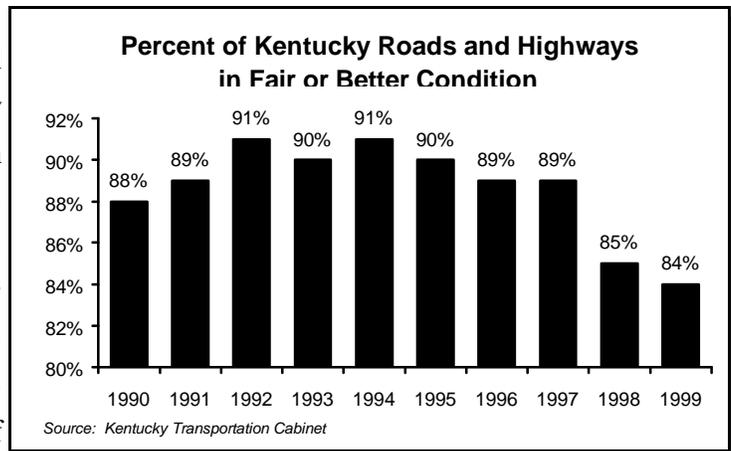
secondary roads are succumbing to years of wear and tear. Projects are on line to address these problems, and conditions are expected to



improve.

17.3 Bridges. The flow of goods and services throughout our state relies heavily on the condition of our major transportation byways. Bridges that are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete are not necessarily unsafe, but rather too narrow or below the capacity of modern standards. The number of structurally deficient bridges in Kentucky has decreased while the number of functionally obsolete bridges has remained fairly constant.

17.4 Mass Transit. Though Kentucky is still predominantly a rural state, its urban areas could benefit from improved mass transit availability. Such systems help assure workforce mobility by reducing traffic congestion and providing transit for those without access to a car. Kentucky's ranking among the states in terms of urban mass transit coverage peaked at 17 out of 50 in 1992 and 1993, then slipped in following years. Though Kentucky has stayed at roughly the same rank for the past five years, it is gradually beginning to close ground on the other states in this area.



Goal 18

Kentucky will develop a state-of-the-art technological infrastructure that complements its learning culture and bolsters its competitive position in the world economy.

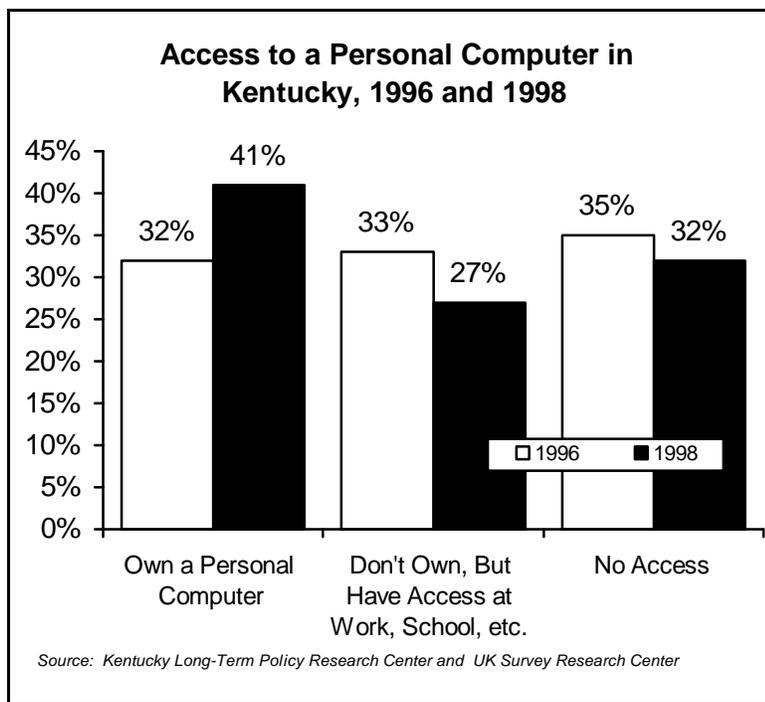
	1998	2000
Making Progress	45%	38%
Standing Still	40%	44%
Losing Ground	16%	18%

Because information technology has rapidly become integral to communications, education, and commerce, a fully developed, state-of-the-art technological infrastructure is an essential foundation for the future.

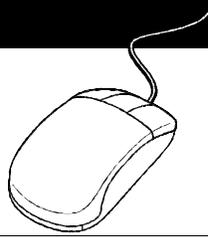
Already, the array of economic and educational opportunities that are available via the Internet are virtually limitless. Without broad access to and fundamental understanding of this medium, opportunities will remain circumscribed. Citizens do not yet rank this key goal highly in terms of its importance and, from 1998 to 2000, they lost confidence in our progress.

18.1 Access to Computers. In 1998, 41 percent of Kentucky households that responded to a Kentucky Long-Term Policy

Research Center survey conducted by the UK Survey Research Center reported having a personal computer in their home, a significant increase from two years earlier when about a third of Kentucky households reported having one. At the same time, the percentage of Kentuckians who do not own a computer but have access to one at work or school decreased from 33 percent to 27 percent between 1996 and 1998, a reflection of the increased access to computers in homes. Survey results show a slight decline in those persons reporting no access to a computer. Most Kentuckians now have some exposure to computers.



18.2 Internet Access. While computer ownership is an important measure of our preparedness for the New Economy, the level of

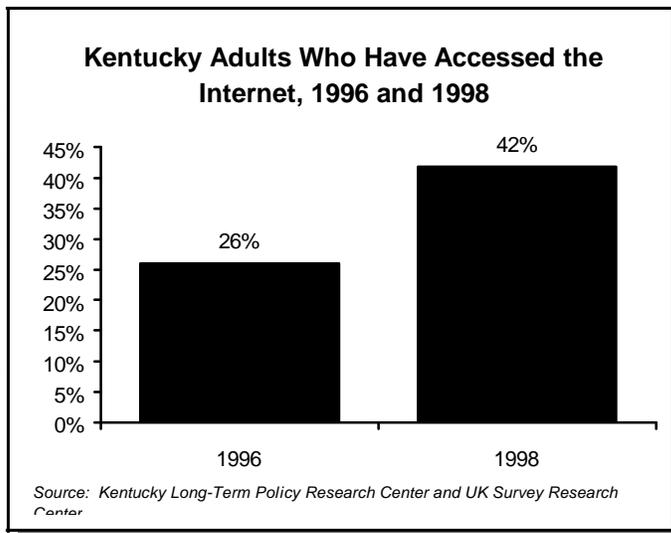


access to the Internet gauges how fully Kentuckians are participating in the Information Age. Adult Kentuckians with access to a computer were asked if they had used the Internet in the past year. In just two years, those who had accessed the Internet rose from 26 percent to 42 percent.

18.3 Internet Access in Public Libraries. According to the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives (KDLA), all 180 Kentucky libraries offer public access to the Internet.

This was not so just two short years earlier when the libraries were properly equipped but not yet prepared for public Internet use. At that time, lack of training and staff were believed to be the only impediments to this public service.

18.4 Technology Infrastructure. No ranking system now compares the technological infrastructures of states, but Kentucky is a leader among states and a model for a public-private partnership. The National Association of State Information Resource Executives (NASIRE) has recognized Kentucky since 1995 for several technology initiatives: the Labor Cabinet Imaging System, the Information Highway, the Telelinking Network, the Legislation Review System, Networking, the International Registration Plan System, and the Worker's Information System. In 1999, Kentucky won recognition for outstanding achievement in the field of information technology for the Kentucky Information Highway, an integrated communications backbone built through strategic partnerships with a consortium of communication companies.

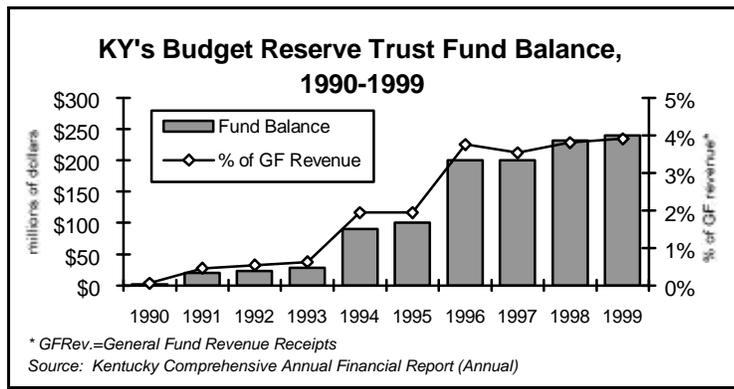


Goal 19

Kentucky will establish a fair, competitive, and responsible fiscal, tax, and regulatory structure.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	29%	21%
Standing Still	40%	40%
Losing Ground	31%	39%

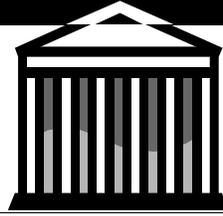
Though the new millenium was ushered in by a bountiful, booming national economy, the economic cycles of the past are constant reminders of the need for fiscal preparedness. A responsible tax structure that will ensure sound delivery of government services for years to come and, at the same time, permit government the flexibility to respond to emerging public needs is essential. Moreover, today's economy is begetting winners and losers, demanding that we fashion a tax and regulatory system that is fair, not unduly burdensome, and competitive with those of other states. Citizens assign only a moderate level of importance to this goal, and report seeing little evidence of progress. This goal ranked second from the bottom on our scale of aggregate citizen assessments of progress.



19.1 Rainy Day Fund. Kentucky's Budget Reserve Trust Fund (Rainy Day Fund) has increased significantly in recent years. Maintaining a sound budget reserve will be critical if federal entitlements are eliminated or reduced or if the state experiences a severe economic downturn. As revenue growth slows and demands on social programs increase, states may find it difficult to maintain the quality and coverage of

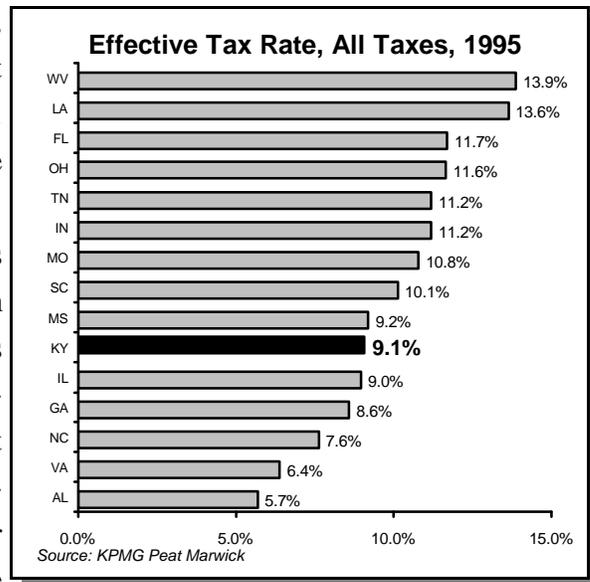
services. An adequate Rainy Day Fund could help ease future financial shortfalls.

19.2 Tax Structure. A 1995 study by KPMG Peat Marwick found that Kentucky has a very competitive corporate tax structure. Kentucky firms pay above-average income taxes, below-average property taxes, and about average sales and utility taxes. The chart at the right shows the effective tax rate for Kentucky and 14



“competitor” states. Income, franchise, property, sales, and utility taxes are included. Kentucky ranked 10th out of 15 states with an effective tax rate of 9.07 percent. The average for all 15 states is 9.97 percent. The effective tax rate is a 16-industry average.

19.3 State Government Bond Rating. Kentucky has made great strides in improving its financial health in recent years. These improvements include the state’s system of forecasting revenues and expenses, its requirement of a balanced budget, and current budget surpluses. Claiming that Kentucky’s state money managers are “doing it right,” Moody’s upgraded four Kentucky state bonds in June 1999, as shown in the table at right. A grade of “Aa” indicates high-grade bonds, “A” are high- to medium-grade bonds, and numbers indicate whether a bond is in the (1) upper end of the letter range, (2) mid-range or (3) the lower end. Moody’s also upgraded Kentucky’s general obligation rating to “Aa2,” signifying that its bonds are considered to be in the mid-range of high-grade bonds. In addition, Standard & Poor’s has consistently given Kentucky a high-grade, high-quality general obligation bond rating over the past decade. Kentucky will not only save money as a result of higher bond rates, but the state will enjoy lower interest rates in all future borrowings.



Kentucky State Government Bond Ratings		
Kentucky Bonds, 1999	Old Grade	New Grade
Kentucky State Property and Buildings Commission	A2	Aa3
Kentucky Infrastructure Authority	A2	Aa3
Asset/Liability Commission Project Notes	A2	Aa3
Kentucky Turnpike Authority Bonds	A	A1

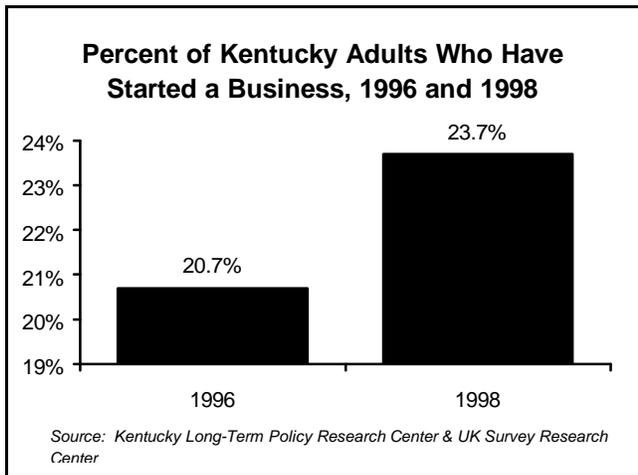
19.4 Regulatory Structure. In spite of its importance to business development and industrial recruitment, we are unable to identify a reliable measure of the state’s regulatory structure relative to other states.

Goal 20

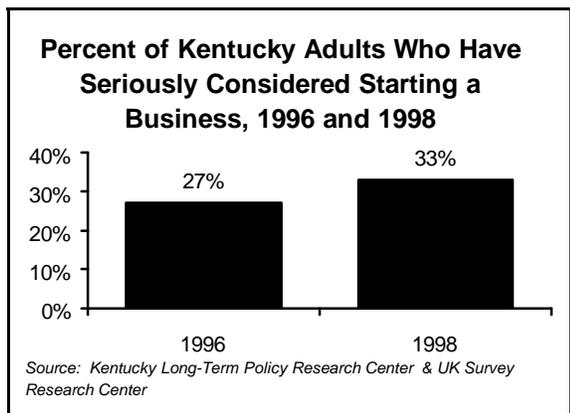
Kentucky will create an entrepreneurial economy.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	33%	28%
Standing Still	45%	49%
Losing Ground	22%	22%

Many would argue that, for far too long, we have looked beyond our borders for answers to our persistent economic problems, rather than cultivate and support a rich fount of talent within the state. Abundant evidence suggests that a more entrepreneurial economy would provide greater long-term benefits to the Commonwealth. In order to help foster more entrepreneurship, we need to identify and remove the barriers that would-be entrepreneurs face. Citizens do not rank an entrepreneurial economy highly in terms of its overall importance, nor do they perceive much progress on this goal. It ranks second from the bottom in terms of importance.

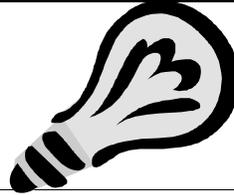


20.1 *Entrepreneurs.* In two surveys conducted in the Fall of 1996 and 1998 by the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, Kentuckians were asked if they had ever started a business. A comparison of results for the two years shows that the percentage of Kentuckians who had started a business increased from 20.7 percent in 1996 to 23.7 percent in 1998, suggesting



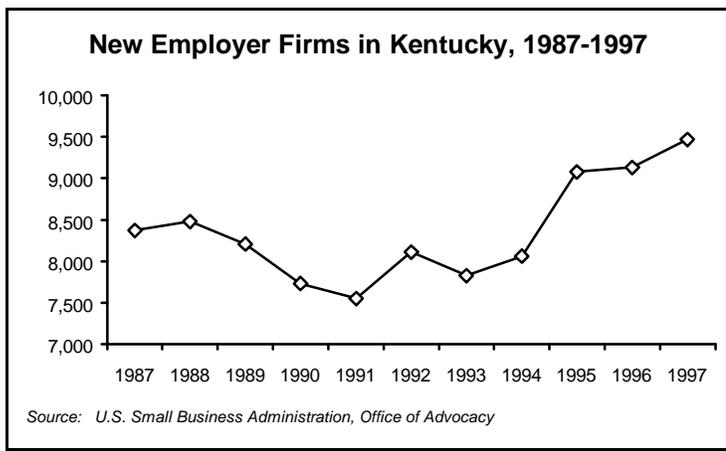
that the strength of the economy may have provided the impetus for more would-be entrepreneurs to launch businesses.

20.2 *The Entrepreneurial Impulse.* In the same surveys, individuals who reported never having started a business were asked if they have ever seriously considered doing so. The percentage of those who had not already started a business but had seriously considered doing so rose from 27 percent in 1996 to 33 percent in

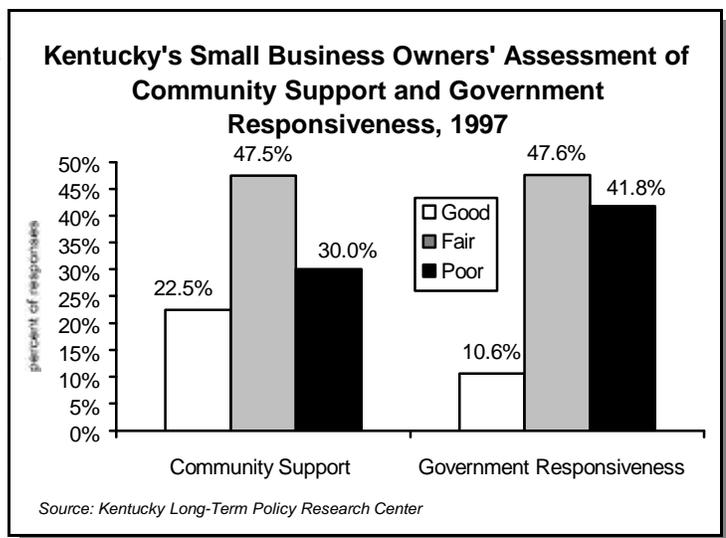


1998. The rising entrepreneurial impulse in Kentucky is likely linked to the overall health of the economy, the ready availability of loans to qualified borrowers, and the expanding use of information technology and the Internet.

20.3 New Firms. The status of entrepreneurial energy in the Commonwealth can be gauged in part by the number of new firms or establishments owned by a parent company in the state. By 2002, the Kentucky Science and Technology Council would like to see Kentucky creating 25 percent more new firms every year than it did in 1996 when the U.S. Small Business Administration estimated that 9,133 new employer firms were created here. While we are far from realizing this ambitious goal, the number of new employer firms in Kentucky has risen steadily since 1993.



20.4 Support for Small Business. Small businesses (fewer than 20 employees) constitute about 85 percent of all business establishments in Kentucky. To succeed, they need support and encouragement from government at every level, as well as community-level institutions. However, in 1997, small business owners suggested considerable room for improvement in support for entrepreneurs.



Goal 21

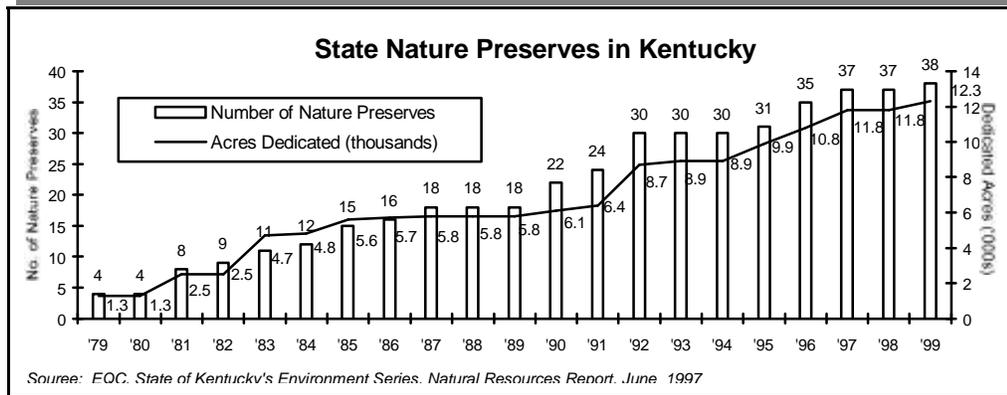
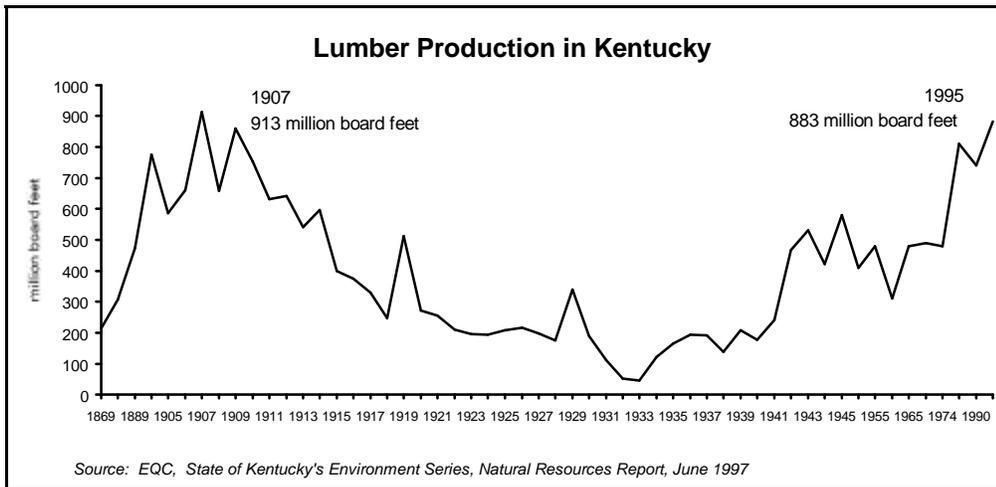
Kentucky will protect and enhance its environment through the responsible stewardship of its natural resources and the preservation of its scenic beauty.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	51%	55%
Standing Still	27%	27%
Losing Ground	22%	18%

Environmental quality is the product of myriad private and public efforts to protect and preserve the extraordinary beauty and abundant natural resources of our state. In 2000, citizens saw the most progress toward this goal. In 1998, it ranked sixth in terms of progress. However, they assigned less importance to the goal than in 1998.

21.1 Lumber Production. Though official tallies are not yet complete, a recent analysis by the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development places 1997 lumber production here in excess of 1 billion board feet. Private forests are being cut at rising

rates due to ready availability and worldwide demand. While current harvest levels suggest that our forests have recovered from the destructive clearcutting of half a century ago, they may also signal a new era of excess. However, more efficient production of lumber products has led to less waste than occurred a century ago. A better indicator here may be one that shows how fully we utilize

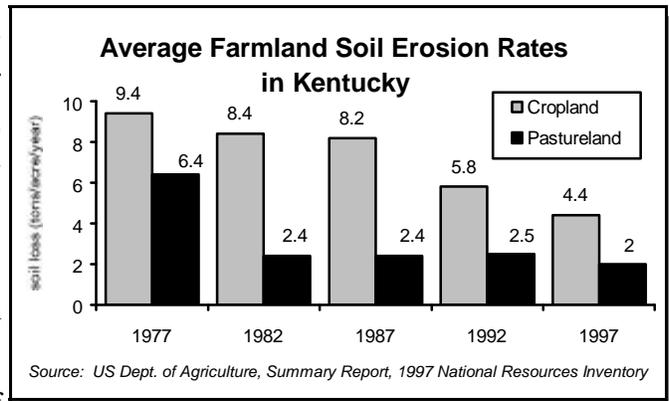




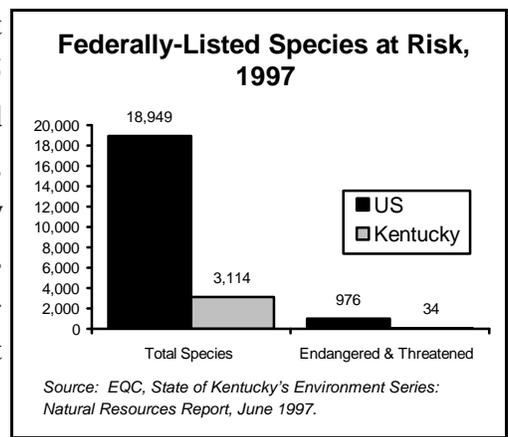
the timber harvested for wood products or the stocks of lumber available for harvest. While these data are now being compiled, they are not yet available.

21.2 Nature Preserves. The protection and preservation of our natural areas is central to the environmental health of the Commonwealth. Humans are rapidly encroaching on wildlife habitats. Without protection, the state could experience habitat loss, leading to loss of biodiversity and possibly entire ecosystems. The past two decades have seen a consistent increase in the acres dedicated to nature preserves as well as the number of nature preserves in Kentucky.

21.3 Soil Erosion. The loss of soil from farms not only affects productivity but can impair water quality. Farmers have reduced soil erosion rates significantly since 1977, reaching an all time low for both loss of cropland and pastureland in 1997. Nevertheless, in 1997, agricultural activities remained the leading source of water pollution in monitored waterways and lakes.



21.4 Fish and Wildlife. More species of plants, animals, insects, and aquatic life are now at risk than at any other period of time since the demise of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Since the time of settlement, an estimated 288 species have become extinct in this country. In Kentucky, 48 native species such as the ivory-billed woodpecker, gray and red wolf, and eastern cougar no longer exist. In addition, 40 percent of the state's 103 native mussels now are considered rare and 67 species of freshwater fish are considered at risk due to pollution and ecosystem alterations.



Goal 22

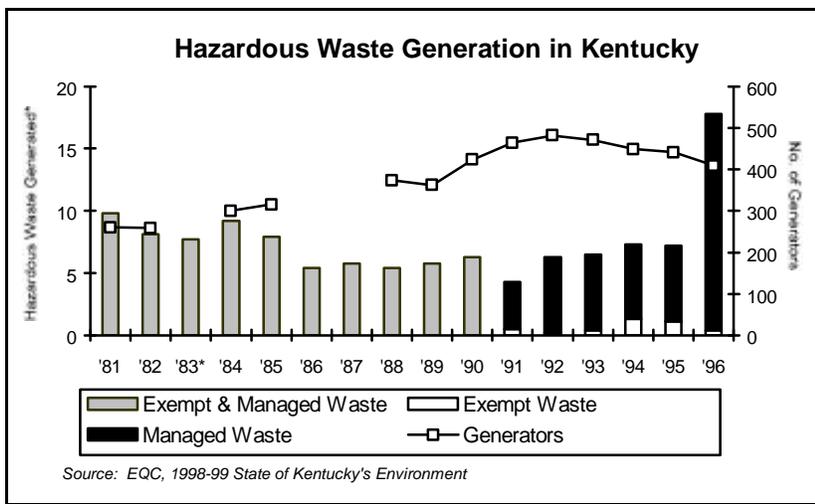
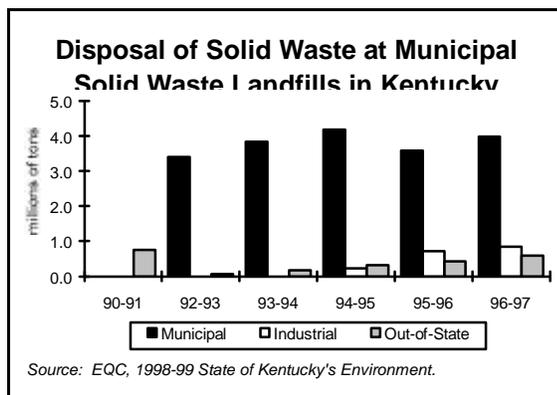
Individuals, communities, and businesses will use resources wisely and reduce waste through recycling.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	51%	48%
Standing Still	31%	30%
Losing Ground	17%	22%

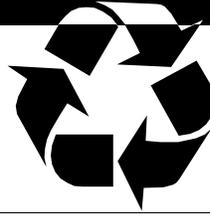
The challenge of advancing environmental quality demands that we wisely use—and reuse—resources. As with other goals citizens rank highly in regard to progress, they assign minimal importance to Goal 22. It ranks 21st in importance but fourth in terms of progress.

22.1 Solid Waste Disposal. Kentucky has seen the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed of at its city landfills increase since 1993, the year during which Kentucky based its goal of a 25 percent reduction in MSW by 1997. Needless to say, this goal has not been achieved. This is due in part to an increase in the number of

households participating in garbage collection systems, as well as the cleanup of hundreds of illegal dumps in the Commonwealth. In fact, the amount of municipal garbage disposed of at landfills during fiscal year 1996-1997 increased by 4 percent over 1993-94 levels. In fiscal year 1996-97, 4.83 million tons of waste were disposed of at solid waste municipal landfills in Kentucky. About 580,000 tons, or 12 percent of this waste, were imported from out of state.



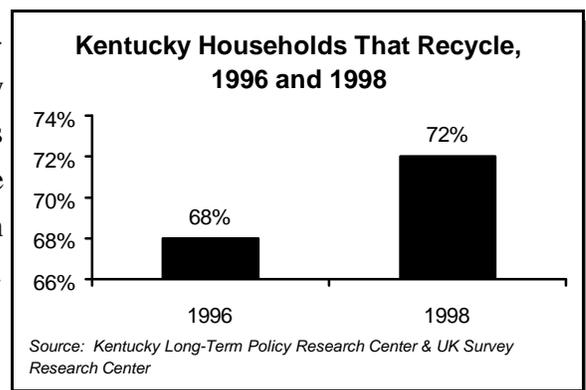
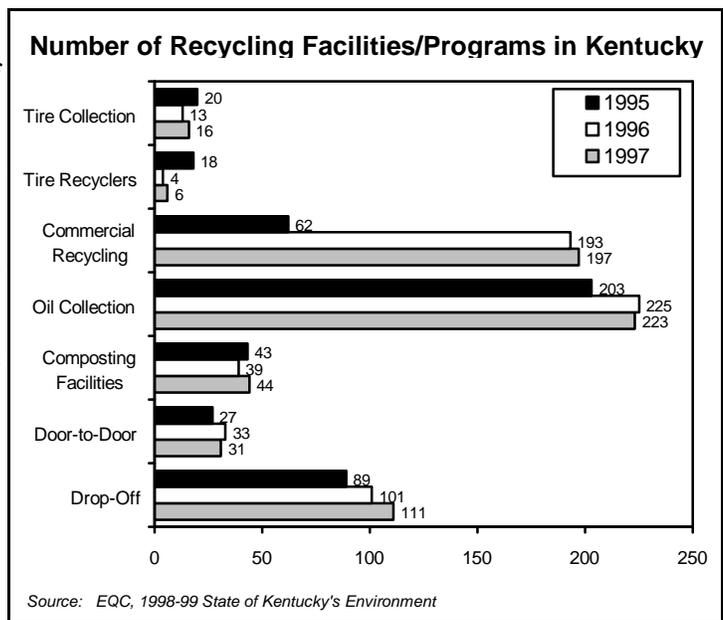
22.2 Hazardous Waste. If not managed properly, hazardous waste has the potential for serious health and environmental consequences. In 1996, the most recent year for which data are available, 409 large-quantity generators in Kentucky produced 17.8 million tons of hazardous waste. These wastes consist mainly of ignitable wastes such as gasoline, mineral spirits, and paint



thinners; solvents such as dry cleaner solvents and engine degreasers; and other chemical and toxic wastes. A smaller portion of these wastes, about 2 percent, are more complex chemicals that require specialized treatment technologies. In addition, many other businesses create hazardous waste in amounts small enough that reporting the quantities is not required by law.

22.3 Recycling. Public awareness of the need to reduce, reuse and recycle wastes continues to grow. The United States recovered an all-time high of 45 million tons of paper in 1997—up 5 percent from 1996. As Kentuckians continued to do their part to recycle waste, the Commonwealth’s recycling rate was 28 percent in fiscal year 1997. This is an improvement over its 1990 recycling rate of 17 percent. In addition, in 1997, 111 counties had recycling drop-off centers, 36 had composting facilities, and 33 counties had door-to-door recycling collection programs.

22.4 Participation in Recycling Efforts. Survey data also show that the recycling efforts of Kentuckians are increasing. Two surveys conducted in the fall of 1996 and 1998 asked Kentucky residents, “Does your household recycle items like glass containers, plastic containers, cans or newspapers?” The percentage of persons answering yes to this question increased from 68 percent in 1996 to 72 percent in 1998.



Goal 23

Kentucky communities will foster and promote a high level of environmental awareness and pollution abatement.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	45%	41%
Standing Still	38%	36%
Losing Ground	17%	23%

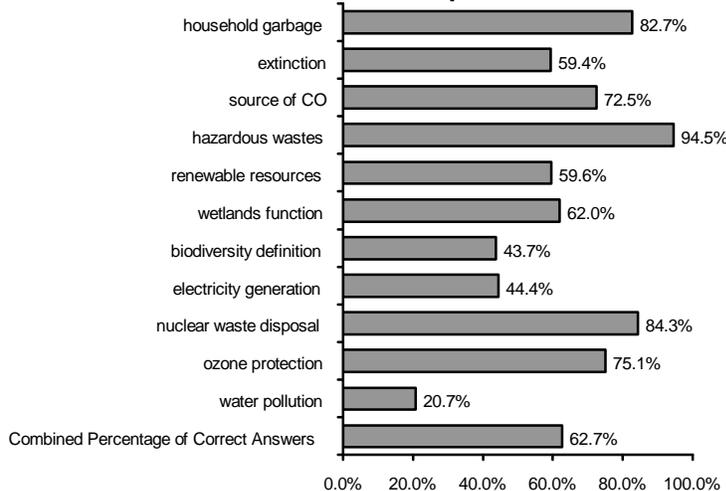
Our awareness and understanding of environmental issues is central to our ability to form timely, appropriate, and effective responses to problems. Citizens do not place high value on this goal, but see much progress.

23.1 Environmental Literacy. The Kentucky Environmental Education Council conducted a 1999 survey to gauge citizen understanding of air, land, and water quality issues. The survey found that Kentuckians are more knowledgeable about items in the news, such

as global warming, than about local environmental issues. Over 50 percent of Kentuckians did not know that coal is the primary source of U.S. electricity. Water pollution was cited as our greatest environmental concern, but few knew that runoff from city streets, farms, and yards is the leading source of water pollution.

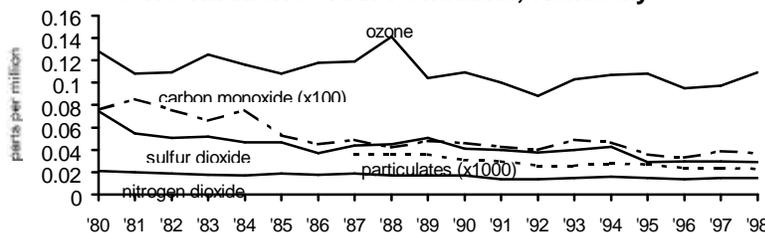
23.2 Air Quality. Environmental controls have reduced emissions released by regulated sources, resulting in lower ambient air concentrations of many air pollutants. From 1980 to 1997, air emissions dropped, but this reduction has leveled off in recent years. Although these data show consistent emissions reductions, a recent report found Kentucky among the 10 worst states for bad air under *proposed* standards. Most pollution here was attributed to coal-fired power

Percentage of Kentuckians Surveyed Who Correctly Answered Environmental Topic Questions

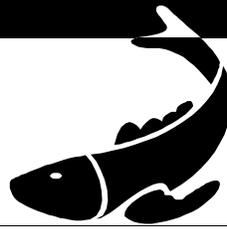


Source: Kentucky Environmental Education Council
 Note: See Indicator 23.1 on page 73 for the actual questions used in the survey.

Concentrations of Air Pollutants, Kentucky



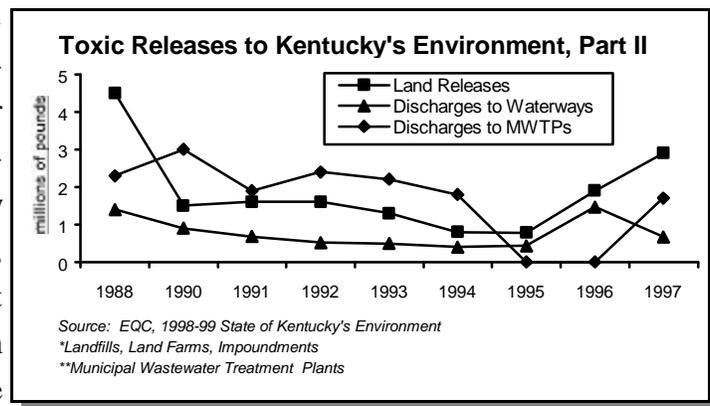
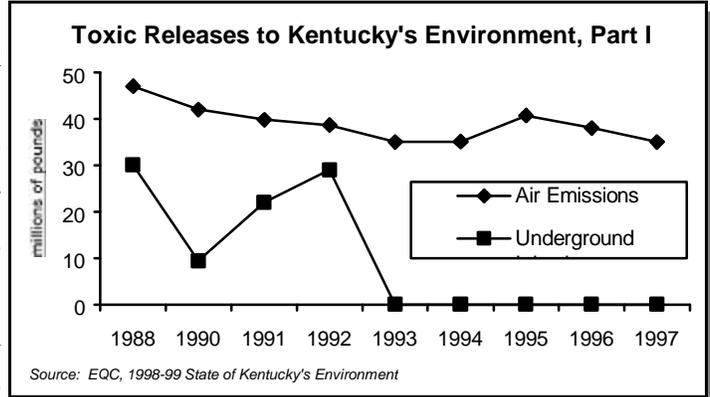
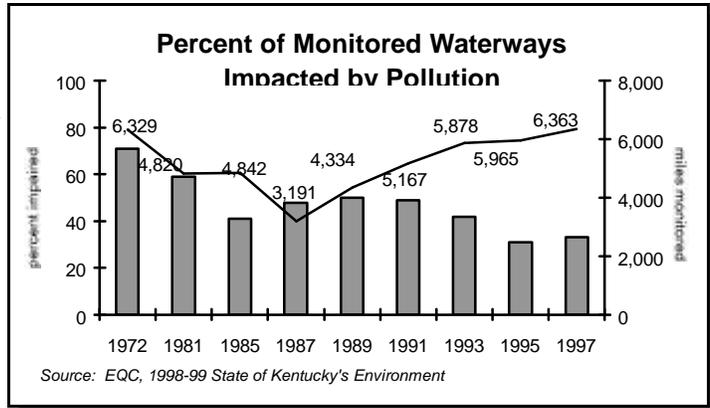
Source: EQC, 1998-99 State of Kentucky's Environment



plants and automobile exhaust. Some state officials say the new standards will be difficult to meet given the number of locations in violation not normally associated with a polluting industry or great numbers of automobiles.

23.3 Water Quality. Early in this decade the percent of our 89,431 miles of waterways affected by water pollution steadily declined. But this percentage increased from 31 percent in 1995 to 33 percent in 1997. Agricultural runoff was the leading source of water pollution in monitored waterways, affecting 20 percent of the polluted stream miles. Other sources of pollution include mining activities and sewage treatment plants.

23.4 Toxic Releases. A toxic release is an on-site or off-site discharge of toxic chemicals to the land, air, or water. While most of the toxic chemical byproducts produced are managed at the site of generation, 8 percent or 47.4 million pounds were released to Kentucky's environment in 1996. Kentucky ranked 20th in the nation in toxic releases, with releases to the air constituting 87 percent or 38 million pounds. No study has been conducted to determine which facilities have reduced toxic emissions, but a review of the top-10 companies with toxic releases reveals that four have reduced releases since 1988.



Goal 24

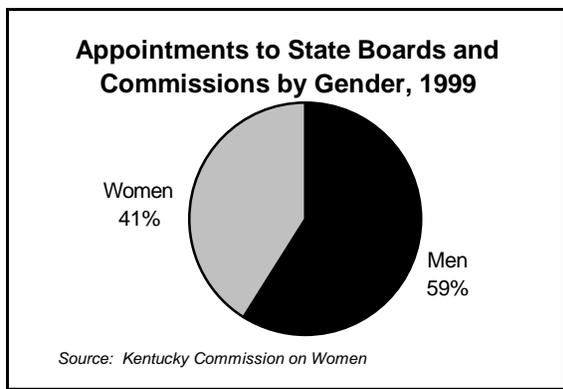
Government at all levels will be accountable, open, participatory, and responsive to the changing needs of Kentuckians.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	28%	25%
Standing Still	41%	40%
Losing Ground	32%	35%

Increasingly, research shows that the most effective governments and public programs are those that involve and engage citizens at the highest possible levels. Consequently, this goal not only represents the fulfillment of democratic ideals, a worthy enough achievement, but the effectiveness of government as well. In short, a detached and alienated citizenry is almost certain to be poorly represented. Citizens rank this goal highly, seventh among all the goals in terms of importance, yet they see little progress. Goal 24 ranks 23rd on our ranking of progress.

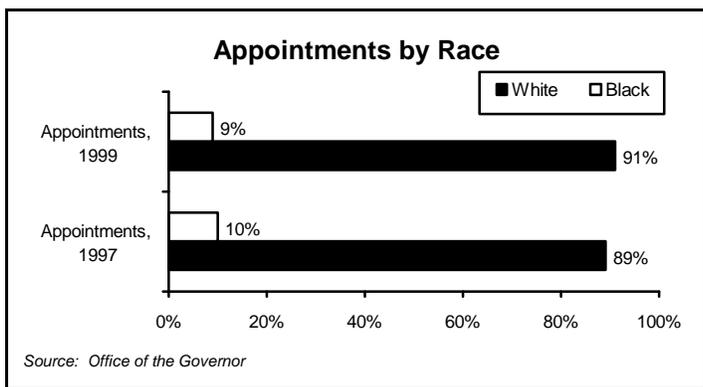
24.1 Appointments of Women. True equity in representation originates from a belief in an inclusive political process that is open

to all participants. According to the Kentucky Commission on Women, as of March 1999, 1,305 females and 1,878 males had been appointed to the many boards and commissions of Kentucky state government. These numbers reveal that about 41 percent of all 1999 appointees to boards and commissions were women compared to a state female population of 51 percent.



24.2 Minority Appointments. One important indicator of participation is the inclusion of minorities in public affairs. Kentucky has a

relatively homogeneous population; only 7 percent of Kentuckians are black. Unlike the makeup by gender, the racial composition of appointments is more analogous to the state's. Thus, relative to the population, blacks are well represented on state boards and commissions in Kentucky.



24.3. Ethics in Government. Ethics in the



executive and legislative branches of state government come under the purview of separate offices and codes. The table shows the number of possible violations to the executive branch code of ethics, investigations, and enforcement actions. Comparable data for the legislative branch are not available because the General Assembly altered the enforcement mechanisms of the law in 1996.

Executive Branch Ethics Office Report						
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Indications of possible violations	19	71	39	27	30	36
Investigations initiated	13	28	19	16	12	15
Confidential reprimands	0	4	1	8	3	2
Adjudicatory proceedings	0	2	0	4	4	0
Cases referred to law enforcement agencies	1	0	6	3	0	3

Source: Executive Branch Ethics Office Report

Reliable data for local government are not available.

24.4 Government Use of Technology. In 1997, the Progress and Freedom Foundation led a study to “catalogue and analyze the results of state efforts to utilize digital technologies.” A follow-up study in 1998 showed Kentucky had moved from 43rd to 19th. The state’s impressive leap in rank is due primarily to the state’s efforts to make business regulations available on the web. Other areas where Kentucky has improved include allowing on-line filing of licenses and permits and achieving a significant reduction in the ratio of K-12 students to computers.

The National Ranking of Kentucky State Government’s Utilization of Digital Technology, 1997 and 1998		
	1997 Ranking	1998 Ranking
Digital Democracy	26	12
Higher Education	30	10
K-12 Education	19	6
Business Regulation	42	14
Revenues/Taxes	29	15
Health and Social Services	45	47
Law Enforcement/Courts	45	15
Other Initiatives	33	24
Overall	#43 out of 50 states	#19 out of 50 states

Source: The Digital State: How States Are Using Digital Technology and State Government—How Far Has It Come in the Adoption of Information Technologies?

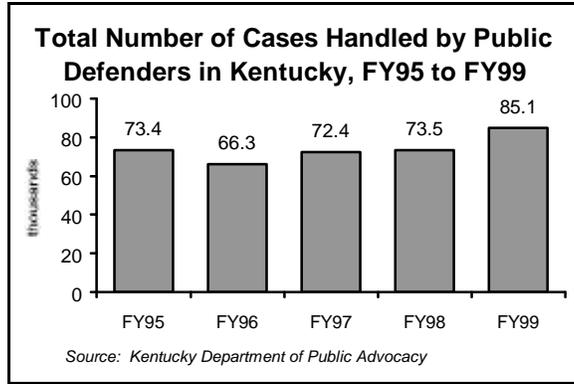
Goal 25

Kentucky will ensure a fair, equitable, and effective system of justice.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	24%	28%
Standing Still	44%	39%
Losing Ground	32%	33%

Equal justice for all is a fundamental tenet of democracy. By ensuring every citizen, regardless of economic or social status, equal protections and equal rights under the law, we preserve and advance the vision of democracy set forth by the founding fathers of this nation. Citizens assign median-level importance to this goal but perceive little evidence of progress. Goal 25, our analysis finds, is among only six goals that received more “losing ground” votes overall.

25.1 Access to Public Defender Services. The Department of Public Advocacy’s *Annual Caseload Report* for Fiscal Year 1999 shows rising caseloads for public defenders throughout the state.

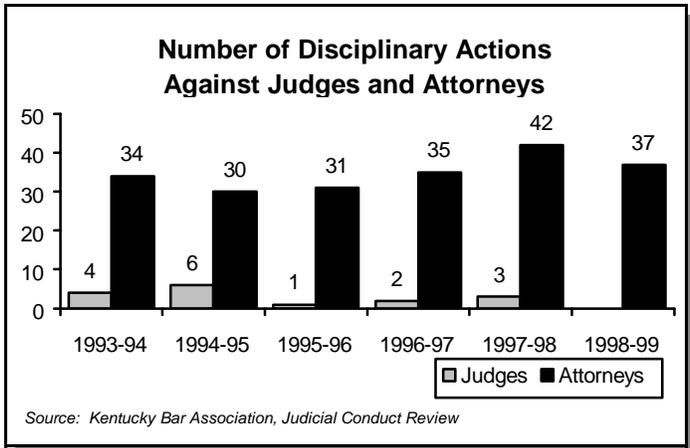


But the right to a fair trial cannot be ensured by access to legal representation alone. Legal counsel must also have access to sufficient resources and the time and opportunity to prepare adequately. Overburdened public defenders are less likely to be able to mount an effective defense. Among 19 states that were studied, including all those contiguous to Kentucky and others with similarities, Kentucky ranked

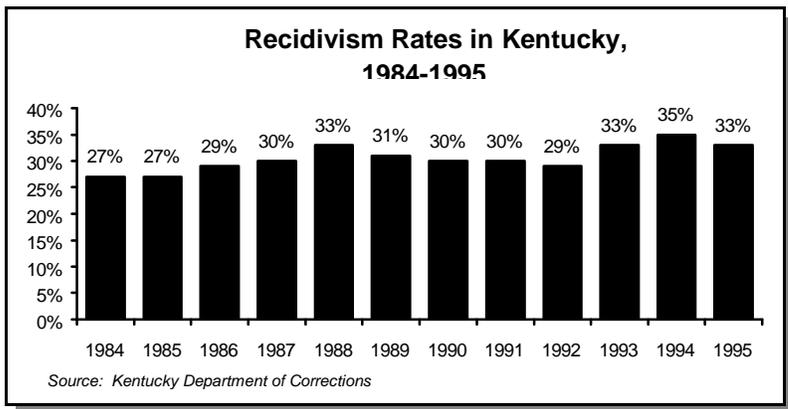
among the lowest on such measures as indigent defense cost per capita, cost per case, and public defender salaries. However, the DPA recently reported that the department has been able to increase the agency’s per case funding and decrease average caseloads, even as the overall caseload increased.

25.2 Disciplinary Actions Against Judges and Attorneys. An important part of ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of a judicial system is monitoring the conduct of the principal officers of the court, attorneys and judges, who are chiefly responsible for the

administration of the system. According to the Kentucky Bar Association and the *Judicial Conduct Reporter*, the number of disciplinary actions taken against judges and attorneys has been modest and relatively stable over the years. The disciplinary decisions for attorneys include all actions: temporary suspensions, disbarment, suspension, resignation under terms of disbarment or under terms of suspension, public reprimand, private reprimand, and reinstatement. The disciplinary actions against judges include private and public censure, admonition, or reprimand.



25.3 Recidivism. Recidivism occurs when an individual who has served a prison sentence or has been placed on probation returns to the custody of the Department of Corrections within two years. The extent of recidivism is indicative of the effectiveness of the state's efforts to rehabilitate, educate, and prepare the inmate for independence. When former inmates return to their past criminal conduct, society again incurs costs that, some argue, are far greater than the cost of rehabilitative efforts. The graph at right shows recidivism rates in Kentucky. It is noteworthy that more than 56 percent of recidivists returned to prison between six months to one year of their release date. The rate peaked in 1994 at 35 percent and declined to its previous level of 33 percent the following year.



Goal 26

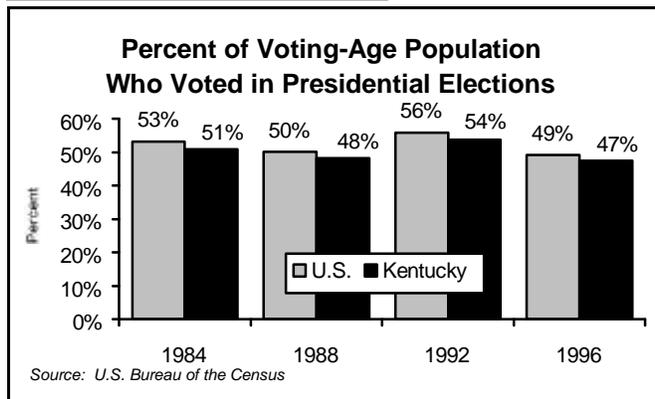
Citizens should continue to broaden their understanding of issues, play a role in the civic life of their communities, and recognize the enduring importance of their participation.

	1998	2000
Making Progress	41%	36%
Standing Still	41%	42%
Losing Ground	18%	22%

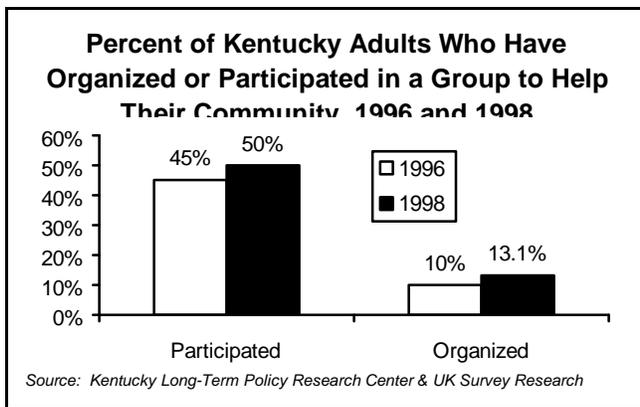
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s the late Vic Hellard Jr. once observed, “... government is as good as we are. The plain fact is, we are government.” As this noted architect of legislative freedom and futures research sagely suggested, responsibility for the quality and actions of government lies with each of us. The more we give in its interest, the more we receive. Citizens, however, do not rank this goal among those most important to the state, and they perceive lost ground.

26.1 Voter Participation. The rate at which we exercise our fundamental right to elect our representatives provides a basic



measure of the health of citizen participation. Kentucky consistently ranks slightly below the national average in the percent of voting-age population that votes in the nation’s presidential elections, and national voter participation rates are widely regarded as poor.



26.2 Contributions to the Common Good. In 1996 and 1998 surveys, Kentucky adults were asked if they had ever worked with a group of people to solve a problem or need. Those answering “yes” increased from 45 percent in 1996 to 50 percent in 1998. These individuals were then asked if they were ever the organizer or leader of the group effort. The percentage of those answering “yes” rose from 10 percent in 1996 to 13 percent in 1998.

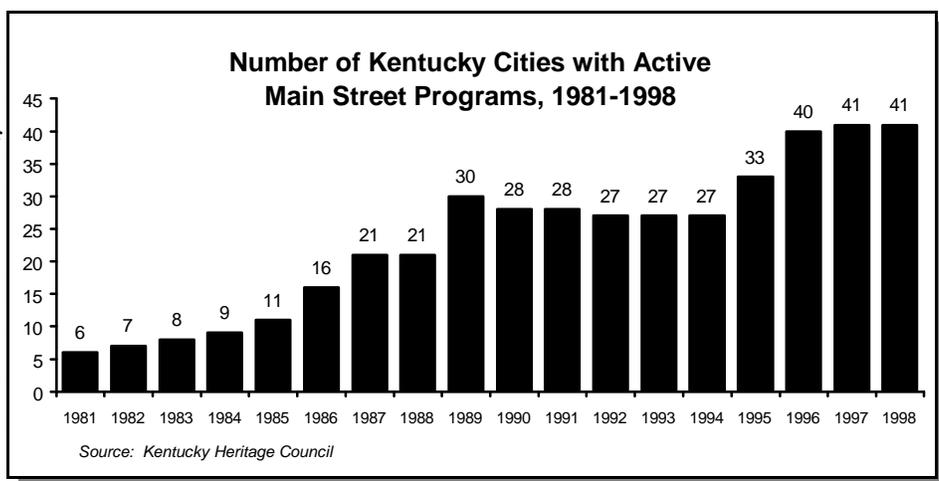
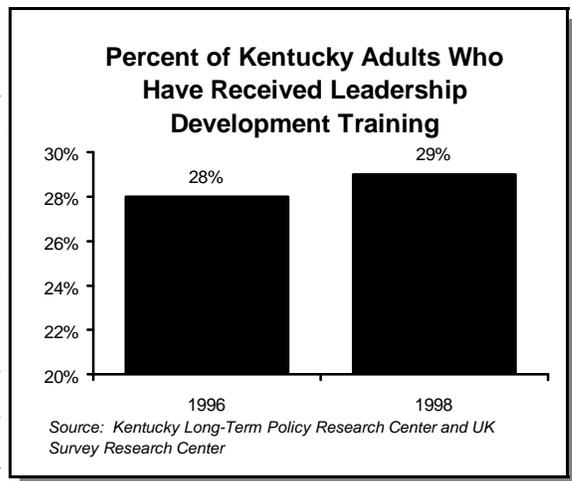
26.3 Leadership Development. Leadership development training is associated with a number of positive factors. For example, research finds that

individuals with leadership training volunteer more and are more



likely to organize others to solve community problems. Thus, these same Kentucky adults were also asked, “Have you ever participated in a leadership development program or course?” The percentage of those who said yes remained relatively unchanged between the two samples.

26.4 Downtown Revitalization. The Kentucky Main Street Program has been in existence since 1979. Administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council in the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet, this program depends on the establishment of a local organization which hires professional staff to manage the local downtown revitalization effort. The local program must be a public-private partnership by definition and the governing board is made up of volunteers. This program’s focus on downtown revitalization is based on an approach which includes historic preservation and economic restructuring. The self-help emphasis of the program reflects the need for local leadership in efforts to improve the historic core of communities and thus benefit the larger community. The data indicate a strong interest in Kentucky for improving our downtowns while preserving our heritage and for achieving these goals in a participative manner.





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