Cover Photo Courtesy of NASA: Apollo 17 View of Earth—A fantastic view of the sphere of Earth as photographed from the Apollo 17 spacecraft during the final lunar landing mission in NASA’s Apollo program. This outstanding photograph extends from the Mediterranean Sea area to the Antarctica south polar ice cap. Note the heavy cloud cover in the Southern Hemisphere. Almost the entire coastline of the continent of Africa is clearly delineated. The Arabian Peninsula can be seen at the northeastern edge of Africa. The large island off the southeastern coast of Africa is the Malagasy Republic. The Asian mainland is on the horizon toward the northeast.
THE KENTUCKY LONG-TERM POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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PREFACE

This report was prepared as part of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center’s mission to serve as a catalyst to change the way decisions are made in government by providing policymakers a broader context in which to make decisions, taking into consideration the long-term implications of policy, critical trends, and emerging issues which may have a significant impact on the state. Here we focus on a citizen vision of a preferred future for the state, goals for achieving that vision, benchmarks or indicators that permit us to measure our progress toward those goals, and citizen assessments of Kentucky’s progress. This report will be of interest to policymakers and citizens alike as they work together to improve Kentucky’s future.

KENTUCKY LONG-TERM POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center was created by the General Assembly in 1992 to bring a broader context to the decision-making process. The Center’s mission is to illuminate the long-range implications of current policies, emerging issues, and trends influencing the Commonwealth’s future. The Center has a responsibility to identify and study issues of long-term significance to the Commonwealth and to serve as a mechanism for coordinating resources and groups to focus on long-term planning.

Governing the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center is a 21-member board of directors that includes four appointees from the executive branch, six from the legislative branch, and 11 at-large members representing citizen groups, universities, local governments, and the private sector. From the at-large component of the board, six members are appointed by the Governor and five by the Legislative Research Commission. In accordance with its authorizing legislation, the Center is attached to the legislative branch of Kentucky state government. The makeup of its board, however, affords it functional independence and permits it to serve both the executive and legislative branches of government equally, as well as the public.

Michael T. Childress is the executive director of the Center. Those interested in further information about the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center should contact his office directly:

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FOREWORD

On behalf of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center’s Board of Directors and staff, I am pleased to present the second in our Visioning Kentucky’s Future series of publications. It was my pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Center’s Board during the time when this report was being developed. The volume presents the first of what will be a biennial assessment of the state’s progress on 26 long-term goals. In addition to a presentation of the goals and benchmarks to measure our progress, it includes the results of a first-ever, statewide citizen survey that asks Kentuckians where they think we stand on these important goals for the future of the Commonwealth.

Two things should be kept in mind. First, like our beloved Commonwealth, the vision, goals and benchmarks we present here are works in progress. They are subject to change with external circumstances and in response to citizen concerns and comments, and we continue to collect data and information about the changes underway. Since we began this process in 1994, we have added two goals, deleted another, and made needed editorial changes. In response to changing circumstances in our economy and to rising public concern, we now include the development of an entrepreneurial economy and citizen participation as goals for the future. We have also changed the language of Goal 15 in response to citizen concerns. Indeed, our shared goal is that Kentucky will benefit from the global economy, rather than simply participate in it. Finally, we have deleted our original Goal 25 because its ideals are so clearly reflected in Goal 24.

Second, this volume is in no way intended as a referendum on the Governor, the General Assembly, or any local and municipal governments. The inadequate progress we have made on some important goals has been with us for many years, even decades. What’s more, many, from citizens to scholars, now understand and recognize that government alone cannot solve our problems. Instead, government is a reflection of who we are as a people, what unites us, and how much faith we have in our fellow citizens, as well as our leaders. As our dear friend and colleague, the late Vic Hellard Jr., so eloquently put it, “Government is as good as we are. The plain fact is, we are government.” Clearly, we all share the burden of the Commonwealth’s problems, as well as the responsibility for solving them. Rather than the division that is implicit in blame, the intention of this document is to unite us in purpose and strengthen our collective resolve and determination to make progress and ultimately achieve the 26 goals set forth here.

In this spirit, we invite those who read this document to share it with others, to use it as a tool in their communities, and to unhesitatingly share any comments or criticisms they may have.
with us. They are a welcome part of the process of building a better Commonwealth. Please join us in this process now and help us forge a path of progress into the 21st century.

Senator Nick Kafoglis
1997 Chairman of the Board
Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center Board
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LIKE MOST PRODUCTS OF THE KENTUCKY LONG-TERM POLICY RESEARCH CENTER, THIS REPORT WOULD NOT HAVE COME TO FRUITION WITHOUT THE TIME AND ENERGY OF MANY INDIVIDUALS. AS ALWAYS, OUR BOARD MEMBERS DESERVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR THE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THEY BROUGHT TO IDEAS ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION AND FOR THEIR REVIEW OF DRAFTS OF THIS REPORT. LIKewise, INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING CABINETS AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT STATE GOVERNMENT GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME TO LOCATING, COMPILING AND PROVIDING OUR OFFICE WITH THE DATA PRESENTED HERE. WHILE THEY ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO NAME, WE REMAIN GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, AS WELL AS TO THIS PROJECT.


AGAIN, WE WISH TO THANK GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND ARTIST CHUCK HASEPHEL FOR HIS DESIGN OF THE LOGO FOR VISIONING KENTUCKY’S FUTURE. OUR THANKS TO SHARON BAILEY AND BEAU GRAPHICS FOR BRINGING MICHAL SMITH-MELLO’S COVER DESIGN TO A PRINT-READY STATE.

WHILE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT, THE KENTUCKY LONG-TERM POLICY RESEARCH CENTER TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT. WE WELCOME ALL COMMENTS.
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 preferred vision of Kentucky’s future. Approximately 300 people participated in these forums, sharing the goals they believed are essential to a bright future for the Commonwealth. In an attempt to distill the many goals those who attended the public forums set forth, a draft vision statement was prepared for dissemination. In a series of mailings, the 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, in Lexington. The public was invited to comment and contribute to the final vision statement. After considering all the comments and input offered by interested individuals, 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?

The vision statement developed by the Center and its Board sought to capture public expressions of hopes and dreams for the future of the Commonwealth. In order to realize this vision of the future, we have set forth 26 long-term goals designed to attain it. The goals are organized around the five broad themes of the vision statement and represent the core factors deemed critical to Kentucky’s future. These goals were developed by the Center’s Board of Directors after careful study of similar plans in other states, including Minnesota Milestones and Oregon Benchmarks, as well as the strategic plans that had already been developed within the state (e.g., Commonwealth of Kentucky Strategic Plan for Economic Development). The Board developed goals it felt were appropriate for Kentucky and consistent with 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 continuous development.

GOAL 6: Kentuckians 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.
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.
HOW WILL WE KNOW IF KENTUCKY IS MAKING PROGRESS?

In order to measure our progress toward the realization of these 26 goals for the future of the Commonwealth, the Center sought broad input into the development of benchmarks or “indicators of progress.” The indicators were selected in accordance with the recommended criteria: 1) they measure progress toward the goal (or lack thereof); 2) they measure outcomes as opposed to inputs, workloads, or level of effort; 3) they reflect the state’s unique circumstances; 4) they are inherently “quantifiable”; and 5) they rely on data that either already exist or can be made available with reasonable effort and expenditure. When finalized, these indicators were again offered for comment, in this case to the nearly 300 citizens who attended the Center’s November 1997 Conference, “Measures and Milestones,” which was held in Somerset.

Biennially, the Center will report to the Commonwealth on our progress toward the realization of the 26 goals presented here. As in this report, the indicators of progress associated with each goal provide measures that help us determine whether the state is moving ahead or losing ground. Because many of these goals permit us to examine historical data, Kentucky’s long-term progress can be charted. In some cases, however, data is being collected for the first time to establish a baseline for future measurements.

The indicators of progress also were an important tool in a citizen assessment of Kentucky’s progress on these 26 goals, the results of which are presented here. In December 1997 and January 1998, the Center mailed the indicators of progress on each goal and assessment sheets to more than 6,200 randomly selected Kentucky households. Care was taken to distribute the selection of households across each of the state’s 120 counties. In the mailing, citizens were asked for their assessment on whether the state is “making progress,” “losing ground,” or “standing still” on each of the 26 long-term goals. We asked them to base their assessment on the indicators of progress data that was included with their assessment sheet as well as their own personal experience and observations within their local community. We also asked these citizens to list in order of importance the three goals they think are most important for Kentucky’s future.

The Center received a total of 639 assessment sheets, some of which were responses to an open invitation to participate in the survey or assessment, either by accessing the assessment via the Center’s web page or by telephone or mail request. While the randomly selected pool of respondents was scientifically selected, the results of the survey are not scientifically valid. A
measure of self selection among randomly selected households and the voluntary responses of citizens who accessed or requested assessment sheets resulted in an older, higher income, more educated, more male pool of respondents than the overall population of the state. One should note, however, that these respondents more closely resemble likely voters than nonvoters. The distribution of where responses came from is illustrated in the figure below.

![Distribution of Responses to the Assessment Sheet](image)

1 The method for selecting these households and a description of the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents are presented in Appendixes B and C. Citizens could also register their assessment through the Internet at the Center’s web site or request an assessment sheet from the Center by phone or by mail.
DO CITIZENS THINK WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS?

What do citizens think? Generally, those citizens who submitted assessment sheets believe that Kentucky is making progress toward most of the goals. For example, 19 of the goals are in “making progress” territory; in other words, they received a higher percentage of “making progress” votes than “losing ground” votes. Conversely, seven goals are seen as, on balance, in “losing ground” territory.

The goal which received the highest percentage of “making progress” responses is Goal 15, Kentucky will benefit from participation in an integrated global economy. Goal 20, Kentucky will create an entrepreneurial economy, got the highest percentage of “standing still” votes. And the goal that garnered the highest percentage of “losing ground” responses is Goal 4, All Kentuckians will have access to affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive health care that stresses the importance of preventive care.

![A Citizen Assessment of Progress Toward 26 Long-Term Goals for Kentucky](chart.png)
In the preceding figure, we rank all 26 goals in terms of citizen assessment of overall progress. In this chart, a higher positive number indicates the citizen perception of more progress. Likewise, the lower the number, the more negligible the progress citizens perceive. Negative numbers are possible in this scoring method; these goals are considered to be losing ground.

Under our scoring scheme, four goals received over 200 points. In terms of making progress, the top four goals are:

- 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.
- 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.

Conversely, while citizens feel the state is losing ground on seven goals, two goals 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.
- Goal 13: Kentucky will end poverty and alleviate its adverse consequences and debilitating effects.

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2 We gave +1 point to each goal that a respondent felt was “making progress” and -1 point to each goal believed to be “losing ground.” A response of “standing still” received no points. For example, the figure shows Goal 15 with 257 points, more than any other goal. This is the sum of +1 multiplied by 352 “making progress” votes, -1 multiplied by 95 “losing ground” votes, and 0 multiplied by 167 “standing still” votes.
We found some interesting and significant differences between the responses of men and women concerning opinions on progress toward the goals. Most notably, men’s top goal does not even appear on women’s list of top five goals. And, as if to return the favor, the top two goals for women are not listed in the men’s list of the top five. The top vote getter for men is Goal 15 (i.e., globalization of the economy) while Goal 11 (i.e., school partnerships) garnered the most votes from women. However, there is much more agreement between men and women with regard to the goals on which Kentucky is doing the worst. Specifically, both men and women list Goals 4 (i.e., health and health care) and 13 (i.e., poverty) as the two goals on which Kentucky is making the least progress.³

³ Refer to Appendix D for a presentation of these results by region, income, education and age.
**WHICH 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, by far, is Goal 7, *Kentuckians will have an education system of lifelong learning that exemplifies excellence.* The second and third most important goals, according to this group of Kentucky citizens, are, Goal 1, *Kentucky communities will be safe and caring places that enable all citizens to lead productive, fulfilling lives,* and Goal 4, *All Kentuckians will have access to affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive health care that stresses the importance of preventive care.* And, according to these citizens, the least important goal is Goal 12, *Kentuckians will have opportunities to appreciate, participate in, and contribute to the arts and humanities.* All the goals are listed in the following figure.

\(^4\) We gave three points to the goal each respondent listed as the *most* important, two points to the goal each respondent listed as the *second most* important, and one 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.
Unlike the differences we see between men and women with respect to progress on the goals, there is considerable unanimity between them concerning the importance of the goals. In fact, both men and women agree that the four most important goals are numbers 7 (i.e. lifelong education), 1 (i.e., safe and caring communities), 4 (i.e., health and health care), and 13 (i.e., poverty). Likewise, significant agreement was found among age groups, geographic regions, and other demographic characteristics.\(^5\)

\(^5\) Refer to Appendix D for a presentation of these results by region, income, education and age.
**IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IMPORTANCE AND PROGRESS?**

Yes, there is a relationship between importance and progress, but not the one most prefer. Each “symbol” in the figure on the following page represents a goal. Ideally we would like to see the symbols clustered around the “northeast” quadrant. In other words, we would prefer to be making a lot of progress toward goals that citizens think are very important. Instead, most of the symbols are located in the “northwest” quadrant. This means that citizens believe Kentucky is making the most progress on goals that are, relatively speaking, the least important. Indeed, the general trend of this relationship is one of decreasing progress as the importance increases. A possible explanation for this relationship is that citizens discount the present importance of a goal if they feel the state is making significant progress toward it. In other words, respondents may be inherently biased toward stressing the importance of goals they feel the state is not making sufficient progress toward.

As illustrated in the following chart, we have placed the 26 goals into one of four categories. First, lower progress, “red flag” goals appear in the bottom half of the chart (below 0) and represent those goals on which citizens believe the state is losing ground. As previously mentioned, seven goals are in this category. Second, higher progress, “star” goals appear in the extreme upper portion of the chart. Specifically, these four goals received progress scores greater than 200. Third, there are three higher importance-medium progress goals. Citizens consider these goals highly important, but believe the state is making only medium progress on them. The lower importance-medium progress goals comprise the fourth category, where the remaining 13 goals can be found.

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6 The vertical dotted line in the chart is drawn to separate the five higher importance goals (i.e., numbers 7, 1, 4, 13, and 14) from the rest of the pack. The vertical dotted line is placed at the 50th percentile, or midpoint, of the importance scale. In other words, the five goals considered to be of higher importance garnered around 50 percent of all the votes. The remaining 21 goals, of course, got the remaining 50 percent.

7 Medium progress is defined as a score between 0 and 200. Remember that less than 0 is considered to be “low” (or no) progress and over 200 is defined as “high” progress.
In the following section, we provide the actual survey results for each goal and a presentation of the indicators of progress data that citizens were provided to use in their evaluations. The following symbols will be used throughout the presentation to distinguish the “red flag” goals on which citizens believe the state has achieved lower progress. The goals on which citizens believe Kentucky has achieved higher progress are marked with a “star.”

“Red Flag” Goals = Lower Progress

“Star” Goals = Higher Progress
THE GOALS, INDICATORS OF PROGRESS AND CITIZEN ASSESSMENTS OF OUR PROGRESS
GOAL 1: Kentucky communities will be safe and caring places that enable all citizens to lead productive, fulfilling lives.

The health and prosperity of our state and our nation begins with our communities. Kentucky, like the nation, has a rich tradition of local communities that are home to people with strong attachments to the land and to customs that bind them together. In our communities we come to know and depend on each other for strength, reassurance and hope. Community is the product of innumerable individual contributions, small and large, that are rewarded by a sense of identity and belonging. Ultimately, the strength of our state will be determined in local communities by people who give of themselves in the interest of the common good.

A strong component of community is the sense of security people enjoy. Threats to public safety undermine trust among neighbors and weaken the sense of community. Hence, low crime rates and the sense of personal safety they engender are elemental measures of the strength of community.

What comes to mind most immediately when we think of community are those people with whom we share the places we call home—our neighbors. Consequently, knowing that we can rely on others in time of need is a measure of the strength of community.

Community also implies a sense of common purpose, of belonging not only to some fixed location but also to neighborhoods, churches, schools and community groups. This sense of belonging that binds us to place is grounded in a shared commitment to inclusiveness. In a democracy, the public space must be open to all. Therefore, the ability of people with disabilities to enjoy full inclusion in and integration into the life of their communities offers a viable measure of how successfully we are realizing the immense promise of community.
1.1 Communities
Perhaps the most elemental way to gauge the health of our sense of community in Kentucky is to determine how safe individuals believe they are in their own communities. In a 1996 survey, Kentuckians expressed a strong sense of safety in their communities. Among respondents, 39 percent said they always felt safe, while 54 percent said “usually safe” and 6 percent said “seldom safe.” Only 1 percent stated “never safe.”

1.2 Crime
The crime index consists of selected offenses (murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson). It is useful in measuring the overall amount of crime reported to law enforcement. At the national level, the crime rate is dropping while in Kentucky the rate has remained fairly constant. It is important to note, however, that Kentucky’s rate is far below the national average.

1.3 Neighborliness
A 1996 attitudinal survey shows that 93 percent of Kentucky’s adults feel they can rely on someone outside their family for assistance in times of need. When asked to count the number of people outside their family whom they could rely on for assistance in times of need, 74 percent said five or more, 49 percent said 10 or more, and an enviable 8 percent said 50 or more. Only 7 percent said there was no one outside of family to count on for assistance.

1.4 Access for the Handicapped
Modern democratic governments embrace the concept of inclusion. A public building that denies access to any citizen is inimical to the spirit of a caring, democratic community. Kentucky must enable its citizens to lead productive and fulfilling lives. While many Kentucky buildings have been made more accessible in recent years, it is extremely difficult to obtain data for this indicator. Yet the absence of data cannot deter Kentuckians from pursuing a future that welcomes and enables the contributions of disabled citizens.

Data not available.
GOAL 2: Kentucky’s communities and citizens will share responsibility in helping families succeed.

Without question, strong, nurturing families help form happy, productive people. But today’s families are often under significant stress. That stress can place children, the hope of our future, at risk. To enable the brightest possible future for our state, we must become more responsive to the contemporary needs of Kentucky families.

Since the 1960s, the United States has experienced rising rates of divorce that have only recently slowed. Out-of-wedlock births have also increased significantly. As a result, the number of single-parent families has risen steadily. Regardless of how loving and strong these families are, their children are six times as likely to be poor. Married couple households are also strapped for time and resources. In the typical household, both parents now work, some at more than one job.

One of our foremost responsibilities is to protect children from harm. Child abuse is a reprehensible social tragedy that we must strive to prevent. The rate of neglected or abused children is an important indicator of family health that is directly linked to a number of social outcomes, such as crime, teen pregnancy, and spousal abuse.

Other indicators offer important measures of the health and welfare of families. Teen pregnancies, for example, often portend future impoverishment. Children who become parents are far more likely to remain dependent and poor and to foster a legacy of poverty. Other families face the difficulty of securing the financial support to which their children are entitled from absent parents, support that is key to the family’s ability to prosper.

The changing dynamics of family life have also spurred a rising demand for more accessible, affordable day care of higher quality. High-quality childcare not only helps protect and nurture the emotional and physical well-being of young children, it enables many families to provide a stronger economic foundation. In turn, we all benefit.
2.1 Child Abuse

Sadly, the behaviors to which abused or neglected children are subjected in early life are frequently repeated when they become adults. This self-perpetuating cycle must be broken. Current data on reported cases of child abuse or neglect are disturbing. In 1994 alone, 27,360 cases of child abuse or neglect were substantiated in Kentucky. Substantiated cases of child abuse have risen steadily since 1990.

2.2 Teen Parents

A number of disturbing consequences have been linked to teenage pregnancy and rising teen birthrates. Reducing teen pregnancies ultimately will have a positive long-term impact on community, education, and the economy. These data show birth rates per 1,000 teenage women 15-17 years old for Kentucky, the United States, and surrounding states. Kentucky has had a higher rate than the contiguous states and the U.S. average.

2.3 Child Support

The economic neglect of children also compels public 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. Modest improvements have been made in this arena. In 1991, the state collected only 12 percent of unpaid child support claims. By 1996, the portion of successful collections had increased to 18 percent.

2.4 Child Care

While no child-care facility can replace the family, quality, affordable childcare can help bring greater balance to economic and family needs. A 1996 survey by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center found that parents are somewhat satisfied with the availability and affordability of childcare in the state, with significant exceptions. Most parents say they are satisfied with the availability of childcare, but one out of two are dissatisfied with its cost.
GOAL 3: Kentuckians will have decent, safe and affordable housing.

Ideally, both our communities and our families should be places of warm comfort. The symbol of the homeplace, a humble house that binds generations of family and friends to otherwise forgotten corners of our state, is deeply ingrained in the psyches of Kentuckians. Today, however, home is not a reassuring certainty for many Kentuckians.

Instead, new socio-economic realities exacerbated by the birth pangs of a global economy are undermining job security and household income for many unskilled, uneducated workers. Thus, home is no longer a certainty for many individuals and families living on the margin. Too often, the working poor are but one unanticipated crisis away from homelessness. And, in spite of the abundance around us, some Kentuckians have no home. They sleep out of doors or in shelters or depend on family or friends. Neither an exclusively urban nor a rural problem, homelessness knows no boundaries.

The dream of home ownership, however, is still very much with us. In Kentucky, it remains far more attainable than in most other states. As Kentucky changes and prospers, the Housing Affordability Index will enable us to track the attainability of home ownership in our state and address shortfalls and needs as they arise.

The adequacy of homes in Kentucky must also become a focus of our attention as we strive to meet our goal of decent, safe and affordable housing for all Kentuckians. Structural integrity, access to public utilities, indoor plumbing, and suitable occupant-to-room ratios (not more than one person to every room) offer opportunities to gauge the general adequacy of housing throughout the Commonwealth.

Further, we must ensure that the poor continue to have access to affordable housing that will enable families to realize their fullest potential. For this reason, the availability of Section 8 housing offers an important benchmark by which to measure our capacity to provide Kentuckians in need with adequate shelter and the fundamental sense of security it affords.
3.1 Homelessness

Because population counts usually depend upon residency, it is difficult to measure the number of homeless people in any area. A 1994 count of the homeless population found an estimated 7,467 in Louisville alone, which could be too low. The Louisville homeless survey was conducted by the Coalition for the Homeless. A rural survey conducted by the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) found 4,450 homeless Kentuckians in selected rural areas.

3.2 Housing Affordability

The Housing Affordability Index (HAI) is a compilation of several indicators of the overall affordability of housing, including mortgage interest rates, median home prices and mortgage payment as a percentage of income. The higher the HAI, the more affordable the housing. Housing affordability has declined in Kentucky since 1993, but remains well above the national average.

3.3 Housing Adequacy

A common definition of “substandard housing” is housing that lacks indoor plumbing or is overcrowded. Overcrowding, according to the Census Bureau and the Housing Assistance Council, occurs when there is more than one person per room in a home. Housing that is either overcrowded or lacks basic utilities is usually regarded as inadequate. While only a tiny fraction of housing in the state, nearly 10,000 units are overcrowded while 45,881 lack plumbing facilities.

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 21,485 Section 8 housing units, 3,245 of which are administered by the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC). KHC’s waiting list (nonmetropolitan only) has 8,656 names or a ratio of 2.66 people on the waiting list for every one unit. Waiting lists in Kentucky’s more urban areas are as long as 12,600 in Louisville and 1,900 people in Lexington.
GOAL 4: All Kentuckians will have access to affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive health care that stresses the importance of preventive care.

Strong families and prosperous communities depend upon the health of the people within them. Today, the health of citizens of the Commonwealth ranks near the bottom nationally. As preventive health care becomes more readily available and is more widely promoted, wellness is expected to become a more prevalent focus. In turn, a range of costs should be reduced and quality of life should also improve.

Measuring our progress toward this critical goal of a healthier citizenry necessarily entails a periodic assessment of how many Kentuckians have health insurance. Many health conditions worsen and become far more expensive to treat in the absence of good preventive care, which is becoming a key focus for insurers.

Fundamental to improvement of the state’s health status is accessible, affordable prenatal care. At present, only 16 states in the nation have higher infant mortality rates than Kentucky. Though our infant mortality rate continues to improve, 8 of every 1,000 children born in Kentucky do not live to see their first birthday. Others suffer lifelong disability as a direct consequence of the absence of prenatal care.

At the same time, regular exercise and a healthy diet are well-documented preventive measures individuals can take against heart disease and other illnesses. In these areas, Kentucky has vast room for improvement, as 67 percent of Kentuckians lead a sedentary lifestyle and 29 percent are overweight.

Kentucky ranks near the bottom nationally on several important indicators of health, including rates of stroke, cancer, and coronary heart disease. Abuse of alcohol and drugs also endangers the health of individuals and those around them. Tracking indicators such as these will enable us to gauge the relative health of Kentuckians and the effectiveness of our health care system in preventing disease and illness.
4.1 Health Insurance Coverage

Though private, military, Medicare or Medicaid insurance covered 85.4 percent of Kentuckians in 1995, approximately 567,000 individuals had no coverage. The trend over time shows the percentage of Kentuckians with health insurance has been at least equal to and for a number of years greater than the U.S. average. Nationally, over 40 million citizens live without health insurance. In the United States, 30.2 percent of the poor (11 million people) had no health insurance in 1995.

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. The percentage of Kentucky women seeking prenatal care has increased from 78 percent in 1991 to 84 percent in 1995, and remains higher than the national average.

4.3 Causes of Death

The leading causes of death among Kentuckians remained virtually unchanged from 1990 to 1994. The Commonwealth ranks tenth in the nation for deaths from heart disease, third in the nation from cancer, and twentieth in the nation from stroke. Clearly, smoking, lack of exercise, and being overweight affect the health and longevity of Kentucky citizens.

4.4 Alcohol And Drug Abuse

The University of Kentucky Center for Drug and Alcohol Research conducted a telephone survey of 5,165 Kentuckians in 1995 to collect data on alcohol and drug use. About one third reported having used alcohol recently while about 30 percent said they had used illicit drugs (i.e., marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine and opiates). The most common drug of choice is marijuana, used by 90 percent of drug users in the sample. An estimated 12 percent of noninstitutionalized Kentuckians with substance abuse problems sufficient to warrant treatment do not receive it.
GOAL 5: Kentucky communities will have high levels of trust and civic pride realized from broad citizen participation in their continuous development.

Broad citizen participation offers the most propitious route to the development of high levels of trust and civic pride. The more individuals are engaged in the civic life of a place, the stronger the bonds of community. According to social scientist Robert Putnam, community is a product of the development of networks of civic engagement, the practical social, economic, and political ties that bind individuals and build trust. The more people interact within civic networks, the higher levels of trust among people will be. Social scientists are finding new evidence that high levels of trust and social capital are critical ingredients of prosperous societies.

Volunteerism has historically been a cornerstone in the development of community. One indicator of the proliferation of networks of civic engagement is the extent to which individuals are involved in civic organizations such as neighborhood groups, block watches, or other organizations that promote community building and develop social capital.

Another important measure of citizen participation is donations to charitable organizations. It has been a perennial theme of community building to give something back to the community. The amount of money and/or time people give to the institutions of their communities should be a direct indicator of its cohesiveness and health.

Civic pride is another important component of community development. It can be measured directly through an attitudinal survey to determine how people feel about being a part of the community.
5.1 Volunteerism

In the summer of 1996, the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, in conjunction with the UK Survey Research Center, conducted a survey on aspects of civic life in the Commonwealth. Kentuckians were asked whether they had volunteered time for civic, community, charitable, nonprofit, or church-related activities in the previous 12 months. A majority of survey respondents replied that they had indeed participated in such activities.

5.2 Charitable Contributions

The survey also asked about whether respondents had made donations to charitable organizations during the previous 12 months. Almost four fifths of Kentuckians indicated that they had done so. This is higher than the national average, which is around 70 percent, according to various Gallup polls regarding charitable giving.

5.3 Trust

When Kentuckians are asked if they usually trust other people or are wary of them, 56 percent indicate they are more likely to trust others. This is substantially higher than average trust levels around the country. Various national surveys have shown that the percentage of Americans who say that “most people” can be trusted declined from 58 percent in 1960 to 37 percent in 1993.

5.4 Community Pride

Similarly, Kentuckians typically express high levels of pride in their communities, according to these survey results. About 4 out of every 10 citizens responded that they were “extremely proud” of their community, while another 54 percent said they were “somewhat proud.” Only 5 percent indicated they were “not proud at all.”
GOAL 6: Kentucky communities will value and respect all individuals regardless of culture, race, ethnic background, religion or gender.

Rich diversity has proven to be one of our nation’s greatest strengths, lifting it to ever greater heights in many human endeavors. The embrace of people from different cultures, races, religious backgrounds, and heritages is fundamental to the identity of our country and our state. But the battle against racism, religious intolerance, and prejudice is far from over. As we grow to understand and appreciate one another, we become better individuals and we can shape stronger communities.

Kentucky is a relatively homogeneous state, with a small percentage of ethnic and racial minorities. Almost 92 percent of the state’s population is white, a little more than 7 percent is black, and the remaining 1 percent is comprised of Asian, Hispanic, and Native American populations. Moreover, many of our minorities are concentrated in urban centers of the state.

As we confront a future of global commerce and travel that will demand greater comfort with diverse cultures, the Commonwealth’s lack of diversity not only holds social but economic implications as well. Economic development may hinge on such factors as the availability of diverse workforces and access to a quality of life that diversity enriches. The challenge to Kentucky is to embrace diversity by developing and nurturing links among people of different racial, ethnic and religious groups.

It is always difficult to capture the extent to which diversity is valued and appreciated by a state or nation. Nevertheless, numerous indicators do reveal where the Commonwealth stands on issues of equity and diversity. In order to achieve a healthy diversity in our communities, we must gauge such key benchmarks as discrimination against minorities and women, reports of hate crimes, complaints about sexual harassment, and the progress of pay equity in the workplaces of Kentucky. Each of these measures affords our state an opportunity to address possible shortcomings and make needed changes.
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 fully investigated each year by the Commission. Informal complaints have greatly outnumbered signed, sworn complaints in Kentucky. In 1996, for example, the Commission received over 9,000 informal complaints, but only 252 signed, sworn complaints. The largest number of signed, sworn complaints was made in 1994.

6.2 Hate Crimes

In 1995, according to the FBI, 21 hate crimes per 1 million Kentuckians were committed, about four times the rate of hate crimes reported in Tennessee and Indiana. Hate crimes are usually defined as insidious acts of violence committed against a person or property, which are wholly or partly motivated by the offender’s bias against individuals from another race, religion, ethnic/national origin, group or sexual orientation.

6.3 Sex Discrimination

Sex discrimination complaints filed with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights rose sharply in 1994 from the previous year and then fell. The number of complaints for 1997 through the late summer was around 30, which suggests the total number of complaints will be similar to 1995 and 1996 levels. Primary reasons cited for filing a sex discrimination complaint are job termination, issues of pay equity, and unfair treatment during or after pregnancy.

6.4 Pay Equity

Many factors contribute to the wage gap between men and women. Job seniority, hours worked per week and education are all factors that can work to the disadvantage of women in terms of wages. Pay variations within employment sectors are also evident. However, sex discrimination continues to play a role in the wage gap. Aggregate statistics on Kentucky show a substantial earnings gap between equally educated men and women.
GOAL 7: Kentuckians will have an education system of lifelong learning that exemplifies excellence.

As global competition escalates, learning and earning are becoming more closely aligned. “Knowledge workers,” social philosopher Peter F. Drucker observes, are becoming central to our economy and our society. They possess critical thinking skills and, importantly, an ability to continue expanding their knowledge and adapting to change. Their earnings power is increasing, and they may eventually possess rising political power and status.

This new reality knows no age boundaries. The old paradigm of education in youth followed by gradual ascension through the ranks of an organization is a thing of the past. Whether in the boardroom or on the front line, all workers are being challenged as never before. In turn, governments and institutions of learning are being challenged to provide more, to help workers of every age acquire a foundation of knowledge that will support continual expansion and growth.

If Kentucky is to increase the wealth of its citizens in the 21st Century, we must strive to expand and enhance learning opportunities, increase participation, and instill a deeper appreciation of knowledge. While traditional public and private education institutions will likely remain the backbone of our learning system, they face the formidable challenge of accommodating the dynamic needs of adult learners.

Most of our benchmarks are grounded in the assumption that formal education is a reliable indicator of our advancement. We also recognize the increasing potential of nontraditional learning environments, particularly the workplace. Employers, as well as traditional learning institutions, will play a critical role in shaping the knowledge of tomorrow’s workers. Their work must begin now, as the majority (75 percent) of Kentucky’s 2010 workforce is already on the job.

We also want our learning institutions to be staffed with the finest educators, those well trained in the best pedagogical techniques and with sufficient academic expertise to move our children along the path of lifelong learning. Therefore, in addition to the traditional measures of college attendance and high school dropouts, teacher preparation serves as an indicator of our progress. Finally, we look at the enrollment of nontraditional students in state-supported institutions as a gauge of the progress of our pursuits of lifelong learning.
7.1 College Attendance

Greater percentages of Kentucky high school graduates are enrolling in higher education institutions than a few years ago. But Kentucky is still below the national average in enrollment levels. More troublesome is the fact that only about 38 percent of freshmen who enroll in Kentucky’s four-year colleges each year finish their education within six years, compared to 57 percent nationally.

7.2 High School Dropouts

From an historical perspective, Kentucky has made major strides in increasing its high school completion rate. But the dropout rate here is still higher than the national average and, as illustrated, has worsened slightly in recent years. Some Kentucky dropouts eventually return and finish school or obtain a GED certificate. The Southern Regional Education Board reported last year that 83 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds in Kentucky had high school diplomas. The national average was 86 percent.

7.3 High School Teacher Preparation

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, Kentucky ranks high among the states in terms of preparation of its teachers. Virtually all teachers have full state certification, and 93 percent of school districts require a major or minor in the field in which a prospective teacher will be teaching. However, significant numbers of classes are still being taught by teachers who do not have adequate collegiate preparation in subject areas, especially in the fields of math and science.

7.4 Nontraditional Students

Students age 25 and older comprise an increasingly large proportion of the higher education population in Kentucky’s public institutions. These nontraditional students now represent about 4 in 10 of postsecondary students at Kentucky’s state-supported schools, which is very close to the national average. Moreover, the number of nontraditional students who actually completed degrees rose by 50 percent between 1986 and 1995.
GOAL 8: Kentuckians will have equal opportunity to obtain an internationally competitive education.

The Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 was in part a response to the striking disparities in the quality of educational opportunities available throughout the state. For decades, Kentucky schools have ranked at or near the bottom among the states in academic achievement, a condition often attributed to years of underfunding of education at the state and local levels. Though numerous schools around the state do provide what could be termed a “competitive” education, the overwhelming presence of noncompetitive schools—especially those in rural areas—has resulted in an overall system of education that has not kept pace with the surrounding states, much less the nation or the world.

KERA reforms and new tax revenues devoted to education have helped Kentucky make progress. Total education spending increased almost 66 percent from 1989-90 to 1994-95. And the funding gap between the poorest and wealthiest districts decreased by 51 percent during this same period, although the quality of our children’s education is still affected by where they live.

Though increased funding does not necessarily increase quality, it certainly promotes it by allowing districts to hire additional teachers and aides, reduce class size, provide supplemental education programs to children and families, and add high-technology equipment and services. Therefore, a comparison of funding by school district and information about the availability of computer and Internet services helps gauge our dedication to equality of educational opportunity.

While increasing equity in resources might imply equity in quality, the only true measure of the latter is academic performance. We must examine both achievement test scores and performance test scores to measure our progress toward equity, excellence, and international competitiveness in education.
8.1 Education Funding Equity

In the 1989-90 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 1995-96, the poorest schools were receiving 79 percent as much funding from these sources. Also, federal programs supplement state/local sources, boosting per pupil expenditures for the poorer districts.

8.2 Achievement Test Scores

Some 62 percent of Kentucky high school students take the ACT exam to prepare for college entrance. Kentucky ACT scores have not been rising over the years, however, even in the wake of several years of school reform efforts. One possible explanation is that Advanced Placement (AP) courses, which may boost scores on college entrance exams, have only recently expanded. As AP courses proliferate and schools improve, the picture should improve.

8.3 Performance Test Scores

Kentucky’s performance-based testing system, KIRIS (Kentucky Instructional Results and Information System), has allowed the state to link its assessment system to curriculum and accountability. For interstate comparisons, however, we turn to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and reading exams. Results show Kentucky students gaining ground, but still trailing national averages in terms of percent of students above the basic level (“partial mastery” of skills necessary for higher performance) and above the proficient level (solid academic performance for the grade level).

8.4 Computers In Schools

Kentucky has undertaken a multiyear effort to increase the amount of computer hardware in elementary and high schools. From 1992 to 1997, the state and school districts have spent almost $277 million on the Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS), and this spending has been augmented by funds from other sources as well. 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.

In order for Kentucky children to reap the full benefits of a quality education, they must get started on the right foot—a healthy one. Kentucky children cannot learn if they come to school undernourished, inadequately clothed or in poor physical or psychological health. Studies show that patterns of success in school begin at home in early childhood and continue into the early years of education.

A social support structure that recognizes and values the health and well-being of young children is key to our future. To measure our progress in this area, we must look specifically at outcomes that are real indicators of the health and well-being of Kentucky’s children, on whom the long-term future of our state depends. Clearly, proper diets that meet children’s most basic health needs are essential to the readiness to learn. The percentage of eligible participants who receive school lunches, for example, offers an indication of how effectively we are providing nutritional assistance to those most in need.

In addition to proper diet, accessible and affordable preventive health care and medical treatment are essential to the physical well-being of children. It is particularly important that sight and hearing impairments that pose obstacles to effective learning be treated and corrected at as young an age as possible.

For disadvantaged children, studies have shown that quality preschool programs offer potential lifelong benefits that can help offset the deficits of poverty. It is, therefore, important that all eligible children have access to early development programs. While limitations on current resources may prohibit us from enrolling every child in need, we must nevertheless strive to do so.

Investing in children today, by virtually every expert measure, will produce extraordinary human and economic benefits in the future.
9.1 Child Poverty

Since data on child poverty were first collected in 1970, Kentucky initially made gains only to lose significant ground between 1980 and 1990. Recent data show that, on this important measure of child well-being, circumstances are worsening in Kentucky. Moreover, Kentucky’s child poverty rate continues to exceed the national average, which is inching upward. The poverty rate among Kentucky’s children must be constantly monitored, particularly in light of the impact of welfare reform and other changes.

9.2 School Lunch Participation

During the 1996-97 school year, 37.3 percent of Kentucky school children were eligible for free meals, and another 7.3 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. Participation rates for those who qualify have been fairly consistent over recent years.

9.3 Child Immunizations

Kentucky ranks above the national average and among the best states in the country in terms of the percentage of its youngsters who are properly immunized. Thanks to state and federally funded immunization programs, as well as community outreach efforts, Kentucky has made significant progress in terms of protecting children from an array of childhood diseases.

9.4 Early Childhood Education

As in many other southern states, Kentucky only began providing kindergarten to five-year-olds in the past two decades. And it did not begin a significant prekindergarten program until 1990. While Kentucky has made substantial progress since then towards ensuring that eligible children—those from impoverished homes or with learning or developmental problems—are served through these preschool programs, around 25 percent of this population is still not enrolled.
GOAL 10: Kentucky’s children will have safe, stable learning environments.

Crime and violence have unfortunately become major problems in many schools in Kentucky. We are particularly alarmed by disturbing reports of students who bring weapons to school and engage in violent and threatening acts. While these students represent only a small fraction of the young people in Kentucky’s schools, they pose an enormous threat to the security of our schools, and, consequently, to the learning environment.

Rising juvenile crime rates in Kentucky signal a widening problem that is adversely affecting our student population. Importantly, however, juvenile arrests for more serious and usually violent Part I crimes have declined somewhat. Arrests for less serious Part II crimes have increased in the 1990s. Among Part II offenses are narcotic drug laws, an area in which juvenile arrests have nearly doubled, from 843 in 1992, to 1,647 in 1995. Comparable data is unavailable for 1996. As these arrest trends suggest, drug and alcohol use among youth is increasing after a decline during the 1980s. The link between drugs and alcohol and a vast array of social problems, from crime, to suicide, to failure in school, is well established.

In addition to measures of drug and alcohol use among high school students and juvenile crime rates, we look at suspensions and expulsions related to violence and drug use as indicators of our progress toward reducing violent, aggressive and inappropriate behavior in our schools and curbing the influence it has on other children.

In order for all children to receive the quality education we are striving to provide in Kentucky, we must become more cognizant of the violent influences in our larger culture. Perhaps nothing is more important than the examples set by the adult world, as we negotiate differences, resolve conflict, and make peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our nation. If our children are to be safe in our schools, they must feel secure at home, in the community, and as citizens of the world.


10.1 Youth Alcohol and Drug Use

Kentucky lacks up-to-date, detailed information on the number of youths who abuse drugs and alcohol. But data gathered in 1993 show that significant numbers of high school students have experimented with marijuana and consumed substantial amounts of alcohol, at least in the month prior to the survey. Attitude indicators show that resistance to drug and alcohol abuse is strong at the elementary and middle school levels, but weakens substantially during the high school years.

10.2 Juvenile Crime

Criminal arrests of juveniles (children under 18) rose during the early 1990s but have stabilized somewhat in the middle part of the decade. One observable trend is that arrests for “Part 1” offenses, which are more serious and often violent, declined 6 percent between 1992 and 1995 while nonviolent arrests for “Part 2” offenses, including vandalism and drug violations, increased about 6 percent.

10.3 Suspensions

Federal and state efforts to reduce violence and drug abuse in schools have resulted in greater diligence on the part of Kentucky teachers and administrators to crack down on these problems. According to the Kentucky Department of Education’s Alcohol Safe and Drug Free Schools Office, drug and violence related suspensions have increased in recent years, but this could be due to the spread of “zero tolerance” policies, and does not necessarily mean the violence and drug use rates have swollen.

10.4 Expulsions

In addition to data on school suspensions, the Alcohol Safe and Drug Free Schools Office reports the number of student expulsions for these types of infractions. Expulsions, while significant, are much lower than suspensions, and perhaps suggest more accurately the number of “hard core” problem children in Kentucky.
GOAL 11: Kentuckians will promote partnerships among parents, schools, and communities to enhance the social and academic development of children.

Parents play the most critical role in a child’s education. Indeed, learning begins at birth, and the seminal place parents hold at the center of a child’s learning life does not end when a child enters school. Instead, the value parents place on learning, the encouragement they give their children, and the interest they express in their child’s studies help shape academic performance.

Because of the critical relationship between parental involvement and the academic performance of children, school reform in Kentucky has sought to strengthen parental engagement in the education process and in the governance of schools. Through the establishment of site-based councils that govern schools, parental and community ownership of institutions is being strengthened. When parents are involved, the educational process is enriched and enhanced. Moreover, when the larger community embraces the cause of quality education as a means to advancing the well-being of all children, the circle of support for children grows ever larger and possibilities grow exponentially.

Parental involvement in site-based councils and as volunteers in schools also sets an important example for children, one of engagement in the life and well-being of institutions that sustain community. In many ways, Kentucky’s future will be shaped by the extent to which citizens of the Commonwealth work together cooperatively to realize shared goals, and no goal is more important than the future of our children. By bringing parents into the process of building better schools, we are building stronger communities and families.

As measures of our progress towards this key education goal, we turn to benchmarks of parental involvement in site-based councils and in parent-teacher meetings. We also offer data on parents who volunteer in schools and on parents who read to their children.
11.1 Parent Participation in Schools

Tracking the number of Kentucky parents involved in school council or PTA activities is difficult in that participation varies from school to school, and these data are not routinely collected. Still, parent participation in site-based councils—as council or committee members or by attending meetings—has increased as more schools create councils and gain experience. By 1996-97, all but 90 of Kentucky’s 1,371 schools had operational site-based councils. Ironically, PTA membership statewide has decreased as councils have proliferated.

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 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 in Schools

In 1996, the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center commissioned a University of Kentucky Survey Research Center poll to learn more about parental involvement in school activities. The results showed that high percentages of parents have done volunteer work in or for the schools, and that the amount of such participation typically increases along with parental education levels. This suggests parent volunteerism should increase as Kentuckians become better educated.

11.4 Parents Who Read to Their Children

The same 1996 poll asked how frequently parents read to their children (age eight and under). Almost six of ten parents report reading to their children on a daily basis, which is about a 10 percent higher rate than national surveys have indicated. Again, the Kentucky poll showed that well-educated parents tend to read to their children more often while less-educated parents do so less often than the average.
GOAL 12: Kentuckians will have opportunities to appreciate, participate in, and contribute to the arts and humanities.

At its best, art reflects the universality of the human experience. It deepens our understanding of the human condition, awakens our compassion, and broadens our vision of possibilities. The creative impulses that give life to music, the visual arts, literature, theater, and much more form the very soul of any culture. They also inform its ability to create a society that celebrates connection and governs wisely and humanely.

As John Ruskin once observed, “Life without industry is guilt, industry without art is brutality.” Through the experience of art in its many forms, we acknowledge and explore our humanity and the vital force of creativity that informs it. While the arts and humanities are intrinsically significant beyond their contributions to the prosperity of our state, they nevertheless contribute significantly to its development.

Exposure to the arts and humanities encourages citizens to approach social problems in ways that are creative and sensitive to human needs. Moreover, it enriches understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

Some of our benchmarks offer an indication of our progress toward a deeper appreciation of the arts and humanities and a fuller cultural life in Kentucky although such progress is difficult to measure. They include the extent to which citizens use our public libraries, participate in cultural events, and pursue studies of the arts and humanities. Likewise, the value we place on our rich heritage as reflected in the preservation of historic property is an important indicator.

By ensuring and pursuing opportunities to experience, appreciate, and practice art in our classrooms and our communities, we will build a future rich with the humanity that is the essence of prosperity.
12.1 Library Use

Nearly half of all Kentuckians are now registered library users. Kentucky has made considerable progress in this area, as increasing numbers of citizens have become library users with each passing year. In the past 15 years, this number has risen from 30 percent to 45 percent. Such progress is vital to Kentucky’s cultural and economic development.

![Percent of Kentucky Population Using Libraries](image)

Source: Statistical Report of KY Public Libraries

12.2 Cultural Opportunities

In a 1996 survey, over half of the respondents stated that they had visited a museum, a festival, an arts performance or an historical site in their county in the last 12 months. Yet it is worth noting that nearly half of the respondents reported having experienced no cultural opportunities in the last 12 months. Art and culture offer individuals important developmental experiences and, in the larger sphere, serve as keys to social and economic prosperity.

![Percentage of adult Kentuckians who have visited a museum, a festival, an arts performance, or an historical site in their county in the last 12 months.](image)

Source: Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and UK Survey Research Center.

12.3 Rehabilitated Historic Properties

The identification and rehabilitation of historic properties is a critical measure of Kentucky’s commitment to our rich cultural heritage. While many historic buildings and sites around the state have been refurbished and developed, no data is currently available about how many additional properties could be preserved.

Data not available.

12.4 Study of the Arts and Humanities

While advanced education is by no means the only approach to development of the arts and humanities in the state, it remains significant. The university environment is an ideal setting for fostering appreciation of arts and humanities. This goal has the dual benefit of measuring institutional commitment to the arts (how many courses are offered, for example) as well as commitment to the arts by the general population. Data on this indicator are currently unavailable.

Data not available.
GOAL 13: Kentucky will end poverty and alleviate its adverse consequences and debilitating effects.

In the mid-1940s, the Committee for Kentucky expressed grave concern about the implications of persistent poverty for the state’s future. Forty years later the Kentucky Tomorrow Commission reiterated those same concerns, urging investment in programs to alleviate the causes and consequences of poverty. As we near the end of this century, however, poverty is neither defeated nor diminished. Instead, we have lost ground in our efforts to erase its destructive effects on our people, our communities, and our economy.

While the overall poverty rate in our state has declined during the 1990s, it nevertheless remains disturbingly high. Recent Census Bureau estimates place the rate at nearly 18 percent of the state’s population. The painful realities of everyday life for those who live in poverty can include hunger, inadequate clothing and shelter, insufficient medical care, and the absence of many of the comforts most of us take for granted.

Women, children, and minorities all face acute disadvantages in their efforts to escape poverty. Due to racial and gender inequities in pay and employment opportunities, women and minorities continue to earn less than their white male counterparts, regardless of educational achievement. Further exaggerating these longstanding inequities are the rising number of single-parent households. As families have divided, so have resources—pushing many women who earn smaller incomes into the ranks of the poor.

A comparison of the overall poverty level for the state, including breakdowns by race and gender, serves as a gauge of our dedication to curbing these inequities. The final benchmark of our progress toward the alleviation of poverty is an income distribution index that measures the difference between the poorest and the wealthiest of our population. Here, as with our poverty rate, there is vast room for improvement. Only Louisiana has greater income inequality and has lower growth in this disparity than Kentucky.
13.1 Poverty Rate
During the early 1990s, Kentucky’s overall poverty rate dropped from 19 percent to 18 percent of the population, while the U.S. poverty rate increased from 13 percent to 15 percent of the population. While it is important to note that the gaps between poverty here and elsewhere in the United States have recently closed, some of this closure may be attributable to a general deterioration of economic circumstances for many working poor families outside of Kentucky.

13.2 Poverty by Race
In addition to a disturbing overall poverty rate in Kentucky, a disproportionate percentage of minorities in the state are poor. As the graph illustrates, this problem is not confined to Kentucky. In 1993, more than one of every three black Kentuckians lived in poverty, and black Kentuckians were almost twice as likely to be poor as whites.

13.3 Poverty by Gender
A similar pronounced disparity can be seen in poverty rates for men and women. Women consistently face the dilemma of poverty more often than men do. As with racial disparities in poverty, disproportionate poverty rates among women are commonplace across the nation.

13.4 Income Distribution
The problem of disproportionate poverty has been complicated in recent years by growing evidence of income inequality. This illustration shows changes in income from 1980 to 1990 at different percentiles of household income. At the national level, the rich did get much richer while the poor made only minimal gains. In Kentucky, the rich got somewhat richer while the poor got much poorer. Kentuckians in the lowest 20th percentile experienced a 10.7 percent loss of real income.
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.

Historically, Kentucky’s economy has depended heavily on a core of industries, including mining, agriculture and manufacturing. While all three remain central to the economic well-being of the state, their contributions to the livelihoods of Kentuckians have waned, and recent trends suggest that each will face an increasingly uncertain future. As returns from these core industries diminish, our future prosperity will hinge on our ability to adapt to a rapidly changing economy.

Adaptation, however, does not come cheaply. It requires a well-trained, well-educated workforce and capital investment. With a workforce that boasts high skills and technological expertise, Kentucky will be able to attract more of the high-wage jobs that have eluded us in the past.

Though many believe that value-added manufacturing will provide a solid foundation on which to build a more prosperous future, jobs in the manufacturing sector, particularly low-skill jobs, are predicted to continue declining. Today, many regions of our state are experiencing the negative consequences of dependence on a single industry or industrial sector. Diversification and the realization of our full potential for innovation and product development are essential to the cultivation of a sustainable, prosperous economy. In every sphere, we can reach new heights of opportunity across the Commonwealth by making change work for us, rather than resisting it.

To measure our performance on this vitally important goal, we turn first to the classic indicator of gross state product, then to measures of how citizens of the Commonwealth are faring in terms of income and wages. Finally, we turn to an assessment of the state’s diversification relative to other states.
14.1 Gross State Product

The gross state product is the state equivalent of the gross national product. This classic economic indicator 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 gross state product and the gross state product as a percentage of the U.S. average.

14.2 Income

The economic and social well-being of Kentuckians depends upon a rising standard of living. An often-used indicator of the standard of living in a given place is the per capita income of its inhabitants. The chart shows a trend of rising per capita income in Kentucky. Moreover, Kentucky’s percentage of U.S. per capita income has risen steadily over the last few years. Nevertheless, a significant disparity remains between the U.S. average and per capita income in Kentucky.

14.3 Wages

While annual pay has risen steadily in Kentucky since 1980, it has lost significant ground when compared with the U.S. average. The line illustrates the drop in Kentucky’s annual pay per employee to 85 percent of the national average in 1993, after having been as high as 92 percent of the U.S. average in 1980.

14.4 Economic Diversity

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. Kentucky has ranked within the top 10 states on both of these measures during the past years. A lower score indicates greater diversity, something most economists regard as a positive economic indicator.
GOAL 15: Kentucky will benefit from participation in an integrated global economy.

One of the most profound influences on the American economy in recent years has been the rapid expansion of global trade. In recent years, as much as one third of growth in the U.S. gross domestic product has been attributable to exports of goods and services, strong evidence of the growing presence of U.S. companies and products overseas and the broad benefits that presence has produced in the lives of Americans. As barriers to trade continue to fall and previously untapped markets open ever wider, we can expect opportunities for Kentucky firms to grow.

While global market forces have adversely affected some Kentucky industries, the international marketplace has more than compensated by providing opportunities for job growth and prosperity through exports and foreign-direct investment. Nationally, U.S. exports are expected to increase from $660 billion in 1993 to over $1 trillion by the year 2000, supporting over 6 million new jobs. Kentucky’s exports as a percentage of the nation’s remain small (only about 1 percent), but the number of Commonwealth businesses that export goods or services continues to grow.

To attract increased foreign direct investment and expand global markets, we must improve our foundation of technical and scientific expertise, and offer to the world a well-trained, flexible workforce fluent in the new languages of production and management.

As indicators of our progress toward broadly beneficial participation in the global economy, we find the presence of employee involvement programs in Kentucky workplaces to be a critical, though unavailable, measure of the competitiveness of firms. These high-performance programs have produced remarkable and mutually beneficial results, from the bargaining table to the bottom line. The extent of foreign direct investment, which is consistently linked to the presence of high-wage jobs, Kentucky’s national ranking in the export market, and the value of its exports also shed light on our progress toward this goal.
15.1 Employee Involvement Programs

A University of Louisville Labor-Management Center study finds that successful employee involvement programs (EIPs) increase competitiveness, efficiency, and employee motivation. The study of unionized facilities found that 66 percent of these EIPs focus on quality and 64 percent on productivity—vital elements for globally competitive firms. National studies find that high-performance workplaces are more likely to be exporters.

15.2 Foreign Direct Investment

Workers in the Commonwealth benefit financially from foreign investment in the state. On average, foreign-owned businesses pay their workers 49 percent more than domestic businesses. Between 1990 and 1994, the amount of foreign direct investment in Kentucky increased by $6 billion. The chart depicts the amount of foreign direct investment as measured by the value of gross property, plant, and equipment of U.S. affiliates of foreign companies.

15.3 Export Ranking Among the States

Between 1990 and 1996 the value of Kentucky’s exports increased by 81.6 percent. Total U.S. exports increased by 58.8 percent during the same time period. An increase of $289 million in exports to Canada between 1995 and 1996 contributed to Kentucky’s 1996 ranking of 23rd in the nation, an improvement on ranking from previous years. Canada is Kentucky’s largest foreign market, followed by Japan, Western Europe, the Far East, Latin America and others.

15.4 Value of Exports

Manufactured goods have historically accounted for over 90 percent of Kentucky’s $6.5 billion in exports. The value of Kentucky exports has risen steadily since 1992. Coal continues to play a role in increased revenue from exports. In 1994, the U.S. Department of Energy ranked Kentucky third in the nation in coal exports. Important agricultural exports include tobacco, livestock, and soybeans.
GOAL 16: Kentucky will maintain and enhance a strong farm economy through diversification, internal networks, and agricultural processing industries.

Farming’s changing role in the lives of Kentuckians can be traced to national and international trends that have influenced the supply and the cost of agricultural products. At the same time, advances in technology and agricultural science have expanded production per acre. These advances have also made it far more costly for small farmers to compete. As a result, agriculture’s contribution to the state economy has waned both in terms of income and employment, even as farm production has increased. Between 1995 and 1996, the value of Kentucky’s farm production increased by nearly $300 million.

The health of Kentucky’s farm economy has historically been tied to the performance of two commodities—tobacco and cattle—with some counties placing much of their livelihoods solely at the mercy of their tobacco crop. The emergence of major issues—the possible regulation of tobacco as a drug, increased cigarette taxation, heightened awareness of health risks associated with tobacco use, declining levels of domestic tobacco content in U.S.-manufactured cigarettes, and an abundance of high-quality burley on the world market—have caused many farmers to begin experimenting with new crops. The success of these efforts to diversify, however, will depend upon a number of factors, including access to markets and the economic returns on new farm products.

In part, the realization of a truly sustainable farm economy depends upon development of the value-added component of the state’s agriculture base, which would lend real strength to the state’s farm economy. By tapping more external markets and creating new internal markets for Kentucky’s agricultural products, we could mediate some of the uncertainty that attends diversification.

Monitoring farm income, agricultural diversity, the growth of value-added processing industries, and the number of farms, should enable us to measure our progress toward a sustainable, interdependent, internal marketplace.
16.1 Farm Income

Net income per farm in Kentucky where small farms are still quite commonplace fluctuated between $11,000 and $14,000 from 1990 to 1995, then, by our estimates, rose to $22,000 in 1996. As the number of farms declined from 91,000 in 1990 to 88,000 in 1996, and the value of major crops increased, net farm income rose. Clearly, increases in this classic measure benefit farmers, rural communities, and the state as a whole.

16.2 Agricultural Diversity

By far, tobacco remains Kentucky’s most profitable crop; however, it lost significant value between 1994 and 1995, then regained much of its value in 1996. Corn (for grain), soybeans, and wheat have realized steady gains in value of production since 1994, a positive sign in that all three crops are among the nation’s leading agricultural exports. Expansion in these strong export market areas should help diversify our agricultural base in the years to come and raise farm income.

16.3 Value-Added Food Products

Kentucky farms have long produced hundreds of millions of dollars worth of fruits, vegetables, grains, and various other commodities. But many of these products are shipped to other states for processing. 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. As a result, the Commonwealth would become more prosperous.

16.4 Farms

By tracking the change in the total number of farms and small farms (less than 50 acres), we can monitor one way in which Kentucky’s communities are changing. From 1987 to 1992, Kentucky experienced a decline in the number of farms. This trend presumably means a distinctly rural way of life is gradually fading, and that farm-related jobs are declining as well.
GOAL 17: Kentucky will develop and enhance its physical infrastructure to support and sustain economic development and a high quality of life.

A modern and efficient physical infrastructure is the backbone of a state’s economy. It is the support structure that sustains economic development, providing fundamental services without which businesses cannot function and citizens cannot prosper. It permits the smooth flow of commerce, the efficient movement of people to and from their workplaces, and the uninterrupted supply of goods and services. Further, a well-developed infrastructure enriches quality of life by making health care, education and recreation more accessible.

A sound physical infrastructure includes public access to safe drinking water, sewage and waste facilities, which are fundamental measures of public health, environmental protection, and quality of life. Significant improvements in these areas will be needed to advance development of the Commonwealth. In 1995, for example, small drinking water systems in the state accounted for 93 percent of violations cited by the Division of Water.

Another essential component of infrastructure that we measure here is the quality of roads, highways and bridges, the condition of which affects a range of private and public costs. While poor roads have been an historic weakness that has isolated generations of Kentuckians and impaired the ability of communities to develop their economies, the quality of Kentucky’s roads and highways has improved significantly.

Though Kentucky is a predominantly rural state, public transportation remains an important facet of its physical infrastructure, one on which changing demographics could place new demands. Kentucky’s urban centers use motor buses, trolley buses, or vans; none currently use rail transportation, but light rail corridors in northern Kentucky and Louisville are being explored. In 1994, 15 counties did not have public transportation services, although transportation services for the elderly and disabled were available in all counties.

Air, rail, and water transportation are also essential supports for Kentucky’s economy. A 1994 survey by the Transportation Cabinet found that manufacturers are more likely to use some combination of transportation modes. It is estimated that about 20 to 25 of Kentucky’s general aviation airports need to be upgraded in order to establish a system of airports within one hour’s drive from any potential economic development site.
17.1 Access to Water, Sewer Systems, and Garbage Collection

Approximately 20 percent of Kentucky households continue to dispose of their garbage illegally in unapproved dump sites, and the number of such sites increases each year. State and local efforts to clean up open dumps have progressed, with 1,761 dumps eliminated in 1995. The cost to clean up each dump averaged $2,135. Just over 80 percent of households received treated drinking water in 1990, and almost 60 percent of Kentucky households were connected to a sewer system.

17.2 Roads and Highways

Since 1994, some 91 percent of Kentucky’s roads and highways have remained in fair or better condition. This status is three percentage points better than in 1990. All roads, including secondary and rural secondary, are included in this annual assessment of Kentucky’s roadways. The quality of roads is important for both residents and businesses. The condition of highways affects the efficient transfer of goods, as well as the safety and health of citizens and the costs they incur.

17.3 Bridges

Bridges that are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete are not necessarily unsafe. Rather, these bridges may have narrower widths or allow lower maximum loads than bridges built to modern standards. Such bridges may inhibit and impede the flow of goods in certain areas. The number of structurally deficient bridges in Kentucky has decreased consistently over the years. Functionally obsolete bridges have also decreased, but increased slightly in 1996 and 1997.

17.4 Urban Mass Transit

Though Kentucky is still predominantly a rural and suburban 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, but then slipped in following years.
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.

No single force of change has influenced workplace skill levels as much as the arrival of the long-heralded Information Age. The diffusion of information technology is propelling a shift from what has been called a hardware society to a software society, one that places high value on intellect and creativity and little on brawn. Between 1984 and 1994, the Wall Street Journal reports, firms spent more than a trillion dollars on computer systems. Today, they are ubiquitous in the workplace. While the advance of information technology is sure to exact economic, social, and human costs, it will also yield extraordinary breakthroughs that should improve quality of life for all.

Kentucky has one of the most advanced plans in the nation for construction of the Kentucky Information Superhighway, which connects government at all levels, schools, universities, and libraries. The network enables the transmission of voice and video, and is opening the way for new applications of technology in medicine, industry, education, and training. Through the network, state government provides ready access to a range of information and services from remote, single-source locations, improving citizen participation and customer service in the process. What’s more, geographic information systems now offer extraordinary opportunity for precision analysis, planning, and action.

We first assess the extent to which technology has touched the lives of Kentuckians, in terms of their access to personal computers and to the Internet. These indicators reveal the extent of technology’s impact on the lives of citizens of the Commonwealth, as well as the limitations of access that must be overcome. In the future, we will examine the accessibility of the Internet in our public libraries, as computer and Internet access become more widely available and their use is routinely tracked. Also, we will assess Kentucky’s ranking among the states in terms of its technology infrastructure, as these measures become available.


18.1 Access to Personal Computers

Personal computers are found in about one third of Kentucky households, a rate close to the national average. Approximately two thirds of Kentucky adults have access to a personal computer either at home, work, or school. The rate of computer ownership is highest among people younger than 30 and falls steadily in older age groups. Likewise, at all income levels, the rate of computer ownership is highest for college graduates and falls steadily for people as years of schooling decline.

18.2 Access to the Internet

About one in four Kentucky adults have access to the Internet. This is about the same as the national average for Internet access, or even a little better. Survey findings suggest that people in the Louisville-Lexington-Northern Kentucky region who use computers are more likely to have access to the Internet than people in other parts of the state. Indeed, areas of the state with a more elderly and less educated population may have fewer citizens capable of, or even interested in, using computers and the Internet.

18.3 Internet Access in Public Libraries

According to the Kentucky Library Network, virtually all our public libraries now have the equipment in place for individuals to access the Internet. Not enough data is available at this time, however, to know how extensively such access will be made available or utilized. However, lack of training and staff could prove to be impediments to public Internet access.

18.4 State Ranking of Communications Technology Infrastructure

No ranking system is now available by which states can compare their communications technology infrastructure. However, when one is established, Kentucky will likely fare well. 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.

Data not available.
Goal 19: Kentucky will establish a fair, competitive, and responsible fiscal, tax, and regulatory structure.

Kentucky’s fiscal management is among the best in the country, according to Financial World. The Commonwealth has garnered high marks for improved revenue estimating, good financial reporting and long-term planning. A 1995 special commission evaluated its tax structure and proposed improvements in competitiveness and equity while ensuring adequacy.

A 1995 study by KPMG Peat Marwick found that Kentucky has a very competitive corporate tax structure and a less-than-competitive personal tax structure. Kentucky’s effective tax rate on key industries such as computer services, motor vehicles, telecommunications and health care is below the average rate of 15 comparison states. Kentucky firms pay above-average income taxes, below-average property taxes, and about average sales and utility taxes. For families and individuals, however, the total tax burden, including income, property, intangibles, sales, and excise taxes, is above the average of the 15 comparison states. Again, income taxes are higher than average while property taxes are lower.

In terms of tax equity, a recent study by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities suggests that Kentucky has much work to be done. The Commonwealth is one of six states that impose an income tax on very poor families, those with incomes below half the poverty line. Kentucky’s 1997 income tax threshold was the lowest in the nation for two-parent families of four and the fourth lowest in the nation for single-parent families of three. The study found the state’s income tax liability at the minimum wage for a single-parent family of three to be the highest in the nation. By contrast, other states exempt much higher levels of income from taxation to help poor families manage financially and accumulate assets.

In order to measure our progress toward a fair, competitive and responsible tax and regulatory structure, here we look at state provisions for unforeseen economic downturns, the state’s tax structure, and state government’s bond rating. In the future, as information becomes available, we plan to assess the state’s regulatory structure.
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. 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.

![KY's Budget Reserve Trust Fund Balance, 1990-1997](image)

Source: Kentucky Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Annual)

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 average sales and utility taxes. The chart at 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, compared to a 15-state average of 9.97 percent. The effective tax rate is a 16-industry average.

![Effective Tax Rate, All Taxes, 1995](image)

Source: KPMG Peat Marwick

19.3 State Government Bond Rating

The state has lowered its debt burden and reinforced its credit rating in recent years. Between fiscal years 1981 and 1994, Kentucky’s debt as a percentage of personal income fell from 2.1 percent to 1.6 percent. Standard & Poor’s has upgraded Kentucky’s revenue bond rating twice since 1994 due to responsible fiscal policies and an adequate Budget Reserve Trust Fund. Kentucky’s bond rating in 1994 and 1995 (AA), shown at right, is considered “High Grade, High Quality” by Standard & Poor’s.

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<th>Kentucky State Government Bond Ratings</th>
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<td>Substantial Risk</td>
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Source: Standard & Poor’s

19.4 Regulatory Structure

Currently, we are unaware of any data that would allow one to make a comparative assessment of the fairness or competitiveness of Kentucky’s regulatory structure.
GOAL 20: Kentucky will create an entrepreneurial economy.

In light of the rapid decentralization of employment patterns and the enormous contribution that the nation’s small businesses make to the overall economy, capturing more entrepreneurial energy will be crucial to the Commonwealth’s future. Cognetics, a Massachusetts-based research firm, estimates that small businesses created nearly 84 percent of the new jobs in the United States between 1992 and 1996 and were responsible for 87 percent of new high-wage jobs—those paying at least $29,191 a year. Here in Kentucky, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the average annual wage in 1994 for firms with 1 to 4 employees was $21,160, just below the average of $21,910 for all firms.

The widely held opinion that Kentucky’s entrepreneurial capacity is underdeveloped and weak may be partly attributable to the difficulty of measuring this dynamic element of our economy. Moreover, many aggregate statistics belie the true entrepreneurial capacity of Kentucky’s citizens. The state is often unduly penalized in rankings due to its disproportionately rural population; new and fast-growing firms tend to be located in urban, not rural areas.

While there is significant room for improvement, we find that Kentuckians possess considerable latent entrepreneurial energy, and entrepreneurs generally rate the state’s business climate highly. Moreover, bankers are bullish on the future of small business and entrepreneurism in Kentucky. When asked to anticipate the number of loans to small businesses and entrepreneurs in the future, 41 percent of respondents to a Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center survey said they would be higher in the coming years. Another 42 percent expect the current fairly strong rate of lending to continue unchanged.

Some regions of the state are experiencing a small business boom. Southeast Kentucky was recently ranked 20th out of 89 rural entrepreneurial “hot spots” in the nation, according to Berea-based Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED). Bringing entrepreneurial energy to life in regions throughout the state, particularly in depressed rural areas, is key to the future prosperity of the Commonwealth.

In order to gauge our progress toward the goal of creating a more entrepreneurial economy, we turn to survey data on how many Kentuckians have started or considered starting a business, how many new firms are being created in the state, and how effective our support for small business is.
20.1 Kentucky Entrepreneurs

In a Fall 1996 survey, a sample of Kentucky’s adults were asked if they had ever started a business. The state average was 21 percent. However, as the chart illustrates, there is a notable difference between men (28.9 percent) and women (13.3 percent). In order to help create an entrepreneurial economy, we need to identify and remove the barriers facing Kentuckians who attempt to start businesses.

20.2 Kentuckians Considering Entrepreneurship

In the same survey, individuals were asked (if they had not already started a business) if they have ever seriously considered starting a business. The state average is 27 percent, with significant differences between men (47.6 percent) and women (24.8 percent). Consequently, considerable latent entrepreneurism appears to exist among Kentucky’s adults.

20.3 New Firms

The number of new firms created in Kentucky is a good indication of the state’s entrepreneurial energy. In fact, one organization, the Kentucky Science and Technology Council, would like to see 25 percent more new firms created annually in Kentucky by 2002 than were created in 1996. The chart shows the number of business establishments in Kentucky has increased steadily over the years.

20.4 Support for Small Business

Small businesses (fewer than 20 employees) constitute about 85 percent of all business establishments in Kentucky. It is imperative for all levels of government as well as communities to actively support and nurture small businesses if we are to successfully create an entrepreneurial economy. Small business owners suggest 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.

Our quality of life and, ultimately, our wealth are dependent upon the health of our natural environment. While we have prospered from the immense wealth of Kentucky’s natural resources, it has often been in the interest of short-term gain that has bequeathed long-term environmental consequences. They have exacted an immeasurable cost. Today, we are moving to protect and manage the long-range use of the state’s abundant natural resources and natural beauty.

We have, for example, entered into an era of intense public interest in the state’s forests, which cover an estimated 45 percent to 48 percent of the state’s land base. At the same time, our understanding of the state’s biodiversity is increasing. For the past 20 years, the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission has been inventorying natural areas, collecting information essential to understanding the state’s biodiversity, and identifying opportunities to balance conservation with human needs.

While the Commission has identified a number of managed lands, including 33 wildlife management areas, university-owned tracts, and much of the 690,987 acres of the Daniel Boone National Forest, biodiversity may nevertheless be at risk. Kentucky Outlook 2000, a recent initiative that ranked state environmental and ecological risks, identified the loss of biodiversity as a potentially high ecological risk.

In order to monitor the progress of our stewardship, we find it useful to track lumber production and the indicators it offers about management of our forests. Also, the number of nature preserves, the estimated extent of soil erosion, which has decreased significantly, and the status of fish and wildlife in the state help us gauge the status of Kentucky’s precious natural resources. Due vigilance will be required. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kentucky ranks 12th in the nation in the number of threatened, endangered, and extirpated species.
21.1 Lumber Production

Experts agree that private forests in Kentucky are being cut at increasing rates due to timber availability and worldwide demand, suggesting that our forests have recovered from the widespread, destructive clearcutting of half a century ago. One indicator of this is lumber production. Lumber production in Kentucky reached near record levels in 1995, and lumber and wood industry sales (value of shipments) are on the rise, tripling between 1982 and 1994.

21.2 Nature Preserves

According to the Kentucky Natural Heritage Database, 2,225,450 acres of land, about 9 percent of the total state acreage, are managed as natural areas. But the level of protection of these lands varies. Only 107,996 acres of these natural areas (0.4 percent of the state’s acreage) are considered fully protected. These include the state’s 35 nature preserves, federal wilderness areas, and land owned by the Nature Conservancy.

21.3 Soil Erosion

The loss of soil from farms not only affects productivity but can impair water quality. While farmers have reduced soil erosion rates significantly since 1977, sedimentation from farmlands and other sources is still the second leading cause of water pollution in Kentucky. In 1992-93, contaminated runoff from farmlands was impairing 980 miles of rivers and streams monitored in seven river basins, compared to 864 miles in 1990-91.

21.4 Fish and Wildlife

Experts have documented that more species of plants, animals, insects, and aquatic life are now at risk than in 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.
GOAL 22: Individuals, communities, and businesses will use resources wisely and reduce waste through recycling.

Managing waste has long been a significant challenge to the Commonwealth, one that has been made more difficult by the predominantly rural nature of our state. But during the past decade, the state’s leaders have met this challenge head on, passing key legislation and adopting regulations to promote and ensure proper disposal of waste. In turn, a new ethic of responsibility has taken hold in our state. Corporate citizens and individuals alike now demonstrate that ethic through far more responsible management of household, commercial and industrial waste.

Today, Kentucky has 24 state-of-the-art municipal solid waste landfills that meet stringent standards and are closely monitored for groundwater contamination by 75 different parameters. Further, the management and disposal of hazardous waste is regulated under one of the most comprehensive sets of rules governing the protection of the environment. The number of hazardous waste sites that have been cleaned up in the state now exceeds 500.

More Kentuckians are also participating in garbage collection and recycling programs. In communities with curbside recycling programs, collection rates vary. Louisville reports that 76 percent of the city’s households participate in curbside recycling, diverting about 14 percent of the waste stream from landfills.

Renewed efforts to target illegal dumping attest to the state’s continued commitment to tackling the tough waste issues confronting Kentucky. With 20 percent of Kentucky’s households still disposing of their garbage illegally, the number of open dumps increases each year. State and local efforts to identify and clean up open dumps have increased. In 1995 alone, 1,761 dumps were cleaned up at an average cost of $2,135 per dump.

To gauge our progress toward this important goal, we turn to measures of the volume of solid and hazardous waste, of the reach of recycling programs and of the level of public participation in these recycling programs.
22.1 Solid Waste Disposal

Municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed at landfills fell 14 percent during the past year, due likely to the diversion of waste to other facilities such as construction and demolition landfills and the recovery of materials for recycling. During fiscal year 1995-96, out-of-state garbage accounted for 10 percent of the total waste disposed at MSW landfills. About 97 percent of the out-of-state garbage came from neighboring states.

22.2 Hazardous Waste

In 1995, 441 companies were generators of large quantities of hazardous waste, producing a reported total of 6.5 million tons. While some Kentucky firms have made the reduction and recycling of hazardous waste a priority, it would appear that little statewide progress has been made in the past decade in reducing the total amount of hazardous waste produced in Kentucky.

Note: Does not include remediation waste. Totals rounded.
* Generator data not available.

22.3 Recycling

Prior to the 1993 state law mandating local solid waste management plans, few counties operated recycling programs. According to 1995 county solid waste reports, all but five counties now have established drop-off centers for recyclables, compared to 89 counties in 1994.

* Counties where one or more communities have door-to-door recycling collection.
** Counties with one or more recycling drop-off centers.

22.4 Participation in Recycling Efforts

On behalf of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, in the Fall of 1996, the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center staff asked 676 Kentucky residents, “Does your household recycle items like glass containers, plastic containers, cans, or newspapers?” More than two thirds of the households surveyed said they did.
GOAL 23: Kentucky communities will foster and promote a high level of environmental awareness and pollution abatement.

While Kentucky has made significant progress in restoring its environmental health, much more remains to be done to reverse the negative impact of pollution and prevent costly and destructive future problems. To remedy these problems, vigilant efforts to increase public awareness and knowledge and involve citizens—corporate and private—in solutions will be necessary.

During the past two decades, concentrations of many air pollutants in Kentucky have declined, in one case by 97 percent. But the job is far from over. Air pollution generated by industries—along with tailpipe emissions from an ever-growing number of automobiles and other sources—continue to contribute to environmental degradation and pose public health risks. Expanding public awareness and understanding of such environmental consequences and the roles citizens can play in reducing them is key.

While state efforts to clean Kentucky’s waterways have led to significant improvements in water quality, the most significant impact to our waterways today is widespread polluted runoff, which comes from many sources, including farmland, stockyards, lawns, and urban areas. This runoff contributes to water pollution in every county of the Commonwealth. Likewise, the quality of Kentucky’s irreplaceable groundwater supplies is being adversely affected by malfunctioning septic tanks, spills, old dumps, agricultural chemicals, and underground gasoline storage tanks. In many of these cases, ordinary citizens can have a significant impact on these sources of pollution.

Here we seek to measure environmental awareness or literacy through as yet unavailable data, as well as the various sources of pollution about which citizens need to be aware.
23.1 Environmental Literacy

A draft Environmental Literacy Survey has been produced and is currently being refined. Results are expected in 1999.

Data not available.

23.2 Air Quality

Air quality trends show steady reductions in the concentrations of various air pollutants in Kentucky. These improvements have been accomplished while our economy has grown, representing important progress in achieving economic growth while maintaining a safe environment.

Shown are yearly air concentrations from state-monitored sites in parts per million for all pollutants except particulates, which are measured in micrograms per cubic meter.

23.3 Water Quality

Data collected from stream monitoring stations show continuing improvements in water quality. For example, in 1993, 42 percent or 2,495 of the 5,878 miles of waterways monitored were impaired by pollution, compared to 31 percent or 1,865 of the 5,965 miles monitored in 1995.

The 1972 and 1981 data shown include waterways monitored and evaluated; 1985 through 1995 data include only monitored waterways.

23.4 Toxic Releases

Most of the toxic releases reported in Kentucky are to the air. In 1994, air releases accounted for 97 percent of the toxic emissions. Reported toxic air releases declined 25 percent between 1988 and 1994. Of the six principal air pollutants, ground-level ozone pollution has been the most difficult pollutant to control. Kentucky was among 35 states that exceeded the ozone standard during 1995.
Visioning Kentucky’s Future

GOAL 24: Government at all levels will be accountable, open, participatory, and responsive to the changing needs of Kentuckians.

One need not venture far to read or hear of the growing alienation of the American public, evidenced by what some conclude is collective disengagement from community and civic life. In Kentucky, the most obvious manifestation of our own alienation from public life can be seen in voter participation rates, which have lagged well behind the national average during recent presidential elections. On a more subtle level, however, the sense of integrity and inclusiveness that citizens perceive in their governments at every level are directly tied to levels of engagement. These perceptions are products of the actions of public officials, of how willingly they include citizens in the process of governing, particularly those who have historically been excluded, and how ethically and honestly they perform as public servants.

Public officials and public servants must respond to those who have lost faith in government by systematically rebuilding public trust and re-engaging citizens in the work of governing at every level. The dedicated pursuit of policies and programs aimed at restoring participatory democracy and revitalizing civic engagement will garner results beyond the enrichment of the civic life of our state. Research suggests that an engaged citizenry will ultimately lead us to greater prosperity and more responsive, more effective government.

To be truly open and participatory, we clearly must strive to ensure that all citizens enjoy a representative voice in our state and local governments. Minorities and women must gain more influence in policymaking, from school boards to the governor’s office. By monitoring the number of women and minorities elected to all levels of public office and appointed to state boards and commissions, we can gauge our progress towards true representation. At the same time, reports of ethics violations among government officials offer a measure of the progress of accountability at all levels. Finally, we turn to government’s use of technology to expand public access to information and services as a benchmark to be routinely assessed.
24.1 Appointments of Women

The number of women appointed to state boards and commissions has risen dramatically in Kentucky. According to the Kentucky Commission on Women, 47 percent of recent appointments to the numerous boards and commissions in Kentucky state government are women. The female makeup of boards and commissions is, however, different. True equity in representation originates from a belief in an inclusive political process that is open to all participants.

24.2 Minority Appointments

One important indicator of participation is the inclusion of minorities in public affairs. Kentucky is a relatively homogenous state with 92 percent of its inhabitants being white while 7 percent are black. On public boards, 89 percent of members are white while 10 percent are black. Thus, relative to the population, blacks are well represented on state boards and commissions in Kentucky.

24.3 Government Ethics

Ethics in the executive and legislative branches of state government come under the purview of the Executive Branch Code of Ethics and the Legislative Code of Ethics. The table shows the number of possible violations to the code of ethics as well as other actions associated with these violations. Comparable data for the legislative branch are not available because the General Assembly altered the enforcement mechanisms of the law in 1996. Finally, reliable data for local government is not available.

24.4 Government Use of Technology

Digital technology allows government to be more accountable and responsive to the needs of citizens. A recent ranking of states shows that Kentucky has room for improvement in several areas. Business regulation, law/courts, and social services are areas where the state could improve, according to a recent survey.
GOAL 25: Kentucky will ensure a fair, equitable, and effective system of justice.

Fear of crime has escalated and has, in turn, created significant public pressure for a response. Determining the appropriate mix of prevention and punishment measures has been the subject of sometimes acrimonious debate. The ongoing and difficult struggle to control, prevent, and punish crime while preserving a fair and equitable system of justice will continue in the years to come, even as the nature of crime changes and our understanding of it grows.

Many Americans believe that crime is a growing problem in their community, as well as across the nation, but state and national statistics, which are arguably more precise than ever before and more reflective of improved policing techniques, show that crime rates have declined, sometimes sharply. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, serious reported crime declined 3 percent in 1996—the fifth consecutive annual reduction. Moreover, the number of reported violent crimes was the lowest since 1989.

Whether crime in our society has been increasing or not, the response to crime has clearly intensified in recent years. Minimum sentencing provisions, increased felony penalties, expanded drug penalties, new law enforcement initiatives, and changes in parole rates have combined to send more offenders to prison and keep them incarcerated for longer periods of time. A 1993 study concluded that four fifths of the growth in U.S. incarcerations was attributable to the increased likelihood of prison sentences, rather than rising crime rates. Consequently, our reaction to crime has become a source of rising public costs.

Rising juvenile crime rates and new sentencing and parole laws have also contributed to more youths behind bars. In turn, growing pressure has been placed on institutions to expand inmate services, including educational programs, substance abuse programs, and family counseling. Substance abuse programs, which will soon be required of all correctional facilities in the state, could be especially important because of the strong link between drug use and crime.

In an effort to measure our progress toward realization of the goal of ensuring a fair and effective justice system, we will pursue data on the availability of public defender services to the poor, who are often poorly represented or underrepresented and thus less likely to enjoy equal protection. Further, we will look at disciplinary actions against judges and attorneys who must preserve the integrity of our justice system, and at recidivism rates that tell us about the effectiveness of our prisons and jails in deterring future crime.
25.1 Access to Public Defender Services

The Department of Public Advocacy’s (DPA) caseload rose 35 percent between 1989 and 1994. Kentucky’s Circuit and District Court Systems must handle around 300,000 total criminal cases each year, some three quarters of which involve indigents. The DPA can only provide a public defender in about 80,000 of these cases, and it is unclear how many of the remaining cases go undefended. However, accurate data on accessibility of services is unavailable.

25.2 Disciplinary Actions Against Judges and Attorneys

An important part of ensuring a judicial system of integrity and effectiveness is monitoring the conduct of judges and attorneys, those individuals who are chiefly responsible for the administration of that system. According to data from 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.

25.3 Recidivism Rates

Recidivism occurs when an individual serves a prison sentence or probation and returns to Department of Corrections custody within two years. To the extent that this happens, it shows weaknesses in the state’s efforts at rehabilitation and education of the criminal. The graph at right shows recidivism rates in Kentucky. It is noteworthy that over 56 percent of recidivists returned to prison between six months and one year of their release date. The rate peaked in 1988 at 33 percent and has declined slightly over the following years.
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.

Today, many perceive an unwillingness among policymakers to listen to the people they serve. As a result, citizens, including large segments of the population who have good insights into public policy, do not believe they are partners in the political process. Some conclude that public officials want their votes but not their input on policy. Public officials often respond defensively to these perceptions. In turn, citizens simply grow more apathetic about decisions that have a profound impact on their lives. Restoring trust between public servants and the people whom they serve is key.

For policymakers, that goal will be more easily realized when citizens are fully engaged in processes of discovery, analysis, planning, and prioritizing, as well as in taking action. For citizens, understanding the policy issues that affect the street where they live and those affecting the planet their children will inhabit is vitally important. So too is participating in public efforts to identify problems, discover solutions and enact change.

Kentucky’s future depends on its ability to cultivate citizenship and demand greater accountability from the public sector. Government must work to increase opportunities for citizen involvement and participation in public issues. Citizens, on the other hand, must broaden their knowledge and understanding of issues, become more engaged in the civic life of their communities, and recognize how important that engagement is, locally and globally. They can enrich the political process, elevate governance, and help build an invaluable legacy for generations to come.

To gauge our progress on this important goal, we look at voter participation rates, engagement in community activities aimed at the common good, and participation in leadership development training, which we find is strongly correlated with volunteerism.
26.1 Voter Participation

Kentucky consistently ranks slightly below the national average in percent of voting-age population that votes in the presidential elections. People in Kentucky must feel that their institutions are representative of their interests and, in turn, political and social institutions must respond adequately to citizens’ needs. These are fundamental characteristics of a functioning democracy that cannot be overlooked in visioning Kentucky’s future.

26.2 Contributions to the Common Good

In a Fall 1996 survey, a sample of Kentucky’s adults were asked, “Have you ever participated with a group of people to work together to solve a problem or need in your community (such as cleaning up public areas, neighborhood watch programs, etc.)?” Around 45 percent said yes. These individuals were then asked, “Were you the organizer or leader of that group effort?” About 10 percent of Kentucky’s adults have organized a community group.

26.3 Leadership Development

Leadership development training is associated with a number of positive factors. For example, research has found that individuals with leadership development training volunteer more and are more likely to organize others to solve community problems. Thus, in a Fall 1996 survey, a sample of Kentucky adults was asked, “Have you ever participated in a leadership development program or course?” Around 28 percent said yes.


APPENDIX A

NOTES ON SOURCES FOR INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

1.1 Communities. These data were obtained from a survey commissioned by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and conducted by the University of Kentucky (UK) Survey Research Center during the spring of 1996. Households were selected using random-digit dialings, a procedure giving every residential telephone line in Kentucky an equal probability of being called. Calls were made from May 5 until June 5, 1995. The sample includes 629 noninstitutionalized Kentuckians 18 years of age or older. The margin of error is slightly less than 4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

1.2 Crime. The source for these data is the U.S. Department of Justice publication, Uniform Crime Reports, which is available at the Bureau's website <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dtdata>. Crime rates reflect crimes reported per 100,000 residents of a given vicinity. Some have suggested that crime indices are not always the most accurate measure of crimes committed. Instead, a rise in crime rates may reflect growing faith in the process of formally reporting a crime. While attenuated somewhat by this caveat, these data remain a significant measure of crime.

1.3 Neighborliness. Spring 1996 telephone survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

1.4 Access for the Handicapped. Despite the significance of this indicator, it is difficult to obtain these data for a variety of reasons. It is difficult to define public buildings and sometimes difficult to define “disability.” Moreover, stricter regulations on access for the disabled did not exist until recently.

2.1 Child Abuse. Department for Social Services, Child Abuse Registry. This figure focuses on substantiated child abuse cases, rather than reports of child abuse. While the latter are important, these data verify the minimum number of abuse incidents for a given year. Moreover, they are indicative of the effectiveness of authorities in pursuing child abuse complaints.

2.2 Teen Parents. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services press release of June 1996 and Center for Disease Control, Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report. Caveats with these data should be noted.

In 1993, the birth rate for teens in this group was 40 births for every 1,000 15- to 17-year-old girls in the state of Kentucky. In the United States the figure was lower at 38 per 1,000. Contiguous states that were lower than Kentucky for 1993 include Indiana (34), Ohio (35), Missouri (37), and West Virginia (34). Tennessee was higher than Kentucky at 43 per 1,000. While birth rates for the age group under the age of 15 were unavailable, some figures give a general picture of teen pregnancy in Kentucky and surrounding areas for 1992. According to the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (9-2-95, Volume 44, Number 37, p. 677-684), the teenage pregnancy rate for 13-14-year-old girls in Kentucky was six for every 1,000 girls in that age group. States with lower rates were Indiana (4), Missouri (5), Ohio (5), and West Virginia (3). Only Tennessee was higher (8). However, it must be noted that averages are not available for Illinois or for the United States.

What can we glean from these data? It is important to note that the wide gap between the U.S. and Kentucky average for ages 15-19 closes when analyzing the 15-17-year-old age group. Kentucky differs most with the United States as a whole in the category of 18- and 19-year-olds giving birth (100 per 1,000 for Kentucky and 92 for the United States).


2.4 Child Care. Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center Survey and UK Survey Research Center, Spring 1996 survey. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

3.1 Homelessness. Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) and Coalition for the Homeless. Here we rely on the definition of homelessness provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: “A homeless person (is) one who lacks a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence; is at risk of becoming homeless in a rural or urban area because the residence is not safe, decent, sanitary or secure; has as a primary nighttime residence a public or private shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; has as a primary nighttime residence a public or private place not designed as a regular sleeping accommodation; or is a person who does not have access to normal accommodations due to violence or the threat of violence from the cohabitant.”

KHC also includes “…those individuals in extremely overcrowded conditions because no other housing existed for them.”
While the Coalition for the Homeless has performed valuable research, certain problems exist with its count of homeless people in Louisville. This figure represents the total number of homeless people served in any sort of overnight shelter, transitional shelter, day shelter, hospice, or halfway house. Since overcrowding continues to be a problem at some shelters, those who were turned away are not included in these measures. Declines in population from one year to the next may indicate that a program has closed, rather than a decrease in actual homeless people.

The Kentucky Housing Corporation’s study of rural homelessness again measures survey respondents who sought services from the KHC within a given time frame. Of particular interest here is that these data show that homelessness is not a phenomenon restricted to urban areas and may cover a more diverse population than the stereotype of a homeless person. The data reveal women and men from rural and urban settings are forced into homelessness for a wide variety of reasons, ranging from poverty to domestic violence.

3.2 Housing Affordability. Ott and Malek, University of Kentucky Center for Real Estate Studies.

3.3 Housing Adequacy. Kentucky Housing Corporation, culled from 1990 Census data. Like homelessness, substandard housing is extremely difficult to define. On June 15, 1997, The Herald-Leader reported on the difficulty of definition in its article, “Hammering in the Hills.” According to the Washington-based Housing Assistance Council, substandard housing is housing that “lacks running water or indoor bathroom and is overcrowded, meaning there are more people in the house than rooms.” Yet, could a one-bedroom apartment that housed one occupant but lacked any fuel, running water, and electricity be substandard? According to the Housing Assistance Council, it cannot since it is not overcrowded. Thus, the more capacious definition of substandard housing is supplied, which includes housing that is overcrowded as well as housing that lacks adequate utilities.

3.4 Access to Subsidized Housing. Kentucky Housing Corporation & Housing Authorities. These data may overrepresent the actual number of individuals waiting for Section 8 housing in Kentucky. This is due mainly to the fact that the arduous task of purging old addresses and old applications is not performed frequently. Thus, many individuals in a given city who are on a waiting list are likely to have found other means of housing within a given time frame. Still, the data reflect the enormity of the task of processing all qualified applications for Section 8 housing in Kentucky. Finally, many programs do have priority housing for Section 8 applicants who are under extreme duress. Thus, while the waiting list may remain enormous, crisis situations are frequently resolved in a short time.


4.2 Prenatal Care. Kentucky Vital Statistics, Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health Services, and the National Center for Health Statistics.


5.1 Volunteerism. These data are from the Spring 1996 survey commissioned by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

5.2 Charitable Contributions. These data are from the Spring 1996 survey commissioned by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

The text accompanying this chart refers to Gallup findings that around 70 percent of Americans make charitable contributions each year. An October 10, 1996, Associated Press article by Mike Feinsilber reported on the latest Gallup findings on charitable giving. Feinsilber cited results from previous polls regarding the percent of American households that reported giving to charitable organizations: 1989, 75 percent; 1993, 73 percent; and, 1995, 69 percent.

5.3 Trust. These data are from the Spring 1996 survey commissioned by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

The text here notes that trust levels nationally have declined from 58 percent in 1960 to 37 percent in 1993. These data come from the General Social Survey (GSS), one of the more comprehensive public opinion data sources available to social scientists at present. The GSS data are gathered by the University of Chicago’s National Opinion Research Center (NORC), and maintained by the University of Michigan’s Inter-University
7.1 of Kentucky. Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

5.4 Community Pride. These data are from the Spring 1996 survey commissioned by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)


6.3 Sex Discrimination. The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, annual reports.


7.1 College Attendance. Southern Regional Education Board, “College Readiness and Completion,” page 22. Kentucky figures cited by SREB were drawn from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data.

7.2 High School Dropouts. These dropout rate data come from a paper prepared by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), entitled “Dropout Prevention and Intervention: Report to the Kentucky Board of Education,” June 1997. The KDE authors chose to report on the percent of total student body, grades 9-12, that leaves school during a particular academic year. The other popular method of tracking the dropout rate is to compare the number of students who enter the 9th grade with the number who graduate four years later. This latter method is more commonly cited, and accounts for the 25 or 30 percent (or higher) dropout rates for many high schools around the country. In either case, most dropouts leave school during the final two years of high school.

7.3 High School Teacher Preparation. So-called “out-of-field teaching” statistics have been collected periodically by the National Center for Education Statistics. The data presented here are from NCES Report 96-312, by Victor Bandeira de Mello and Stephen P. Broughman, U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, DC, 1996. Because of the sampling methods used by NCES, out-of-field statistics are available only for large (600+ students) high schools. KDE has no effective system of tracking out-of-field teaching, but officials from the Department’s Office of Teacher Education and Certification dispute NCES’s statistics on Kentucky.


8.4 Computers in Schools. Data about the ratio of KETS standard computer units to the number of pupils was supplied to the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center by Don Coffman, Director, KDE’s Office of Education Technology.

9.2 School Lunch Participation. These statistics were calculated by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center from data supplied by the School Food Services office, KDE. Percentages were determined by comparing the number of approved free and reduced lunch applications with the actual number of free and reduced price lunches served during selected months from each year.

9.3 Child Immunizations. Data on national immunization rates for two-year-olds were taken from the National Immunization Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics and National Immunization Program. Rates for Kentucky were drawn from Kids Count, 1996 and 1997, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore.


10.1 Youth Alcohol and Drug Use. For the Kentucky Youth Risk Behavior Survey, conducted by KDE with Centers for Disease Control in December 1993, 1,122 students, grades 9-12, in 30 Kentucky public high schools, were surveyed during the spring of 1993.


10.3 Suspensions. These data are from KDE’s Alcohol Safe and Drug Free Schools Office.

10.4 Expulsions. These data are from KDE’s Alcohol Safe and Drug Free Schools Office.

11.1 Parent Participation in Schools. KDE, “Kentucky Education Statistics” fact sheets, January 1997, July 1997. This information is assembled by KDE’s Office of Communications, Planning and Governmental Relations.

11.2 Parent-Teacher Conferences. These data are from Education Week’s “Quality Counts 1998” report. While a less than precise measure, Education Week found this to be the only currently available national measure of parental involvement in these conferences. The data are taken from NAEP’s National Schools and Staffing Survey, in which principals were asked to select one of several possible responses to gauge the level of participation among parents of eighth grade math students in parent-teacher conferences. Importantly, states with high poverty rates appear to have found to have low rates of participation on this survey.

11.3 Parent Volunteerism in Schools. Spring 1996 survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

11.4 Parents Who Read to Their Children. Spring 1996 survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)


12.2 Cultural Opportunities. Fall 1996 survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 20.1 for additional information.)

It should be noted that it is extremely difficult to define a “cultural opportunity.” At the root of this problem is determining what “culture” means to Kentuckians. In this study, we have sought a more inclusive definition. The respondents in our study were asked “Have you visited a museum, a festival, an arts performance or an historic site in your county in the past 12 months?” Behind this question is the assumption that a local festival is as much a cultural event as a ballet or symphony.

12.3 Rehabilitated Historic Properties. Data not available.

12.4 Study of the Arts and Humanities. Data not available.

13.1 Poverty Rate. U.S. Bureau of the Census, October 1996; “Poverty in Kentucky”, by Miriam Fordham and Dan Jacyvitch, p. 33 in Exploring the Frontier of the Future, Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, 1996. The 1993-95 figure is based on a three-year average, which ideally will provide a more representative figure for that period of time.

While the poverty rate is an important measure of poverty, future efforts may be directed at evaluations of human poverty beyond the question of whether or not a given individual earns an income below the poverty level. On the one hand, adjustments might be made for any additional income or support, including the absence or presence of health insurance, welfare, and other benefits. These variables may show that while an individual is living in poverty, there is a viable and functioning “safety net,” which is qualitatively better than living in poverty without such a safety net. On the other hand, adjustments may also be made for cost of living within a
city, state or region, the presence or absence of certain accommodations (air conditioning in the summer, heat in the winter), which could provide a misery index for a given area. While goal 13.1 currently measures poverty mostly in terms of poverty rates, future efforts may be made to include this broader endeavor.


15.1 Employee Involvement Programs. Data not available.

15.2 Foreign Direct Investment. The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration and Bureau of Economic Analysis, annual reports.


16.4 Farms. 1992 Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 17, Kentucky, State and County Data, page 8, Table 1. *Historical Highlights: 1992 and Earlier Census Years*.


17.2 Roads and Highways. Kentucky Department of Transportation, Division of Operations, Bridge Maintenance Section.

17.3 Bridges. Kentucky Department of Transportation, Division of Operations, Bridge Maintenance Section.

18.1 Access to Personal Computers. Spring 1996 survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

18.2 Access to the Internet. Spring 1996 survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 1.1 for additional information.)

18.3 Internet Access in Public Libraries. Data not available.

18.4 State Rankings of Communications Technology Infrastructure. Data not available.

19.1 Rainy Day Fund. These data were obtained from the Governor’s Office for Policy and Management (GOPM). The data are from the *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*, Commonwealth of Kentucky.

19.2 Tax Structure. The source of this data is *Comparative Analysis of Kentucky’s Tax Structure*, which was submitted to the Office of Financial Management.
and Economic Analysis during July 1995. The study was conducted by the Policy Economic Practice of Barents Group LLC, a KPMG Peat Marwick Company, Washington, DC. The study was actually conducted for Governor Brereton Jones’ Kentucky Commission on Tax Policy.

19.3 State Government Bond Rating. The data on Kentucky’s bond rating come from Standard & Poor’s (various years) as presented in The Statistical Abstract of the United States (various years), Bureau of the Census.

19.4 Regulatory Structure. Data not available.

20.1 Kentucky Entrepreneurs. Fall 1996 telephone survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center conducted by the UK Survey Research Center.

20.2 Kentuckians Considering Entrepreneurship. Fall 1996 telephone survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. The question was administered to those individuals who answered “no” when asked if they had ever started a business. The question asked was, “Have you ever seriously considered starting your own business?” (See Indicator 20.1 for additional details about the survey and sample.)

20.3 New Firms. These data come from the U.S. Department of Commerce, County Business Patterns, (various years).

20.4 Support for Small Business: Survey of Small Business Owners in Kentucky. In the summer of 1997, the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center conducted a 14-page mail survey of Kentucky entrepreneurs. For the survey, the Center used a mailing list provided by the Department for Employment Services, Workforce Development Cabinet, that included 6,000 firms that had become subject to Unemployment Insurance coverage in 1995 and employed fewer than 20 people at the time they became subject. Approximately 183 surveys were undeliverable due to insufficient or out-of-date addresses. Entrepreneurs who responded to the survey and reported having expanded employment rolls during the intervening time period were retained in our database. The Center received 533 completed surveys. This particular question is Q-36, Based on your knowledge and experience, how would you rate the following factors which affect the ability of entrepreneurs to launch and grow small businesses in Kentucky? Are they good, fair, or poor?

21.1 Lumber Production. EQC, NREPC, State of Kentucky’s Environment Series: Natural Resources Report, June 1997, page 3. EQC’s sources were the U.S. Forest Service and the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

21.2 Nature Preserves. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund was created in 1990 and funded by the Legislature in 1994 to provide a permanent source of funds to purchase natural areas. It is financed by revenues from the state portion of the unmined minerals tax, environmental fines, the sale of nature license plates, and interest earned on undistributed funds. EQC, NREPC, State of Kentucky’s Environment Series: Natural Resources Report, June 1997, page 21. EQC cites the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission.

21.3 Soil Erosion. The Federal Conservation Reserve Program has assisted in retiring 379,109 acres of the state’s 1.4 million acres of farmlands that are highly subject to erosion. EQC, NREPC, State of Kentucky’s Environment, 1994, page 100. EQC’s data were gathered from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Resource Inventories, 1977-1992.


22.1 Solid Waste Disposal. EQC, NREPC, State of Kentucky’s Environment Series: Waste Management Report, October 1996, page 2. EQC’s source was the Kentucky Division of Waste Management.


22.4 Participation in Recycling Efforts. These data were obtained from a survey commissioned by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and conducted by the UK Survey Research Center in the Fall of 1996, sampling 676 Kentuckians statewide. (See Indicator 20.1 for additional details.)

23.1 Environmental Literacy. In 1997, EQC began sponsoring a series of public forums across the state to build awareness and promote actions necessary to better
address water pollution problems in Kentucky. Additionally, an environmental literacy survey is being prepared by the Environmental Education Council of the Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet under the direction of Jane Wilson. Data from that survey should be available for the regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly in January 2000.


23.3 Water Quality. While a majority of Kentucky’s public lakes are considered clean and safe for all use, 35 percent of the 103 public lakes monitored by the Division of Water cannot be fully used for swimming, fishing, or as a drinking water supply. EQC, NREPC, State of Kentucky’s Environment Series: Water Quality Report, March 1997, page 2. EQC cites Kentucky Reports to Congress on Water Quality.

23.4 Toxic Releases. EQC, NREPC, State of Kentucky’s Environment Series: Toxics Report, November 1996, page 3. EQC cites reports from the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) established in 1988 as part of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, which requires certain large manufacturers to self-report to the public the amount of more than 300 toxic chemicals generated, disposed in landfills, released to the air or water, or otherwise managed on or off site. (The TRI list was recently increased to more than 600 chemicals for reporting year 1995.)

24.1 Appointments of Women. Kentucky Commission on Women. As noted, these data do not reflect the current makeup of boards and commissions but rather the composition of 1997 appointments.

24.2 Minority Appointments. Office of the Governor, 1997 Boards and Commissions. Of the 2,941 people serving on boards and commissions, 285 are African-American, one is Asian, one is East Indian, and eight are Native Americans. Additionally, the race and/or ethnicity of 31 members has not been identified.

24.3 Government Ethics. Data for 1993-95 were drawn from the Executive Branch Ethics Commission, Biennial Report: Executive Branch Ethics Commission, Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 1994 and 1995. Data for 1995-96 were provided by the Executive Director, Executive Branch Ethics Commission. A biennial report from the Commission was due in late 1997.


25.1 Availability of Public Defender Services. Data are unavailable.

25.2 Disciplinary Actions Against Judges and Attorneys. The data on disciplinary actions against judges is from the Judicial Conduct Reporter, Winter-Spring 1996 and Fall 1994 editions. The Kentucky Bar Association provided the data on attorneys. The following are the number of published disciplinary orders rendered by the Supreme Court of Kentucky by fiscal years from 1990-91 to 1996-97: 23, 32, 22, 34, 30, 31, and 35.

25.3 Recidivism Rates. Recidivism in Kentucky, Kentucky Department of Corrections, October 1995.


26.2 Contributions to the Common Good. Fall 1996 telephone survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 20.1 for additional details.)

26.3 Leadership Development. Fall 1996 telephone survey for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center conducted by the UK Survey Research Center. (See Indicator 20.1 for additional details.)
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Compared to Kentucky’s adult population, respondents to the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center’s citizen survey are older, more educated, better off financially, and twice as likely to be male. They are, however, distributed proportionately across the state’s regions and between urban and rural areas.¹ Table B.1 shows the demographic distribution of responses and their respective characteristics.

According to the 1997 Statistical Abstract of the United States, 75 percent of Kentucky’s citizens were 18 years old or older in 1996 though they represented 100 percent of responses to our survey. We compared the proportional differences in various age ranges to see how the age distribution compared between the survey respondents and Kentucky’s general population. Figure B.1 exhibits the comparison between the ages of the respondents and Kentucky’s adult population.

As illustrated, Kentucky adults between the ages of 18 and 24 comprise 10.2 percent of Kentucky’s population (13.7 percent of all Kentuckians 18 years old or older) while only 1.7 percent of survey respondents fell into that age

¹ Responses were received from 94 of Kentucky’s 120 counties.

Table B.1
Distribution of Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Random</th>
<th>Internet</th>
<th>Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Responses</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and over</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $20,000/yr.</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000-$39,999/yr.</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000-$69,999/yr.</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$70,000-$89,999/yr.</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$90,000/yr. or more</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS/GED or less</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college¹</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA or BS</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some grad. work</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Triangle</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Includes Community College or VocTech

Figure B.1
Age Distribution, Kentucky Adults and Survey Respondents

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¹ Responses were received from 94 of Kentucky’s 120 counties.
range. Respondents in the 25-44 age group comprised 29.6 percent of responses while the same age group represents 30.7 percent of Kentucky’s population (but 40.9 percent of all Kentuckians 18 or older). Those aged 45-64 comprise 21.5 percent of the population (28.6 percent age 18 or older) but 43.2 percent of our responses. Kentucky citizens age 65 and over make up 12.6 percent of the population (16.8 percent of adults 18 or older) while respondents in that age range made up 21.9 percent of the responses.

Respondents who reported that their formal education ended with high school graduation, a GED, or less represent 24 percent of responses\(^2\) to the Center’s survey, compared to 49.5 percent of the adult population. Another 24.5 percent said they had some college\(^3\), compared to 29.6 percent of the general adult population. Survey respondents with a Bachelor’s Degree made up 14.9 percent of the responses, compared to 11.6 percent of the adult population. An additional 7 percent reported they had done some graduate work (compared to only 2.1 percent in the adult population), and an enviable 28.6 percent of the respondents had a graduate degree, though only 7.2 percent of Kentucky citizens claim this distinction.

Respondents also reported much higher average incomes than those of Kentucky’s general population. Those reporting an approximate total household income last year of under $20,000 comprised 16.6 percent of respondents\(^4\) compared to 30.6 percent of Kentuckians at the same income level. Kentuckians with an income level of $20,000-$39,999 make up 28.4 percent of the population while 22.4 percent of the respondents reported incomes of $90,000 & Up.

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\(^2\) Q7 of the survey asked What was the last grade in school you completed (circle one)? The choices were a) Grade school only, b) Some high school, c) Graduated from high school, d) GED, e) 1 or 2 years college, no degree, f) Graduated junior or community college, g) Vocational/technical degree, h) 3 or 4 years of college, no degree, i) Bachelor’s degree, j) Some graduate school work, and k) Graduate degree (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, JD, MD). Respondents answering a, b, c, or d were classified as HS/GED or less.

\(^3\) Those who answered e, f, g, or h to Q7 were included here.

\(^4\) Q8 of the survey asked Last year, what was your approximate total household income from all sources before taxes? The choices given were a) Under $5,000, b) $5,000-$7,499, c) $7,500-$9,999, d) $10,000-$12,499, e) $12,500-$14,999, f) $15,000-$19,999, g) $20,000-$24,999, h) $25,000-$29,999, i) $30,000-$39,999, j) $40,000-$49,999, k) $50,000-$69,999, l) $70,000-$89,999, m) $90,000-$120,000, and n) Over $120,000. Respondents answering a, b, c, d, e, or f were classified as “Under $20,000.” Those answering g, h, or i were listed as “$20,000-$39,999;” those answering j or k were listed as “$40,000-$69,999;” and those answering m or n were listed as “$90,000 & Up.”
comes at that level. Among respondents, those with incomes of $40,000-$69,999 provided 30.4 percent of survey responses while only 27.3 percent of Kentucky’s general population reported incomes at that level last year. Another 13.5 percent of the respondents said they made $70,000-$89,999 last year but only 7.4 percent of Kentuckians are at that income level. And an additional 13.5 percent reported a household income of $90,000 or more while only 6.4 percent of Kentuckians have reached that level of income.

Twice as many men answered the survey, though Kentucky’s adult population in-

cludes slightly more women than men (see Figure B.4). According to the 1990 U.S. Census, 48.4 percent of Kentucky’s population is male (47.4 percent of adults 18 or older), but men accounted for 63.7 percent of responses to our survey. Women, on the other hand, comprise 51.6 percent of Kentucky’s population (52.6 percent of those 18 or older) but provided only 36.3 percent of survey responses received.

The regional distribution of responses received is proportional to the state’s general population (see Figure B.5). We considered four commonly used regional divisions: West, South Central, East, and Urban (or Golden) Triangle and employed How Many Kentuckians: Population Forecasts 1995-2020 to determine regional populations, using county-level data. Respondents from the West region accounted for 12 percent of the survey responses and make up 16 percent of the Commonwealth’s population. The East accounts for 21 percent of Kentucky’s population and 19 percent of the responses. The South Central regional population makes up 17 percent of the statewide total and responses from that area made up 18 percent of responses. The Urban Triangle area accounts for 47 percent of the state’s total population and respondents from that area totaled 52 percent of the total participating in the survey.

5 This report, published by the Kentucky State Data Center at the University of Louisville, itemizes population by Area Development Districts (ADDs) as well. For our “West” region we used Green River, Pennyrile, and Purchase ADDs; the “East” region includes the Big Sandy, Buffalo Trace, Cumberland, FIVCO, Gateway, and Kentucky River ADDs; the “South Central” region encompasses the Barren River, Lake Cumberland, and Lincoln Trail ADDs; and the “Urban Triangle” region covers the Bluegrass, KIPDA, and Northern Kentucky ADDs.
Figure B.6 shows how closely the distribution of responses between urban and rural areas parallels the state population. Responses from urban areas comprised 50.2 percent of those received while those from rural areas made up 49.8 percent. Similarly, Kentucky’s urban population makes up 51.8 percent of the total while 48.2 percent of the Commonwealth’s population lives in rural areas.
APPENDIX C

COMPARISON OF RANDOM MAILING AND TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES

We conducted a sensitivity analysis to determine if the citizen assessments obtained from the random mailing are significantly different from the overall assessments, which include the random mailing, requested assessment sheets, and those submitted over the Internet. This is an important issue since it would be possible for a group or several individuals to significantly change the results of the survey through a concerted campaign. However, the results of our sensitivity analysis show that the relative rankings of the goals, both in terms of importance and progress, are essentially the same regardless of whether we use only the assessment sheets obtained through the random mailing or all assessment sheets. Consequently, the results shown throughout this book reflect the opinions garnered from all assessment sheets. This appendix presents the results of the sensitivity analysis.

The majority of the survey responses were received from a random selection of 6,204 Kentucky households statewide. To ensure an even distribution proportional to the state’s population, we determined the population of each county and calculated the appropriate percentage of the state’s total population (3,867,481). We then randomly selected from the 1997 Listings Deluxe database from ProCD in Danvers, Massachusetts, a number of names equal to that percentage of the planned 6,000 mailing. For example, the reported population of Franklin County is 45,975, or 1.19 percent of Kentucky’s total population. An equal percentage of 6,000 is 71 people.

Because of various idiosyncrasies of the coding in the database and the development of the random selection, our final mailing went to 6,204 households. Of that number, exactly 750 (12.1 percent) were returned by the Post Office as undeliverable or had a new mailing address out of state. Others returned with new Kentucky addresses were re-labeled and forwarded. We received 526 responses (8.5 percent) from the mailing.

Figure C.1
26 Long-Term Goals Ranked by Importance
Comparing Results

Question 2 on the survey assessment sheet asked respondents, *Please list in order of importance the three goals you think are most important for Kentucky’s future (please write the number of the goal).* Figure C.1 shows how all respondents ranked the relative importance of each goal. Both groups ranked Goal 7 as the most important goal, Goal 1 as the second most important goal, and Goal 4 as the third most important goal. Both groups considered Goal 13 the fourth most important goal as well.

We compiled a list for all responses and a list of the responses from the randomly mailed surveys only. Figure C.2 is a scatter-

plot which shows the relationship between the rankings on each list. (The correlation between them is 0.986.) A comparison of both lists reveals that 21 of the 26 goals appear in exactly the same order on both lists. In three instances goals appear only one place different, and in one case two places different. (Goal 10 was listed sixth on the combined list but fifth on the list from randomly mailed surveys only; Goal 17 was listed eighteenth on the combined list and seventeenth on the random list; Goal 26 was listed seventeenth on the combined list but eighteenth on the random list.) The biggest discrepancy was four places different on one goal (Goal 14 was listed fifth on the combined list and ninth on the list from randomly mailed surveys only.) Since they are so similar, all the responses are used in this report.

Likewise, we compared the two samples with respect to the Commonwealth’s progress toward each of the goals. Question 1 of the survey reads: *Please indicate whether you think Kentucky is making progress, losing ground, or standing still* with respect to the long-term goal by cir-

Table C.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>All Responses</th>
<th>Randomly Mailed Surveys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We gave three points to the goal each respondent listed as the most important, two points to the goal each respondent listed as the second most important, and one point to the goal each respondent listed as the third most important. In this way we could rank each goal by point value to determine which goals were deemed most important.
clinging the number under the appropriate heading. You can base your assessment on the “Indicators of Progress” and your own personal experience and observations within your local community. Table C.1 shows the relationship between the two lists. Though the order is slightly different, both groups agreed that Kentucky was making progress on 19 of the 26 goals while losing ground on seven specific goals (Goals 4, 10, 13, 16, 19, 24, and 25.)

An examination of both samples reveals that in 12 cases goals are listed in exactly the same order on both lists and in eight cases goals are listed only one place different between the two lists. (Goal 12 is listed fourth on the combined list but third on the random list; Goal 11 is listed third on the combined list but fourth on the random list; Goal 21 is listed sixth on the combined list but fifth on the random list; Goal 23 is listed seventh on the combined list but sixth on the random list; Goal 2 is listed sixteenth on the combined list but seventeenth on the random list; Goal 1 is listed seventeenth on the combined list but eighteenth on the random list; Goal 10 is listed twenty-second on the combined list but twenty-third on the random list; and Goal 25 is listed twenty-third on the combined list but twenty-fourth on the random list.)

In five instances, goals were listed only two places different between the two lists. (Goals 18, 6, 3, 7, and 24 were listed respectively fifth, thirteenth, eleventh, fourteenth, and twenty-fourth on the combined list, and seventh, eleventh, thirteenth, sixteenth, and twenty-second on the random list.) In only one case was a goal listed as much as four places different between lists (Goal 20 was listed eighteenth on the combined list but fourteenth on the list from randomly mailed surveys only.)

Both groups thought Kentucky was making the most progress on Goal 15 and the second most progress on Goal 22. Both

---

7 We gave +1 point to each goal that a respondent felt was making progress and -1 point to each goal believed to be losing ground. A response of “standing still” received no points.
groups also agreed the Commonwealth was losing the most ground on Goal 4 and losing the second most ground on Goal 13.

Figure C.3 shows the assessment of progress toward each of the goals by the entire group of respondents. Again, since the assessment rankings are so similar between the two samples, all the responses were used in our analysis.
Table D.1
Citizen Assessment of Progress Toward Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Total Pls.</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 3</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 5</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 7</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 8</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 9</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 10</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 11</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 12</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 13</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>-71</td>
<td>-48</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 14</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 15</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 16</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 17</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>76</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 18</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>Goal 19</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>-3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>60</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 21</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>182</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 23</td>
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<td>102</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 24</td>
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<td>-32</td>
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<td>-10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 26</td>
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<td>-36</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 26</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Figures for the various categories will not add up to the total points because not all respondents reported gender, age, country of residence, or income or education level. The numbers in the column labeled "Total Pls." are the same as those presented in the figure in the introduction.
**Table D.1 (Continued)**

Citizen Assessment of Progress Toward Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>18-24</th>
<th>25-44</th>
<th>45-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
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<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 3</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 4</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-65</td>
<td>-105</td>
<td>-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 5</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 6</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 7</td>
<td>-1</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 8</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
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**NOTE:** Figures for the various categories will not add up to the total points because not all respondents reported gender, age, county of residence, or income or education level.
### Table D.2

**Citizen Assessment of Importance of Goals**

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**NOTE:** Figures for the various categories will not add up to the total points because not all respondents reported their gender, age, county of residence, or income or educational level. The numbers in the column labeled "Total Pts." are the same as those presented in the figure on page 19.
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*N* Figures for the various categories will not add up to the total due to the fact that respondents did not report their gender, age, county of residence, or income or education level.