

# Mercer County

## 2012 Kentucky County Profile

The 2012 County Profile is produced by the Kentucky P-20 Data Collaborative. The Collaborative is a joint effort of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) and the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. The report includes the most current data available for Kentucky counties, Area Development Districts (ADDs), and Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) on demographics, employment, college readiness and educational attainment.

### What are some basic facts about Mercer County residents?

	County	KY	US
Total population	21,331	4,339,367	308,745,538
Median household income	\$47,955	\$41,576	\$51,914
Per capita income	\$23,645	\$22,515	\$27,334
Living in poverty	12.4%	17.7%	13.8%
Eligible for Medicaid	16.4%	18.2%	n/a
Without medical insurance	16.5%	16.5%	16.1%
Registered voters who voted in the 2008 general election	64.3%	64.0%	72.5%
Unemployment rate	11.6%	10.5%	9.6%
Access to Broadband Internet	95.1%	93.1%	n/a

### What is the education attainment of Mercer County residents?

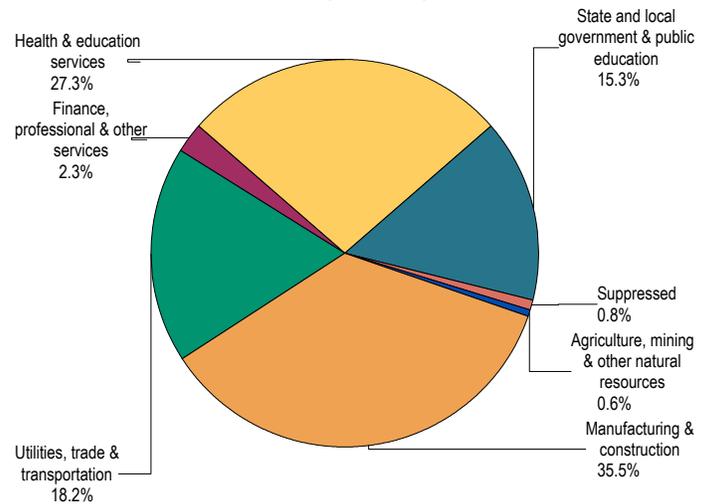
	County	KY	US
Less than a high school diploma or equivalent	17.7%	19.0%	15.0%
High school diploma or equivalent	40.5%	34.4%	29.0%
Some college but no degree	18.8%	19.6%	20.6%
Associate's degree	6.0%	6.6%	7.5%
Bachelor's degree	10.0%	12.1%	17.6%
Graduate or professional degree	7.0%	8.2%	10.3%

### Are Mercer County graduates prepared for college?

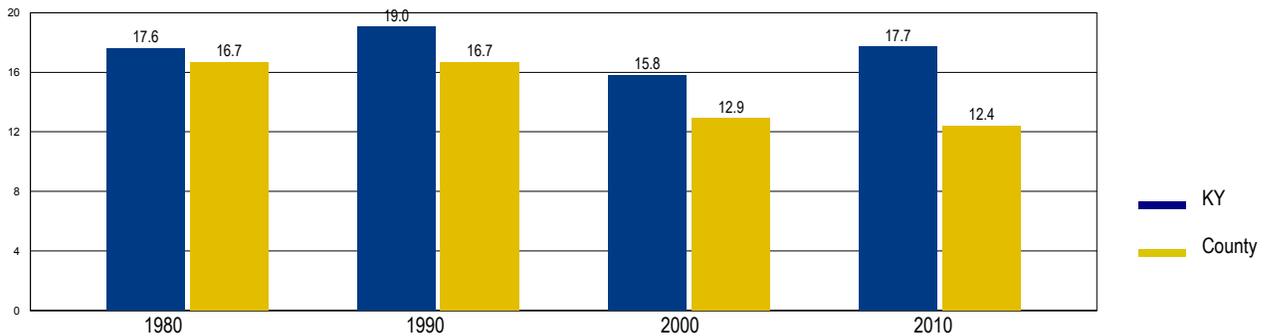
	County	KY
Average GPA for 2010 graduates	2.93	2.84
Average junior year ACT Composite score for 2010 graduates	17.9	18.6
Graduates ready for college level mathematics	28.2%	36.9%
Graduates ready for college level English	45.2%	49.3%
Graduates ready for college level reading	32.7%	41.0%

### What industries provide employment in Mercer County?

#### 2010 Employment by Sector



### 1980-2010 Percentage of Mercer County Households Living in Poverty



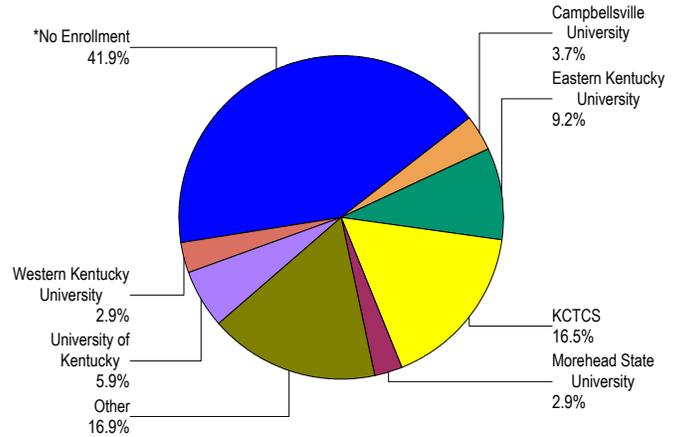


**What is the education pipeline for Mercer County?**

	County	KY
Public K-12 enrollment in 2010-2011	3,449	647,827
Private K-12 enrollment in 2010-2011	191	70,862
Special education population in 2010-2011	504	87,181
Students with free and reduced lunch in 2010-2011	50.1%	55.8%
Students enrolled in Kentucky Virtual High School in 2011-2012	2	756
Public high school graduates in 2009-2010	272	43,711
Kentucky Adult Education enrollments for 2010-2011	129	38,654
GEDs awarded in 2010-2011	57	10,294
High school graduates (public) entering postsecondary education in 2010-2011	154	26,858
In-state college going rate in 2010-2011	52.2%	56.7%
Out-of-state college going rate in 2010-2011	4.4%	4.8%
Students earning a postsecondary certificate or diploma in 2010-2011	49	9,659
Students earning an associate's degree in 2010-2011	35	8,519
Students earning a bachelor's degree in 2010-2011	66	17,019
Students earning a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) in 2010-2011	10	4,265
Students earning a graduate or professional degree in 2010-2011	24	7,138
National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) awarded in 2011	102	11,450
Bachelor's degree six-year graduation rate for 2005 cohort	48.3%	47.7%
Associate's degree three-year graduation rate for 2008 cohort	31.3%	13.8%

**What were the top college choices for Mercer County public high school graduates?**

**2010 Public High School Graduates College Enrollments**

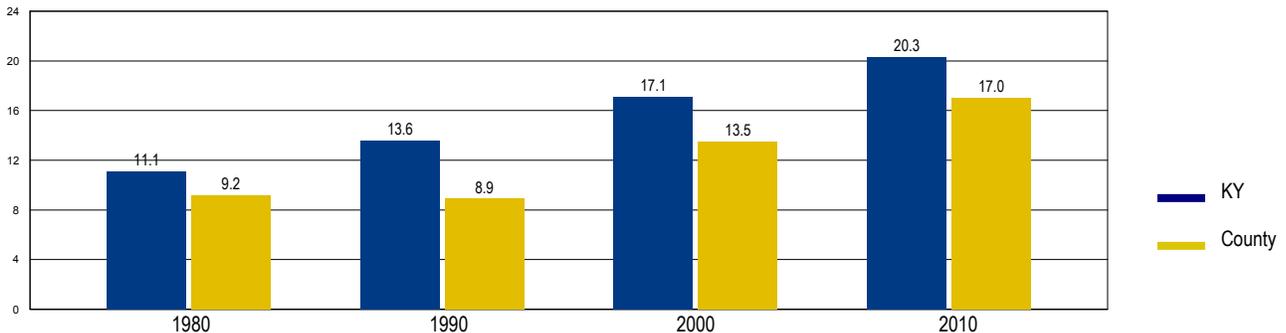


\*This percentage may be slightly understated if students attended more than one institution.

**How much financial aid do college undergraduates from Mercer County receive?**

	Dollars	Awards
Federal grants and scholarship awards for 2010-2011	\$1,800,851	505
Institutional grants and scholarship awards for 2010-2011	\$625,258	124
Kentucky Ed. Excellence Scholarships (KEES) awards for 2010-2011	\$504,064	368
Undergraduate student loans for 2010-2011	\$3,475,890	489

**1980-2010 Percentage of Adults with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Mercer County**



Sources: US Census 2006-2010 American Community Survey, US Department of Education, Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, Kentucky State Board of Elections, US Census Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Program, Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Kentucky Adult Education, and the Council on Postsecondary Education. Complete descriptions of sources and methodologies may be found in the technical notes at the end of the County Profiles or through the Kentucky P-20 Data Collaborative website at the address below: