

# Mercer County

## 2014-2015 Kentucky County Profile

The 2014-2015 County Profile is produced by the Kentucky Center for Education & Workforce Statistics utilizing data from the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System (KLDS), which includes data from the Department of Education, Council on Postsecondary Education, Education Professional Standards Board, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, 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 Areas (WIAs) on demographics, employment, college readiness and educational attainment.

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

	County	KY	US
Total population	21,261	4,380,415	313,914,040
Median household income	\$44,431	\$42,610	\$53,046
Per capita income	\$23,294	\$23,210	\$28,051
Living in poverty	16.6%	18.6%	14.9%
Eligible for Medicaid	17.5%	18.8%	n/a
Without medical insurance	16.0%	16.9%	17.9%
Registered voters who voted in the 2012 general election	60.6%	59.7%	68.0%
Unemployment rate	8.4%	8.2%	8.1%
Access to Broadband Internet	99.9%	95.7%	98.8%

### Are Mercer County public high school graduates prepared for college and career?

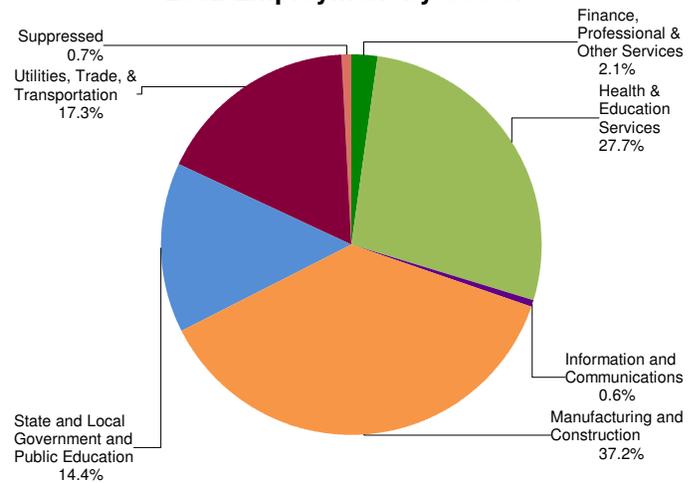
	County	KY
Average junior year ACT Composite score for 2013 graduates	18.2	19.4
Graduates ready for college-level coursework based on junior year ACT		
Mathematics	29.2%	41.6%
English	44.0%	55.7%
Reading	36.8%	44.7%
Science	22.0%	27.2%
Ready for college by graduation	37.0%	49.4%
Ready for career by graduation	10.2%	11.8%
Ready for college and/or career by graduation	43.0%	54.1%
Average GPA for 2013 graduates	2.87	2.88

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

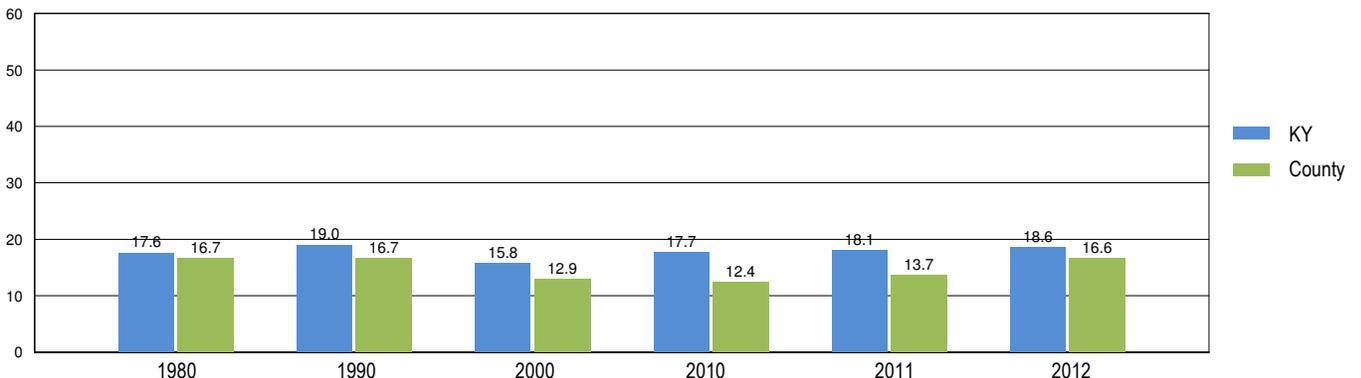
	County	KY	US
Less than a high school diploma or equivalent	16.6%	17.6%	14.3%
High school diploma or equivalent	40.3%	34.0%	28.2%
Some college but no degree	17.6%	20.5%	21.3%
Associate degree	7.7%	6.9%	7.7%
Bachelor's degree	10.2%	12.5%	17.9%
Graduate or professional degree	7.6%	8.5%	10.6%

### What industries provide employment in Mercer County?

#### 2012 Employment by Sector



### Percentage of Mercer County Population Living in Poverty, 1980-2012



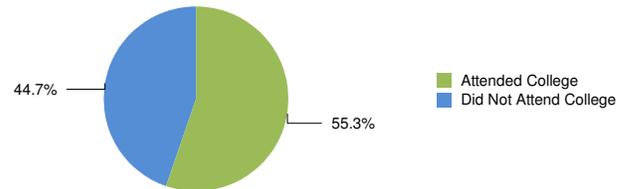


**What is the education pipeline for Mercer County?**

	County	KY
Public K-12 enrollment in 2012-2013	3,348	652,317
Private K-12 enrollment in 2012-2013	174	70,078
Entering students ready for kindergarten in fall 2013	36.0%	49.0%
Special education population in 2012-2013	14.7%	13.2%
Students qualifying for free and reduced lunch in 2012-2013	44.0%	56.6%
Public high school graduates in 2010-2011	273	44,853
Public high school graduates entering postsecondary education in 2011-2012	151	27,014
In-state college going rate in 2011-2012	52.0%	55.4%
Out-of-state college going rate in 2011-2012	4.4%	5.4%
Kentucky Adult Education enrollments for 2011-2012	171	40,300
GEDs awarded in 2011-2012	53	9,826
Students earning a postsecondary certificate or diploma in 2011-2012	45	8,193
Students earning an associate degree in 2011-2012	31	9,187
Students earning a bachelor's degree in 2011-2012	65	15,745
Students earning a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) in 2011-2012	22	4,326
Students earning a graduate or professional degree in 2011-2012	29	7,480
National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) awarded in 2012-2013	132	13,745
Bachelor's degree six-year graduation rate for 2007 cohort	42.7%	54.2%
Associate degree three-year graduation rate for 2010 cohort	2.6%	11.0%

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

**Overall College Going Rates for 2011 Public High School Graduates**



**Top 10 Colleges and Universities Attended**

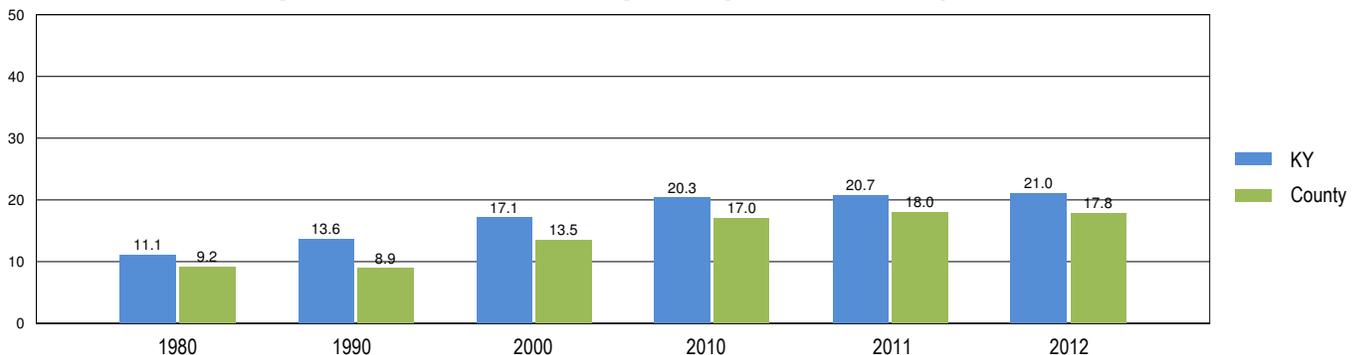
**Number of Enrollments**

College/University	Number of Enrollments
Bluegrass Community & Technical College	54
Eastern Kentucky University	25
University of Kentucky	16
Campbellsville University	10
Western Kentucky University	8
Morehead State University	7
University of Louisville	6
Sullivan University	5
Centre College	3
Kentucky State University	3
Other Institutions	24

**How much financial aid did 2011 public high school graduates from Mercer County receive in 2012?**

	Average	Awards
Kentucky Ed. Excellence Scholarships (KEES)	\$981	229
State need-based grants	\$544	36
State non-need-based grants	\$1,176	101
Federal Pell grants	\$2,398	67
Federal need-based loans	\$1,320	51
Federal non-need-based loans	\$2,360	57
Institutional grants	\$1,353	28

**Percentage of Adults with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Mercer County, 1980-2012**



Sources: US Census 2008-2012 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 Center for Education & Workforce Statistics website at the address below: