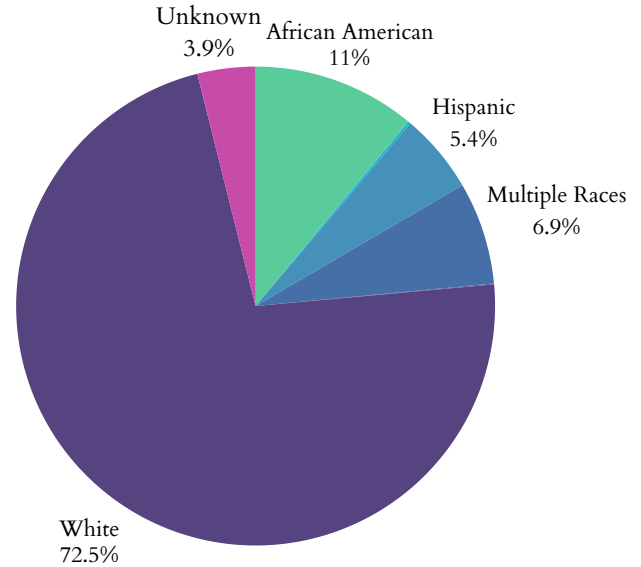


# Kentucky's Children

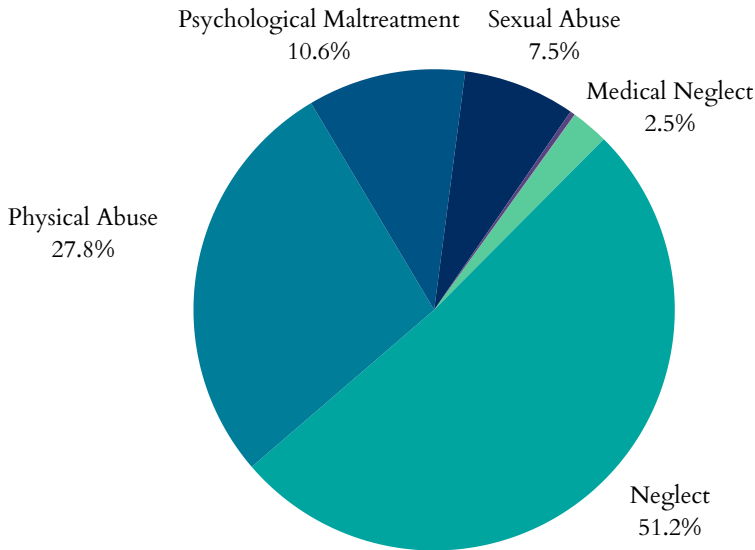
## Child Maltreatment

- In 2024, Kentucky had **91,234** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. **44,353** referrals were screened in for response by CPS.
- **14,505** child victims of abuse or neglect, at a rate of **14.1** children per 1,000 (**13.4%** decrease since 2020).
- Of the **14,505** children, **9,377** were first-time victims.
- Largest age group of victims = **<1 years**, representing **1,756** of the **14,505** cases.

## Child Victims by Race and Ethnicity, 2024



## Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2024



## Perpetrators of child maltreatment (2024):

- **59.3%** = parents of the child.
- **40.7%** = non-parents or unknown relationship.

## Child victims (2024):

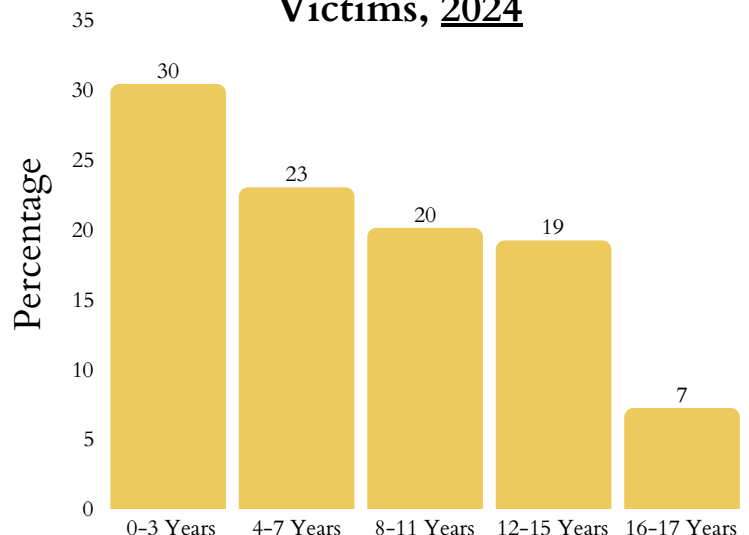
- **49.9%** = female; **49.5%** = male.

- Child fatalities increased from **5** in 2023 to **16** in 2024.
- Kentucky reported **64** total child victims of sex trafficking.
- Post-response services given to **11,855** victims and **805** non-victims.

## Workforce

There are **7,140** children, family, and school social workers in Kentucky with a mean wage of **\$22.30** (compared to Kentucky's 2024 minimum wage: **\$7.25**)

## Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2024

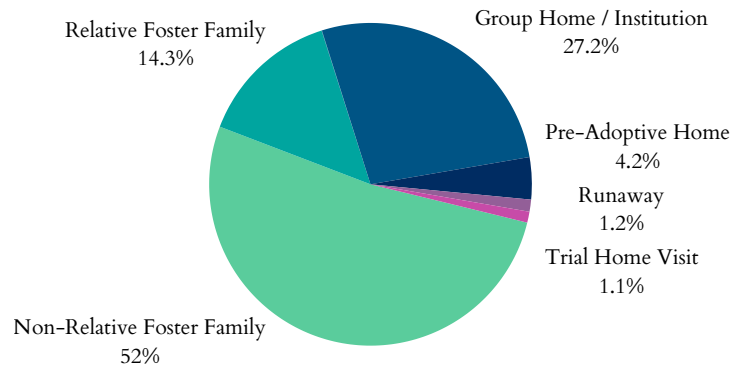


# Kentucky's Children

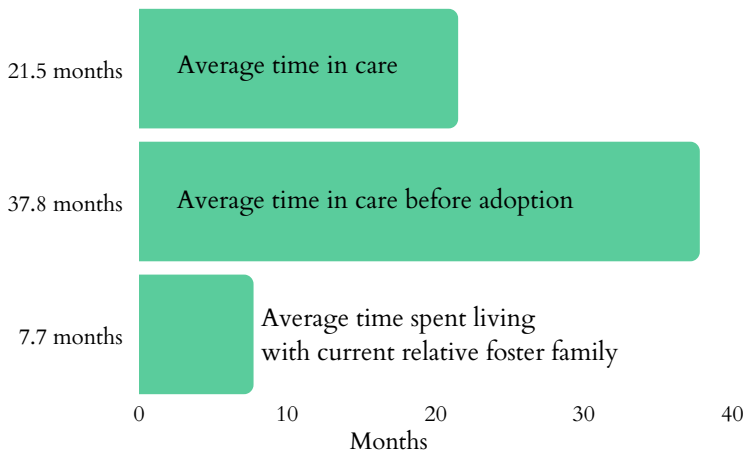
## Foster Care and Adoptions

- **12,732** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2024.
- **8,239** children in care as of 09/30/2024.
- During FY 2024, **5,040** children entered care and **4,493** exited.
- **1,254** children were adopted; **1,784** had a permanency plan for adoption.
- **4.5%** increase in the number of children in care and a **8.6%** increase in the number of children adopted from care from FY 2023-2024.

### Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2023



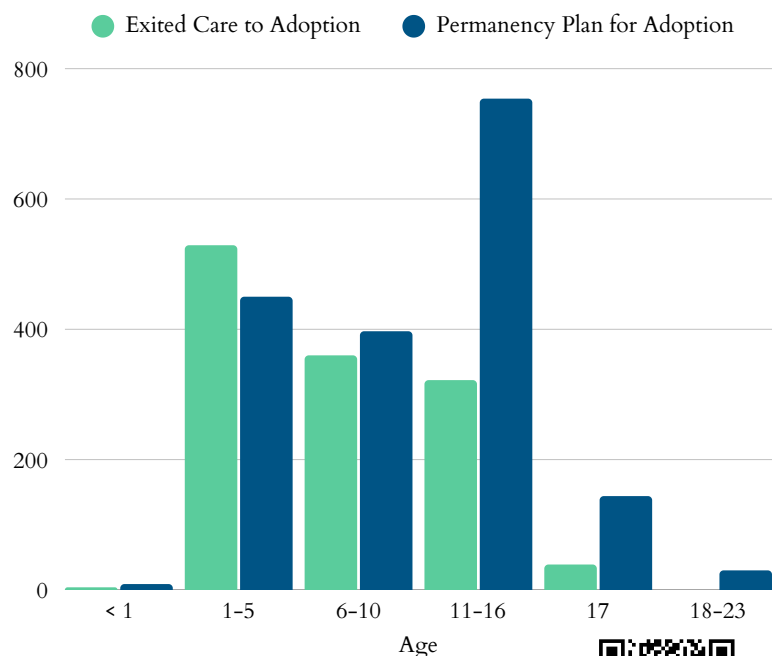
### Duration in Care, 2023



- In 2023, **4,090** children were living with non-relative foster families; **1,123** stayed with a relative.
- **2,137** children were staying in group homes or institutions; **95** children were classified as runaways.
- There are **96,378** grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18. Of those, **50.8%** are responsible for their grandchildren.

In FY 2024, **370** children transitioned from foster care to independence. This is a **19.4%** decrease from **459** in FY 2023

### Age Distribution of Adoptions, 2024



### Juvenile Justice

- **3,181** total arrests for youth under 18 in 2023
- A total of **486** youth were in a correctional placement in 2023; a **63.6%** increase since 2021
  - **19.8%** of the youth are ≤ 14 years old
    - **34.4%** are Black youth
    - **46.9%** are White youth
  - **85.2%** males and **14.8%** females
- Black youth represent **43.8%** of all correctional placements; **44.4%** for White youth in 2023

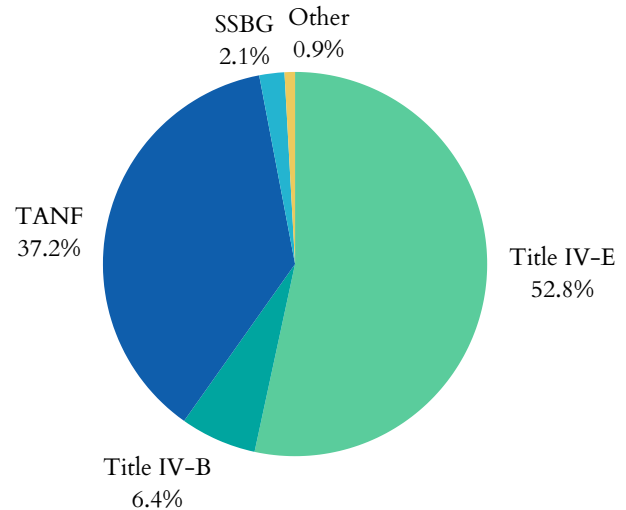


# Kentucky's Children

## Funding for Child Welfare Services

- Kentucky spent **\$237,183,506.05** on child welfare services in 2022\*.
  - Child welfare services = direct and administrative services
- **\$165,030,938.00** = from the federal government.
- **\$72,152,568.05** = from state and local funds.

## Federal Funding Sources, 2020

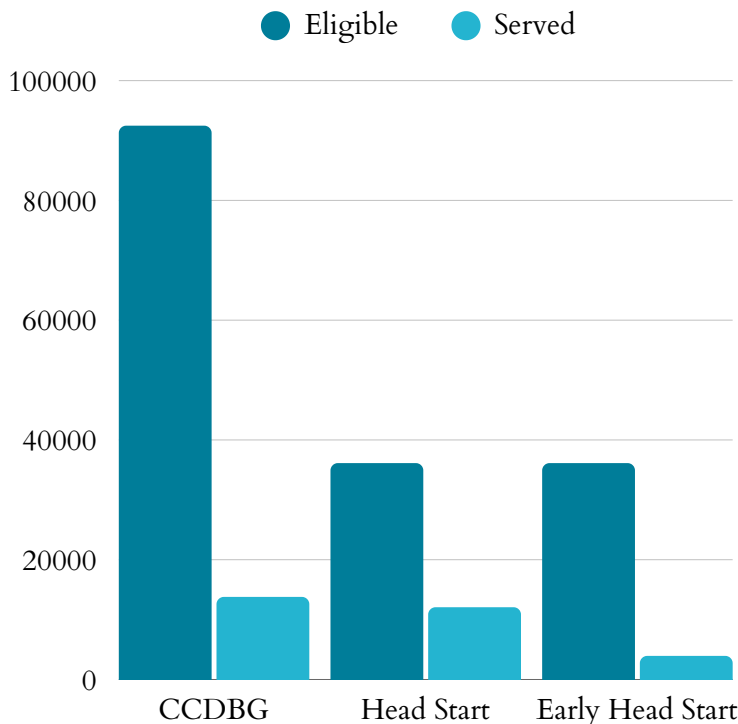


The significant funding sectors of the **\$165,030,938.00** in federal funding received in Kentucky in 2022:

- **\$47,260,039** as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- **\$91,045,615** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Kentucky's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2022 was **\$21,601,463**

\*Kentucky's child welfare funding data is estimated based on HHS data.

## Child Care & Early Learning



- **33%** of Head Start eligible children are served
- **11%** of Early Head Start eligible children are served
- **15%** of Child Care & Development Block Grant eligible children 5 and under are served

- **\$12,740** annual cost of center-based infant care
- **\$9,880** annual cost of home-based infant care

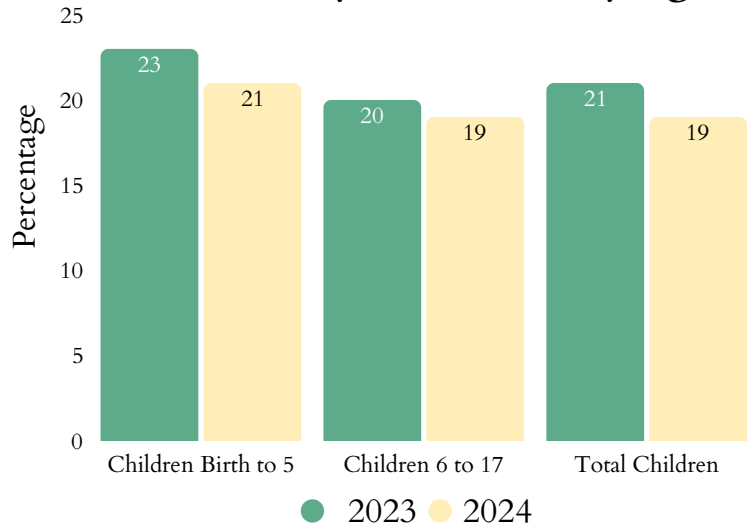


# Kentucky's Children

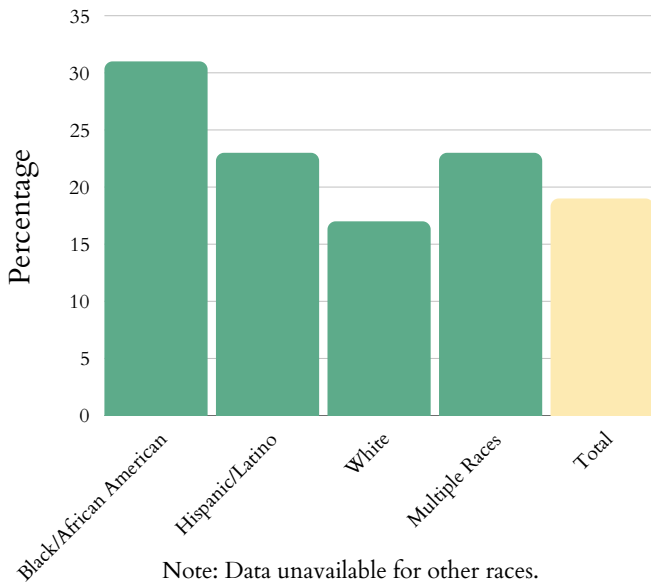
## Child Poverty

- **297,000** children lived with parents who lacked secure employment in 2023 (29% of all children).
- Average number of TANF recipients rose from **33,440** in 2024 to **38,873** in 2025 (16.2% increase).

### Child Poverty Over Time by Age



### Child Poverty by Race or Ethnicity, 2024

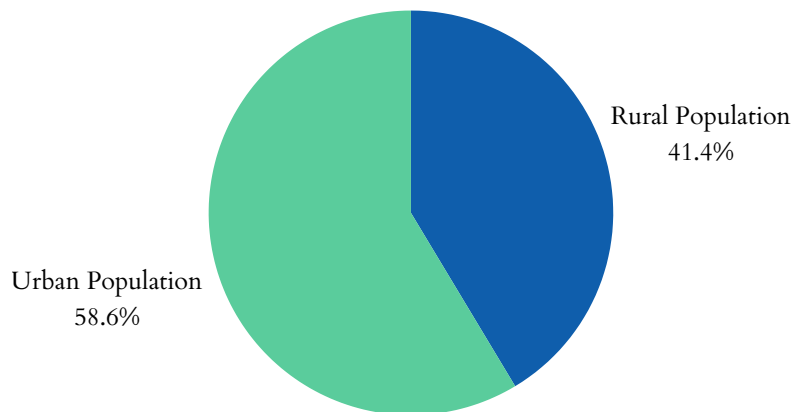


- The state spent **\$79,822,736** on WIC in 2025, serving **107,971** people: a 2.4% increase in total participants and an 4.9% increase in spending since 2024.
- **753,410** people were food insecure in 2023, including **213,830** children.
- **40.6%** of households receiving SNAP benefits had children.

## Housing

- **7,611** children, from birth to three-years-old, experienced homelessness in 2023 (3.63%).
- **33%** of households receiving the Low Income Housing Tax Credit report having at least one member under 18 in 2023.
- **23%** of children lived in households with a high housing cost burden in 2023.
- **35,847** total Kentucky residents living in public housing in 2025.

### Total Urban vs. Rural Population of Kentucky, 2020

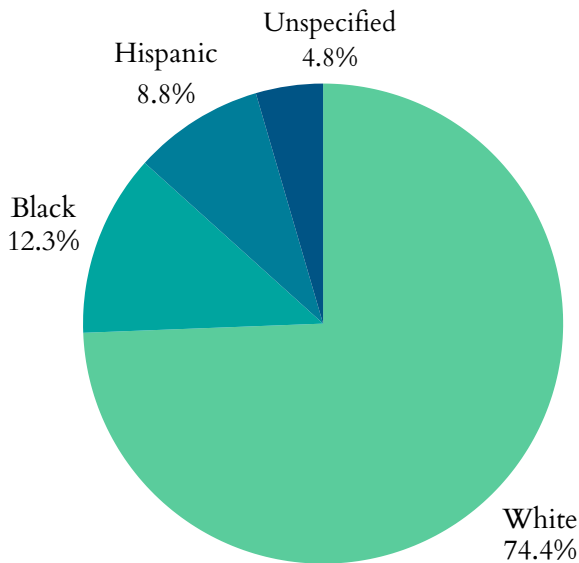


# Kentucky's Children

## Health

- **4,597** low birth-weight babies (<5.5lbs) were born in 2023 (8.8% of births).
- **5,861** preterm births (<37wks) in 2023 (11.28%).
  - 10.99% of all White babies
  - 14.59% of all Black babies
- **2,976** births to mothers aged 15–19 in 2023—a rate of 21 in every 1,000 teen girls.
- **343** infants aged <1yr died in 2023—a rate of 6.6 per 1,000.

### Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2023



## Medicaid Expansion

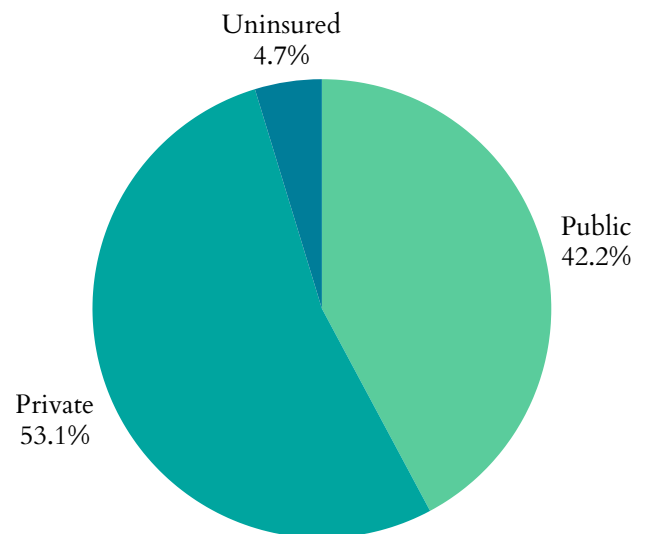
Kentucky became a Medicaid expansion state on 1/1/2014.

## Maternal Mortality

- From 2018 to 2022, **91** Kentucky women died while pregnant or within 42 days post-pregnancy from any cause relating to or aggravated by said pregnancy, excluding accidents and incidents.
- For every 100,000 live births in Kentucky, there are **35** maternal deaths.

- **54,000** children had no health insurance in 2024 (45.9% decrease from 2023).
- **479,000** children were enrolled in Medicaid in 2024 (3.8% decrease from 2023).
- **123,953** children in Kentucky were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2021 (22.4% increase from 2020).

### Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2024

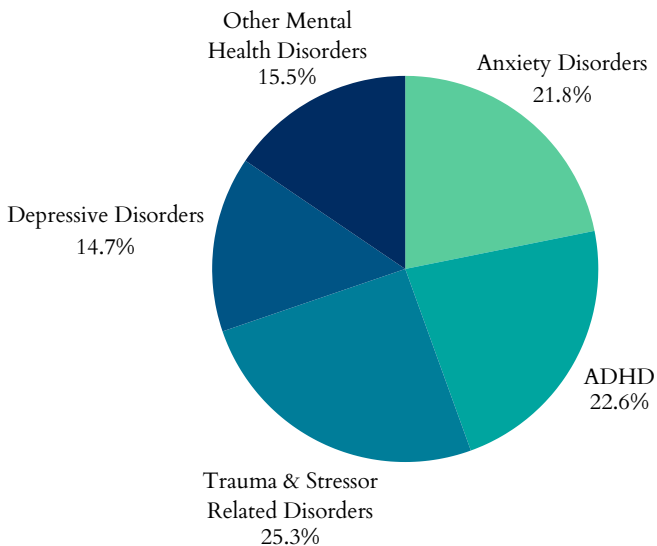


# Kentucky's Children

## Zero to Three

- **53%** of babies live above low-income
- **23.4%** of babies live at low income
- **23.6%** of babies live in poverty
- **12.9%** of babies live in deep poverty
- **79.8%** of new parents have at least one parent working full time

### Top 5 Mental Health Diagnoses Among Children, 2023



## Prenatal Substance Exposure

- In 2024, Kentucky reported **481** infants screened in with prenatal substance exposure.
- Kentucky reported **114** plans of safe care for screened-in infants.

## Family First

- Plan approved on **October 1, 2019**
- **2,556** children were served in 2023
  - **\$874.30** spent per child on direct-services
- **\$5,841,834** pulled down from Title IV-E
  - **\$3,156,841** (19.1% in admin/training costs)
  - **\$13,405,646** (81.9% in direct-service costs)

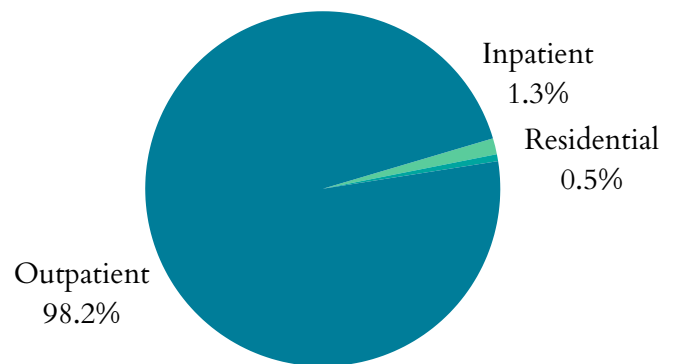
## Teens & Youth

- **20,000** youth (16-19yrs) were not in school nor working in 2024 (8%)
- **58** children <19yrs were killed by a firearm in Kentucky in 2024.

## Mental Health

- **48,260** children received mental health treatment in Kentucky in 2023 (2.6%)
- From 2021-2023, there were **12.3** deaths from suicide per 100,000 adolescents aged 15-19 in Kentucky.

### Treatment Type for Youth with Substance Use Disorder, 2024



## Substance Use

- From 2015 to 2019, an average of **58,393** children in Kentucky (4.9% of the state's child population) lived with parents having a substance use disorder.
- On March 29, 2024, **4,446** clients 18 and under were in treatment for SUD.

