



# Community Resilience and Disasters

## Simpson County



Kentucky: By The Numbers  
<https://kybtn.mgcafe.uky.edu>

Julie N. Zimmerman and Jeff Young, 2026

In general, resilience refers to the ability to respond and recover from a disaster. While it can be tempting to see vulnerability and resilience as opposite sides of the same coin, this is not always the case. A community with a large vulnerable population can still have high levels of resilience.

In addition to providing data from the **2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates**, this issue of Kentucky: By The Numbers includes two maps as a way to visualize county results from the Community Resilience Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau) and the Community Resilience component of the FEMA National Risk Index which uses a different measure of resilience.

For additional data, the **Kentucky: By The Numbers data series** includes detailed data compiled for the Statewide Extension Community Needs Assessment as well as other topic-specific issues that contain data for each county and the state. These can be found at the Kentucky: By The Numbers website.

*For counties with small populations and small population groups, the margins of error (indicated by a +/- \_\_\_) can be quite large. The **margin of error** tells us how precise the estimate is by indicating the **range within which the estimate most likely falls**. For help in understanding the margin of error, see the brief Kentucky: By The Numbers publication "And Now for the Grain of Salt."*

### Data from the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population 25 years and older who have a graduate or professional degree	840	(+/- 218)
Population 25 years and older who have bachelor's degree or higher	2,241	(+/- 335)
Population 25 years and older who high school graduate or higher	11,927	(+/- 306)
Number of Households with a computer	7,118	(+/- 321)
Percent of Households with a computer	92.6%	(+/- 2.9)
Percent of Households with one or more smartphones	85.2%	(+/- 3.5)
Percent of population that has a broadband internet subscription	85.7%	(+/- 3.5)
Percent of households with broadband via cellular data plan	76.5%	(+/- 4.4)
Percent of households with broadband via cable, fiber optic, or DSL	66.1%	(+/- 4.3)
Percent of households with broadband via Satellite	7.1%	(+/- 2.0)
Percent of Occupied Housing Units where Householder moved into current housing in 1989 or earlier	10.1%	(+/- 2.1)

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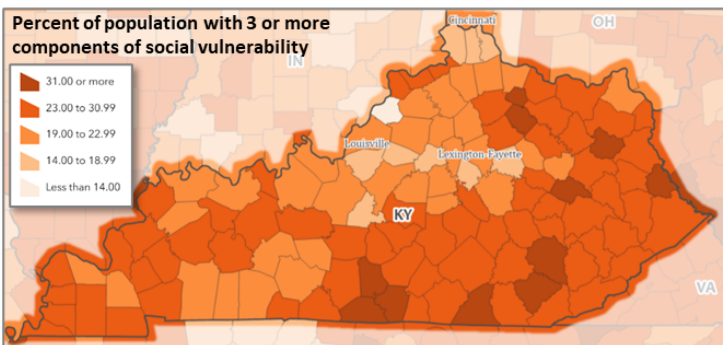


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On some websites, you can zoom in to see below the county level.

## Community Resilience Estimates (U.S. Census Bureau)



<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/community-resilience-estimates.html>

The Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) from the Census Bureau uses micro data to develop “a tool to identify socio-economic vulnerabilities within populations.” By identifying the percent of the population with **1, 2, or 3 or more components of social vulnerability**, the estimates can identify “concentrations likely to... have greater difficulties overcoming disasters.” Factors include a lack of health insurance and a household with no one employed.

To measure community resilience, the National Risk Index uses data from the University of South Carolina, Baseline Resilience Indicators for Communities (BRIC). These data cover “six broad categories of community disaster resilience: social, economic, community capital, institutional, infrastructural, and environmental.”

## Community Resilience (FEMA National Risk Index)



<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/community-resilience-estimates.html>

**Kentucky: By The Numbers** is an Extension program in the Department of Community and Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky. For more information contact your local Cooperative Extension office or Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman, Professor of Rural Sociology, Department of Community and Leadership Development, 500 Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215. email: [jzimm@uky.edu](mailto:jzimm@uky.edu). The entire series is online at <https://kybtn.mgcafe.uky.edu>

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