

DESCRIPTION OF KENTUCKY

Kentucky is located in the south central United States along the west side of the Appalachian Mountains. Its area of 40,411 square miles includes some of the most diverse topography in the eastern half of the nation. The eastern part of the state, the Eastern Coal Field, is a rugged, mountainous area covered with forests and dissected by streams. In the gently rolling central part of the state, the Bluegrass region to the north and the Mississippi Plateau to the south are separated by a chain of low, steep hills, the Knobs. The western part of the state, the Western Coal Field, is comprised of less rugged mountains enclosed by the Mississippi Plateau. The southwest corner of the state, the Jackson Purchase, is a low flat plain. Kentucky is bordered by seven states. The potential for interstate transmission of disease is high.

Using census data, the Kentucky State Data Center at the University of Louisville estimates that 4,065,556 persons resided in Kentucky in 2001. Over one-fourth of the Kentucky population lives in the three urban counties of Jefferson, Fayette, and Kenton.

A high percentage of the population in Kentucky uses public health departments for health care needs. Each of the 120 counties in the state has at least one local health department site at which major preventive services are provided. Several of the local health departments offer primary care services.

The Area Development Districts (ADD) are statutory groupings of Kentucky's 120 counties into multi-county planning districts. These 15 districts provide technical planning and assistance to cities and counties and serve as local clearinghouses for federally funded programs.