

US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET



Kentucky



Comparison at same scale

Kentucky
Area: 40,411 sq. miles
Population: 4.0 million

Colombia
Area: 439,737 sq. miles
Population: 40 million

Largest metropolitan areas by population (1998):
Louisville (999,267), Lexington (449,645), Owensboro (91,139)



Colombia

Largest urban areas by population (2000): Santa Fe de Bogotá (6,288,000), Medellín (2,951,000), Cali (2,710,000)

Kentucky and Colombia faced considerable turmoil before achieving statehood and independence. After the French and Indian wars, Kentucky was a Virginian county before achieving statehood in 1792. Likewise, after independence in 1819, Colombia was included in a larger country called Gran Colombia and subsequently lost territory in what was to become independent Panama. Since these troubled times, the challenges faced by Kentucky and Colombia have become more economic and environmental in nature. Agriculture, mining, and manufacturing have resulted in the pollution of soil and waterways in Kentucky. Meanwhile, Colombia, one of the world's most biologically rich countries, has experienced habitat loss and soil degradation as a result of pesticide use and deforestation. Consequently, almost half of its

813 endemic higher species are now listed as threatened.

The topography of both Kentucky and Colombia ranges from high elevations to lowlands. Kentucky's surface features include the Appalachian and Interior Plateaus, and the Gulf Coastal Plain. It has more miles of running water than any other state in the continental United States and one of the most extensive cave systems in the world. Natural habitats have been altered to clear land for agriculture, dam building, and coal mining; and rivers have been degraded by runoff pollution. Only 1 percent of Kentucky's land is protected, and 33 animal and nine plant species are listed as endangered or threatened.

In Colombia, Andean highlands give way to Caribbean and Pacific lowlands on either coast and a tropical rainforest in the east. The country

ranks seventh in the world for the diversity of species it is home to. Though 8 percent of the country is protected from development, public investment in the preservation and maintenance of natural reserves is low by global standards and less than the average for South America.

Agriculture plays a major role in the economies of both locations. Kentucky has the fourth largest number of farms in the nation, and the greatest concentration of thoroughbred horse breeding farms in the world. It is the world's leading producer of whiskey, grows one-quarter of the U.S. tobacco crop, and is a leader in corn and soybean production. Colombia is the world's second largest producer of coffee; grows most of the cut flowers imported by the United States; and also exports cocoa, cotton, and bananas. Despite recent progress in the war against drug

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KENTUCKY

Demographic and Health Trends

- Kentucky has grown slightly more slowly than the nation as a whole during the last decade. Between 1990 and 1999, the “Bluegrass State” grew by 7 percent, from 3.7 million to 4.0 million.

- Like many other southern states, Kentucky grew during the 1990s because of net migration. An estimated 113,000 people, most of them arriving from other parts of the United

States, relocated to Kentucky during the past decade.

- The percentage of total births to mothers who smoked while pregnant is high in Kentucky, almost 25 percent, compared with the national average of just over 13 percent. Smoking during pregnancy can lead to low birth weight and to infant mortality.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Kentucky has 33 animals on the endangered and threatened list, including the Kentucky cave shrimp, the red-cockaded woodpecker, and three species of bats. Cumberland rosemary and Short’s goldenrod are among the state’s nine endangered or threatened plants.

- Despite efforts since the early 1970s to restore water, one-third of Kentucky’s rivers and lakes still were found to have pollution problems in 1997. The north fork of the Kentucky River, the Upper Cumberland

River, and the Licking River are three of the state’s most polluted waterways.

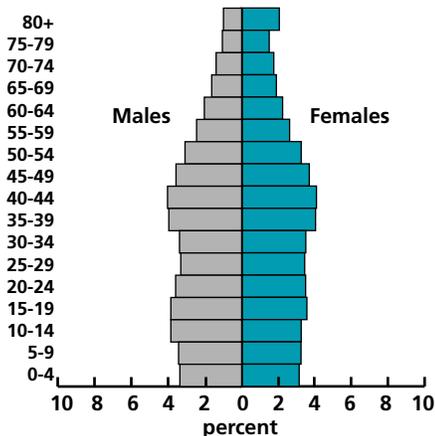
- Since 1980, there have been major reductions in the level of exposure to ground-level ozone. However, studies show that 12 counties—primarily around Louisville, Lexington, and the suburbs near Cincinnati and Evansville—are apt to exceed new stricter standards for ground-level ozone.

Socioeconomic Factors

- As they were a century ago, tobacco, whiskey, and coal remain important industries. However, there has been greater diversification in recent years. Louisville is a major health care center and the hub for the United Parcel Service, while the Lexington area has become a center of white-collar businesses.

- About 18 percent of Kentuckians were poor in 1996, a figure that masks a wide range of poverty rates. While fast growing Oldham, Boone, Anderson, and Woodford counties had poverty rates under 10 percent, 23 counties in eastern Kentucky had rates equal to or above 30 percent.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

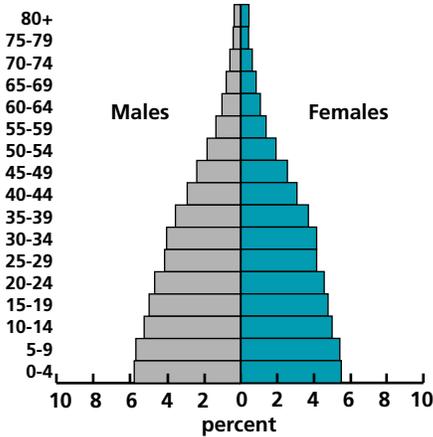


KENTUCKY FACTS

Population, 1999: 4.0 million
Projected population, 2025: 4.3 million
Annual growth rate: 0.7%
Doubling time (at current rate): 100 years
Average number of children per woman: 1.9
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 7.3
Life expectancy: 71 (male), 78 (female)
Persons per square mile: 100
Percent urban: 52
Endangered/threatened animals: 33 species
Endangered/threatened plants: 9 species
Percent of land protected: 1
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 81%
Daily water use per capita: 1,145 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 12%
Water use for agriculture: 1%
Water use for industry: 8%
Water use for energy production: 78%
Cropland per capita: 3.3 acres
Energy use per capita: 79.8 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 1.4
Adults who are high school graduates: 78%
Elected officials who are women: 11%
Labor force in agriculture: 7%
Labor force in industry: 22%
Labor force in services: 71%
Gross State Product, 1997: \$25,607 per capita

COLOMBIA

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



COLOMBIA FACTS

Population, 2000: 40 million
Projected population, 2025: 58.3 million
Annual growth rate: 2.0%
Doubling time (at current rate): 35 years
Average number of children per woman: 3
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 28
Life expectancy: 65 (male), 73 (female)
Persons per square mile: 91
Percent urban: 71
Threatened animals: 119 species
Threatened plants: 376 species
Percent of land protected: 8.2
Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.
Percent with access to safe water: 85
Percent with adequate sanitation: 85
Daily water use per capita: 126 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 41%
Water use for agriculture: 43%
Water use for industry: 16%
Cropland per capita: 0.3 acres
Energy use per capita: 4.0 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 25
Percent of girls in secondary school: 75
Percent of boys in secondary school: 70
Women as % of national legislature: 12
Labor force in agriculture: 27%
Labor force in industry: 23%
Labor force in services: 50%
GDP per capita, 1998: US\$2,233

Demographic and Health Trends

- In the 1950s, Colombian women had on average between six and seven children; today the average is three.
- Colombia's population is projected to grow by 46 percent between 2000 and 2025, compared with 35 percent for South America overall. A large young population (see graph at left) will lead to continued population growth as these youths become parents.
- One in every 36 Colombian children does not live to its first birthday. Immunization rates among infants for tuberculosis, polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus are 10 to 15 percentage points lower than those for all of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Colombia boasts the world's highest number of known breeding bird species—1,695. Twenty-nine of the country's 359 mammals are found nowhere else. Many of these species, however, such as the Amazonian manatee, plumbeous forest falcon, sapphire-bellied hummingbird, Santa-Marta parakeet, and indigo-winged parrot, are threatened by habitat loss.
- Colombia's annually renewable water per capita is over three times the U.S. level, but per capita water withdrawals in Colombia are just 11 percent of those in the United States.
- Commercial energy consumption in Colombia is 1 percent of that in the United States. Colombia's use of commercial forms of energy has increased 49 percent since 1985.

Socioeconomic Factors

- Official development assistance from other countries accounts for less than 1 percent (0.2 percent) of Colombia's gross national product (GNP) and amounts to US\$7 per capita.
- Since 1980, adult literacy rates have increased from 86 percent to 91 percent for men and from 84 percent to 90 percent for women. Colombia spends 4.4 percent of the country's GNP on public education. This level compares favorably with 3.7 percent for all of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The richest 10 percent of Colombians receive almost half of the country's income; in the United States, the richest 10 percent of people receive just over one-quarter. In both Colombia and the United States, the poorest 40 percent of the population get less than one-sixth of the country's income.

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cartels, Colombia remains the world's largest producer of coca derivatives, and illegal drugs still account for 10 percent of the country's economy. The future of the agricultural sector is threatened by soil exhaustion and erosion, resulting from slash-and-burn farming, and by low international commodity prices.

Both Kentucky and Colombia rely heavily on mining. Kentucky extracts a third of the coal in the United States, in addition to gas, oil, and gems. Oil (the main export product), gas, and coal are also plentiful in Colombia, as are precious metals and emeralds. High urban density in both areas—52 percent in Kentucky and almost 71 percent in Colombia—is partly the result of jobs provided by strong manufacturing sectors.

A low population growth rate, coupled with increased awareness of environmental issues, bodes well for the preservation and rehabilitation of natural habitats in Kentucky. From 1988 to 1995, toxic chemical discharge decreased by almost half. Likewise, whereas three out of four rivers were deemed too polluted to provide drinking water in the mid-1970s, only one out of four was seen as too polluted 20 years later. Poverty, however, remains a

concern. Colombia faces even more difficult challenges. It is currently the second most populated country in South America, and its population could double in 35 years at current rates. Its government also has to battle recurring economic crises and social disruption stemming from the drug trade.

Responding to Challenges

In 1996, the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development began a five-year Sustainable Communities Initiative in partnership with several Kentucky counties. The initiative encourages citizens to pursue economic activities that do not damage the environment, and to implement sustainable forestry and land management techniques. An environmental group, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, recently persuaded several timber and coal companies to sell or donate their rights to cut trees and mine coal on Kentucky's highest peak, Black Mountain.

In Colombia, nongovernmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and Fundación Natura are cooperating with government officials and local indigenous communities to protect Cahuinari National Park by implementing community-based pro-

People in Kentucky and Colombia, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

tection and management programs. Before the program closed in 1981, the U.S. Peace Corps sent over 5,200 volunteers to Colombia. ■

DEFINITIONS: **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion, of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion, of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP. **Commercial energy** includes energy from solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels, plus primary electricity. **Traditional energy** includes fuelwood, charcoal, bagasse, and animal and vegetal wastes.

SOURCES: Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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