Building Strong Families for Kentucky

. . . . . in Butler County

Tracy Thornton, County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families in Butler County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices
Nurturing Families
Embracing Life as You Age
Securing Financial Stability
Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities
Accessing Nutritious Food
Empowering Community Leaders

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made 4,850 contacts with Butler County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People
The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as 13,010.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0-17</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18-61</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 62 and over</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=13,010)

Spotlight on . . .

Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities

Being prepared to handle disasters and emergencies is an important practice. To ensure that local citizens safe and informed, a Disaster Preparedness Summit was held with leadership from the FCS agent. The Summit provided training on severe weather preparedness, fire extinguisher use, individual and family disaster planning, assembling a disaster supplies kit, electrical safety during a disaster, and an introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Neighborhood Watch, and Medical Reserve Corps. The Summit will become an annual event held in September.¹
Our Families
Using data from the 2000 U.S. Census, Butler County families can be described as follows:2

- 3,718 families reside in the county.
- 488 families (13.1%) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is $35,317.
- 126 grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 2,247 people in Butler County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is $199.76 per month.3

In the county, 55 children live in out-of-home care.4 In 2004, there were 5 incidents of adult abuse and 25 incidents of child abuse.5

**As a result of participation in Butler County Extension programs:**1

- 170 adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- 7 people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- 76 people used safe practices to store, handle and prepare food.
- 292 food stamp eligible or recipient families consumed more fruits and vegetables daily.

Our Community
Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In September 2008, the rate of unemployment in Butler County was 7.7%. This represented a 31% increase from the September 2007 level of 5.9%.6

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Butler County, 90-day mortgage delinquency rates have increased by 609% and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by 19%.7

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Butler County, 14% of the people under age 65 are uninsured.8

**As a result of participation in Butler County Extension programs:**4

- 27 people expanded their knowledge of economic development.
- 233 citizens enhanced their leadership skills by participation in leadership programs.
- 488 adults and youth utilized improved communication, problem solving, and group process skills to address community needs.
- 148 people were involved in addressing issues of their community.

Our Health
The health of our people contributes to quality of life. The chart below illustrates health risks of adults in Butler County.

**Figure 2. Health Risks:**6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosed with Diabetes</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Physical Activity</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**As a result of participation in Butler County Extension programs:**1

- 469 people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health.
- 278 people implemented new practices to maintain health and well-being.
- Butler County Extension is involved in 15 community coalitions.

Sources
3 Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Data Book, June 2008.
4 Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kentucky KIDS COUNT, 2005.
5 Kentucky Department for Public Health, County Health Priorities, 2004.
7 TransUnion LLC, Trend Data, Quarter 1 2008.
8 Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.