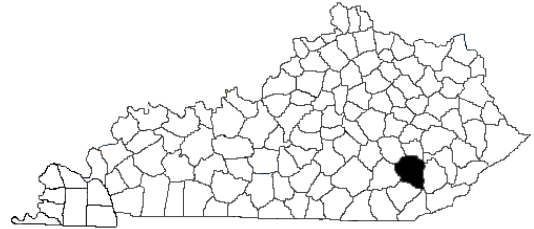


Building Strong Families for Kentucky

..... in Clay County

Lora Lee Howard, 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 Clay County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

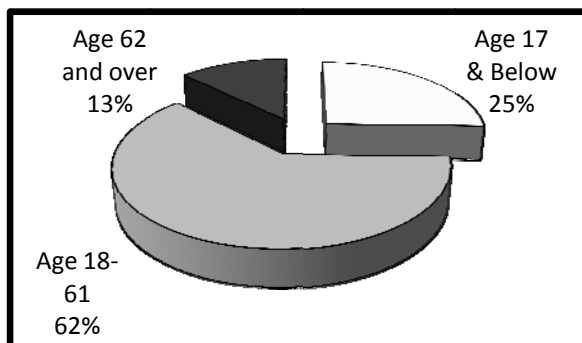
- Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices***
- Nurturing Families***
- Embracing Life as You Age***
- Securing Financial Stability***
- Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities***
- Accessing Nutritious Food***
- Empowering Community Leaders***

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **13,179** contacts with Clay County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People

The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **24,556**.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=24,556)



Spotlight on . . .

Securing Financial Stability



A Small Business Entrepreneurial Committee, made up members of Chamber of Commerce, City of Manchester, Daniel Boone Development Agency and the local bank, was established by the Clay County FCS agent. The committee sponsored Small Business Success Day with participation by twenty-three small business owners or potential small business owners. As a direct result, one small business received a business loan from a local bank, one business found a location for their business. A few of the comments included: "This has been a good start for me"; "This has given me material needed to write a business plan". Three more sessions are planned: E-commerce, Marketing Fundamentals, and Financing.¹

Our Families

Using data from the 2000 U.S. Census, Clay County families can be described as follows:²

- **6,446** families reside in the county.
- **2,280** families (**35.4%**) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$18,925**.
- **338** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **8,405** people in Clay County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$195.32** per month.³

In the county, **46** children live in out-of-home care.⁴ In 2004, there were **13** incidents of adult abuse and **149** incidents of child abuse.⁵

As a result of participation in Clay County Extension programs:¹

- **550** adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **25** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- **45** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **325** people gained knowledge about safe storage, handling and preparation of food.
- **100%** of food stamp recipients or eligible recipients enrolled in the nutrition education program improved their diet.

Our Community

Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In September 2008, the rate of unemployment in Clay County was **10%**. This represented a **4%** increase from the September 2007 level of **9.6%**.⁶

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Clay County, **1.17%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and **2.13%** of bank cards are 60-days delinquent.⁷ In a six-month period (May through October 2008), **23** foreclosures were filed.⁸

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Clay County, **22%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁹

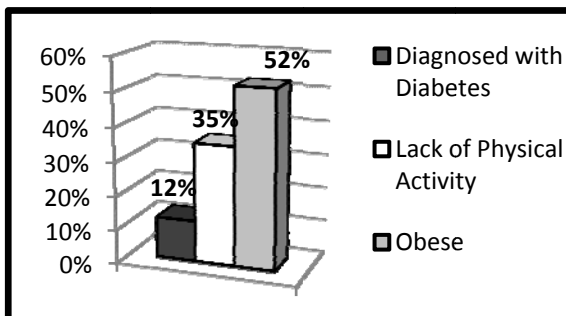
As a result of participation in Clay County Extension programs:¹

- **423** citizens enhanced their leadership skills by participation in leadership programs.
- **348** adults and youth utilized improved communication, problem solving, and group process skills to address community needs.

Our Health

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

Figure 2. Health Risks.⁹



As a result of participation in Clay County Extension programs:¹

- **1,100** people gained knowledge and skills to make lifestyle changes to improve their health.
- **250** people implemented new practices to maintain health and well-being.
- **20** people increased their use of radon testers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and other devices to ensure personal safety.

Sources

¹ Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Impacting Reporting, FY2008.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

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.

⁶ Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, Kentucky Labor Force Estimates, September 2008.

⁷ TransUnion LLC., Trend Data, Quarter 1 2008.

⁸ Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, November, 2008.

⁹ Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.