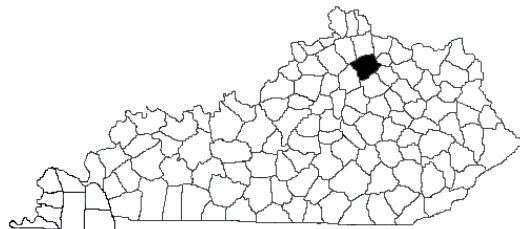


Building Strong Families for Kentucky

..... in Harrison County

Cheryl Case, 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 Harrison County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

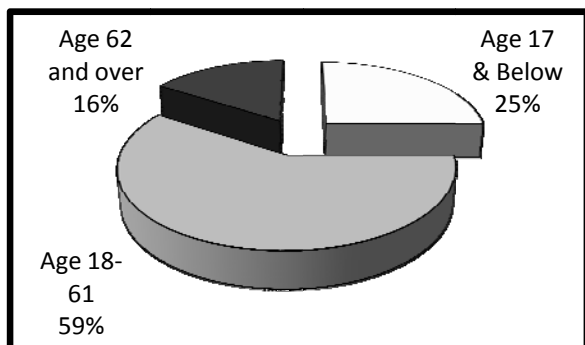
- Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices***
- Nurturing Families***
- Embracing Life as You Age***
- Securing Financial Stability***
- Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities***
- Accessing Nutritious Food***
- Empowering Community Leaders***

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **20,682** contacts with Harrison County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People

The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **17,983**.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=17,983)



Spotlight on . . .

Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices



Harrison County Extension convened a network for community leaders and served as a primary sponsor of the first annual Healthy Informed Men program attended by 88 men. Cash and in-kind donations totaling \$1,800 were secured to support the program. Written evaluations following the program indicated 100% gained information on when to go to the doctor, heart disease, prostate health, and urinary health; and 71% rated the program as very helpful or helpful. Behavior changes planned include “will seek further information,” “going to the doctor for checkups more,” and “going for further treatment or screenings.” Other men responded that the best part was meeting with other people with the same problems, receiving trustworthy information, and participating in a gender specific program.¹

Our Families

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

- **5,060** families reside in the county.
- **478 families (9.4%)** live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$42,065**.
- **149** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **2,688** people in Harrison County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$233.50** per month.³

In the county, **21** children live in out-of-home care.⁴ In 2004, there were **8** incidents of adult abuse and **29** incidents of child abuse.⁵

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

- **4,379** food stamp eligible or recipient families consumed more fruits and vegetables daily.
- **1,000** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- **275** adult, dependent, and child care providers increased their care giving knowledge.
- **1,000** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.

Our Community

Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In September 2008, the rate of unemployment in Harrison County was **6.4%**. This represented a **33%** increase from the September 2007 level of **4.8%**.⁶

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Harrison County, 90-day mortgage delinquency rates have increased by **40%** and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **92%**.⁷ In a six-month period (May through October 2008), **47** foreclosures were filed.⁸

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Harrison County, **12%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁹

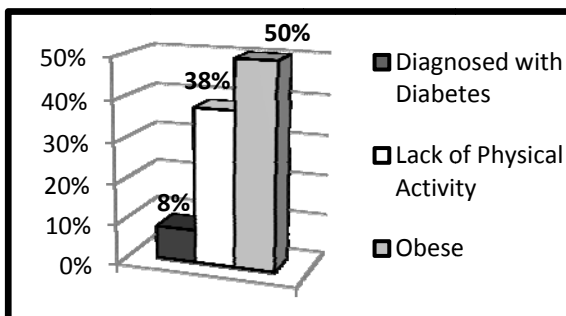
As a result of participation in Harrison County Extension programs:¹

- **750** people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- Harrison County Extension is involved in **20** community coalitions.
- **600** citizens enhanced their leadership skills by participating in leadership programs.

Our Health

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

Figure 2. Health Risks.⁹



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

- **1,200** people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health.
- **1,575** people implemented new practices to maintain health and well-being.
- **650** 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.