Building Strong Families for Kentucky

. . . . . in Harrison County
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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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 62 and over</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 17 &amp; Below</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18-61</td>
<td>59%</td>
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</tbody>
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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
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.
9 Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.