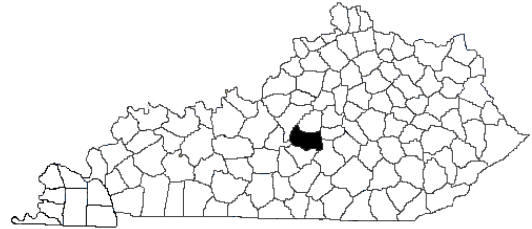


Building Strong Families for Kentucky

..... in Marion County

Elizabeth Creed, 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 Marion County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

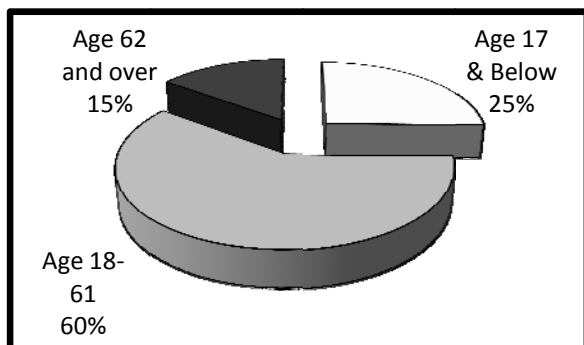
- Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices***
- Nurturing Families***
- Embracing Life as You Age***
- Securing Financial Stability***
- Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities***
- Accessing Nutritious Food***
- Empowering Community Leaders***

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **10,864** contacts with Marion County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People

The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **18,212**.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=18,212)



Spotlight on . . .

Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities



Reducing energy expenditures in the home is important to local residents in Marion County. A simple step to reduce energy costs is to use compact fluorescent lights (CFL's). These lights can improve air quality and use 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs. To encourage use of CFL's a lesson on home lighting and energy saving tips was presented by an Extension housing associate. Two hundred and twelve women attended the class at the Home Décor Expo. Sixty-five percent of the respondents purchased CFL's. The amount saved on electricity averaged \$5 monthly. One person summed up her benefit by saying "Energy saving tips and CFL's are going to save us more money in the long run."¹

Our Families

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

- **4,778** families reside in the county.
- **754 families (15.8%)** live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$35,648**.
- **133** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **2,939** people in Marion County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$195.47** per month.³

In the county, **26** children live in out-of-home care.⁴ In 2004, there were **29** incidents of adult abuse and **76** incidents of child abuse.⁵

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

- **50** adult, dependent, and child care providers increased their care giving knowledge.
- **250** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **1,000** people used safe practices to store, handle, and prepare 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 Marion County was **6.9%**. This represented a **50%** increase from the September 2007 level of **4.6%**.⁶

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Marion County, **0.93%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **44%**.⁷ In a six-month period (May through October 2008), **40** foreclosures were filed.⁸

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Marion County, **13%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁹

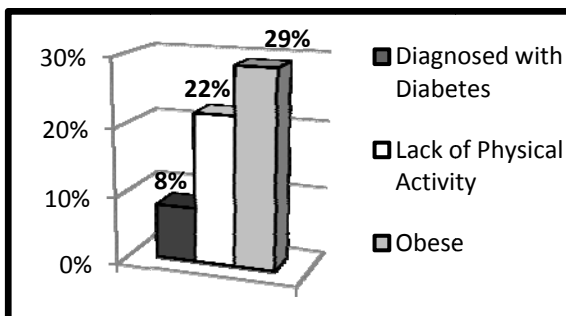
As a result of participation in Marion County Extension programs:¹

- **700** adults or youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **200** people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- Marion County Extension is involved in **15** community coalitions.

Our Health

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

Figure 2. Health Risks.⁹



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

- **1000** people gained knowledge and skills to make lifestyle changes to improve their health.
- **120** people increased their use of radon testers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and other devices to ensure personal safety.
- **1000** people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health.

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.