Building Strong Families for Kentucky

. . . . . in Owen County

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Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families in Owen 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 24,274 contacts with Owen County families during 2007-2008.1

Our People

The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as 10,547.2 The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=10,547)

Spotlight on . . .

Empowering Community Leaders

As new leaders become involved in the community, they need education on available resources. The local Chamber of Commerce, with leadership from the Owen County Cooperative Extension Service, organized a Leadership Owen County Program to train new individuals to serve in leadership roles. The 2008 leadership class included 24 individuals who attended training sessions on education, health care, services to children, agriculture, and government. Each month members of different teams write a guest column in the local newspaper discussing each training session. Over the past seven years, members of the leadership classes have developed several community service projects including the Owen County Farm & Craft Market (6th year in operation) and the Owen County Vision Project.1
Our Families
Using data from the 2000 U.S. Census, Owen County families can be described as follows:2
- 3,021 families reside in the county.
- 367 families (12.1%) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is $38,844.
- 96 grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 1,631 people in Owen County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is $225.92 per month.3

In the county, 8 children live in out-of-home care.4 In 2004, there were 3 incidents of adult abuse and 50 incidents of child abuse.5

As a result of participation in Owen County Extension programs:1
- 300 people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- 350 people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- 250 people used safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.
- 1,664 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 Owen County was 6.6%. This represented a 32% increase from the September 2007 level of 5%.6

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Owen County, 2.13% of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by 114%.7 In a six-month period (May through October 2008), 18 foreclosures were filed.8

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Owen County, 15% of the people under age 65 are uninsured.9

As a result of participation in Owen County Extension programs:1
- 267 adults or youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- 39 adults and youth utilized improved communication, problem solving, and group process skills to address community needs.
- Owen County Extension is involved in 24 community coalitions.

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

Figure 2. Health Risks.9

As a result of participation in Owen County Extension programs:1
- 24 people increased their use of radon testers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and other devices to ensure personal safety.
- 105 people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health.
- 200 people implemented new practices to maintain their health and well-being.

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.