Building Strong Families for Kentucky

. . . . . in Wayne County

(Currently Vacant), 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 Wayne 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 35,610 contacts with Wayne County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People
The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as 19,923.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=19,923)

Spotlight on . . .

Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices

The Lake Cumberland Cancer Consortium, including Cooperative Extension and other area health professionals, teamed up for a skin cancer prevention campaign. A $1,000 Health Education through Extension Leadership grant purchased sun safety educational display items. Wayne County FCS reached 3,415 youth and adults. A pre and post test of high school students showed that more than one-third did not know that melanoma can be curable if detected early, and that fair complexion red heads and blonds are more at risk. Twenty people from Wayne County were given free skin screenings by a local dermatologist.³
Our Families
Using data from the 2000 U.S. Census, Wayne County families can be described as follows: 
• 5,845 families reside in the county. 
• 1,439 families (24.6%) live below poverty level. 
• Median family income is $24,869. 
• 253 grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren. 

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 4,968 people in Wayne County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is $188.32 per month. 

In the county, 47 children live in out-of-home care. In 2004, there were 32 incidents of adult abuse and 36 incidents of child abuse. 

As a result of participation in Wayne County Extension programs: 
• 520 people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships. 
• 153 people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings. 
• 125 people used safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.

Our Community
Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In September 2008, the rate of unemployment in Wayne County was 8.3%. This represented a 36% increase from the September 2007 level of 6.1%. 

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Wayne County, 2.12% of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by 11%. 

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Wayne County, 11% of the people under age 65 are uninsured. 

As a result of participation in Wayne County Extension programs: 
• 125 adults or youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions. 
• 30 adults and youth utilized improved communication, problem solving, and group process skills to address community needs. 
• 45 people were involved in addressing issues of their community.

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

Figure 2. Health Risks.

As a result of participation in Wayne County Extension programs: 
• 225 people gained knowledge and skills to make lifestyle changes to improve their health. 
• 350 people increased their use of radon testers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and other devices to ensure personal safety. 
• 30 people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health. 
• 350 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. 
8 Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.