

**BELL COUNTY**

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 Family & Consumer Sciences

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES FOR KENTUCKY

OUR FOCUS

► Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families in Bell County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

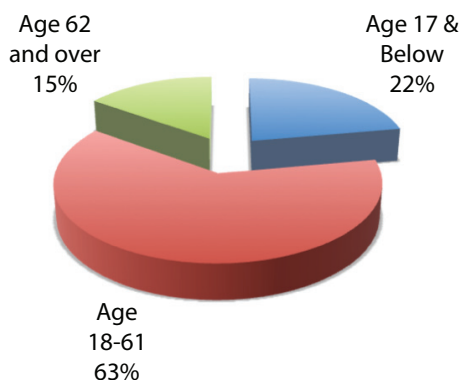
Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices
Nurturing Families
Embracing Life as You Age
Securing Financial Stability
Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities
Accessing Nutritious Food
Empowering Community Leaders

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **21,196** contacts with Bell County families during 2008-2009.¹

OUR PEOPLE

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=29,055)

► 2008 estimates from the 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **29,055**.² The graph on the right indicates the percentage by age group.

**SPOTLIGHT ON...**

NURTURING FAMILIES

In response to community concerns about how poor parenting skills may be contributing to student behavior problems in schools, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension provided workshops and valuable information to local families. The fifteen parents that participated received information on child development, teaching self-control, caring for health, and the importance of talking and reading with their child. Follow up discussion showed that 90% of the parents do activities with their child that are age appropriate and can recognize when an activity may be too difficult for their child. 100% of parents reported that they now interact with their child more by playing or reading a book to them. Also, 65% now use non-violent discipline to teach their child self-control and use time out or redirection instead of spanking.¹



OUR COMMUNITY

► Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In August 2009, the rate of unemployment in Bell County was **13.3%**.³

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Bell County, **2.17%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **2.11%**.⁴ In a one-year period (October 2008 through October 2009), **41** foreclosures were filed.⁵

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Bell County, **13%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁶

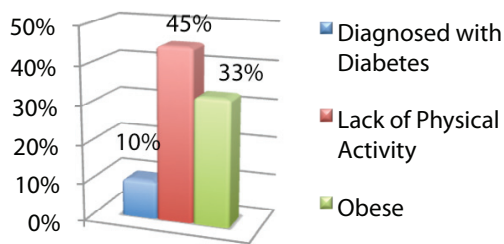
As a result of participation in Bell County Extension programs:¹

- **549** people were involved in addressing issues in their community.
- **234** people increased knowledge of governmental process.
- **302** people expanded their knowledge of economic development.

OUR HEALTH

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

Figure 2. Health Risks.⁶



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

- **754** people increased knowledge of practices to maintain health.
- **689** people made lifestyle changes to improve health.
- **371** people increased knowledge of safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.

OUR FAMILIES

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

- **8,522** families reside in the county.
- **2,295** families (**26.7%**) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$23,818**.
- **277** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.



According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **4,229** people in Bell County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$207.93** per month.⁷

In the county, **65** children live in out-of-home care.⁸ In 2005, there were **98** incidents of adult abuse and **179** incidents of child abuse.⁹

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

- **173** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **2,195** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- **753** adults and youth improved practical living skills.

SOURCES

¹ Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Impacting Reporting, FY2009.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

³ Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, Kentucky Labor Force Estimates, August 2009.

⁴ TransUnion LLC., Trend Data, Quarter 1 2009.

⁵ Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, November, 2009.

⁶ Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.

⁷ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Data Book, June 2008.

⁸ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kentucky KIDS COUNT, 2005.

⁹ Kentucky Department for Public Health, County Health Priorities, 2004.