



HARLAN 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 Harlan County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

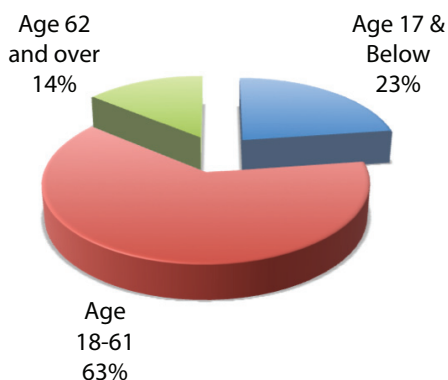
Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices
Nurturing Families
Embracing Life as You Age
Securing Financial Stability
Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities
Accessing Nutritious Food
Empowering Community Leaders

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **14,981** contacts with Harlan County families during 2008-2009.¹

OUR PEOPLE

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=33,202)

► 2008 estimates from the 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **33,202**.² The graph on the right indicates the percentage by age group.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

ACCESSING NUTRITIOUS FOOD

One spin-off of the economic recession and rising food prices is a double-digit increase in the percentage of home gardeners planting their own food. As a result of this increased interest in home gardening, the Harlan County Agriculture and Natural Resource agent, along with the Family and Consumer Sciences agent, developed the “Gardening 101” program. They presented the program in four locations, including the Harlan County Extension Depot, with 112 people on hand to get up-to-date information on gardening and food preservation from the University of Kentucky. This represents a 56-percent gain in attendance from the previous year’s gardening program. What’s more, 33 percent were first-time participants in an Extension program. Each attendee received a packet of information and was taught to make stir-fry and vegetable pizza from the produce.¹



OUR COMMUNITY

► Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In August 2009, the rate of unemployment in Harlan County was **12.8%**.³

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Harlan County, **3.44%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **1.55%**.⁴ In a one-year period (October 2008 through October 2009), **43** foreclosures were filed.⁵

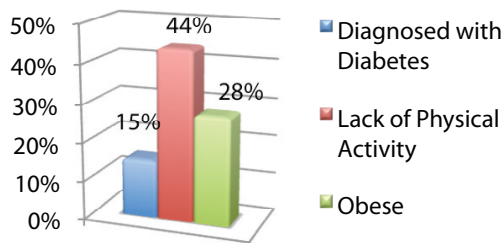
Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Harlan County, **20%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁶

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

- **100** people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- **1,500** people increased their knowledge of governmental process.
- **45** 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 Harlan County.
*Figure 2. Health Risks.*⁶



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

- **4,540** people increased knowledge of practices to maintain health and well-being.
- **710** people increased knowledge of safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.
- **1,750** people increased their use of radon testers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and other devices to ensure personal safety.

OUR FAMILIES

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

- **9,446** families reside in the county.
- **2,737** families (**29.1%**) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$23,536**.
- **401** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.



According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **4,444** people in Harlan County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$211.46** per month.⁷

In the county, **64** children live in out-of-home care.⁸

In 2005, there were **118** incidents of adult abuse and **147** incidents of child abuse.⁹

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

- **2,550** adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **130** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **195** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.

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.