



LAWRENCE COUNTY

Stephanie Derifield, County Extension Agent
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 Lawrence County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

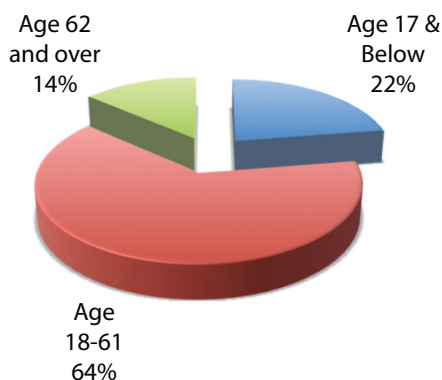
- Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices**
- Nurturing Families**
- Embracing Life as You Age**
- Securing Financial Stability**
- Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities**
- Accessing Nutritious Food**
- Empowering Community Leaders**

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **12,123** contacts with Lawrence County families during 2008-2009.¹

OUR PEOPLE

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=15,569)

► 2008 estimates from the 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **15,569**.² The graph on the right indicates the percentage by age group.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

MAKING BENEFICIAL LIFESTYLE CHOICES

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Community Health Status Indicators for Lawrence County, 85.7 percent of our citizens eat few fruits and vegetables; 40.8 percent get no exercise; and 35.9 percent smoke cigarettes. To address these health risk factors, the Lawrence County Family and Consumer Sciences program and the Lawrence County Health Department held two 10-week Wellness Information Network series. In all, 233 people attended educational sessions on such topics as stress, fruits and vegetables as antioxidants, lung health, body image, heart health and disease, and physical activity. As a result, 10 participants reported lower blood pressure and a total weight loss of 85 pounds. The objective of the series was to promote healthy lifestyle changes for a better quality of life.¹



OUR COMMUNITY

► Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In August 2009, the rate of unemployment in Lawrence County was **13.5%**.³

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Lawrence County, **1.56%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **2.79%**.⁴ In a one-year period (October 2008 through October 2009), **17** foreclosures were filed.⁵

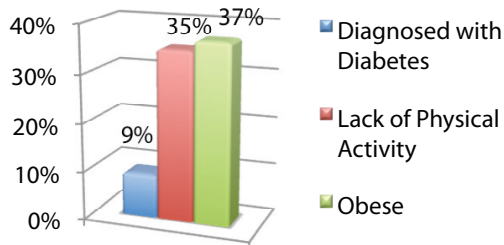
Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Lawrence County, **16%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁶

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

- **90** people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- **60** people increased their knowledge of governmental process.
- **55** 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 Lawrence County. **Figure 2. Health Risks.**⁶



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

- **252** people increased knowledge of practices to maintain health and well-being.
- **106** people used safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.
- **885** 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, Lawrence County families can be described as follows:²

- **4,478** families reside in the county.
- **1,135** families (**25.3%**) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$26,113**.
- **172** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.



According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **2,015** people in Lawrence County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$202.83** per month.⁷

In the county, **32** children live in out-of-home care.⁸ In 2005, there were **42** incidents of adult abuse and **66** incidents of child abuse.⁹

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

- **90** adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **30** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **125** 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.