



WHITLEY 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 Whitley County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

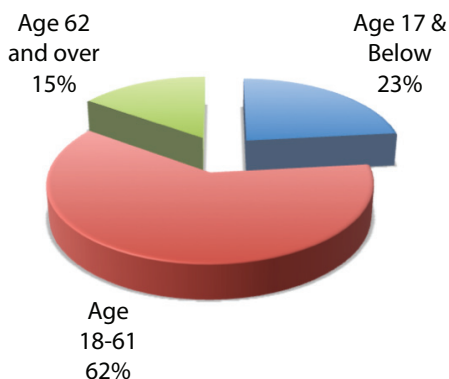
Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices
Nurturing Families
Embracing Life as You Age
Securing Financial Stability
Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities
Accessing Nutritious Food
Empowering Community Leaders

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **11,366** contacts with Whitley County families during 2008-2009.¹

OUR PEOPLE

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=35,865)

► 2008 estimates from the 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **35,865**.² The graph on the right indicates the percentage by age group.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

SECURING FINANCIAL STABILITY

Many Whitley County residents experience issues related to their health and personal finances. Sixty-four percent are overweight and more than half live “paycheck to paycheck.” As a result, the Whitley County Family and Consumer Sciences agent offered “Small Steps to Health and Wealth,” a 12-week program that promotes behavior change strategies for health and wealth. Seventy-four participants were given survival tool kits that included pedometers, pocket calorie-counter books and “Nutrition in the Fast Lane” books. Progress indicators, participant journals and weekly weigh-ins revealed that 64 percent of participants added 30 minutes of physical activity to their daily routine, 76 percent lost 10 percent or more of body weight, 74 percent increased their daily intake of water and fruits and vegetables, and 56 percent created a savings plan.¹



OUR COMMUNITY

► Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In August 2009, the rate of unemployment in Whitley County was **12.1%**.³

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Whitley County, **1.40%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **2.40%**.⁴ In a one-year period (October 2008 through October 2009), **124** foreclosures were filed.⁵

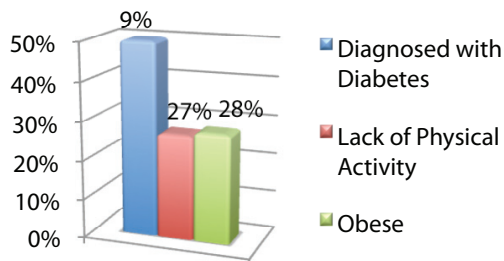
Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Whitley County, **19%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁶

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

- **130** people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- **400** people increased their knowledge of governmental process.
- **35** people were prepared to enter the work force.

OUR HEALTH

► The health of our people contributes to quality of life. The chart below illustrates health risks of adults in Whitley County. **Figure 2. Health Risks.**⁶



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

- **650** people increased knowledge of practices to maintain health and well-being.
- **500** people developed skills to access affordable food.
- **1,000** 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, Whitley County families can be described as follows:²

- **9,888** families reside in the county.
- **2,163** families (**21.6%**) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$27,871**.
- **390** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.



According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **4,349** people in Whitley County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$220.61** per month.⁷

In the county, **275** children live in out-of-home care.⁸

In 2005, there were **90** incidents of adult abuse and **215** incidents of child abuse.⁹

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

- **360** adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **46** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- **80** 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.