

LETCHER COUNTY

Alice Bradley, County Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES FOR KENTUCKY 2011



OUR FOCUS

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

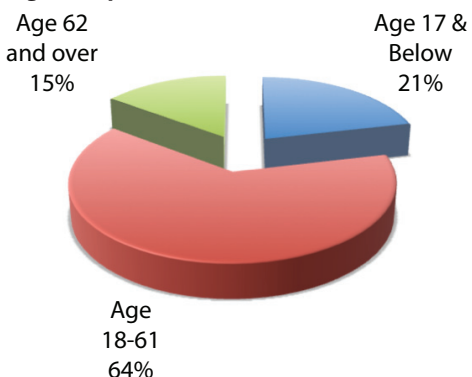
Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices
Nurturing Families
Embracing Life as You Age
Securing Financial Stability
Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities
Accessing Nutritious Food
Empowering Community Leaders

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **4,694** contacts with Letcher County families during 2009-2010.¹

OUR PEOPLE

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=25,277)

► 2008 estimates from the 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **25,277**.² The graph on the right indicates the percentage by age group.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

PROMOTING HEALTHY HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

The Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Program in Letcher County has focused on creating awareness of ovarian cancer, often called the silent killer because it reaches advanced stages before diagnosis. As a result of collaboration between UK's Markey Cancer Center and the FCS Agent, a total of 183 local women or women with close ties to Letcher County are being screened for ovarian cancer at Markey each year. The County Extension Service provided van transportation to Lexington, a distance that would limit participation. The FCS Agent provided educational health fairs and news articles throughout the year. Extension Homemakers were also involved, sponsoring fundraisers that garnered \$5,298, the second largest amount donated by one county.¹



OUR COMMUNITY

► Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In July 2010, the rate of unemployment in Letcher County was **10.9%**.⁶

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Letcher County, **2.7%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and **1.1%** of bank cards are 60-days delinquent.⁷ In a one-year period (August 2009 through August 2010), **56** foreclosures were filed.⁵

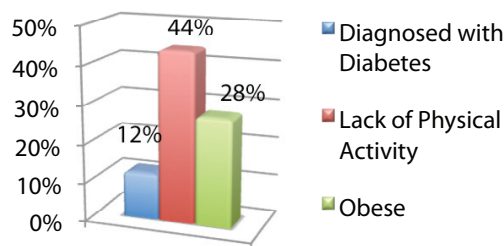
Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Letcher County, **16%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁸

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

- **1,143** people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- **172** people increased their knowledge of governmental process.
- **254** people expanded their knowledge of economic development.
- Letcher County Extension is involved in **78** community coalitions.

OUR HEALTH

► The health of our people contributes to quality of life. The chart below illustrates health risks of adults in Letcher County. **Figure 2. Health Risks.**⁸



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

- **1,291** people increased knowledge of practices to maintain health and well-being.
- **270** people used safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.
- **700** people implemented practices to maintain health and well-being.

OUR FAMILIES

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

- **7,461** families reside in the county.
- **1,769** families (**23.7%**) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$24,869**.
- **239** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.



According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **3,241** people in Letcher County receive supplemental nutrition assistance. The average family benefit is **\$223.96** per month.³

In the county, **75** children live in out-of-home care. There were **217**

child victims of substantiated abuse.⁴ There were **100** incidents of adult abuse.⁵

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

- **220** adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **475** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **1,212** adults and youth improved practical living skills.

SOURCES

¹ Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Impact Reporting, FY2010.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000. 2008 Estimates.

³ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Data Book, December 2008.

⁴ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kentucky KIDS COUNT, 2009.

⁵ Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, September, 2010

⁶ Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, Kentucky Labor Force Estimates, July 2010.

⁷ TransUnion LLC., Trend Data, Quarter 1 2010.

⁸ Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.