

## MUHLENBERG COUNTY

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# 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 Muhlenberg County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

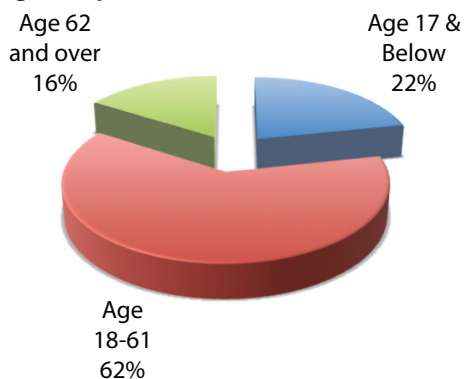
**Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices**  
**Nurturing Families**  
**Embracing Life as You Age**  
**Securing Financial Stability**  
**Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities**  
**Accessing Nutritious Food**  
**Empowering Community Leaders**

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **16,229** contacts with Muhlenberg County families during 2009-2010.<sup>1</sup>

### OUR PEOPLE

Figure 1. Population by Age Group<sup>2</sup> (n=31,839)

► 2008 estimates from the 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **31,839**.<sup>2</sup> The graph on the right indicates the percentage by age group.



### SPOTLIGHT ON...

## PROMOTING HEALTHY HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

In 2006, the Muhlenberg County Cooperative Extension Service and the Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce conducted a business retention project with the help of the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University, which illustrated the lack of organized recycling. Since 2009, the Muhlenberg County "Green Recycling Team" has been working with the sole purpose of enhancing and developing a comprehensive county-wide recycling program. The 12-member task force, representing multiple agencies and concerned citizens, hopes to attract industry, encourage economic development, and improve the county's overall appearance. The committee was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Felix E. Martin Foundation to purchase five recycling bins and to educate residents on recycling.<sup>1</sup>



## OUR COMMUNITY

► Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In July 2010, the rate of unemployment in Muhlenberg County was **10.6%**.<sup>6</sup>

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Muhlenberg County, **1.8%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and **2.1%** of bank cards are 60-days delinquent.<sup>7</sup> In a one-year period (August 2009 through August 2010), **140** foreclosures were filed.<sup>5</sup>

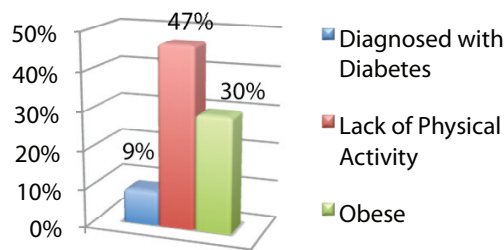
Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Muhlenberg County, **15%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.<sup>8</sup>

### As a result of participation in Muhlenberg County Extension programs:<sup>1</sup>

- **214** people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- **37** people expanded their knowledge of economic development.
- Muhlenberg County Extension is involved in **23** community coalitions.

## OUR HEALTH

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



### As a result of participation in Muhlenberg County Extension programs:<sup>1</sup>

- **125** people increased knowledge of practices to maintain health and well-being.
- **105** people increased knowledge of safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.
- **65** people developed skills to access affordable food.

## OUR FAMILIES

► Using data from the 2000 U.S. Census, Muhlenberg County families can be described as follows:<sup>2</sup>

- **9,056** families reside in the county.
- **1,411** families (**15.5%**) live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$33,513**.
- **353** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.



According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **2,230** people in Muhlenberg County receive supplemental nutrition assistance. The average family benefit is **\$236.49** per month.<sup>3</sup>

In the county, **41** children live in out-of-home care. There were **73**

child victims of substantiated abuse.<sup>4</sup> There were **194** incidents of adult abuse.<sup>5</sup>

### As a result of participation in Muhlenberg County Extension programs:<sup>1</sup>

- **245** adults and youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **60** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- **403** adults and youth improved practical living skills.

## SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Impact Reporting, FY2010.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000. 2008 Estimates.

<sup>3</sup> Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Data Book, December 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kentucky KIDS COUNT, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, September, 2010

<sup>6</sup> Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, Kentucky Labor Force Estimates, July 2010.

<sup>7</sup> TransUnion LLC., Trend Data, Quarter 1 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.