

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

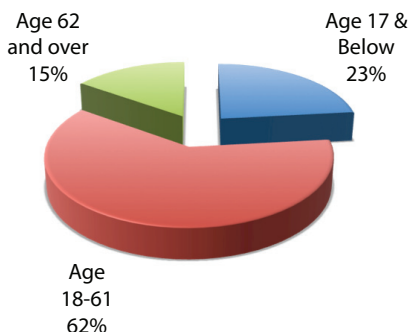
**Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices**  
**Nurturing Families**  
**Embracing Life as You Age**  
**Securing Financial Stability**  
**Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities**  
**Accessing Nutritious Food**  
**Empowering Community Leaders**

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **11,899** contacts with Whitley County families during 2009-2010.<sup>1</sup>

### OUR PEOPLE

Figure 1. Population by Age Group<sup>2</sup> (n=35,865)

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



### SPOTLIGHT ON...

## SECURING FINANCIAL STABILITY

During these hard economic times, Whitley County residents have been experiencing negative issues related to personal health and finances. To address these issues, the Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences presented a six-week series, "Small Steps to Health and Wealth," that motivated 235 participants to improve personal finances and overall health. Participants were given survival kits containing calculators, pedometers, books on nutrition and calorie counting, and "Small Steps to Health and Wealth" manuals. Everyone made journals to track spending, food intake, and physical activity; and created banks to contribute money to daily. The small change-big difference mantra helped 235 participants save a combined total over six weeks of \$12,750.<sup>1</sup>



## OUR COMMUNITY

► Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In July 2010, the rate of unemployment in Whitley County was **11.1%**.<sup>6</sup>

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Whitley County, **2.5%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and **1.8%** of bank cards are 60-days delinquent.<sup>7</sup> In a one-year period (August 2009 through August 2010), **151** foreclosures were filed.<sup>5</sup>

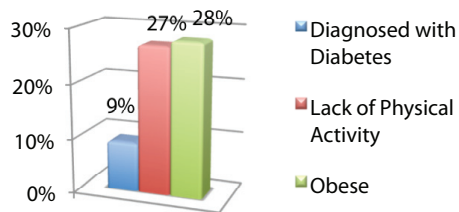
Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Whitley County, **19%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.<sup>8</sup>

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

- **228** people were involved in addressing issues of their community.
- **468** people increased their knowledge of governmental process.
- **58** people were prepared to enter the work force.
- Whitley County Extension is involved in **31** community coalitions.

## 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.**<sup>8</sup>



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

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

## OUR FAMILIES

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

- **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, **4,668** people in Whitley County receive supplemental nutrition assistance. The average family benefit is **\$244.60** per month.<sup>3</sup>

In the county, **99** children live in out-of-home care. There were **137**

child victims of substantiated abuse.<sup>4</sup> There were **137** incidents of adult abuse.<sup>5</sup>

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

- **252** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- **280** adult or child care providers increased their knowledge and skills related to age appropriate care.
- **280** 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.