Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families in Butler County. As the current economic situation continues to create challenges, educational programs focus on:

- **Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices** that influence health and well-being
- **Nurturing Families** as they cope with fewer resources and more demands
- **Embracing Life as We Age** to strive for independence longer
- **Securing Financial Stability** in a turbulent economic period
- **Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities** to recycle, reduce waste, and protect our environment
- **Accessing Nutritious Food** that is affordable, available and safe
- **Empowering Community Leaders** as we all work to sustain and improve our communities.

In 2010-2011, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made 8,994 contacts with Butler County individuals and families.²

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**Population by Age Group**¹

The 2010 U.S. Census reported total population in Butler County as **12,690**.¹

- Age 18-64: 61.1%
- Age 65 and over: 15.8%
- Age 5-17: 16.8%
- Age 4 and below: 6.3%

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**Spotlight on ...**

**Securing Financial Stability**

Reduced family budgets have resulted in increased food preservation, but safety remains paramount. To address this, the Butler County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent taught "Food Preservation 101." Freezing, water-bath and pressure-canning techniques, and money saving information were taught during two workshops. Dial gauges were tested free of charge. 100% of participants stated they were confident the information would help them save money, and that they could repeat the learned skills. Surveyed by phone, participants reported safely canning 976 quarts of produce and freezing 1,357 quarts. One stated, "I'm planning on getting back into this since grocery store pricing is outrageous!" Cooperative Extension answered questions, loaned canning equipment, and provided canning recipes.
According to the 2010 Census, of families in Butler County with their own children:

- **69.0%** are husband-wife families
- **31.0%** are single parent families

In addition, there are:

- **5,057** households
- **1,629** households with 1 or more persons under the age of 18
- **262** grandchildren under 18 years old who live with a grandparent householder
- **1,441** households with at least one person age 65 and over

As a result of participation in Butler County Extension programs:

- **841** people increased knowledge of lifestyle changes to improve personal health.
- **12** people increased knowledge of parenting and personal relationships.
- **197** people increased knowledge of safe storage, handling and food preparation.

According to the 2010 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, between 2005 and 2009 in Butler County it is estimated that:

- **42.5% (+/- 5.1)** are married-couple families with both husband and wife in the labor force
- **52.9% (+/- 10.6)** are children under 6 years old with all parents in the labor force
- **20.2% (+/- 5.9)** are people 65 years and over below poverty level during the past 12 months

As a result of participation in Butler County Extension programs:

- **42** people increased knowledge of economic and enterprise development.
- **31** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and increase savings.
- **592** people demonstrated increased practical living skills.

In 2009, the most recent data available, the median household income in Butler County was **$33,499**. The number of children in poverty in Butler County was **868** compared to **793** in 2006. The total number of people receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in Butler County is **2,995** in 2011.

As a result of participation in Butler County Extension programs:

- **382** people increased leadership knowledge and skills.
- **368** people improved communication skills to address community issues.
- **352** people developed skills to access affordable food.

Average Annual Unemployment Rate (not seasonally adjusted)

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SOURCES

1. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census.