Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in Kentucky. To help families make wise decisions, our 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 live independently longer
- **Securing Financial Stability** in a turbulent economic period
- **Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities** that 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 2013-2014, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made 1,869,897 contacts with Kentucky individuals and families.

The 2015 edition of Building Strong Families data profiles draw attention to the availability, affordability, health and safety of housing in communities where individuals make homes for their families. Local communities struggle to provide their citizens access to clean, safe, and affordable housing. The challenge is significant for low-income families, renters, and rural residents. The 2015 data profiles are intended to encourage conversation about housing data in the local community. Local conversations will give real meaning to the numbers. It is out of these conversations that communities will recognize needs and identify the tools that are needed and available to strengthen Kentucky families.

http://hes.uky.edu/StrongFamilies
Housing has long been recognized as a basic human need. Yet, because housing is often a family’s largest expense and largest debt, it can be a stumbling block for many. Safe, lower-cost housing options are often limited for struggling families, and this can lead them into crisis. Family and Consumer Sciences Extension helps people improve home safety, lessen their environmental footprint, and strengthen financial stability. It also helps communities promote healthy lifestyles throughout the lifespan by supporting strong family home environments. Please tell us ways you think we can do more.

### Availability

According to American Community Survey estimates for Kentucky, in 2008-2012…
- 39.7% (+/- 0.5) of renter households paid 35% or more of their income for rent and utilities
- 20.9% (+/- 0.3) of homeowner households with a mortgage and 8.9% (+/- 0.2) of homeowner households without a mortgage paid 35% or more of their income for housing costs
- 38.2% (+/- 0.3) of homeowner households did not have a mortgage
- 12.5% (+/- 0.2) of all housing units were mobile homes

According to the most recent poverty estimates, in 2012, 19.3% (+/- 0.4) of Kentucky residents were living below poverty.

In 2013, residents needed to earn $12.69 an hour (or work 1.8 jobs at $7.25 an hour**) to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent in Kentucky.

### Affordability

In 2010, in Kentucky, there were…
- 538,694 renter households
- 1,181,271 homeowner households
- 56,960 vacant housing units for rent
- 27,286 vacant housing units for sale

According to the Kentucky Department of Education, in 2012-2013, 34,054 children were homeless or were precariously housed in Kentucky.

### Health and Safety

In Kentucky, it is estimated that in 2008-2012…
- half of all renter-occupied housing was built before 1976 (+/- 1 year)
- half of all owner-occupied housing was built before 1979 (+/- 1 year)

According to 2008-2012 American Community Survey estimates in Kentucky…
- 3.2% (+/- 0.1) of all households had no landline or cell phone
- 24.8% (+/- 0.2) of workers living in Kentucky worked in Kentucky but outside their county of residence and 6.5% (+/- 0.1) worked outside the state
- Half of all workers traveled 22.7 (+/- 0.1) or more minutes to work

### Sources

1. Kentucky Cooperative Extension reporting. FY 2014
2. 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
3. 2010 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau
4. Kentucky Dept. of Education http://education.ky.gov/federal/progs/hec/Pages/TK-Docs.aspx (Data for school districts were combined to produce the county total.)
5. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
6. Out Of Reach 2014. National Low Income Housing Coalition
7. Data refer to housing tenure (owner or renter).
8. ** The current federal minimum wage

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Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.