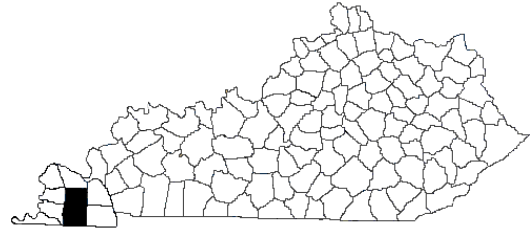


Building Strong Families for Kentucky

..... in Graves County

Virginia Langford, County Extension Agent,
Family and Consumer Sciences



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

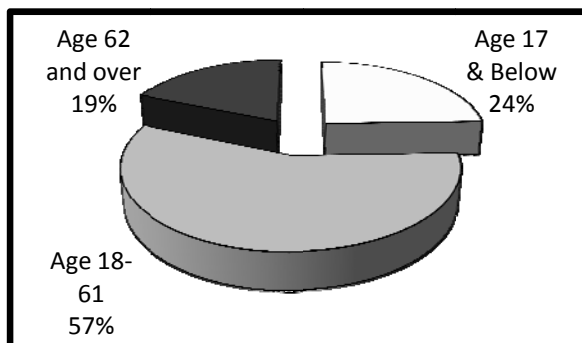
- Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices***
- Nurturing Families***
- Embracing Life as You Age***
- Securing Financial Stability***
- Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities***
- Accessing Nutritious Food***
- Empowering Community Leaders***

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **2,611** contacts with Graves County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People

The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **37,028**.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=37,028)



Spotlight on . . .

Accessing Nutritious Food



Providing science-based nutrition information to help individuals and families make informed decisions is the goal of the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program. The FCS Agent has implemented this program in Graves County with a variety of food stamp eligible audiences. Monthly sessions were provided to senior citizens in addition to special classes with African-Americans, Latinos, and youth. The FCS Agent provided 84 hours of educational programming, reaching 181 males and 331 females.¹

Our Families

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

- **10,610** families reside in the county.
- **1,393 families (13.1%)** live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$38,054**.
- **297** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **5,215** people in Graves County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$213.67** per month.³

In the county, **111** children live in out-of-home care.⁴ In 2004, there were **81** incidents of adult abuse and **123** incidents of child abuse.⁵

*As a result of participation in Graves County Extension programs:*¹

- **168** food stamp eligible or recipient families consumed more fruits and vegetables daily.
- **180** people gained knowledge about safe storage, handling, and preparation of food.

Our Community

Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In September 2008, the rate of unemployment in Graves County was **7.4%**. This represented a **21%** increase from the September 2007 level of **6.1%**.⁶

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Graves County, 90-day mortgage delinquency rates have increased by **20%** and **0.84%** of bank cards are 60-days delinquent.⁷ In a six-month period (May through October 2008), **26** foreclosures were filed.⁸

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Graves County, **15%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁹

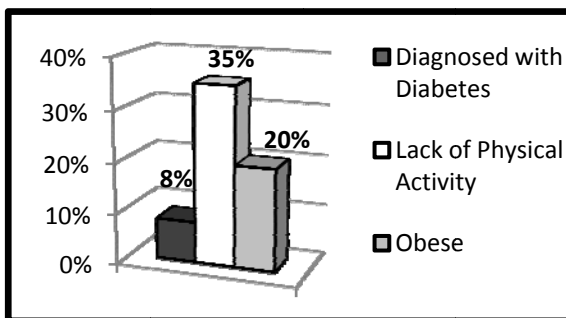
*As a result of participation in Graves County Extension programs:*¹

- **100** people expanded their knowledge of economic development.
- **500** citizens enhanced their leadership skills by participation in leadership programs.
- **600** adults and youth utilized improved communication, problem solving, and group process skills to address community needs.
- **100** people became involved with their local government to address community issues.
- Graves County Extension is involved in **7** community coalitions.

Our Health

The health of our people contributes to quality of life. The chart below illustrates health risks of adults in Graves County.

Figure 2. Health Risks.⁹



*As a result of participation in Graves County Extension programs:*¹

- **752** people gained knowledge and skills to make lifestyle changes to improve their health.
- **180** people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health.
- **90** people implemented new practices to maintain their health and well-being.

Sources

¹ Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Impacting Reporting, FY2008.

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

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

⁴ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kentucky KIDS COUNT, 2005.

⁵ Kentucky Department for Public Health, County Health Priorities, 2004.

⁶ Kentucky Office of Employment and Training, Kentucky Labor Force Estimates, September 2008.

⁷ TransUnion LLC., Trend Data, Quarter 1 2008.

⁸ Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, November, 2008.

⁹ Kentucky Institute of Medicine, The Health of Kentucky: A County Assessment, 2007.