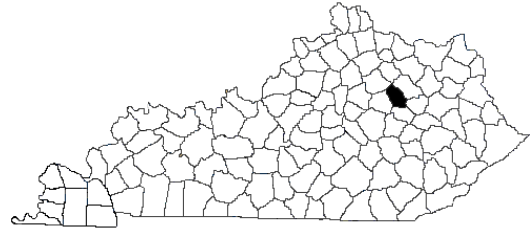


Building Strong Families for Kentucky

..... in Montgomery County

Peggy Powell, 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 Montgomery County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

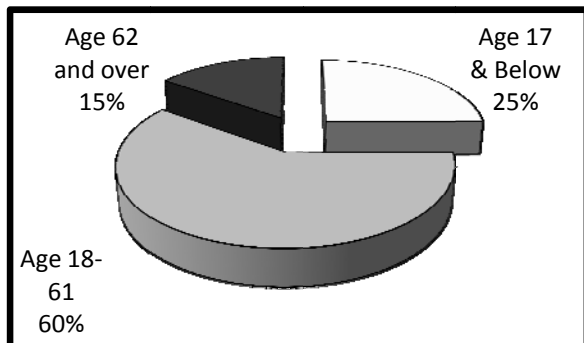
- Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices***
- Nurturing Families***
- Embracing Life as You Age***
- Securing Financial Stability***
- Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities***
- Accessing Nutritious Food***
- Empowering Community Leaders***

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **35,945** contacts with Montgomery County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People

The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **22,554**.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=22,554)



Spotlight on . . .

Embracing Life as You Age



Mental health issues are a concern, especially with the aging population. Seniors experiencing problems with Alzheimer's disease are expected to triple before 2050, which will place a huge burden on families and health care dollars. "Alzheimer's Disease: Getting the Facts" was presented. Participants reported: 100% learned about new resources for information about Alzheimer's, 92% adopted prevention strategies, and 98% knew more about the need for self-care for caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. As part of the Mental Healthiness in Aging Initiative, a Montgomery County Forum was held with 18 community leaders to discuss concerns about aging, mental health and well-being. Knowledge gained will provide a better understanding of Kentuckians' mental health.¹

Our Families

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

- **6,425** families reside in the county.
- **802 families (12.5%)** live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$36,939**.
- **254** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **4,582** people in Montgomery County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$219.14** per month.³

In the county, **99** children live in out-of-home care.⁴ In 2004, there were **73** incidents of adult abuse and **91** incidents of child abuse.⁵

As a result of participation in Montgomery County Extension programs:¹

- **237** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- **280** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **635** people gained knowledge about safe storage, handling, and preparation of food.
- **800** people used safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.

Our Community

Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In September 2008, the rate of unemployment in Montgomery County was **7.4%**. This represented a **37%** increase from the September 2007 level of **5.4%**.⁶

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Montgomery County, 90-day mortgage delinquency rates have increased by **7%** and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **48%**.⁷ In a six-month period (May through October 2008), **78** foreclosures were filed.⁸

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Montgomery County, **14%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁹

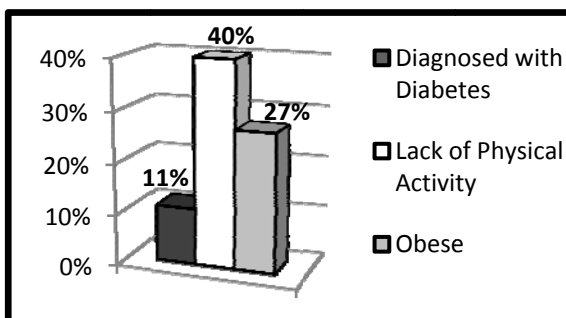
As a result of participation in Montgomery County Extension programs:¹

- **925** citizens enhanced their leadership skills by participating in leadership programs.
- **420** adults and youth utilized improved communication, problem solving, and group process skills to address community needs.
- Montgomery County Extension is involved in **24** community coalitions.

Our Health

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

Figure 2. Health Risks.⁹



As a result of participation in Montgomery County Extension programs:¹

- **220** people increased their use of radon testers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and other devices to ensure personal safety.
- **495** people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health.
- **305** 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.