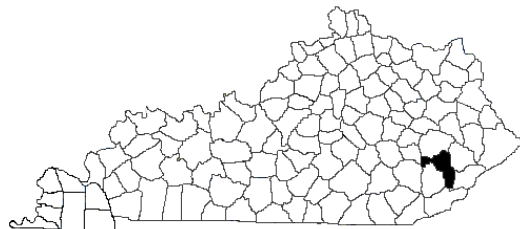


Building Strong Families for Kentucky

..... in Perry County

Glenna Wooten, 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 Perry County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

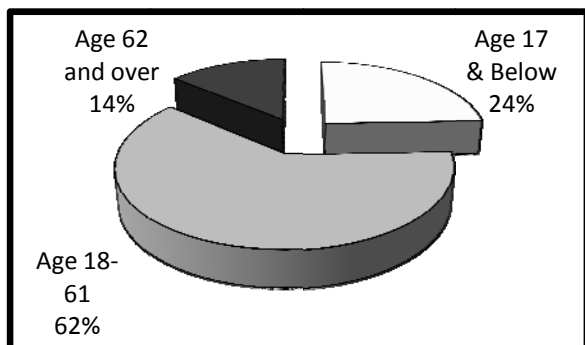
- Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices***
- Nurturing Families***
- Embracing Life as You Age***
- Securing Financial Stability***
- Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities***
- Accessing Nutritious Food***
- Empowering Community Leaders***

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **19,438** contacts with Perry County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People

The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **29,390**.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=29,390)



Spotlight on . . .

Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices



Diabuddies is a diabetes support group that meets bi-monthly and is made up of members from at least 15 different community organizations. Diabuddies members help plan events to promote prevention and management of diabetes. The FCS agent writes the Diabuddies Newsletter, a quarterly newsletter targeted to the diabetic audience. The newsletter goes to doctor offices, clinics, and directly to members who have attended diabetes support group meetings. Each edition includes an article on diabetes management, weight control, diabetes prevention, a recipe, and a listing of upcoming events. There are approximately 2,000 hard copies sent out each quarter plus the electronic copies.¹

Our Families

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

- **8,583** families reside in the county.
- **2,244 families (26.1%)** live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$26,718**.
- **380** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **9,265** people in Perry County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$204.33** per month.³

In the county, **415** children live in out-of-home care.⁴ In 2004, there were **106** incidents of adult abuse and **303** incidents of child abuse.⁵

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

- **32** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **107** people gained knowledge about safe storage, handling, and preparation of food.
- **29** food stamp eligible or recipient families consumed more fruits and vegetables.
- **94%** of food stamp recipients or eligible recipients enrolled in the nutrition education program improved their diet.

Our Community

Unemployment rates are a key economic indicator. In September 2008, the rate of unemployment in Perry County was **7.1%**. This represented an **8%** increase from the September 2007 level of **6.6%**.⁶

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Perry County, 90-day mortgage delinquency rates have increased by **51%** and 60-day bank card delinquency rates have increased by **19%**.⁷ In a six-month period (May through October 2008), **25** foreclosures were filed.⁸

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Perry County, **18%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁹

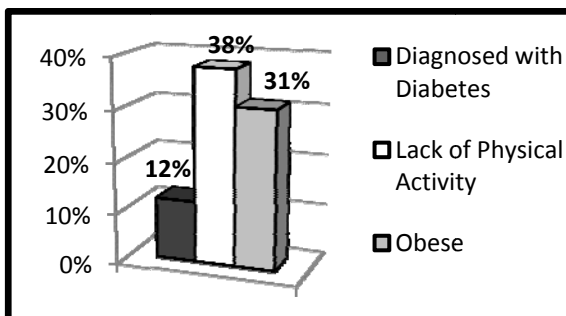
As a result of participation in Perry County Extension programs:¹

- **53** adults or youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **100** citizens enhanced their leadership skills by participating in leadership programs.
- **35** people were involved in addressing issues of their community

Our Health

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

Figure 2. Health Risks.⁹



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

- **504** people gained knowledge and skills to make lifestyle changes to improve their health.
- **75** people increased their use of radon testers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and other devices to ensure personal safety.
- **104** people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health.

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.