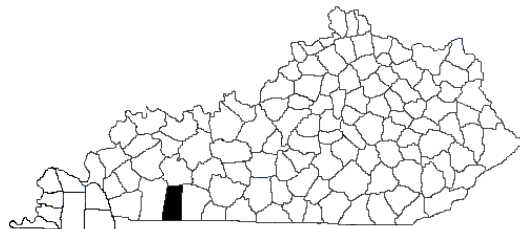


Building Strong Families for Kentucky

..... in Todd County

Jill Harris, 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 Todd County resulting in strong families for Kentucky. Educational programs focus on:

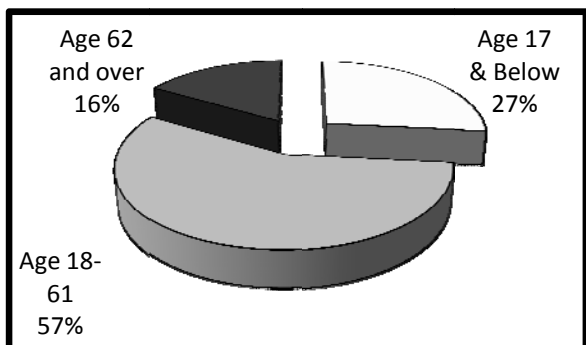
- Making Beneficial Lifestyle Choices***
- Nurturing Families***
- Embracing Life as You Age***
- Securing Financial Stability***
- Promoting Healthy Homes and Communities***
- Accessing Nutritious Food***
- Empowering Community Leaders***

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension made **13,292** contacts with Todd County families during 2007-2008.¹

Our People

The 2000 U.S. Census reported total population as **11,971**.² The graph below indicates the percentage by age group.

Figure 1. Population by Age Group² (n=11,971)



Spotlight on . . .

Nurturing Families



The FCS agent collaborated with six other community agencies to sponsor an educational program for expectant mothers focused on the importance of pre-natal care and well-child care. An end-of-the-meeting evaluation administered to the mothers measured knowledge gained through the program. Thirty-six (83%) increased their knowledge about caring for teeth during infancy; 43 (100%) planned to clean their baby's gums and mouth daily with a washcloth; and 41 (98%) planned to be more conscious about the sleeping habits of infants. Thirty-one (72%) learned more about shaken baby syndrome; forty (93%) learned more about basic baby care; and all reported acquiring knowledge about the importance of product safety and recalls.¹

Our Families

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

- **3,399** families reside in the county.
- **499 families (14.7%)** live below poverty level.
- Median family income is **\$36,043**.
- **123** grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren.

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, **1,792** people in Todd County receive food stamps. The average family food stamp benefit is **\$213.50** per month.³

In the county, **37** children live in out-of-home care.⁴ In 2004, there were **23** incidents of adult abuse and **30** incidents of child abuse.⁵

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

- **23** people increased their knowledge and skills related to parenting and personal relationships.
- **140** people adopted money management practices to reduce debt and/or increase savings.
- **69** people used safe practices to store, handle, and prepare food.
- **96%** 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 Todd County was **8%**. This represented a **33%** increase from the September 2007 level of **6%**.⁶

Mortgage and bank card delinquency rates and foreclosure filings are important financial indicators of community well-being. In Todd County, **1.71%** of mortgages are 90-days delinquent and **1.38%** of bank cards are 60-days delinquent.⁷ In a six-month period (May through October 2008), **1** foreclosure was filed.⁸

Access to health insurance is another important factor contributing to family well-being. In Todd County, **17%** of the people under age 65 are uninsured.⁹

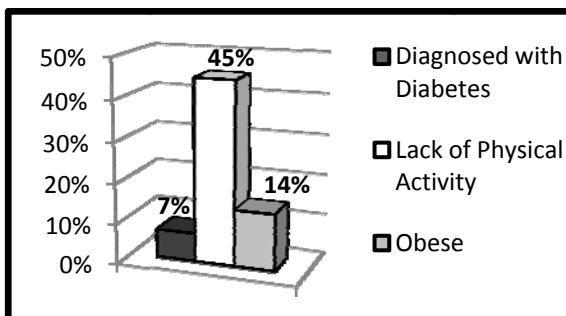
As a result of participation in Todd County Extension programs:¹

- **204** adults or youth improved their ability to make informed and effective decisions.
- **108** adults and youth utilized improved communication, problem solving, and group process skills to address community needs.
- **120** 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 Todd County.

Figure 2. Health Risks.⁹



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

- **207** people increased their use of radon testers, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and other devices to ensure personal safety.
- **40** people made lifestyle changes to improve physical health.
- **43** 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.