



MASON COUNTY

Rachael Price,
County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES FOR KENTUCKY 2015



OUR FOCUS

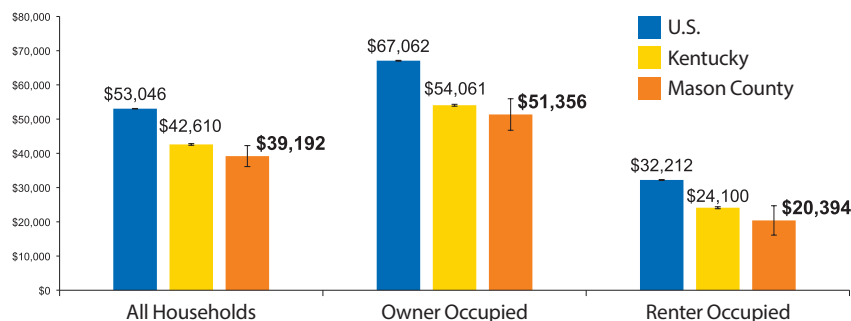
Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is committed to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in Mason County. To help families make wise decisions, our educational programs focus on:

- **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 **8,504** contacts with Mason County individuals and families.¹

OUR PEOPLE

Median household income by housing type* (2008-2012)²



SPOTLIGHT ON ...

WIN: WELLNESS IN KENTUCKY

The Mason County Cooperative Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences presented "WIN: Wellness in Kentucky," a monthly program at the Mason County Middle School for 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade students. Students learned how to eat a variety of food in moderation, balance calorie intake with calories used, increase fruit and vegetable consumption, and become physically active on a daily basis. Because of the program more than 90% of the students said they made healthier eating choices by trying a healthier food option, reading food labels, consuming fewer sugary drinks, and changing how they snack at home.

<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.

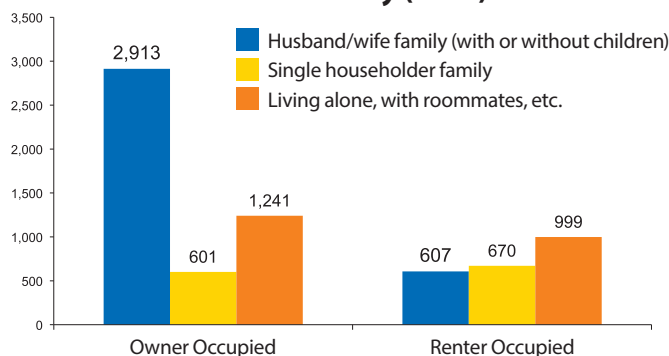
AVAILABILITY

In 2010, in Mason County, there were...³

- **2,276** renter households
- **4,755** homeowner households
- **351** vacant housing units for rent
- **156** vacant housing units for sale

According to the Kentucky Department of Education, in 2012-2013, **no children** were homeless or were precariously housed in Mason County.⁴

Number of households by housing type* in Mason County (2010)³



HEALTH AND SAFETY

In Mason County, it is estimated that in 2008-2012...²

- half of all renter-occupied housing was built before **1966** (+/- 5 years)
- half of all owner-occupied housing was built before **1973** (+/- 3 years)

According to 2008-2012 American Community Survey² estimates in Mason County...

- **4.1%** (+/- 1.4) of all households had no landline or cell phone
- **17.1%** (+/- 2.8) of workers living in Mason County worked in Kentucky but outside the county and **9.0%** (+/- 2.2) worked outside the state
- Half of all workers traveled **21.8** (+/- 1.7) or more minutes to work

AFFORDABILITY

According to American Community Survey estimates for Mason County, in 2008-2012...²

- **35.7%** (+/- 7.1) of renter households paid **35%** or more of their income for rent and utilities
- **17.4%** (+/- 3.4) of homeowner households with a mortgage and **8.9%** (+/- 2.7) of homeowner households without a mortgage paid **35%** or more of their income for housing costs
- **40.1%** (+/- 3.5) of homeowner households did not have a mortgage
- **11.6%** (+/- 2.1) of all housing units were mobile homes

According to the most recent poverty estimates, in 2012, **21.9%** (+/- 3.8) of residents in the county were living below poverty.⁵

In 2013, residents needed to earn **\$11.08** an hour (or work **1.5** jobs at \$7.25 an hour**) to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent in Mason County.⁶

Estimated percentage of households without a vehicle (2008-2012)²



American Community Survey 5-year estimates

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/txc/Pages/TX-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
- * Data refer to housing tenure (owner or renter).
 ** The current federal minimum wage

UK
 UNIVERSITY OF
KENTUCKY
 College of Agriculture,
 Food and Environment
 School of Human Environmental Sciences