

NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR FOCUS

The Kentucky Nutrition Education Program works in all 120 counties to improve the lives of limited-resource Kentuckians through education and changes in behavior and in community. Through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service has agents and nutrition assistants across the state who are dedicated to improving lives in their communities.



OUR CHALLENGE

Poverty

In Kentucky, household median income is **\$45,215**, which is much lower than the U.S. median of **\$55,775**.¹ Kentucky has high rates of poverty and food insecurity when compared to the United States as a whole.¹

	Kentucky	U.S.
Total Poverty	18.5%	14.7%
Child Poverty	25.9%	20.7%
Food Insecurity	17.6%	13.7%
Very Low Food Secure	7.3%	5.4%

In 2014, an estimated **9,474** Bullitt County residents lived in poverty, and **3,063** of them were children. This is a **30.1%** increase in total poverty and **32.3%** increase in child poverty since 2007.²

SNAP benefits

Participation in the SNAP program among those who are eligible for its benefits is higher in Kentucky than in the U.S. as a whole.¹

In 2015, **7,410** Bullitt County residents received SNAP benefits, a **54.0%** increase since 2007.³

	Kentucky	U.S.
SNAP Participation	91%	83%



Obesity

Nearly half of all American adults experience one or more preventable, diet-related chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity.⁴ Kentucky has a high prevalence of hypertension, diabetes, and obesity, ranking in the top 10 when compared to other states.⁵ A large body of evidence shows that healthy eating habits and regular physical activity can help people achieve and maintain good health and reduce the risk of chronic disease throughout life.⁴

In 2013, **18,673** Bullitt County residents were considered obese, representing **32.8% (38.3%-27.8%)** of the county's population.⁶

OUR SOLUTION

Provide hands-on, nutrition education to limited-resource audiences, focusing on:

- Buying and preparing healthy foods
- Developing new meal planning and cooking skills
- Adopting new healthy lifestyle behaviors
- Managing SNAP resources

In 2016, 7,874 Bullitt County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

OUR RESULTS

IN BULLITT COUNTY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2016, **100%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **73%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **52%** began to plan meals in advance more often and **79%** used the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices more often. Youth participants also experienced behavior changes, with **79%** improving their ability to choose healthy foods.

OUR SUCCESS

Learning to eat different foods

According to the 2015 State of the Plate report, per capita fruit and vegetable consumption has declined 7% over the past five years in the United States, negatively impacting health in a variety of ways. To help address this issue, the Bullitt County Cooperative Extension Service EFNEP assistant and the Bullitt County Detention Center have partnered for the third year to bring nutrition education to the local substance abuse program, providing foods for the men in the center to taste that they might not try on their own.

For the protein lesson, a recipe combining beans and vegetables called Tailgater Caviar was offered for tasting along with the recipe to pass on to their families. Many of the men were surprised that some ingredients were considered protein.

Several of the men reported that they enjoyed Tailgater Caviar and had sent the recipe home with a family member so they could try it. They also planned to prepare it when they returned home. As one gentleman exclaimed, “Who knew eating different vegetables together in one dish could taste so good?”



SOURCES:

1. Frac.org/reports-and-resources/national-and-state-program-data-2, accessed December 2016
2. U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates
3. Kentucky Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Statewide Summaries, December 2007, 2013, 2015
4. 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
5. Stateofobesity.org, accessed September 2016
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), County Data Indicators, Obesity Prevalence

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