

# 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**.<sup>1</sup> Kentucky has high rates of poverty and food insecurity when compared to the United States as a whole.<sup>1</sup>

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

In 2014, an estimated **6,322** Carter County residents lived in poverty, and **1,955** of them were children. This is a **22.4%** increase in total poverty and **5.8%** increase in child poverty since 2007.<sup>2</sup>

### 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.<sup>1</sup>

In 2015, **6,024** Carter County residents received SNAP benefits, a **13.5%** increase since 2007.<sup>3</sup>

	Kentucky	U.S.
<b>SNAP Participation</b>	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.<sup>4</sup> Kentucky has a high prevalence of hypertension, diabetes, and obesity, ranking in the top 10 when compared to other states.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

In 2013, **7,924** Carter County residents were considered obese, representing **38.9% (43.6%-34.6%)** of the county's population.<sup>6</sup>

## 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, **6,525** Carter County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

## OUR RESULTS

### IN CARTER COUNTY

#### Lifestyle improvements

In 2016, **88%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **49%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **57%** began to plan meals in advance more often and **52%** used the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices more often. Youth participants also experienced behavior changes, with **52%** improving their ability to choose healthy foods.

## OUR SUCCESS

### ChopChop magazines encourage students to try new foods

The Trust for America’s Health Survey and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation place Kentucky eight out of 51 for its high rate of obesity for children age 10-17. The Cooperative Extension Service SNAP Education Program supplies the Carter County Cooperative Extension Office with ChopChop magazines on a biannual basis. ChopChop is a cooking magazine for youth that seeks to inspire families to cook and eat together more often. County staff deliver these magazines to local schools.

This past year, the 4-H agent delivered three editions of the magazines to Star Elementary School. The 4-H club leader at the school then shared the

magazines with her 35 club members. The members were so excited about some of the recipes in the magazines that the school cafeteria staff prepared two of the recipes (Green Apple Fro-Yo and Green Pineapple Smoothie) for the students to try during their club meetings. The response from the students was so positive that school cafeteria staff hope to incorporate some of the recipes into their school menu for the upcoming school year.

Follow-up surveys indicated that all of the students tried a new food at a 4-H club meeting, all will eat at least some of the foods they tried again, and all are planning to make some of the recipes from the ChopChop magazine at home.



#### SOURCES:

1. [Frac.org/reports-and-resources/national-and-state-program-data-2](http://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](http://Stateofobesity.org), accessed September 2016
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), County Data Indicators, Obesity Prevalence

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