

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 **59,007** Fayette County residents lived in poverty, and **15,231** of them were children. This is a **39.1%** increase in total poverty and **30.4%** 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, **32,795** Fayette County residents received SNAP benefits, a **66.9%** 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, **63,516** Fayette County residents were considered obese, representing **27.3% (30.0%-24.8%)** 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, **24,785** Fayette County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

OUR RESULTS

IN FAYETTE COUNTY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2016, **82%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **73%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **45%** began to plan meals in advance more often and **64%** used the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices more often. Youth participants also experienced behavior changes, with **64%** improving their ability to choose healthy foods.

OUR SUCCESS

Food for thought: Plate It Up! Kentucky Proud

The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky (2014) reported that only two in 10 Kentuckians meet the recommended daily guidelines for eating fruits and vegetables. In response, Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agents in Kentucky have developed Plate It Up Kentucky Proud recipes. These delicious recipes use fruits and vegetables that are easy to prepare and fresh produce from local markets or gardens.

Fayette County Extension conducts Food For Thought, a program to teach the principles of good nutrition and safe food preparation. In 2016, it featured Plate It Up Kentucky Proud recipes and encouraged class participants to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables. The following vegetable/fruit lessons were shared: Mason Jar Salads, Salsa, Gazpacho, and Yummy Ways to Serve Tomatoes, Using Fresh Garlic, and Pick a Peck of Pepper. Also included in the series were Get Stocked in Your Kitchen and Healthy Holiday Foods.

These programs reached over 180 people with nutrition information, taste testing of Plate It Up Kentucky Proud recipes, preparation tips for various commodities, and hands-on practice. Post-evaluation results show that after attending one or more classes, 92% of participants plan to buy Kentucky fruits and vegetables and 90% will try the recipes they tasted at home and plan to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables in their diets.



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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