



Nutrition Education Program

2017 Annual Report: Allen County

Our Focus

The 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.



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Our Challenge

Poverty

In Kentucky, household median income is \$46,659, which is much lower than the U.S. median of \$57,617.¹ 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%	14.4%
Child Poverty	25%	19.8%
Food Insecurity	17.3%	13%
Very Low Food Secure	7.4%	5.2%

In 2014, an estimated 3,816 Allen County residents lived in poverty, and 1,396 of them were children. This is a 13.5% increase in total poverty and 16.7% 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, 3,089 Allen County residents received SNAP benefits, a 39.8% 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, 5,079 Allen County residents were considered obese, representing 33.9% (27.8%-40.3%) 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 2017, **2,008** Allen County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

Our Results

IN ALLEN COUNTY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2017, **100%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **94%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **78%** began to plan meals in advance more often and **83%** 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

Increasing fruit and veggie consumption with local produce

In Allen County, obesity rates are high and families have limited access to local produce. Working with the county extension agent, the SNAP-Ed assistant partnered with the local health department and Need More Acres Farm to give 90 families a basket of salad greens, fresh asparagus, cherry tomatoes and green onions. The assistant demonstrated how to grill or bake asparagus, choose different salad greens and make an inexpensive vinaigrette dressing. Families sampled the salad and took their market baskets home.

Before the program, 55 of 90 participants had tried asparagus but only 30 liked it. Most used iceberg lettuce as their primary salad green. After the program, 88 participants liked the spring green salad and 81 knew more about different salad greens and their nutritive value. By program's end, 79 participants knew more about asparagus's nutritional value and 61 said they would buy fresh asparagus. A month later, 87 participants were surveyed. All had prepared the spring harvest salad for their families using the market basket vegetables; 86 said family members liked the salad. All said they would buy more asparagus and dark salad greens.



University of Kentucky
Nutrition Education Program
Family and Consumer Sciences Extension



This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SOURCES: 1. Frac.org/reports-and-resources/national-and-state-program-data-2, accessed December 2017; 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 December 2017; 6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), County Data Indicators, Obesity Prevalence

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.



KYNEP.ca.uky.edu



Facebook.com/KYNEP