



# Nutrition Education Program

## 2017 Annual Report: Bell 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.



### Our Challenge

#### Poverty

In Kentucky, household median income is \$46,659, which is much lower than the U.S. median of \$57,617.<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%	14.4%
<b>Child Poverty</b>	25%	19.8%
<b>Food Insecurity</b>	17.3%	13%
<b>Very Low Food Secure</b>	7.4%	5.2%

In 2014, an estimated 8,955 Bell County residents lived in poverty, and 2,647 of them were children. This is a 10.3% increase in total poverty and 7.7% 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, 9,447 Bell County residents received SNAP benefits, a 23.6% 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, 8,074 Bell County residents were considered obese, representing 37.9% (32.2%-43.8%) 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 2017, **9,931** Bell County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

## Our Results

### IN BELL COUNTY

#### Lifestyle improvements

In 2017, **99%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **85%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **92%** began to plan meals in advance more often and **87%** used the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices more often. Youth participants also experienced behavior changes, with **84%** improving their ability to choose healthy foods.

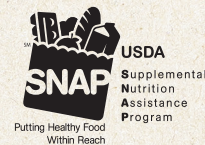
## Our Success

### FARMacy program encourages local eating

**O**besity and diabetes are among the health problems that are getting worse in Bell County. To combat these diseases, the SNAP-Ed program teamed with Mountain Comprehensive Health to implement a FARMacy program that encouraged participants to eat more locally grown fruits and vegetables. Because of the program, 85% of participants are making meals that include a variety of foods from MyPlate and 60% have become more physically active. One participant said, “Before this program I never really ate vegetables, but now I eat them every day. My health has really improved.”



University of Kentucky  
Nutrition Education Program  
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**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 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](http://Stateofobesity.org), accessed December 2017; 6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), County Data Indicators, Obesity Prevalence

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