



Nutrition Education Program

2017 Annual Report: Butler 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 \$57,617.¹ 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 2,596 Butler County residents lived in poverty, and 874 of them were children. This is a 9.8% increase in total poverty and 11.6% 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, 2,365 Butler County residents received SNAP benefits, a 28.4% 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, 3,191 Butler County residents were considered obese, representing 33.2% (25.9%-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, 2,947 Butler County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

Our Results

IN BUTLER COUNTY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2017, **100%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **90%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **82%** began to plan meals in advance more often and **84%** used the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices more often. Youth participants also experienced behavior changes, with **70%** improving their ability to choose healthy foods.

Our Success

Inspiring dietary policy change

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Americans consume too much sodium, which can cause high blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Heart disease and stroke are the nation’s first and third leading causes of death. Two years ago in Butler County, the Nutrition Education Program assistant and the Family and Consumer Sciences agent partnered with Andrea’s Mission, a drug rehabilitation program with facilities for men and women in Butler County. Each week since then, the NEP assistant has taught at both Andrea’s Mission’s facilities, using the Healthy Choices for Every Body curriculum, which focuses on the importance of reducing salt intake. Through those educational efforts and the willingness of the staff, leadership, directors and residents at Andrea’s Mission, both facilities are now salt-free. No salt is added to any dish as it is prepared. This positive policy change will help reduce each family’s risk for high blood pressure, which can lead to heart disease and stroke.



University of Kentucky
Nutrition Education Program
Family and Consumer Sciences Extension



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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

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