



Nutrition Education Program

2017 Annual Report: Johnson 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 5,817 Johnson County residents lived in poverty, and 1,626 of them were children. This is a 0.6% increase in total poverty and -6.4% decrease 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, 6,349 Johnson County residents received SNAP benefits, a 27.6% 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, 6,565 Johnson County residents were considered obese, representing 37.2% (31.9%-42.6%) 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, 3,555 Johnson County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

Our Results

IN JOHNSON COUNTY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2017, **100%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **91%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **91%** began to plan meals in advance more often and **92%** used the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices more often. Youth participants also experienced behavior changes, with **96%** improving their ability to choose healthy foods.

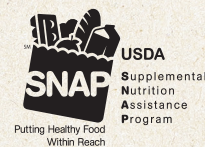
Our Success

Learning the meaning behind nutrition labels and healthy eating

The Johnson County SNAP-Ed assistant started a group at the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Technical Center for adults who will be living on their own after graduation and need basic life skills. Teaching proper nutrition to young adults can be challenging as bad eating habits often have already been established. One of the most-discussed topics was reading nutrition labels. Nutrition facts, serving size, handling instructions and ingredients were discussed. Using actual food labels, students talked about diet and health issues that could be relevant to their well-being. All of the students asked important questions about sugars, carbohydrates and fats, and serving size. Four students had health issues that required them to be cautious about what they eat. After the lesson Reading Labels for Every Body, those students said they had a better understanding of reading nutrition labels and have the confidence to shop for food on their own.



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