



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 their 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 where they live.

Our Challenge

Poverty

According to US Census estimates for 2016, the median household income in Kentucky is **\$46,610**, almost 20% lower than the U.S. median household income of **\$57,617**.¹ Kentucky also has higher percentages of poverty and food insecurity among its population compared to census estimate for the United States overall.

	Kentucky	U.S.
Total Poverty	17.2%	12.3%
Child Poverty	24.4%	19.5%
Food Insecurity	14.7%	11.8%

In 2016, an estimated **2,784** Garrard County residents lived in poverty, and **909** of those were children under 18. This represents a **1%** decrease in total poverty and **6.1%** increase in child poverty since 2008.¹

Obesity

Today, about half of all Americans have one or more chronic diseases, often related to poor diet.² These include high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and stroke which are often associated with obesity.



In 2017, the percentage of obese adults in Kentucky was **34.3%**, ranking it in the top 10 states for highest obesity rates in the country. Kentucky was also ranked in the top 10 for high percentages of adults with diabetes (**12.9%**) and adults with hypertension (**39.4%**).³ 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.²

In 2014, **32.6%** of Garrard County's adult population were considered obese.⁴

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 2018, **2,888** Garrard County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

Our Results

IN GARRARD COUNTY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2018, **98%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **95%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **93%** showed improvement in one or more food resource management practices and **89%** made changes to be more physically active. Youth participants also experienced behavior changes, with **92%** improving their ability to choose healthy foods.

Our Success

Kids learn proper hand washing to help stay healthy

Garrard County has 3 elementary schools and 24.3% of the youth live at or below the poverty line. The elementary schools have 100% of youth who qualify for free or reduced priced meals, and so the Garrard County SNAP-Ed Program Assistant worked with the elementary schools to conduct monthly programs for 131 youth in grades kindergarten through second grade. During the year, proper handwashing was a priority to help lessen the spreading of any viruses as well as practicing good hand washing prior to eating. The assistant included several hands-on activities within the lessons to engage the youth and show them the benefits of proper hand washing. At the beginning of the school year, only 16% of the children reported washing their hands. At the end of the school year, 87% of the children reported the number of times they washed their hands each day.



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SOURCES:

1. U.S. Census Bureau Small Area and Income Poverty Estimates
2. 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
3. The State of Obesity Report 2018
4. 2018 County Health Rankings & Roadmap

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