



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 **5,390** Wayne County residents lived in poverty, and **1,579** of those were children under 18. This represents a **6.2%** increase in total poverty and **6.7%** decrease 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, **40.1%** of Wayne 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, 17,925 Wayne County residents with limited resources participated in nutrition education lessons.

Our Results

IN WAYNE COUNTY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2018, **89%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **96%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **96%** 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 **86%** improving their ability to choose healthy foods.

Our Success

Teen Cuisine program makes a positive impact on at-risk youth

Wayne County Cooperative Extension was contacted by a local residential facility for juvenile females. The facility requested help with nutrition for females who would be aging out of the facility. The residents were to be prepared to go home or to a half-way house. All would be faced with more individualized choices as to their own health and nutrition.

The extension agent for 4-H Youth Development Education and EFNEP Assistant partnered together and chose the curriculum "Teen Cuisine." Teen Cuisine consists of six lessons to be used with middle and high-school aged youth to teach and encourage healthy eating behaviors and food preferences. Each lesson has a cooking component and two classes totaling 14 soon-to-be-graduates were held during 2018.

Post survey results show:

- 78% of the youth improved in their ability to choose foods according to the Federal Dietary Recommendations or gained knowledge.
- 71% of the youth improved their physical activity practices or gained knowledge.
- 87% of the youth showed improvement in safe food handling practices more often or gained knowledge.



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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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