



KENTUCKY NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

2020 ANNUAL REPORT: BOONE COUNTY

OUR FOCUS

The Kentucky Nutrition Education Program, as part of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, encompasses two separate USDA programs: The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). Both programs utilize agents and assistants to provide educational opportunities for limited-resource individuals and families to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and change behaviors for improved health and well-being.

OUR CHALLENGE

Poverty

According to U.S. Census estimates for 2019, the median household income in Kentucky is **\$52,256**, 20% lower than the U.S. median household income of **\$65,712**.¹ Kentucky also has higher percentages of poverty and food insecurity among its population compared to census estimates for the United States overall.

	Kentucky	U.S.
Total Poverty ¹	16.0%	12.3%
Child Poverty ¹	20.9%	16.8%
Food Insecurity ² <i>(Actual ratings during COVID-19 may be higher)</i>	14.7%	11.7%

In 2018, an estimated **6.4%** of Boone County residents lived in poverty, and an estimated **8.7%** were children younger than 18.¹

Obesity

Today, about half of all Americans have one or more chronic diseases, often related to poor diet and physical inactivity.³ These include high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and stroke.



In 2019, the percentage of obese adults in Kentucky was **36.5%**, ranking it in the top 10 states for highest obesity rates in the country. The percentage of physically inactive Kentuckians was **30.6%**, ranking it among the top five most physically inactive states in the nation. Kentucky was also ranked in the top 10 for high percentages of adults with diabetes (**13.3%**) and adults with hypertension (**40.9%**).⁴ 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.³

In 2020, **36%** of Boone County's adult population was considered obese, and **25%** was considered physically inactive.⁵

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 2020, **16,820** contacts were made with Boone County residents who participated in nutrition education programming.

OUR RESULTS

IN BOONE COUNTY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2020, **92%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **85%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **80%** showed improvement in one or more food resource management practices and **60%** made changes to be more physically active.



OUR SUCCESS

Working with food banks to help families

In 2019, 37 million people in the United States were struggling with food insecurities. In 2020, it is projected to increase by 46% because of COVID-19. By the end of 2020, 54 million Americans will have struggled with food insecurities, and 1 in 7 Kentuckians. In May 2020, the USDA began the COVID-19 Food Assistance Program which provides \$3 billion in fresh produce, meat, and dairy once a month to be distributed locally to food banks and other nonprofits in every county in Kentucky. These 20 lb. to 25 lb. boxes supply enough food to provide adequate meals for a household for a month. In collaboration with the Director of the Freestore Food Bank, the University of Kentucky's Northern Kentucky Nutrition Education Program Assistants provided more than 400 monthly nutrition and health information packets to be included in the COVID-19 food assistance boxes. These boxes were distributed monthly at a local food pantry. The information provided participants with the latest COVID-19 information as well as nutrition information and low-cost healthy recipes to use with the items in the food assistance boxes.



University of Kentucky Nutrition Education Program Family and Consumer Sciences Extension

SOURCES:

1. U.S. Census Bureau Small Area and Income Poverty Estimates
2. America's Health Rankings 2019
3. World Health Organization Media Centre
4. The State of Obesity Report 2019
5. 2019 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

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