



KENTUCKY NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

2021 ANNUAL REPORT: MONROE COUNTY

OUR FOCUS

The Kentucky Nutrition Education Program (KYNEP or NEP) encompasses two separate USDA programs: The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). Both programs 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 2020, 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 overall and child poverty¹ and food insecurity² among its population compared to 2020 Census and Department of Agriculture estimates for the United States overall.

	Kentucky	U.S.
Total Poverty¹	16.0%	12.3%
Child Poverty¹	20.9%	16.8%
Food Insecurity²	13.8%	10.5%

In 2020, an estimated **23.8%** of Monroe County residents overall lived in poverty, and an estimated **31** were residents under age 18.¹

Obesity and physical inactivity

Today, **60%** of all Americans live with at least one chronic disease. These include heart disease and stroke, cancer, and diabetes.³ These diseases are all associated with obesity and physical inactivity. In 2020, Kentucky ranked



in the top five states in the country for obesity with a rate of **36.6%** for adults.⁴ The percentage of physically inactive Kentuckians is **32%**, ranking it in the top seven most physically inactive states in the nation.⁵ A large amount of data show 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

The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Kentucky report shows that **35%** of Monroe County's adult population have obesity and **33%** were 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 2021, **39,086** contacts were made with Monroe County residents who participated in nutrition education programming.

OUR RESULTS

IN KENTUCKY

Lifestyle improvements

In 2021, **98%** of adult participants made a positive change in food group choices and **89%** showed improvement in one or more food safety practices. In addition, **96%** showed improvement in one or more food resource management practices and **80%** made changes to be more physically active.



OUR SUCCESS

Using Social Media to Encourage Healthy Eating

Social media can be a good tool to reach diverse audiences. With the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic busy schedules, social media provides a pathway to learning which can be accomplished at everyone's convenience. Oftentimes, the thoughts of preparing food at home can seem overwhelming and extremely time consuming. To show that preparing healthy recipes at home can be quick and nutritious, the 4-H Youth Development agent developed a series of food preparation classes using the local newspaper and social media. In the Kitchen with Susan is a closed Facebook group and a newspaper article in which a different SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) or a Plate It Up! recipe is featured each week. The weekly newspaper recipe is also the same recipe as prepared during the live video. The Facebook group has grown to 122 members including youths and adults, men, and women, and has more than 50 views weekly.



University of Kentucky Nutrition Education Program Family and Consumer Sciences Extension

SOURCES:

1. U.S. Census Bureau Small Area and Income Poverty Estimates 2020
2. United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service
3. CDC National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion 2019
4. The State of Obesity Report 2020
5. CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

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