Kentucky Extension Community Assessment
Nelson County Report
2019

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Kentucky State University
College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Sustainable Systems

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for your support and participation in the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Community Needs Assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to better serve you through targeted educational programming.

The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service is the outreach arm of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Kentucky State University College of Agriculture, Communities and Environment. With offices in all 120 counties of the Commonwealth, Extension provides practical, research-based educational programs and information.

Extension values community input into educational program development and has from its inception more than a century ago. Every four years, each Extension office prepares a plan of work that includes gathering information from community members as well as secondary data to inform the plan.

Our state is changing, and new areas of need are emerging. To standardize our plan of work process, a committee of Extension personnel and community members developed the community needs assessment process to formalize that data gathering portion.

We expected a large response and we were not disappointed. Over 38,000 people completed the survey. More than 500 interviews and focus groups were conducted. We will use this information to develop local plans of work in our counties as well as regional and statewide initiatives to make a positive impact in the lives of Kentuckians.

We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Sincerely,

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Administration

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An Equal Opportunity University

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

In the fall of 2018, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service began a statewide assessment of community issues and priorities from across the Commonwealth. County Extension offices led the effort by collecting feedback from various county residents, stakeholders, and organizations. Each county collected feedback through surveys, focus groups, and interviews with community stakeholders. The goal of this project was to gain a better understanding of the needs and priorities facing communities in Kentucky. Gathering information from each county allowed both a broad view of state community issues and an opportunity to detail and address issues specific to counties. Utilizing the results, the University of Kentucky and Cooperative Extension Service can align resources and improve services and partnerships in response to the priority needs of each county. This report is a summary of the data collected in this county.

Community Survey

A community needs assessment survey was developed by a committee representing a mix of county Extension Agents, Extension Specialists from departments across the University of Kentucky, and community stakeholders. The assessment survey was shared with each county Extension office. In turn, Extension Agents invited county residents to participate in the community needs assessment survey. The survey was electronically distributed by social media and email, and was distributed on paper to individuals, groups and organizations to be completed.

Focus Groups

County Extension office staff convened community members in interactive focus groups in the fall of 2018. The focus group listening sessions were designed to allow community members to discuss their ideas on the future of the county in more detail than allowed on the survey. Participants in the focus groups were invited to discuss their vision for a more vibrant county, issues for the future, barriers to issue resolution, resources or information that would help the issues, and ideas for an improved future. A summarized reporting of the results of these listening sessions are included in this report.

Interviews

In addition to the survey and focus group sessions, county Extension Agents also conducted interviews with individuals in formal leadership roles in the county. The interview questioning followed a similar format to the focus groups, seeking information on pressing needs, long term needs, and exploring the role that Extension might serve to address future issues confronting the county.

Secondary Data

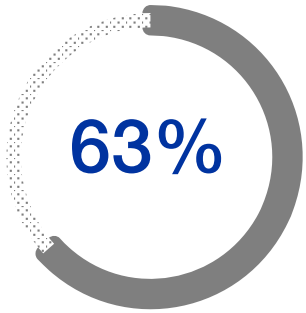
To complement the survey, focus groups, and interviews, detailed data profiles have been compiled for each county that correspond to topic areas covered in the survey. This information provides additional context to understand the role of identified issues in each county as well as historical data to highlight trends.

Next Steps

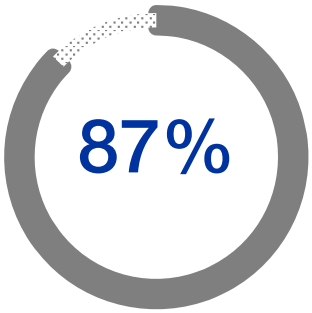
This report summarizes the information collected for this county. The report and the included secondary data compilation can serve as a starting point for deeper investigation into the issues of concern and priority for community members. The University of Kentucky and Cooperative Extension Service will support the county in addressing the priorities identified through this assessment.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

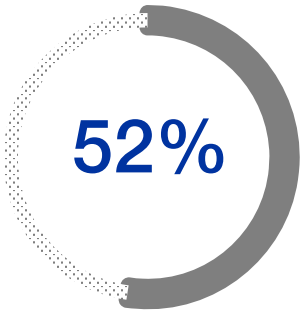
472 Respondents



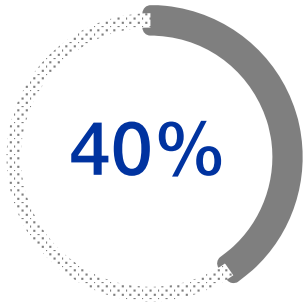
are Female



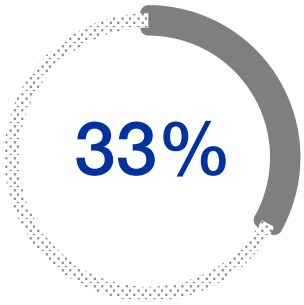
are White (non-Hispanic)



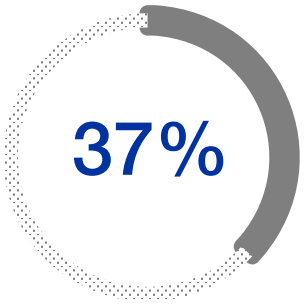
are 25-64 years old (working age)



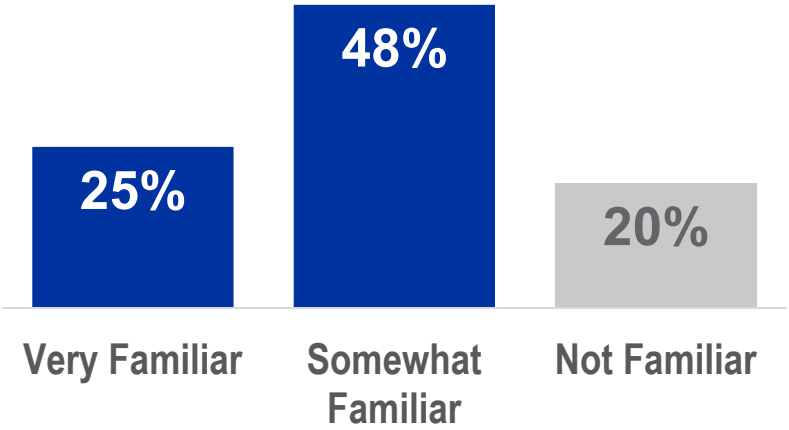
work or are self-employed



are retired



currently participate in Extension programming



respondent familiarity with Extension

ISSUE IMPORTANCE

469 respondents ranked 62 community issues on a scale of "very important" to "not important."

The table below lists all 62 community issues. The numerical value listed next to each issue represents the average rating across all respondents. Below is the scale used to determine the average rating:

Very important = 4 Important = 3 Not that important = 2 Not important = 1

The table is organized into two columns: the most important issue (on average) is listed at the top of the left column.

Category Legend:

▲ Health and Wellness ♥ Youth and Families ♦ Agriculture and Environment ■ Jobs and Infrastructure ● Community Vitality

3.79	■	Trustworthy and effective law enforcement	3.51	♥	More support for relatives raising children of family members
3.76	▲	Fewer chronic diseases (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.)	3.51	●	More youth community leadership opportunities
3.75	■	More jobs paying good wages with benefits	3.51	▲	More sources for buying safe, affordable, fresh food
3.73	■	Responsive emergency services	3.51	●	More pride in the community and its assets
3.72	▲	Fewer overweight or obese youth and adults	3.5	■	Better employee "soft skills" training (communications, team work, etc.)
3.72	▲	Improved affordability of health care insurance	3.5	■	More qualified employees for existing or new jobs
3.7	♥	More youth life skills training (money management, life decision making, etc.)	3.48	♥	More senior citizen support programs
3.67	■	Safe and accessible public water and sewer	3.47	●	More citizens helping to solve local issues
3.67	▲	Improved access to quality affordable health care providers (medical, dental, etc.)	3.47	●	More active community volunteers
3.66	♥	Better family skills in reducing debt, increasing savings, and financial planning	3.46	●	More effective cooperation between community organizations
3.65	♦	Sustainability of family farms	3.46	■	Better roads and bridges
3.64	♦	Less illegal dumping and littering	3.45	♦	More crop and livestock production opportunities
3.63	▲	Improved availability of health care insurance	3.45	▲	Better skills for selecting and preparing healthier food
3.62	♥	More support for prevention of school violence and bullying	3.43	▲	More individual physical activity opportunities
3.6	▲	Safer use of prescription medications	3.42	■	Access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet service
3.6	♥	More affordable, quality elder care options	3.42	■	Better utilities (water, sewer, etc.) to attract industry
3.6	♥	More support for families with mental and emotional health issues	3.39	▲	Safer community places to walk, run, bike, etc.
3.58	●	More qualified leaders to prepare community for the future	3.39	♦	More land available for food production
3.57	♥	Affordable, quality child care	3.34	●	More community marketing efforts (tourism, industry attraction, etc.)
3.57	♥	More support for families and individuals with special needs	3.33	♦	Less pest, disease, and weed issues
3.57	▲	More sources for buying safe, affordable, fresh local foods	3.32	▲	More healthy snacks and food options at restaurants and community events
3.56	♥	More child and partner abuse prevention resources	3.31	■	More part-time and summer job opportunities
3.56	♥	Stronger parenting and relationship building skills	3.26	▲	Improved sidewalks and crosswalks
3.56	♥	Better youth and adult career readiness	3.24	♦	More farm-related jobs
3.55	■	Increased support for small business	3.21	♦	Increased tree and forestry management
3.54	▲	Availability of substance use treatment	3.12	♦	More training for food gardening skills
3.53	▲	Better use of food safety practices (hand washing, storage, preservation, etc.)	3.1	■	More public transportation options
3.53	♦	More profitable farms	3.08	♦	More community gardens
3.53	▲	Availability of substance use prevention programs	3.07	■	More tourism-related businesses
3.53	♦	More market opportunities for farmers	3.07	♦	More community parks and green spaces
3.52	♦	More awareness and support for agriculture and agribusinesses	2.99	♦	Better landscapes for improved home value

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

After respondents ranked the importance of issues in their community, they were asked to identify the top three priorities for their community in each issue category.

296 respondents chose issues by priority, and the resulting top three priorities for each issue category are listed below.

By prioritizing the issues, respondents are not just identifying how important each issue is for their community, but rather ***which issues they would prioritize in their community***.

Jobs & Infrastructure

1. More jobs paying good wages and benefits
2. Trustworthy and effective law enforcement
3. Increased support for small businesses

Agriculture & Environment

1. Sustainability of family farms
2. Less illegal dumping and littering
3. More market opportunities for farmers

Health & Wellness

1. Fewer chronic diseases (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.)
2. Improved affordability of health care insurance
3. Fewer overweight or obese youth and adults

Youth & Families

1. More youth life skills training (money management, life decision making, etc.)
2. Better family skills in reducing debt, increasing savings and financial planning
3. More support for prevention of school violence and bullying

Community Vitality

1. More qualified leaders to prepare community for the future
2. More youth community leadership opportunities
3. More citizens helping to solve local issues

The Nelson County Extension Office convened community members in two interactive focus groups which were a mix of people from various backgrounds, ages, and occupations. The conversations focused on identifying the priority issues facing the county and proposed ideas of what residents would like to see in the future. While focus groups only offer a small sample of attitudes within the county, they do provide insightful first-hand perspectives from residents. The responses from the focus groups are summarized below.

Vision for a More Vibrant Community

Respondents offered several ideas when asked about their vision for a vibrant community in Nelson County:

- Destinations, facilities, and activities for youth of all ages and families, outdoor recreation areas and hiking trails, and amusements like splash parks
- A variety of restaurants, including franchises and more local/regional food choices
- Improved athletic facilities and other public facilities, including the Extension building
- A variety of lodging options including guest housing and hotels
- A community with progressive leadership and open-minded citizens, where people feel connected and aware of resources (human capital) in the community
- Beautified roadways with many planted to be pollinator habitats
- Good recycling infrastructure

Identified Priorities

- Youth and family center
- Infrastructure
- Drug treatment facilities
- Restaurants and hotels
- Environment and health

Priorities Discussion

Both focus groups indicated that having a youth and family center, perhaps a YMCA, was a high priority for the community. Participants also thought existing youth recreational facilities needed improvement.

Infrastructure was another priority theme in both focus groups. Comments focused on the need for road improvements, including that the county was behind other counties on roads and that new construction was unsafe when turning on congested roads. Participants also mentioned the need for internet service throughout the county.

Participants said that drug treatment facilities were a high priority in the county. Some participants talked about the need to reduce drugs and crime and to improve security at all parks.

Addressing the cause of the high rate of cancer in the county was identified as a pressing concern in the community. Air quality was a concern for some, particularly in regard to the bourbon industry.

Other priorities identified included more diverse hospitality franchises and hotels, youth development, providing a ride service for youth, having additional farm market opportunities, and to incentivize agricultural activities through tax cuts. Participants noted the need to acquire more revenue to provide/sustain facilities and services.

Focus group participants contributed a number of ideas about resources and information which would help Nelson County address its top priorities; these included money, other funding sources, industrial financing, career and technical resource help, employability readiness programs at all schools, and a review of county policy and procedures. Participants also suggested seeking advice from others, more open-mindedness, and open communication at all levels, fairness. An additional idea offered was communication and community access facilities from the bourbon industry.

Three interviews were conducted with people in positions of county or regional leadership in Nelson County. These interviews allowed deeper insight from the perspectives of people highly engaged in community activities. The interview followed a similar format to the focus groups, seeking information on pressing needs, long-term needs, and exploring ways that Extension might serve to address issues confronting the county. The interview perspectives are compiled and summarized to represent key discussion ideas.

Identified Priorities

- Improved infrastructure
- Address opioid epidemic
- Lack of housing availability for different populations
- Industry diversification

Priorities Discussion

All three informants thought that infrastructure issues were a priority in Nelson County. Both road maintenance and construction were important, and informants spoke of a need for wider roads to accommodate agricultural equipment, a need for work on the bypass around town, and a need for more ways to get in and out of town. They also thought sewer and natural gas line extension and repair were critical, as was securing a larger volume water source, to be able to recruit industry. One person noted that lack of water would limit the quantity and quality of agriculture, industry, and housing development.

Another informant spoke about the impact of the opioid epidemic, which is nationwide, and locally has very real impacts of increased deaths, increased medical needs, and higher training expenses for response staff.

One informant talked about housing as a priority, noting that there are no rentals or apartments for young families, and that it was a sellers' market. This creates a barrier to the recruitment of young families and getting people to move back to the county.

Another priority mentioned was industry diversification, the need to not put all your eggs in one basket. One informant wanted to make sure local leaders don't forget agriculture's importance to the economy and the need for agricultural diversification.

Other priorities which informants discussed included a skilled workforce and education. They felt a smarter workforce equals better industry, and education needs to continue to raise the bar. Also, there is a need to identify people who are problem solvers and get them involved in county issues.

When asked what information and resources UK and the County Extension Service could provide to help the county address priority issues, informants provided a number of ideas:

- Information from CEDIK on changing population and demographics is helpful for future planning, such as childcare needs and retirement planning
- A presentation by Dr. Julie Zimmerman on population projections and projections by age was mentioned specifically
- Provide youth education on drugs and their impacts
- Help bringing together a diverse set of people to accomplish change, to establish long and short term goals.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SECONDARY DATA PROFILE

As part of the Community Assessment process, each county is provided with a profile of secondary data. The goal is to supplement the survey, focus groups and interviews with a wide range of secondary data. The data selected for the profiles correspond to the topics covered in the survey and a list of variables provided by the committee that designed the assessment process.

As counties begin to understand the results from their surveys, focus groups and interviews, these data provide an additional dimension to understanding the role of particular issues in each county.

Profile Data

Data in each profile are organized as follows: county demographics; families and households; agriculture; jobs, economy and labor force; youth; and health and wellness. Because we all relate to data in different ways, within each section, the data are presented using three different formats:

- Tabular data
- Narrative
- Graphic

Comparison data over time or comparisons with the state as a whole are provided where space allowed.

County Demographics

Families and Households

Agriculture

Jobs, Economy and Labor Force

Youth

Health and Wellness

Finding More Data

If you need additional data, many sources are available. On the back page of each profile, we provide information for each of the data sources we used. We also provide a list of websites where you may access them.

For easy access to a wide array of data, visit **Kentucky: By The Numbers**, the **Building Strong Families Profiles** from Family and Consumer Sciences Extension, and the **County Data Profiles** from the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK).

If you need help in finding more data or if you need assistance in understanding this secondary data profile, please feel free to contact Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman (jzimm@uky.edu) in the Department of Community and Leadership Development.

Nelson County
Data Profile

Nelson County's Data Profile is provided by the **Kentucky: By The Numbers** program in the Department of Community and Leadership Development for the Community Assessments conducted by the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service. These secondary data profiles supplement the survey, focus groups, and key informant interviews conducted in each county across the state through the County Extension Offices and coordinated by Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK).

The overall goals for the Community Assessments are:

- To gain a better understanding of the county's pressing issues;
- To enhance Extension's place-based approach by providing information on locally relevant issues in counties;
- To gain a better understanding of how Extension can support important community change to improve Kentucky;
- To provide a statewide view of how top issues are distributed across the state.

For more information on the Community Assessment process, visit https://extension.ca.uky.edu/communityassessment

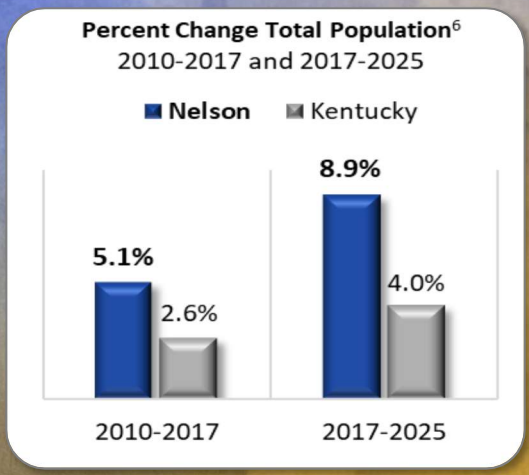
For additional data or other data-related assistance, contact: Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman (jzimm@uky.edu)

County Demographics

Population	**2010**[1]	**2017**[2]	**2025**[3]
Total	43,437	45,640	49,702
Ages 65 and over	5,097		9,301

	2010-2017[4]
Net Migration (in/out)	695

Race/Ethnicity	**2010**[1]	**2016**[5]
White	39,528	41,216
Black or African American	2,177	2,330
Asian	216	261
Other and 2 or more races	628	800
Hispanic	888	952



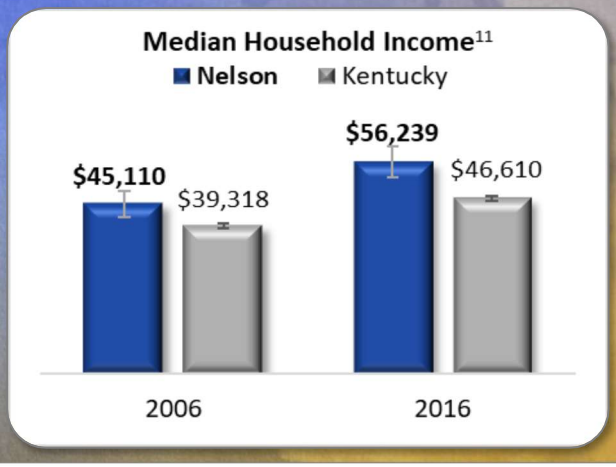
- From 2010 to 2017, the total population in Nelson County **increased** by **2,203** people.[2]
- Between April 2010 and June 2017, there was an estimated **net in migration** of **695** people.[4]
- In 2016, the composition of Nelson County's population is estimated to be **90.5%** White, **5.1%** Black/African American, **0.6%** Asian, **1.8%** other and 2 or more races, and **2.1%** Hispanic.[5]
- From 2017 to 2025, the total population in Nelson County is **projected** to **increase** by **4,062** people.[3]
- As baby boomers are entering retirement, between 2010 and 2025 the population ages 65 and over in Nelson County are **projected** to **increase** by **82.5%** compared to 51.9% for the state as a whole.[3]

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. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING

Families and Households

Families	2010[1]	2012-2016[7]
Married couple		
… with own children	3,595	3,801 (+/- 302)
Female householder		
… with own children	1,398	1,278 (+/- 276)
Male householder		
… with own children	545	477 (+/- 169)
Nonfamily households (live alone/unrelated)	4,941	4,842 (+/- 397)

Poverty	2012-2016[7]
Percent of families with related children who are below poverty	17.1% (+/- 4.1%)
Percent 65 and over below poverty	11.6% (+/- 3.6%)



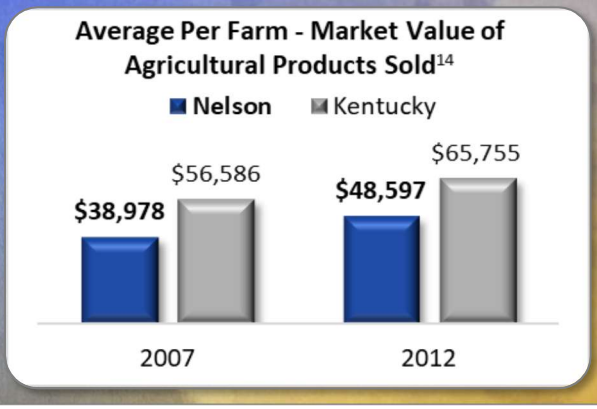
	2012-2016[7]
Grandparents living with and raising grandchildren[3]	425 (+/- 151)

- In 2016, Nelson County's official poverty rate was **11.6%** (9.3% - 13.9%), compared to 18.2% (17.9% - 18.6%) for the state as a whole.[8]
- In 2017, there were **23** child care centers in Nelson County. Of these **17** were STARS certified.[9]
- Between 2012-2016, **2.4%** (+/-0.7%) of people ages 5 and over spoke a language other than English at home.[7]
- The Urban Institute estimates that **18%** people in Nelson County with a credit bureau record in 2016 had student loan debt compared to 16% for the state.[10]

Agriculture (Data from the 2017 Ag Census will be available in 2019)

Farms*	2007[12]	2012[13]
Total number of farms	1,406	1,326
Percent of land in farms	73.2%	70.3%
Average farm size (acres)	140	142

	2012[13]
Income from agri-tourism and recreational services	$126,000
Number of farms marketing products directly to retail outlets	17
Average value per farm of agricultural products sold directly to individuals for human consumption	$2,598



Percent of Principal Operators	2012[13]
… who are female	9.7%
… under age 35	3.7%
… farming as primary occupation	43.1%

- In 2012, the total market value of agricultural products sold in Nelson County was **$64,439,000**.[13]
- Of the total market value of agricultural products sold, **53.3%** was the value of crops and **46.7%** was the value of livestock, poultry, and their products.[13]
- The total farm production expenses (average per farm) was **$49,108** compared to $62,002 for the state.[13]
- In Nelson County, there were **951** hired farm labor workers on **309** farms.[13]
- **89.7%** of farms were operated by a family or an individual compared to 91.0% for the state.[13]

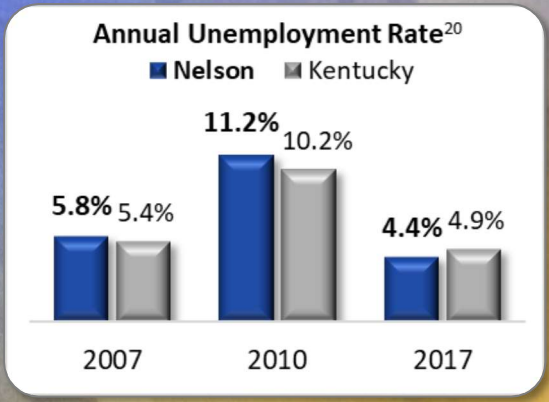
** A farm must sell at least $5,000 to be defined as a farm operation.*

Jobs, Economy, and Labor Force

Jobs and Businesses	2010	2016
Total Employment (# of jobs)[15]	19,946	21,880
Total Establishments (w/ employees)[16]	919	961
… % with 1-9 employees	75.0%	74.7%
… % with 10-20 employees	13.4%	12.1%
Total NonEmployer Establishments (w/o employees)[17]	3,011	3,043

Education	2012-2016[7]
Percent of population 25 and over	
… with HS or higher	89.0% (+/- 1.3%)
… with bachelors or higher	17.2% (+/- 1.7%)

	Men	Women
Median Earnings (2012-16)[7]	$35,926 (+/- $1,610)	$24,081 (+/- $1,954)



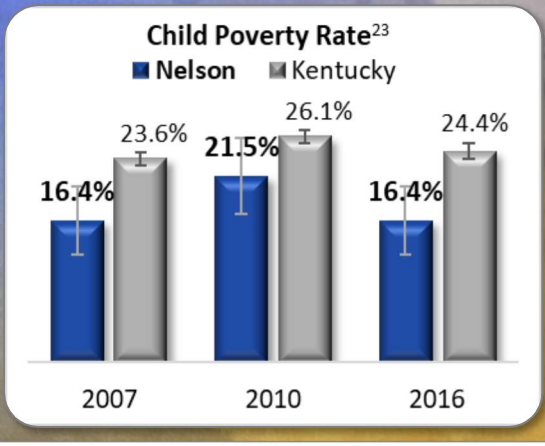
Avg Weekly Wage[18]	2017
… All Industries (Private & Govt)	$781
… Goods-producing (Private)	$1,003
… Service-providing (Private)	$631

- In 2017, the number of private establishments covered by unemployment insurance in Nelson County was **217** for goods-producing, **907** for service-providing, and **87** for hospitality & leisure.[18]
- Between 2012 and 2016, of the **20,511** (+/- 586) workers ages 16 and over, **63.5%** (+/- 2.7%) worked inside the county, **35.3%** (+/-0.6%) worked outside the county and **1.2%** (+/-0.6%) worked outside Kentucky.[7]
- Between 2012 and 2016, **3.0%** (+/-1.2%) of workers ages 16 and over who worked full-time year round were below poverty compared to 3.5% (+/- 0.1%) for the state as a whole.[7]
- **8.9%** of 2016 HS graduates in the county earned an industry certificate compared to 19.2% for the state.[19]

Youth

Population by Age	2010[1]	2017[2]	2025[3]
Under 5 years old	2,993	2,836	3,305
5-9 years old	3,125	3,053	3,423
10-14 years old	3,250	3,141	3,335
15-19 years old	3,026	2,880	2,953

Children by Relationship to Householder	2012-2016[7]
… Own Children (Biological, Adopted, Stepchild)	10,021 (+/- 309)
… Grandchild	893 (+/- 281)
… Other Relative	158 (+/- 115)
… Foster/Unrelated	127 (+/- 108)



24.1% of students entered KY public postsecondary institutions underprepared in one or more subjects (2015).[21]

- Between 2012-2016, there were an estimated **537** (+/-156) youth ages 5-17 who had a disability.[7]
- **43.9%** of 3rd grade students in Nelson County scored proficient or distinguished on math in the 2015-16 school year compared to 47.7% for the state.[22]
- **2,791** (+/- 502) youth under age 18 lived in households that received supplemental security income (SSI), cash public assistance, or food stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months (2012-2016).[7]

Nelson County Data Profile

Health and Wellness

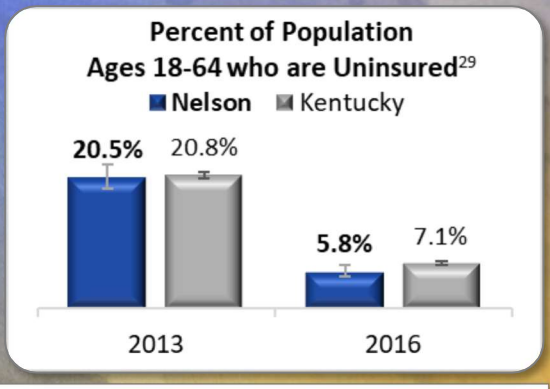
Percent of Adults

… reporting poor or fair health (2016)[24]	19.2% (18.5%-19.9%)
… with hypertension (2013-15)[25]	33.1% (24.6%-42.9%)
… with obesity (2014-16)[25]	33% (25.1%-42.5%)
… with diabetes (2014-16)[25]	10.9% (7.0%-16.6%)

Number of Individuals

… receiving SNAP (food stamps) (2017)[26]	4,880
… who are food insecure (2016 estimate)[27]	5,540

Number of Overdoses[28]	**2008-2010**	**2015-2017**
… fatal overdoses	19	38
… nonfatal overdoses	337	436



Number of Care Providers[24]

… Primary Care Physicians (2015)	23
… Dentists (2016)	27
… Mental Health Providers (2017)	62

- The estimated food insecurity rate for Nelson County is **12.4%**, compared to 15.5% for the state.[27]
- From 2010 to 2016, the number of grocery stores **did not change** by **0.0%**, from **6** to **6** stores.[16]
- In 2013-2015, **29.2%** (24.6%-34.1%) of adults ages 20 and over reported no leisure time physical activity.[24]
- The Urban Institute estimates that **27%** of people in Nelson County with a credit bureau record in 2016 had medical debt in collections compared to 27% for the state as a whole.[10]
- **10.4%** (5.5%-19.1%) of adults reported that there was a time in past year when they needed to see a doctor but could not because of the cost.[25]

Sources

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8. 2016 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). U.S. Census Bureau.
9. 2017 Early Childhood Profile. Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS).
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12. 2007 Census of Agriculture. U.S. Department of Agriculture.
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15. Regional Economic Accounts. Bureau of Economic Analysis.
16. County Business Patterns. U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder.
17. NonEmployer Statistics. U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder.
18. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Bureau of Labor Statistics.
19. 2018 High School Feedback Report. Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS).
20. Chart: 2007, 2010, and 2017 Annual Unemployment Rate. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
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22. 2017 Early Childhood Profile. Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS).
23. Chart. 2007, 2010, and 2016 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). U.S. Census Bureau.
24. 2018 County Health Rankings. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
25. Kentucky Health Facts. Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.
26. Food and Nutrition Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture.
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28. Custom Data Request. Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC).
29. Chart: 2013 and 2016 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE). U.S. Census Bureau.

Websites

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BEA Regional Economic Accounts. https://apps.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1

County Health Rankings. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/

Debt in America: An Interactive Map. https://apps.urban.org/features/debt-interactive-map/

Food and Nutrition Service. https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap

Kentucky Center for Statistics (Formerly KCEWS). https://kystats.ky.gov/

Kentucky Health Facts. http://www.kentuckyhealthfacts.org/

Kentucky State Data Center. https://factfinder.census.gov

Kids Count Data Center. https://datacenter.kidscount.org/

Local Area Unemployment Statistics. https://www.bls.gov/lau/

Map the Meal Gap. http://map.feedingamerica.org/

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). https://www.bls.gov/cew/

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE). https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie.html

Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html

Additional data are also available at:
Kentucky: By The Numbers (http://www2.ca.uky.edu/snarl/Index.htm),
the FCS Building Strong Families profiles (http://hes.uky.edu/StrongFamilies),
and the CEDIK county profiles (https://cedik.ca.uky.edu/CountyDataProfiles).

Julie N. Zimmerman and Cameron McAlister. January 2019. Kentucky: By The Numbers is a program in the Department of Community and Leadership Development and the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Kentucky. For more information contact your local Cooperative Extension office or Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman. Professor of Rural Sociology. Department of Community and Leadership Development, 500 Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215. email: jzimm@uky.edu.

Nelson County Priority Responses
296 Respondents

Jobs and Infrastructure

More jobs paying good wages and benefits	28.36%
Trustworthy and effective law enforcement	19.4%
Increased support for small businesses	9.59%
Safe and accessible public water and sewer	9.38%
More qualified employees for existing and new jobs	9.17%
Access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet service	7.46%
Responsive emergency services	6.82%
Better employee "soft skills" training (communications, team work, etc.)	6.18%
Better roads and bridges	5.97%
More tourism-related businesses	5.12%
More public transportation options	4.05%
Better utilities (water, sewer, etc.) to attract industry	3.2%
More part-time and summer job opportunities	3.2%

Agriculture and Environment

Sustainability of family farms	27.72%
Less illegal dumping and littering	24.31%
More market opportunities for farmers	19.19%
More support for Kentucky agriculture and agribusiness	15.35%
More training for food gardening skills	13.43%
More profitable farms	11.51%
More community parks and green spaces	11.3%
Increased tree and forestry management	10.66%
More crop and livestock production opportunities	9.81%
More farm-related jobs	9.38%
More community gardens	6.18%
More land available for food production	6.18%
Less pest, disease, and weed issues	5.97%
Better landscapes for improved home value	3.84%

Health and Wellness

Fewer chronic diseases (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.)	16.63%
Improved affordability of health care insurance	14.07%
Fewer overweight or obese youth and adults	13.01%
Improved access to quality, affordable health care providers (medical, dental, etc.)	11.51%
Better skills for selecting and preparing healthier food	10.02%
More sources for buying safe, affordable, fresh local foods	9.17%
Availability of substance use prevention programs	8.53%
Better use of food safety practices (hand washing, storage, preservation, etc.)	8.1%
More sources for buying safe, affordable, fresh food	7.89%
Availability of substance use treatment	7.04%
Improved availability of health care insurance	6.4%
Safer community places to walk, run, bike, etc.	6.18%
Safer use of prescription medications	5.76%
More healthy snack and food options at restaurants and community events	5.54%
More individual physical activity opportunities	3.62%
Improved sidewalks and crosswalks	2.13%

Youth and Families

More youth life skills training (money management, life decision making, etc.)	23.88%
Better family skills in reducing debt, increasing savings and financial planning	17.06%
More support for prevention of school violence and bullying	13.86%
Better youth and adult career readiness	12.58%
More affordable, quality elder care options	9.59%
Affordable quality child care	8.96%
More support for families with mental and emotional health issues	8.53%
More support for families and individuals with special needs	8.1%
More senior citizen support programs	7.04%
Stronger parenting and relationship building skills	7.04%
More child and partner abuse prevention resources	6.61%
More support for relatives raising children of family members	5.76%

Community Vitality

More qualified leaders to prepare community for the future	31.77%
More youth community leadership opportunities	20.47%
More citizens helping to solve local issues	17.48%
More effective cooperation between community organizations	13.86%
More pride in the community and its assets	13.65%
More active community volunteers	10.02%
More community marketing efforts (tourism, industry attraction, etc.)	9.38%

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

DATE

Cooperative Extension Service
(Your) County
Street address
City, KY zip-speed
(000) 000-0000
Fax: (000) 000-0000
http://extension.ca.uky.edu

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, KY ZIP

Re: _____ County Extension Community Survey

Dear _____,

The **Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service (Extension)** is the local outreach arm of the **University of Kentucky** College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and **Kentucky State University** College of Agriculture, Communities, and the Environment. The goal is to provide practical, research-based education that helps individuals, families and communities solve problems and improve lives. Extension provides value to communities through educational programs and information in areas like farming, gardening, parenting, budgeting, healthy living, and youth, community, and economic development.

We are interested in better understanding the issues that are important to you in your community. In response, the Kentucky Cooperative Extension System can tailor new and existing programs to address the highest priority issues that directly impact you, your family and your community. You do NOT need to be familiar with Cooperative Extension to complete this survey. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete and all of your responses will be completely anonymous and confidential.

Please return this survey to (Local office name and address) by _____.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact (local office name and phone number).

Sincerely,

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

1. Please rate each of the following community issues on a scale of "Not Important" to "Very Important" by placing a check mark or "X" in the corresponding space. If you are uncertain if an issue is important to your community, select "I don't know."

2. After evaluating the importance of each issue within this category, please select the **TWO** issues you consider the highest priority for your community.

Jobs and Public Infrastructure

	1.						2.
	Not Important	Not that Important	Important	Very Important	I don't know		Select 2 issues
More jobs paying good wages with benefits	O	O	O	O	O		O
More tourism-related businesses	O	O	O	O	O		O
Increased support for small businesses	O	O	O	O	O		O
More part-time and summer job opportunities	O	O	O	O	O		O
More qualified employees for existing or new jobs	O	O	O	O	O		O
Better employee "soft skills" training (communications, team work, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O		O
Better utilities (water, sewer, etc.) to attract industry	O	O	O	O	O		O
Access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet service	O	O	O	O	O		O
Safe and accessible public water and sewer	O	O	O	O	O		O
Responsive emergency services	O	O	O	O	O		O
Trustworthy and effective law enforcement	O	O	O	O	O		O
Better roads and bridges	O	O	O	O	O		O
More public transportation options	O	O	O	O	O		O
Other _____	O	O	O	O	O		O

Agriculture and Environment

	Not Important	Not that Important	Important	Very Important	I don't know		Select 2 issues
More farm-related jobs	O	O	O	O	O		O
More market opportunities for farmers	O	O	O	O	O		O
More crop and livestock production opportunities	O	O	O	O	O		O
More profitable farms	O	O	O	O	O		O
Sustainability of family farms	O	O	O	O	O		O
More awareness and support for agriculture and agribusinesses	O	O	O	O	O		O
More land available for food production	O	O	O	O	O		O
Less pest, disease and weed issues	O	O	O	O	O		O
More community gardens	O	O	O	O	O		O

This section continues on the next page.

Please rate each of the following community issues on a scale of "Not Important" to "Very Important" by placing a check mark or "X" in the corresponding space. If you are uncertain if an issue is important to your community, select "I don't know." After evaluating the importance of each issue within this category, **please select the TWO issues** you consider the highest priority for your community.

Agriculture and Environment, continued

	Not Important	Not that Important	Important	Very Important	I don't know		Select 2 issues
More training for food gardening skills	O	O	O	O	O		O
More community parks and green spaces	O	O	O	O	O		O
Increase tree and forestry management	O	O	O	O	O		O
Less illegal dumping and littering	O	O	O	O	O		O
Better landscapes for improved home value	O	O	O	O	O		O
Other _____	O	O	O	O	O		O

Health and Wellness

	Not Important	Not that Important	Important	Very Important	I don't know		Select 2 issues
Better skills for selecting and preparing healthier food	O	O	O	O	O		O
More healthy snacks and food options at restaurants and community events	O	O	O	O	O		O
Better use of food safety practices (hand washing, storage, preservation, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O		O
More sources for buying safe, affordable, fresh food	O	O	O	O	O		O
More sources for buying safe, affordable, fresh local foods	O	O	O	O	O		O
Fewer chronic diseases (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O		O
Fewer overweight or obese youth and adults	O	O	O	O	O		O
Improved access to quality affordable health care providers (medical, dental, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O		O
Improved availability of health care insurance	O	O	O	O	O		O
Improved affordability of health care insurance	O	O	O	O	O		O
Safer use of prescription medications	O	O	O	O	O		O
More individual physical activity opportunities	O	O	O	O	O		O
Safer community places to walk, run, bike, etc.	O	O	O	O	O		O
Improved sidewalks and crosswalks	O	O	O	O	O		O
Availability of substance use prevention programs	O	O	O	O	O		O
Availability of substance use treatment	O	O	O	O	O		O
Other _____	O	O	O	O	O		O

Please rate each of the following community issues on a scale of "Not Important" to "Very Important" by placing a check mark or "X" in the corresponding space. If you are uncertain if an issue is important to your community, select "I don't know."

After evaluating the importance of each issue within this category, **please select the TWO issues** you consider the highest priority for your community.

Youth and Families

	Not Important	Not that Important	Important	Very Important	I don't know		Select 2 issues
Better youth and adult career readiness	O	O	O	O	O		O
More youth life skills training (money management, life decision making, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O		O
Better family skills in reducing debt, increasing savings and financial planning	O	O	O	O	O		O
More support for prevention of school violence and bullying	O	O	O	O	O		O
More support for families with mental and emotional health issues	O	O	O	O	O		O
More support for families and individuals with special needs	O	O	O	O	O		O
More support for relatives raising children of family members	O	O	O	O	O		O
More child and partner abuse prevention resources	O	O	O	O	O		O
Stronger parenting and relationship building skills	O	O	O	O	O		O
Affordable quality child care	O	O	O	O	O		O
More senior citizen support programs	O	O	O	O	O		O
More affordable, quality elder care options	O	O	O	O	O		O
Other _____	O	O	O	O	O		O

Overall Community Vitality

	Not Important	Not that Important	Important	Very Important	I don't know		Select 2 issues
More qualified leaders to prepare community for the future	O	O	O	O	O		O
More youth community leadership opportunities	O	O	O	O	O		O
More citizens helping to solve local issues	O	O	O	O	O		O
More effective cooperation between community organizations	O	O	O	O	O		O
More active community volunteers	O	O	O	O	O		O
More pride in the community and its assets	O	O	O	O	O		O
More community marketing efforts (tourism, industry attraction, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O		O
Other _____	O	O	O	O	O		O

Demographics

Please select your age:	Under 18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
	O	O	O	O	O

Please select your gender?	Male	Female	Non-binary
	O	O	O

Please select your Race/Ethnicity?	
White, Non-Hispanic	O
African-American	O
Hispanic, Latino	O
Asian-American	O
Two or more races	O
Other	O

What is the highest level of education?	
Some high school	O
High school degree	O
Some college	O
Associate's degree	O
Bachelor's degree	O
Advanced degree(Masters, Doctorate, JD, MD, etc)	O

Please select the option that best describes your current employment status:

Retired	Unemployed	Self-employed	Do not work	Work full-time	Work part-time	Student
O	O	O	O	O	O	O

How familiar are you with the programs and services of the Cooperative Extension Service?

Very familiar O Somewhat familiar O Not familiar O

Do you, or someone in your family, currently participate in any Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service program?

Yes O No O

What county do you live?

_____

Do you live in the county seat?

Yes O No O

What other comments and/or suggestions do you have about important issues in your county?

_____

_____

_____

FOCUS GROUP PROCESS

Focus groups are a commonly used method for gathering feedback or perspectives from a sampling of stakeholders. For this initiative, county Extension educators convened two or more small group meetings of community members to facilitate discussion on community priorities. Participants were invited to discuss their vision for a more vibrant county, issues the county is experiencing, barriers to issue resolution, resources or information that would help address the issues, and ideas for an improved future.

The questions were not intended to focus solely on Extension related priorities. Rather, the questions sought to learn about what county residents were concerned about and how those issues impact residents. The focus group also sought to learn what quality of life issues residents are most interested in addressing.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

- What is your vision for a more vibrant county?
- Based on your experiences, what would you say are the most pressing issues for this county in the next four years?
    - Follow up questions: How do these issues affect you or your neighbors? What other quality of life aspects does this issue affect?
- Based on your experiences, what barriers prevent us from addressing these issues?
- What type of information or resources would help to address the issues?
- Given everything discussed, what final thoughts would you add on being a vibrant county? Have we left anything out?

INTERVIEW PROCESS

County Extension Educators were asked to conduct interviews with individuals in formal leadership roles in each county. These could include elected or appointed government leadership, public service or business organizational leaders, or leaders of healthcare or education institutions. The interview questioning followed a similar format to the focus groups, seeking perspectives on pressing needs, long term needs, and exploring the role that Extension might serve to address future issues confronting the county.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Based on your experiences, what would you say are the most pressing issues for this county in the next year?
- Based on your experiences, what would you say are the most pressing issues for this county in the next four years?
- What do you see as the broad (county wide) implications of the priorities you have identified?
- Based on your experience, what barriers obstruct addressing the issues?
- What type of information or resources could the University of Kentucky/Extension provide to help address these issues?

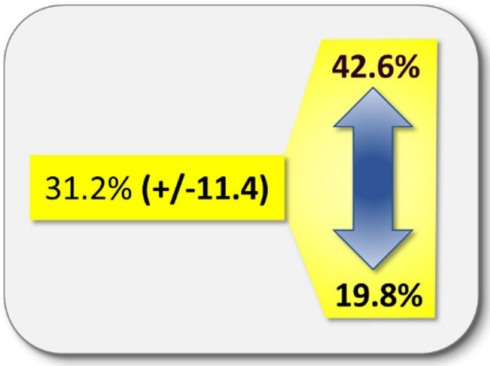
UNDERSTANDING SECONDARY DATA RELIABILITY

A key issue in understanding the secondary data profiles is to be aware of the ways in which sources report the reliability of their data. Both margins of error (+/- ##) and confidence intervals (### - ###) tells us the range within which the estimate most likely falls. The American Community Survey provides a margin of error for each estimate. Health data often report a confidence interval as do estimates on poverty and income from the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates and those on health insurance from the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.

Because their reliability can vary, we always need to look at the margin of error or confidence interval when we use data from these sources.

While we might not realize it, we encounter margins of error every time we hear about a poll in the news. When we see poll results and they say "plus or minus 5 points," they are telling us the margin of error.

One way to think about margins of error or confidence intervals is to think of them as our "grain of salt." We often use this phrase when we need to be cautious about taking something at face value. For instance, if the estimate is 30 (+/- 25), you will want to use a larger "grain of salt" than if your estimate is 30 (+/- 1).

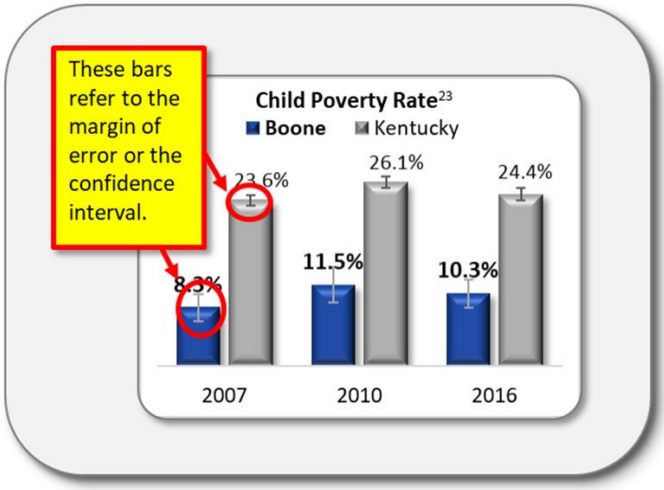


We can also think of margins of error and confidence intervals as "wiggle room." The larger the range, the more "wiggle room" there is for the estimate. In other words, when the margin of error is smaller, the estimate is more precise or the focus is sharper. When the margin of error is larger, the estimate is more 'fuzzy' or 'blurry.'

While a confidence interval gives us the actual range, for margins of error (or simply MOE) the plus/minus number gives us the information we need to determine the range. Since the estimate is generally the midpoint, finding the range represented by the margin of error is as straightforward as it seems.

To find the top of the range, add the margin of error to your number. To find the bottom of the range, subtract the margin of error from your number. (Remember, since confidence intervals already give the range, the math is already done.)

In the secondary data profiles, you will see the margins of error (+/- ##) or confidence intervals (### - ###) when they are part of the original data source. You will also see these reflected in the charts. They are called error bars. They look like the letter "**I**" and are located at the top of each bar.



One reason that margins of error and confidence intervals are important is because there will be times when they can be VERY large. This is especially the case for small groups or small places. Remember that "grain of salt?" The larger the range represented by the margin of error or confidence interval, the more cautious we need to be when it comes to interpreting the data.

It starts with us

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. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING