

# West Virginia University Extension Program Participation

## West Virginia Social Survey Report

WVSS-20-08

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### Background

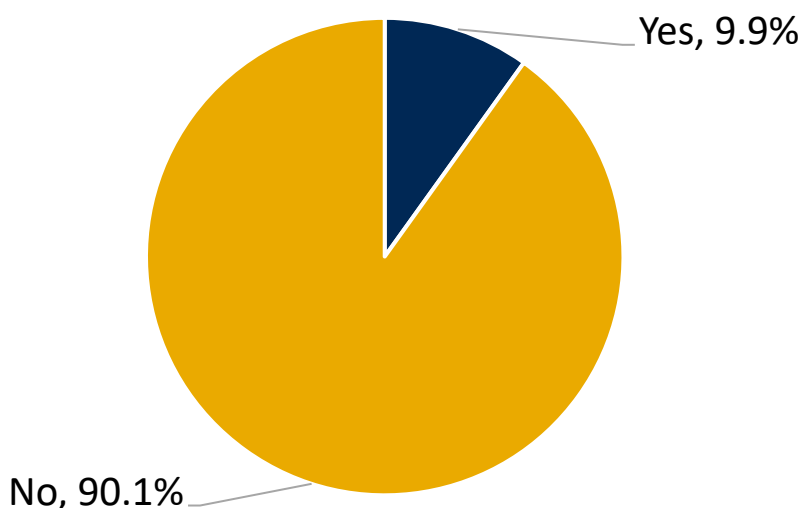
West Virginia University's Extension programs are part of an educational and service outreach from the University and federal, state, and local governments. As noted on its website, major programs and services include "agricultural education, master gardeners, 4-H and youth development, nutrition outreach, and childcare development."

The 4-H program is a club for kids and teens whose goal is to develop community leaders who will facilitate positive change in their communities. The program was first organized in 1912, making it over a century old, and is free for youths in all 55 counties in West Virginia.

### Highlights

- About 10% of West Virginia households say that someone in their household participated in a West Virginia University Extension program in the last 12 months.
- Participation in WVU Extension programs is highest in households with incomes between \$100,001 and \$150,000.
- Households with children are more likely to have participated in WVU Extension programs.

Figure 1 - "To the best of your knowledge, has anyone in your household participated in a West Virginia University Extension program in the last 12 months?"



### Participation Rates

The West Virginia Social Survey asked respondents, "To the best of your knowledge, has anyone in your household participated in a West Virginia University Extension program in the last 12 months (4-H, Energy Express, Community Education Outreach Service, Master Gardeners, Family Nutrition, Agriculture)?"

As seen in Figure 1, approximately 90% of respondents indicated that no, they did not have anyone in their household participate in a WVU Extension program in the last 12 months.

Almost 10% of respondents indicated that yes, they did have someone in their household participate in a WVU Extension program in the last 12 months.

As far as we know, there is no state-wide data showing participation in WVU Extension Programs. This would make the WVSS the first state-wide survey to gauge participation in WVU Extension Programs.

### Participation Rates Vary by Household Income

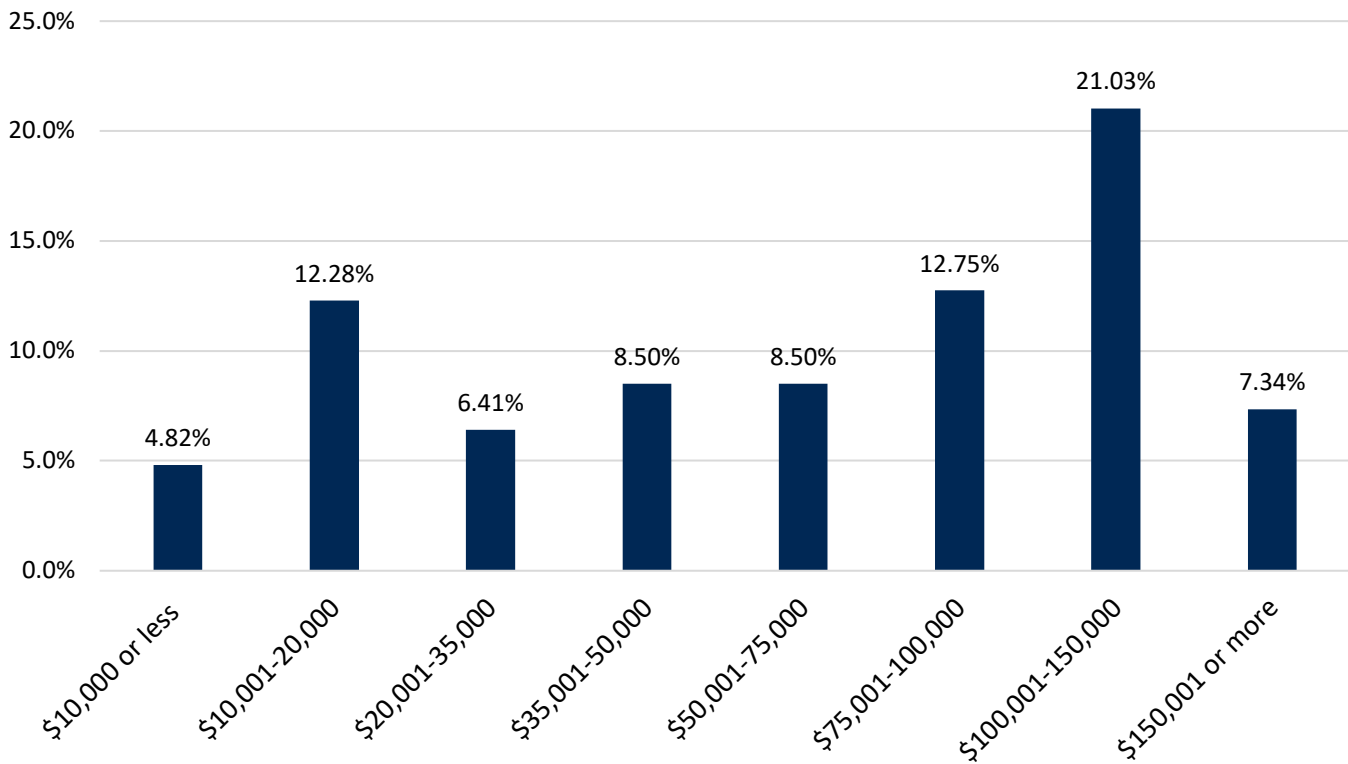
The WVSS also asked respondents to report their household income. We find that participation in University

Extension programs varies by household income.

Participation in a University Extension program in the last 12 months was reported most frequently by those respondents in the \$100,001-150,000 bracket, with about 21% reporting participation.

The income bracket right below \$100,001-150,000, which is \$75,001-100,000, also reported comparatively high rates of participation with 12.75% of respondents in this income bracket reporting University Extension program participation in the last 12 months.

Figure 2 - Participation in WVU Extension Programs by Household Income



Additionally, 12.28% of those respondents reporting a household income of \$10,001-20,000 reported participation in a University Extension program in the last 12 months.

Respondents reporting a household income of \$10,000 reported the lowest rates of participation in University Extension programs in the last 12 months (4.82%).

### Households with Children Report More Participation

As the University Extension programs have the primary goal

of serving West Virginia youth, we might expect that households with children report higher rates of participation.

We find that this is true. About 12.34% of households with children report participation in a University Extension Program in the last 12 months compared to 7.78% of households not reporting children.

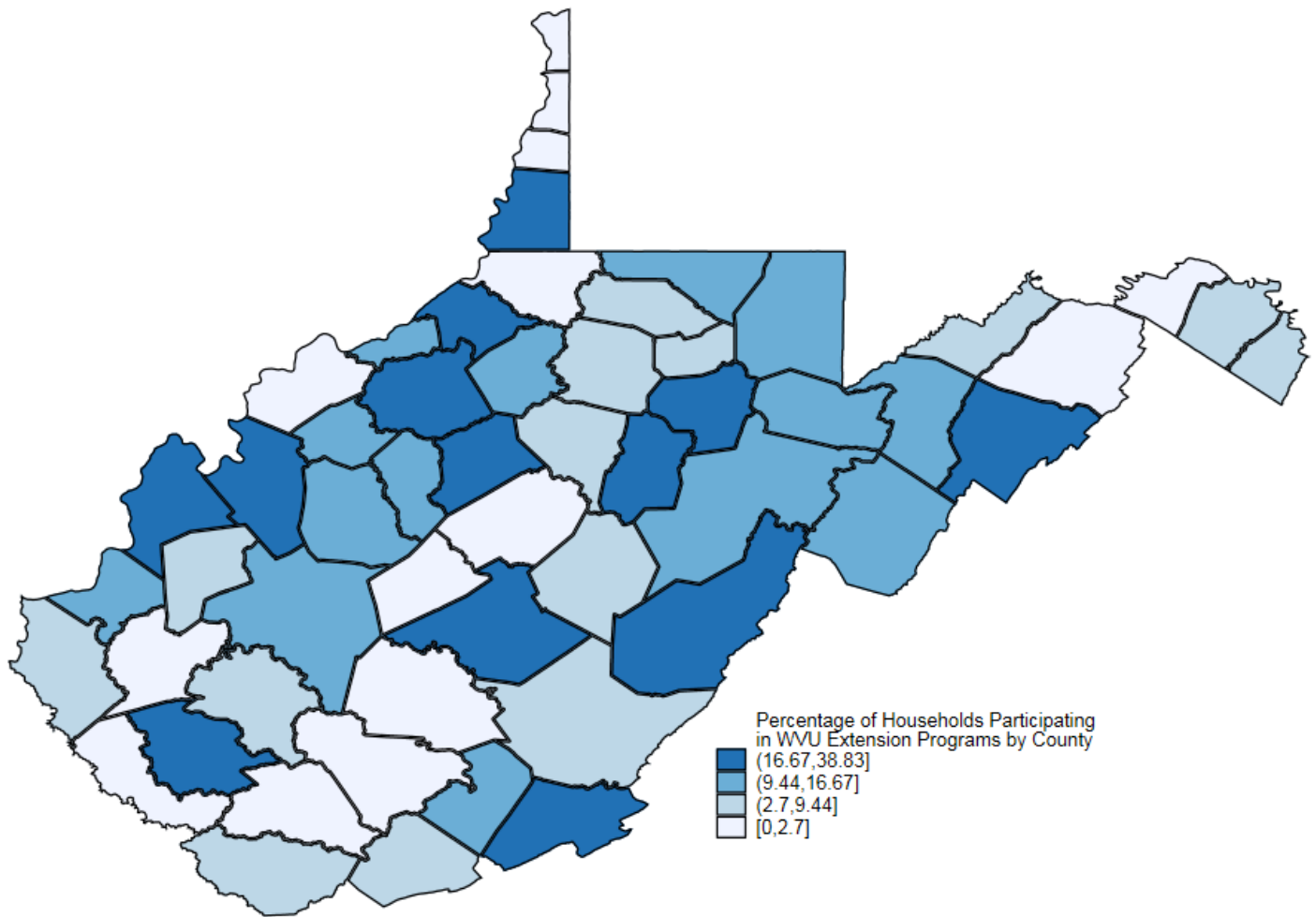
### Participation by County

The WVSS also finds differences across counties in household

participation in WVU Extension programs.

At the high end, Monroe (38.8%), Jackson (37.2%), and Pocahontas (35.3%) have the highest percentage of households reporting participation in WVU Extension programs in the past 12 months.

On the low end, Wetzel (0%), Raleigh (0%), and Hancock (0.6%) counties have the lowest percentage of households reporting participation in a WVU Extension program in the past 12 months.



### Summary

About 10% of respondents reported someone in the household participating in a University Extension program in the last 12 months.

Female respondents reported more household participation in a University Extension program in the last 12 months compared to male respondents.

About 21% of respondents reporting a household income of \$100,001-150,000 reported

participating in a University Extension program in the last 12 months. Those reporting a household income of \$10,000 or less reported the lowest rates of participation.

Respondents aged 18-24 reported the highest rates of participation in a University Extension program, with about 23% reporting participation. Those aged 80 or older reported the lowest rates of participation.

Households with children were more likely to report

participation in a University Extension program in the last 12 months compared to households not reporting children.

### Data Source

The WVSS is produced by the Survey Research Center at West Virginia University. The purpose of the WVSS is to gather information on the attitudes, concerns, and challenges facing WV residents.

The WVSS is a mail survey utilizing an address-based

sample of nearly 5,000 households across the state.

The 2020 WVSS received nearly 1,900 responses for a response rate of 38.1% (American Association of Public Opinion Research Definition #3). Data are weighted to be representative of the West Virginia adult population.

### **Suggested Citation**

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