



About Us...

The Latimer County Coalition was established in November 2004. This group has been identified as a vehicle to create positive change in the community through effective partnerships, community networking and accessing resources.

From sponsoring Back to School Bashes, Coalition Open House Events and participating in many community events they have proven to be a valued community partner that is continually bringing needed resources and services to their community.

Living In Latimer has partnered with regional Turning Point coalitions to bring resources and programs funded by grants to the community. The coalition established a Tobacco Control Consortium in partnership with the Haskell County Coalition and together were awarded funding to implement a comprehensive Tobacco Control Program in the two Counties. They also partnered with three other coalitions to bring a Smart Start grant and program to the county. They are now an active partner in addressing school readiness and have im-

plemented the “Raising a Reader” program in county daycares and head start programs.

They have recently started looking at plans to effect health in a more long term and strategic manner. The coalition has begun to assess the community needs and will then work to create a comprehensive County Health Improvement Plan.

Living In Latimer County Coalition is working to improve the health of the families and youth of Latimer county.

Partnership Priorities

- Tobacco Control
- Community networking and information sharing
- Child & Family Enrichment
- Youth education and empowerment
- Alcohol tobacco and other drug prevention
- Child and Family Health
- Access to Health Care
- Economic Development





Latimer County, OK

" My hope is that what we started in the coalition in terms of building partnerships and leveraging resources will continue, that we will sustain and forward our efforts to improve the health of the citizens of Latimer County."

-Todd Minshall
Coalition Chair

Community Profile: Strengths and Challenges

Latimer County is very rural county in Southeastern Oklahoma with a population of just over 11,000. In the past 10 years this area has seen a slight increase in population including the Hispanic community. The county has and continues to have a very high number of Native American Residents.

Latimer County is rich in natural resources and recreational activities including Robber's Cave State Park and Carlton Lake. The county has also seen business moving in and some economic development in

recent years.

This diverse county has numerous resources but continues to have many issues effecting it's citizens' health. The county has high rates of poverty, unemployment, is consistently leading the state in number of grandparents raising grandchildren and poor access to healthy foods and recreational areas.

Latimer County continues to struggle with poor health status and rankings many times higher than national and state averages. The

county ranked 73rd out of the 77 counties in Health Outcomes with a premature death rate considerably higher than the state rate and more than double the national rate. In Health Factors they were 52nd of the 77 counties. Factors contributing to this ranking include very high rates of adult smoking, adult obesity, and teen birth rates; many uninsured adults and poor access to health care; higher than average rates of children in poverty, inadequate social support and single parent households.

Featured Intervention / Project

The Living In Latimer County Coalition has partnered with numerous community agencies for several years to provide and annual "Back To

School Bash". The event focuses on providing much needed resources, including school supplies and information to county school children and their families while increasing immunization rates. In conjunction with the Health Department and Choctaw Nation Health they provide a backpack full of school supplies to all school age children k-12 that are current on immunizations. For those needed immunizations to start the school

year, they are provided free of charge by the county health department on site.

In addition to vaccines and school supplies the coalition invites community partners to set up booths and fun & healthy activities and games for the families.

The Back to School Bash has contributed to increased immunization rates in the county and received an award for innovations in public health.



Partnership Contact Information

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Partnership Outcomes

- ◆ Community Awareness Raised/5320 Campaign
- ◆ Community Education Initiatives
- ◆ Tobacco Education
- ◆ Tobacco Policies Adopted
- ◆ Addition Partners Gained
- ◆ School Readiness Program expanded in county head starts and daycares
- ◆ Tobacco Control consortium established and funded for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program
- ◆ Coalition development including expansion of the partnership, strategic planning and capacity

Partners

Choctaw Nation
 Faith Community
 CASA
 Arts Council
 KIBOIS Community Action
 Smart Start Kiamichi Country
 Latimer Co. Health Department
 Area Schools
 Wilburton Main Street Association
 Latimer County DHS
 Eastern Oklahoma State College
 Kiamichi Electric Cooperative
 Elected officials
 Drug Court
 Sooner Start
 Youth Emergency Shelter
 The Oaks-APRC
 Haskell County Coalition
 City of Wilburton
 OK Health Care Authority
 HALT Tobacco Control Project
 Hartsell Counseling Services
 Latimer County Sheriffs Department
 City of Wilburton
 Kiamichi Technology Center
 Eastern OK Adoption Services



The HALT Project

Working to HALT tobacco's influence in

Haskell and Latimer County



Head Start FUN DAYS
 Sponsored by Smart Start