

## **Pottawatomie county ranks 32 out of 77 in overall health**

Pottawatomie County adults are on average more obese than other counties in Oklahoma and the nation, according to a health study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Oklahoma ranks 46 in health outcomes for the nation, Amy Dunn, with the Pottawatomie Alliance Toward Community Health (PATCH), told city commissioners earlier this week.

"We have a tendency to do really well at football, in the top five, but we are in the bottom five as far as health outcome," Dunn said.

The state recently moved up from 49th in the nation to 46th because of the immunization programs, she said.

Pottawatomie County scores 32 out of 77 counties in Oklahoma for overall health outcomes. Seminole County ranks 75 and Lincoln County ranks 42, according to the health study.

In health factors that incorporate behavior like adult smoking, obesity, excessive drinking and sexually transmitted infections, the counties rank 46, 73 and 33 respectively.

Twenty-five percent adults smoke cigarettes and 30 percent are obese in Pottawatomie County. Thirty-two percent of adults smoke in Seminole and 26 percent smoke in Lincoln counties.

Seminole tied Pottawatomie for adult obesity and Lincoln county residents came in a little lower at 31 percent, but the state average of adult obesity is 30 percent.

Lincoln County had the fifth largest percentage of physically inactive adults of all the counties and mortality rates decreased 13 percent for stroke and 28 percent for suicide, according to the 2011 State of the State health report.

Pottawatomie County's prevalence of asthma was 44 percent higher than the national rate, according to the state health report.

Twenty-three percent of adults are uninsured in Oklahoma, 21 percent in Pottawatomie County, 20 in Seminole and 26 percent are uninsured in Lincoln County.

PATCH was formed seven years ago to focus on health related issues through policy change and businesses around the county for issues like clean indoor air, youth access to tobacco and social host ordinances regarding youth access to alcohol, Dunn said.

Dunn spoke to the city commissioners on Monday about a Certified Healthy Community Program and possible grant money provided by the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust.

The commissioners unanimously approved the motion for Shawnee to apply for the Certified Healthy Community application, which is due Nov. 1.

The Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust has approximately \$3.3 million to fund the certified healthy communities. Based on its size Shawnee can qualify for up to \$60,000 for Excellence Certification, if awarded.

“Some of the main criteria ... are things that Shawnee does fortunately already have,” Dunn told commissioners. “Like dealing with alcohol and tobacco.”

The money would be used for health initiatives, Dunn said.