



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# State of the County's Health Report

# Working Together For Health

## Pottawatomie County

Oklahoma ranks near the bottom in many key health status indicators. Most of these outcomes are related to conditions that Oklahomans must live with every day. Poverty, lack of insurance, limited access to primary care, and inadequate prenatal care, along with associated risky health behaviors (low fruit/vegetable consumption, low physical activity, a high prevalence of smoking) all contribute to the poor health status of our citizens.

The vision of the Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan (OHIP) involves local partnerships and communities working together to improve and sustain the physical, social, and mental well-being of all people in Oklahoma. The targeted flagship initiatives of children's health improvement, tobacco use prevention, and obesity reduction will help to maximize opportunities for all Oklahomans to lead healthy lives. If you would like more information about OHIP, please visit the Oklahoma State Department of Health website at [http://www.ok.gov/health/Organization/Board\\_of\\_Health/OHIP.html](http://www.ok.gov/health/Organization/Board_of_Health/OHIP.html).

This report focuses on health factors and demographics in Pottawatomie County. Awareness and thoughtful application of this health data can assist us in our joint endeavors to improve the health status of our local citizens.



*Together We Can Move Forward*

Inside This Issue			
Table of Contents	1	Tobacco Use Prevention	7
County Demographics	2	Healthy People 2010 Table	8
Top 10 Leading Causes of Death	2	Health Care Costs Summary	9
Top 10 Leading Causes of Death Table	3	County Health Department Usage	10
Nutrition & Overweight	4	Health Education	11
Physical Activity & Fitness	4	Primary Care Map	11
Diabetes	5	Board of Health Map	12
Teen Births	5	Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan	12
Infant Mortality	6	Reference List	13
Low Birth Weight	6	Turning Point	14
Injury & Violence	7	Contact Information	14



## Top 10 Causes of Death by Age Group Pottawatomie County 2002-2006

Rank	0-4	05-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All Ages
1	PERINATAL PERIOD 9	UNINTENT. INJURY 6	UNINTENT. INJURY 25	UNINTENT. INJURY 30	UNINTENT. INJURY 31	CANCER 61	CANCER 143	HEART DISEASE 842	HEART DISEASE 1,042
2	CONGENITAL ANOMALIES 5	CANCER < 4	SUICIDE 6	SUICIDE 12	HEART DISEASE 24	HEART DISEASE 59	HEART DISEASE 113	CANCER 469	CANCER 700
3	SIDS 5		INFLUENZA/PNEUMONIA < 4	CANCER < 4	CANCER 20	UNINTENT. INJURY 20	BRONCHITIS/EMPHYSEMA/ASTHMA 33	STROKE 210	BRONCHITIS/EMPHYSEMA/ASTHMA 243
4	CANCER < 4		CANCER < 4	HEART DISEASE < 4	LIVER DISEASE 8	DIA BETES MELLITUS 17	UNINTENT. INJURY 27	BRONCHITIS/EMPHYSEMA/ASTHMA 204	STROKE 235
5	UNINTENT. INJURY < 4		COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY/CHILDBIRTH < 4	HOMICIDE < 4	SUICIDE 8	SUICIDE 14	DIABETES MELLITUS 20	INFLUENZA/PNEUMONIA 105	UNINTENT. INJURY 193
6	SIX CAUSES TIED < 4		NEPHRITIS < 4	SEPTICEMIA (BLOOD POISONING) < 4	DIABETES MELLITUS 5	LIVER DISEASE 12	STROKE 15	DIA BETES MELLITUS 77	INFLUENZA/PNEUMONIA 121
7			STROKE < 4	VIRAL HEPATITIS < 4	HOMICIDE < 4	SEPTICEMIA (BLOOD POISONING) 6	LIVER DISEASE 11	ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE 72	DIABETES MELLITUS 119
8					STROKE < 4	STROKE 6	INFLUENZA/PNEUMONIA 9	SEPTICEMIA (BLOOD POISONING) 69	SEPTICEMIA (BLOOD POISONING) 86
9					BRONCHITIS/EMPHYSEMA/ASTHMA < 4	VIRAL HEPATITIS 6	SEPTICEMIA (BLOOD POISONING) 9	UNINTENT. INJURY 52	ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE 73
10					INFLUENZA/PNEUMONIA < 4	BRONCHITIS/EMPHYSEMA/ASTHMA 4	VIRAL HEPATITIS 6	NEPHRITIS 36	SUICIDE 50

Note: The numbers less than 4 have been shown as "< 4" to protect the privacy of the subjects

Data source: Vital Statistics, Health Care Information Division, Oklahoma State Department of Health

Produced by: Community Development Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health

March 2009

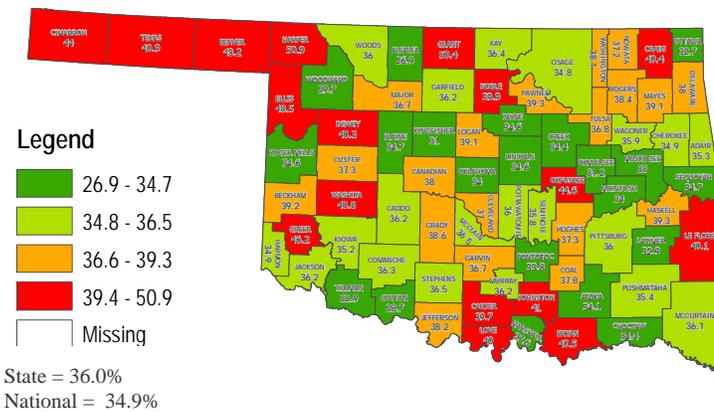
# Nutrition & Overweight

With obesity at epidemic levels, steps need to be taken to control this issue. Surveillance systems have improved and been expanded to obtain more accurate county-level data. While efforts continue on this front, communities must utilize this information to improve the problem itself. With health care costs being, on average, \$395 more for a person under the age of 65 who is obese than a person of the same age who is not obese<sup>6</sup>, estimated health care costs related to obesity for Pottawatomie County soar to almost \$6.2 million. These costs only go up when the 65 and over population are included.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)<sup>7</sup>, while not producing county-level data, shows that in 2005, 2007, and 2009 combined, 15.8% of high school children participating in the survey classified themselves as overweight. Further, 14.7% classified themselves as obese. Interestingly, 8.9% of the males said they were obese compared to 5.8% of females. This trend was reversed in the overweight category with 8.0% of females and 7.8% of males, statewide. Although, neither weight category is statistically significant by gender.

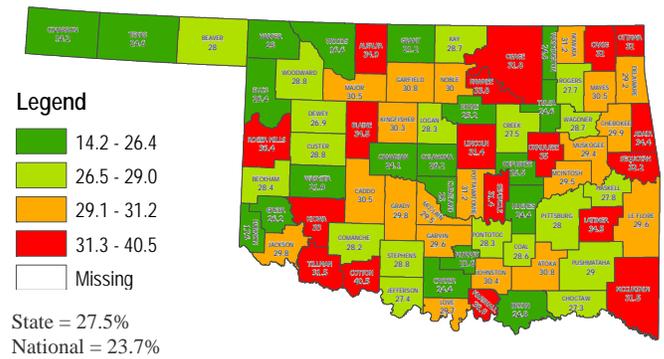
According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, 2003 & 2005)<sup>8</sup>, 84.0% of Pottawatomie County adults did not eat the recommended 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day. Increasing fruit and vegetable consumption is an economical way to control many health-related issues such as obesity and diabetes.

**Percent of Adults who are Overweight, BRFSS, 2003-2008<sup>8</sup>**



\* Note: Data classified by Quartiles

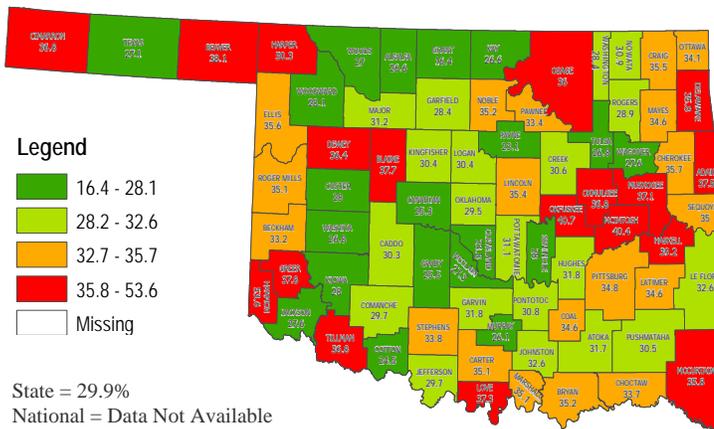
**Percent of Adults who are Obese, BRFSS, 2003-2008<sup>8</sup>**



\* Note: Data classified by Quartiles

# Physical Activity & Fitness

**Percent of Adults with No Physical Activity Within Past Month, BRFSS, 2003-2008<sup>8</sup>**



\* Note: Data classified by Quartiles

The increasing inactivity of the U.S. population is contributing to an increase in numerous poor health-related outcomes. Physical inactivity robs the body of precious energy needed to function properly, in turn health declines, and rates of various chronic diseases escalate.

According to the 2003-2008 BRFSS<sup>8</sup>, it is estimated that 31.1% (15,716) of people in Pottawatomie County had no leisure activity in the past month (at the time they were surveyed) and over two-thirds of the adults (67.9%) did not reach the recommended physical activity level.

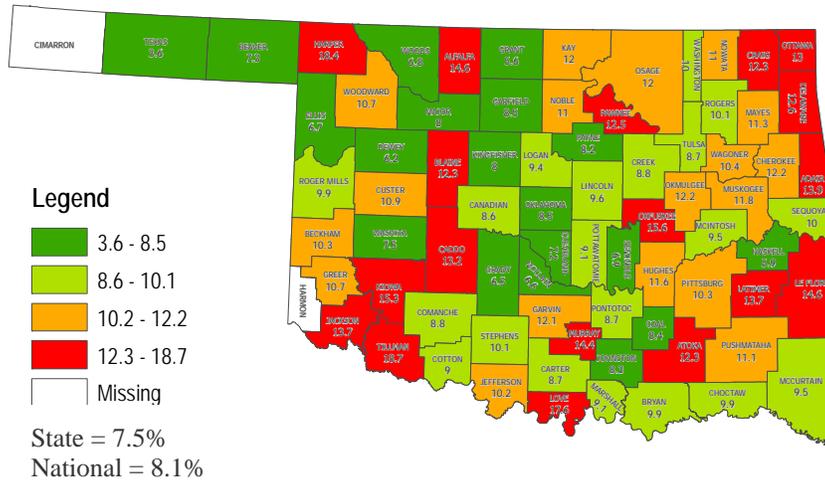
Statewide, 55% of high school students did not participate in physical activity for at least 60 minutes per day on five or more days in a week.<sup>7</sup> Efforts need to be made to increase physical activity for our youth to build long-term healthy habits.

# Diabetes

As stated previously, poor nutrition and lack of physical activity are linked to many chronic issues including diabetes. It is often hard to distinguish between Type I and Type II diabetes in large datasets but looking at the overall impact of diabetes is necessary to examine a community's health.

From 2006 to 2008, there were 429 hospital discharges for diabetes among Pottawatomie County residents.<sup>5</sup> This accounted for a total of 2,085 days in the hospital and \$7,633,084.00 in total charges.<sup>5</sup> This was an average of 4.9 days and \$17,792.74 in charges.<sup>5</sup>

**Percent of Adults Who Have Ever Been Told They Have Diabetes, BRFSS, 2004-2008<sup>8</sup>**



According to the 2004-2008 BRFSS, it is estimated that 9.1% (4,599) of Pottawatomie County citizens have been diagnosed by a health professional as having diabetes.

In 2007, the per capita annual healthcare costs for people with diabetes was \$11,744 compared to \$5,106 for people without diabetes.<sup>9</sup> Persons with diabetes accumulate an estimated \$60,899,180.34 in health care costs in one year for Pottawatomie County. Actual hospital charges account for only 4.8% of the total health care impact of diabetes.

\* Note: Data classified by Quartiles

# Teen Births

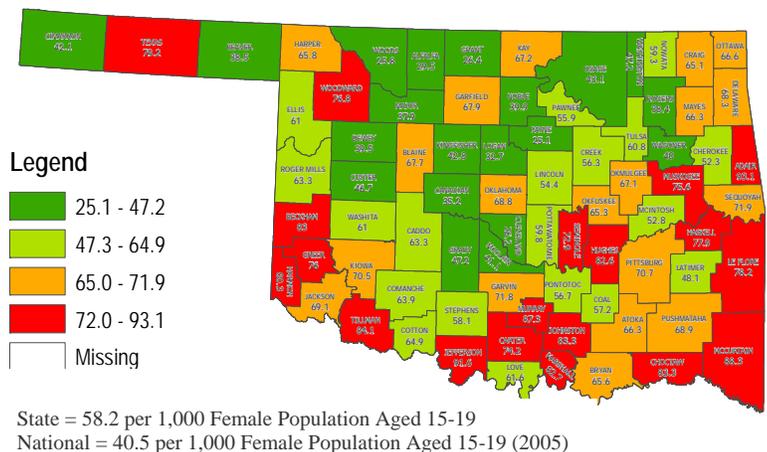
While births to teen mothers (age 15 to 19) have been on the decline in both the U.S. and Oklahoma, Oklahoma has moved down in the rankings according to the United Health Foundation.<sup>10</sup> In 1993, the rate for teen births in the U.S. was 60.3 per 1,000 15-19 year old females and 67.1 in Oklahoma, ranking 35th in the country.<sup>10</sup> In 2003, the rate decreased to 47.7 in the U.S. and 59.7 in Oklahoma, accounting for a decrease of 21% and 11%, respectively.<sup>10</sup> However, while the rate decreased, Oklahoma continued to fall in the rankings (41st). In 2009, the rate of teen births stayed the same for Oklahoma (59.6) but the state ranked 45th in the country.<sup>10</sup>

Children of teen mothers are more likely to display poor health and social outcomes than those of older mothers, such as premature birth, low birth weight, higher rates of abuse and neglect, and are more likely to go into foster care or do poorly in school.<sup>11</sup>

According to Oklahoma Vital Statistics, Pottawatomie County had a teen birth rate of 62.5 in 2007, which accounted for no change from 2003 (55.9) and a 6% increase from 1993 (59.1)<sup>12</sup>. The map represents a five-year average of teen birth rates, 2003-2007.<sup>12</sup>

On average in Oklahoma, births to teen mothers accumulate \$3,807 a year for each teenage birth<sup>13</sup>, which is often passed on to citizens. With an average of 144.8 births per year (2003-2007)<sup>12</sup>, teen pregnancy costs the citizens of Pottawatomie County \$463,360.00 a year.

**Rate of Births to Teen Mothers (Age 15-19), OSDH Vital Statistics, 2003-2007<sup>12</sup>**



\* Note: Data classified by Quartiles



# Injury and Violence

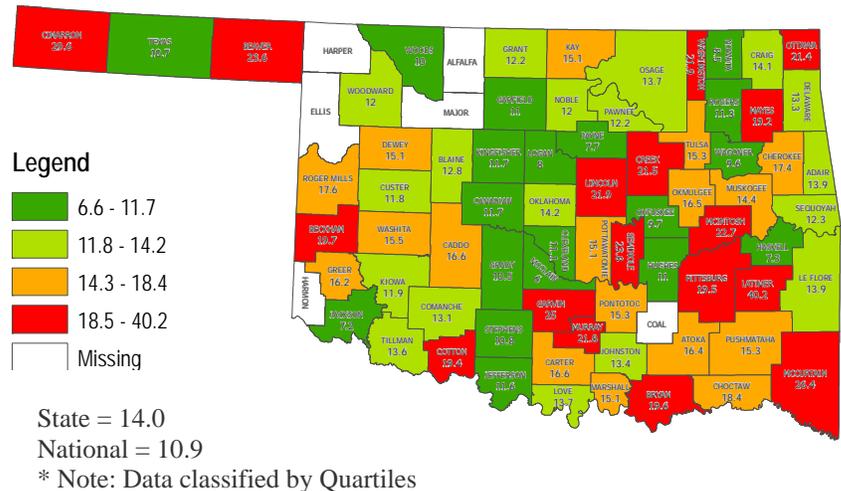
Across the nation and the state of Oklahoma, unintentional and violence-related injuries are on the rise. Unintentional injuries account for the 5th leading cause of death in the United States and Oklahoma for 2002-2006. For persons ages 1 to 44 in Oklahoma, unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death.<sup>4</sup>

This trend does not change much in Pottawatomie County. Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for ages 5 to 44 in Pottawatomie County.

It is estimated that for every motor vehicle-related death \$1.3 million in economic costs are incurred (2008 data).<sup>16</sup> For Pottawatomie County, which has an average of 19.4 motor vehicle-related deaths a year<sup>4</sup>, the estimated economic costs are almost \$25.2 million a year.

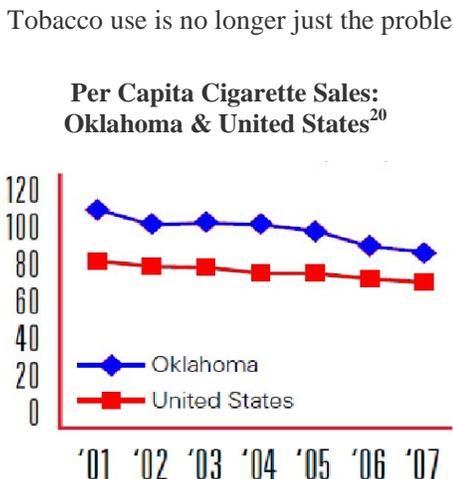
Violence-related injuries (homicide and suicide) in Pottawatomie County are ranked in the top 10 causes of death for persons from 15 to age 54 and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death for all ages.<sup>4</sup>

**Age-Adjusted Suicide Rate by County, OSDH Vital Statistics, 2002-2006<sup>4</sup>**

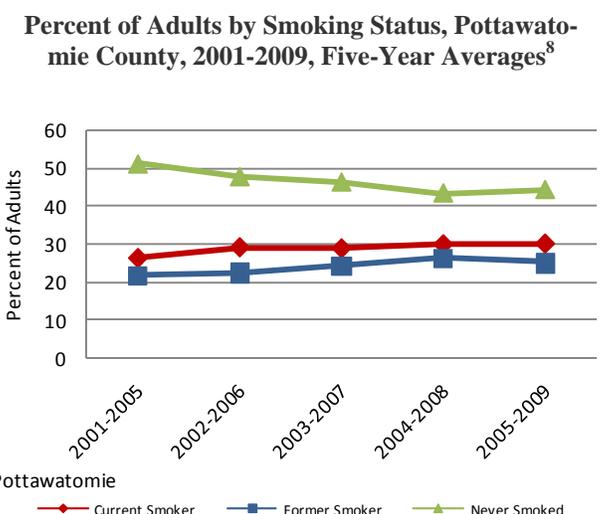


# Tobacco Use Prevention

According to the 2005 State of the State's Health Report<sup>19</sup>, tobacco use among Oklahomans has remained fairly stable from 1990 to 2002. The good news is that total cigarette sales in Oklahoma (tribal and non-tribal combined) have dropped from 98.2 packs per capita in fiscal year 2005 to 86.7 packs per capita during fiscal year 2008. The national average dropped during this same time period.<sup>20</sup>



Tobacco use is no longer just the problem of the individual but also the community as a whole. With health care costs on the rise, targeting areas such as tobacco use is an effective way to control those costs. The Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline (1-800-QUIT-NOW), supported jointly by the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and the Oklahoma State Department of Health, continues to experience high call volume. Over 37,800 Oklahomans received free cessation assistance through the Helpline in fiscal year 2009.<sup>20</sup> Since inception of the Helpline in August 2003, over 110,000 Oklahomans have received free cessation assistance.<sup>20</sup>



The CDC estimated that a person who used tobacco accrued over \$3,300 in health care costs per year.<sup>21</sup> According to the BRFSS (2005-2009)<sup>8</sup>, it is estimated that 30.3% (15,312) of adults in Pottawatomie County use tobacco of some sort. Medical costs accumulated by those persons are over \$50.5 million a year for Pottawatomie

# Healthy People 2010 Table

Healthy People 2010 Indicators	Most Recent Data: Year(s)						2010 Target
	Pottawatomie County		Oklahoma		United States		
Prevalence of Obese (Aged 18+)	2002-2008	31.0%	2008	31.0%	2008	26.7%	15%
No Leisure-Time Physical Activity (Aged 18+)	2002-2008	31.7%	2008	31.5%	2008	24.6%	20%
Prevalence of Smoking (Aged 18+)	2002-2008	30.2%	2008	24.7%	2008	18.4%	12%
Infant Mortality (Per 1,000 of births)	2002-2006	7.3	2006	8.1	2006	6.8	4.5
Low Birth Weight Infants (Percent of live births)	2002-2007	7.5%	2006	8.3%	2006	8.3%	5%
Very Low Birth Weight Infants (Percent of live births)	2002-2007	1.4%	2006	1.6%	2006	1.5%	0.9%
First Trimester Prenatal Care (Percent of births)	2002-2007	77.0%	2006	75.6%	2006	83.2%	90%
Prevalence of Diabetes (Aged 18+)	2002-2008	8.5%	2008	11.3%	2008	9.2%	2.5%
Lack of Health Insurance (Aged 18-64)	2002-2008	25.7%	2008	22.8%	2008	17.1%	0%
Prevalence of Binge Drinking (Aged 18+)	2002-2008	11.6%	2008	12.2%	2008	15.6%	6%
Coronary Heart Disease Death *	2002-2006	189.5	2006	184.5	2006	144.4	166.0
Cancer Death *	2002-2006	192.9	2006	194.9	2006	180.8	159.9
Unintentional Injury Death *	2002-2006	56.1	2006	55.6	2006	39.3	17.5
Transportation-Related Death *	2002-2006	28.4	2006	21.0	2006	14.5	9.2

Note: \* means (Age-adjusted death per 100,000 to the 2000 U.S. standard population).

Reference:

- [1] Healthy People 2010 volume I and II, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, November 2000.
- [2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Wide-Ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research: Data for Oklahoma and United States.
- [3] CDC, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS): Data for Oklahoma and United States.
- [4] Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), OK2SHARE, BRFSS: Data for Oklahoma Counties.
- [5] OSDH, OK2SHARE, Vital Statistics: Data for Oklahoma Counties.

# Health Care Cost Summary

---

## Cardiovascular Disease (Heart Disease)

- Average hospital discharges per year<sup>5</sup> = 1,078
- Average charges<sup>5</sup> = \$36,281.83
- Total—\$39,111,815.00 a year

## Obesity

- 31.2% of population<sup>8</sup> (15,767)
- \$395 in additional medical costs per person aged 18-64<sup>6</sup>
- Total—\$6,227,965.00

## Diabetes

- Average hospital discharges per year<sup>5</sup> = 143.0
- Average charges<sup>5</sup> = \$17,792.74
- Total—\$2,544,361.33 a year

## Teen Pregnancy

- Average 145 births to females aged 15-19 a year<sup>12</sup>
- \$3,200 in costs a year<sup>13</sup>
- Total—\$463,360.00 a year

## Motor Vehicle-Related Injury Death

- Average 19.4 deaths per year<sup>4</sup>
- \$1,300,000.00 in economic costs per death<sup>16</sup>
- Total—\$25,220,000.00 a year

## Tobacco Use

- 30.3% of population<sup>8</sup> (15,312)
- \$3,300 in health care costs<sup>21</sup>
- Total—\$50,529,600.00 a year

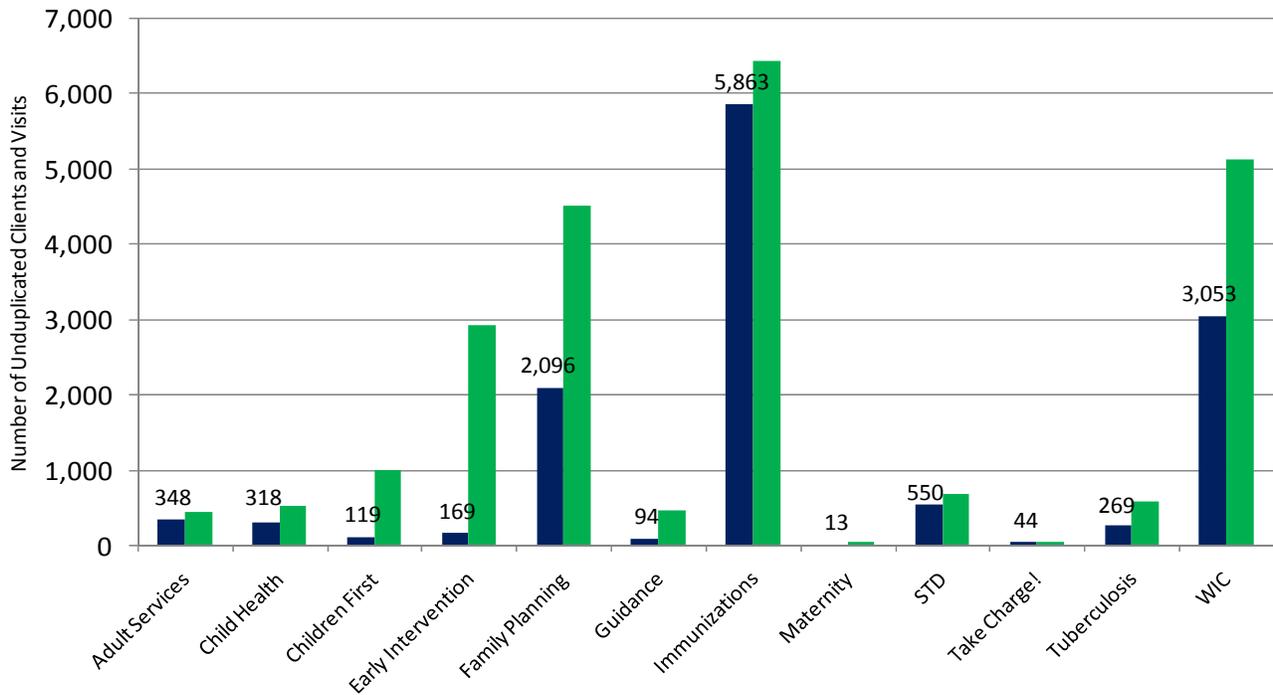
Grand Total for  
Pottawatomie County:

**\$124,097,101.33**



# County Health Department Usage

## County Health Department Unduplicated Clients, and Visits by Program, Pottawatomie County, State Fiscal Year 2009



Data Note: Data is reflective of all services offered in a county, including county health departments and contracts.

■ Unduplicated Clients      ■ Visits

POTTAWATOMIE

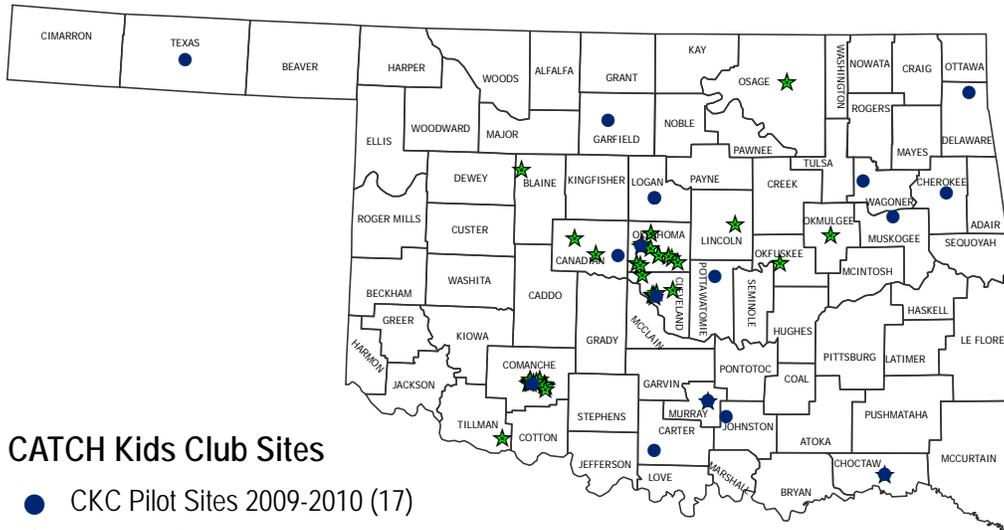
### Population-Based Services by Event Type, Pottawatomie County, SFY09

Event Type	Number of Events	Total Attendees
Health Fair	1	50
Meeting/Taskforce/Coalition	76	1,192
Presentation/Class	99	3,152
Surveys/Assessment	1	300
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>4,694</b>

### Population-Based Services by Main Topic, Pottawatomie County, SFY09

Topic	Number of Events	Total Attendees
Developmental Stages	2	25
DHS Child Care Consultation	9	24
Discipline/Behavior Management	29	1,290
Family Relationships	27	254
General Health Department Services	47	1,032
Human Relationships	2	16
Infectious Disease	2	74
Injury Prevention	3	406
Nutrition and Overweight	23	713
Parenting Skills	1	9
Physical Activity/Fitness	14	486
Terrorism/Emergency Preparedness	13	286
Tobacco Education	5	79
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>4,694</b>

# Health Education



## CATCH Kids Club Sites

- CKC Pilot Sites 2009-2010 (17)
- ★ NEW CKC Sites 2009-2010 (40)

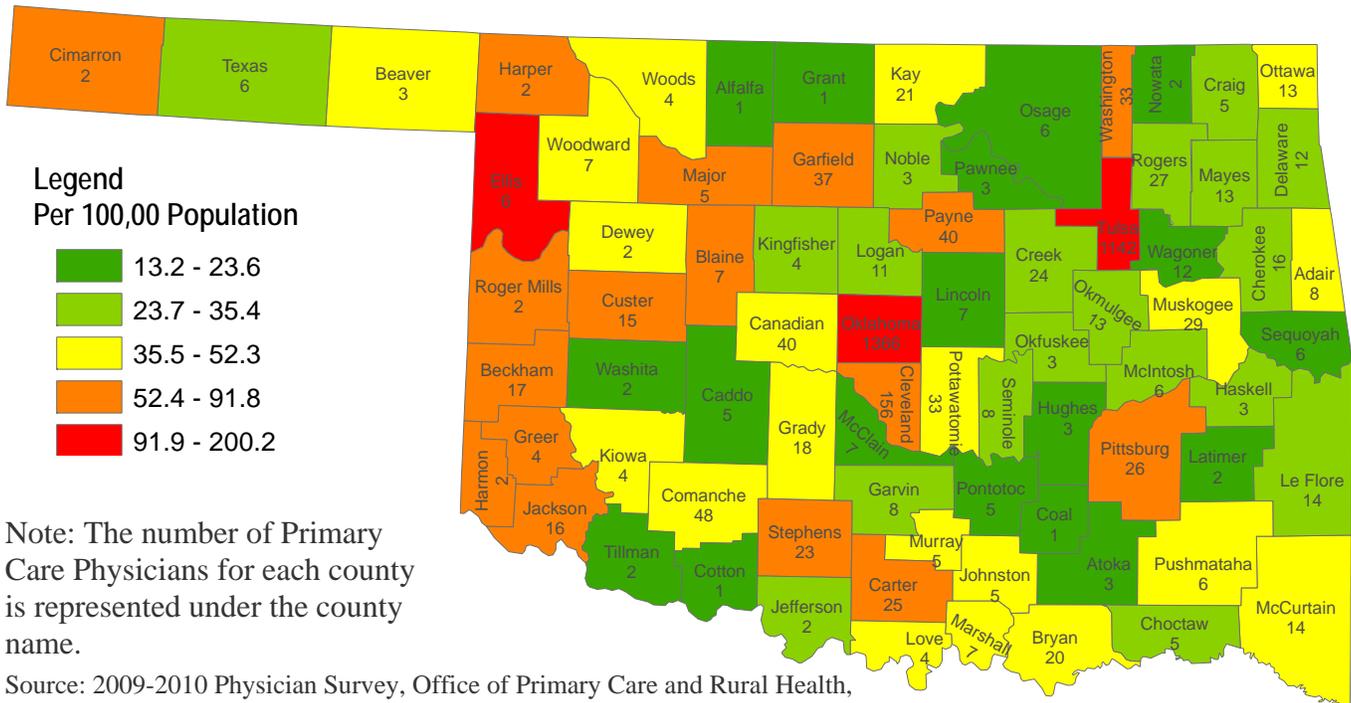
**Pottawatomie County  
Health Educator**  
Michelle Green-Gilbert  
1904 Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
405-273-2157  
michelgg@health.ok.gov

**OSDH Health Education**  
Kathy Payne, Director  
1000 NE 10th St, room 506  
Oklahoma City, OK 73117  
405-271-6127  
KPayne@health.ok.gov

If you have an after-school program that is interested in learning more about CATCH Kids Club, a physical activity and nutrition program for children grades K-5, please contact the local health educator or Kathy Payne for information.

# Primary Care Coverage Map

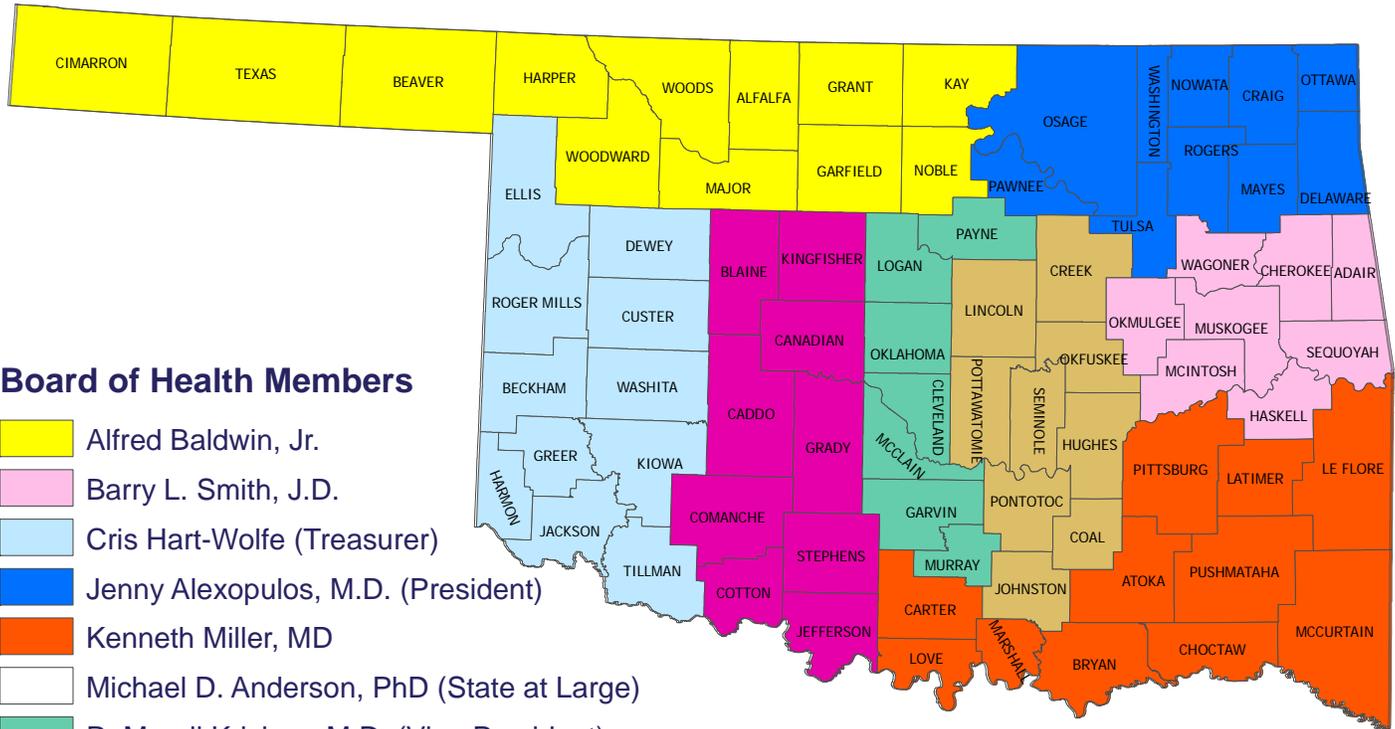
**Rate of Primary Care Physicians  
per 100,000 Population, 2009 - 2010**



Note: The number of Primary Care Physicians for each county is represented under the county name.

Source: 2009-2010 Physician Survey, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Community Development Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health

# OSDH Board of Health Map



## Board of Health Members

- Alfred Baldwin, Jr.
- Barry L. Smith, J.D.
- Cris Hart-Wolfe (Treasurer)
- Jenny Alexopoulos, M.D. (President)
- Kenneth Miller, MD
- Michael D. Anderson, PhD (State at Large)
- R. Murali Krishna, M.D. (Vice-President)
- Richard G. Davis, DDS
- Ronald Woodson, MD

Created: 11.03.2010  
Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health

# Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan



For the complete OHIP, including a full list of partners, visit [www.ok.gov/health](http://www.ok.gov/health) and click the "Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan" link.



### [STRATEGIC PLANNING]

#### FLAGSHIP GOALS

- Tobacco Use Prevention
- Obesity Reduction
- Children's Health

#### INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS

- Public Health Finance
- Workforce Development
- Access to Care
- Health Systems Effectiveness

#### SOCIETAL & POLICY INTEGRATION

- Policies and Legislation
- Social Determinants of Health & Health Equity

OKLAHOMA HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## Reference List

---

1. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, Accessed February 12, 2010 from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Census Estimates, Accessed February 12, 2010 from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
3. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3, Accessed February 12, 2010 from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
4. Oklahoma State Department of Health, Health Care Information, OK2SHARE, Death Statistics - Final, Accessed April 13, 2010, [www.health.ok.gov/ok2share](http://www.health.ok.gov/ok2share).
5. Oklahoma State Department of Health, Health Care Information, OK2SHARE, Inpatient Discharge Statistics, Accessed May 20, 2010, [www.health.ok.gov/ok2share](http://www.health.ok.gov/ok2share). Note: Data does not include federal or tribal facilities.
6. Sturm, R., 2002. The effects of obesity, smoking, and drinking on medical problems and costs. *Health Affairs*, 21, 245.
7. Oklahoma State Department of Health, Health Care Information, OK2SHARE, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), [www.health.ok.gov/ok2share](http://www.health.ok.gov/ok2share).
8. Oklahoma State Department of Health, Health Care Information, OK2SHARE, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), [www.health.ok.gov/ok2share](http://www.health.ok.gov/ok2share).
9. Winning at Work—Diabetes Facts, American Diabetes Association, Accessed May 24, 2010 from [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)
10. United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings, [www.americashealthrankings.org](http://www.americashealthrankings.org)
11. Healthy Teen Network, Unique Needs of Children Born to Teen Parents, Accessed May 24, 2010 from [www.healthteennetwork.org](http://www.healthteennetwork.org)
12. Oklahoma State Department of Health, Health Care Information, OK2SHARE, Birth Statistics—Final, [www.health.ok.gov/ok2share](http://www.health.ok.gov/ok2share).
13. Than National Campaign to prevent Teen Pregnancy, By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Oklahoma, November 2006.
14. Finch, B. K., 2003. Early origins of the gradient: The relationship between socioeconomic status and infant mortality in the United States. *Demography*, 40, 675-699.
15. United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Office of Analysis and Epidemiology (OAE), Division of Vital Statistics (DVS), Linked Birth / Infant Death Records 2003-2005 on CDC WONDER On-line Database. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/lbd-current.html> on May 25, 2010 4:08:29 PM
16. National Safety Council, Estimating the Costs of Unintentional Injuries, Accessed May 25, 2010 from [http://www.nsc.org/news\\_resources/injury\\_and\\_death\\_statistics/Pages/EstimatingtheCostsofUnintentionalInjuries.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/news_resources/injury_and_death_statistics/Pages/EstimatingtheCostsofUnintentionalInjuries.aspx).
17. March of Dimes, Low Birthweight Fact Sheet, Accessed May 25, 2010 from [http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332\\_1153.asp#head2](http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1153.asp#head2).
18. United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2003-2006, on CDC WONDER Online Database, March 2009. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html> on May 25, 2010 5:09:49 PM
19. Oklahoma State Department of Health, 2005 State of the State's Health, Accessed May 25, 2010 from <http://www.ok.gov/health/pub/boh/state05/index.html>.
20. Oklahoma State Department of Health, Tobacco Use Prevention Service.
21. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Annual smoking-attributable mortality, years of potential life lost, and economic costs—United States, 1995–1999. *MMWR* 2002;51(14):300–303.



**OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Community and Family Health Services  
 Community Development Service  
 1000 NE 10th St, Room 508  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73117  
 Phone: 405-271-6127

Report compiled by:  
 Miriam McGaugh, Ph.D.  
 Epidemiologist  
 and  
 Shu-Chuan Lin, Ph.D.  
 Epidemiologist

*Working Together For Health*

Pottawatomie County Health Department  
 Administrator:  
 Tina Johnson  
 1904 Gordon Cooper Drive  
 Shawnee, OK 74801  
 405-273-2157  
<http://www.ok.gov/health>

The Oklahoma Turning Point Initiative is public health improvement in action involving partnerships between the state and county departments of health, local communities, and policy-makers. The Oklahoma Turning Point engine is fueled by a community-based decision making process whereby local communities tap into the capacities, strengths, and vision of their citizens to create and promote positive, sustainable changes in the public health system, and the public’s health.

**We are at a cross roads in our state and in Pottawatomie County. Please come and be part of the solutions that will lead Oklahoma and Pottawatomie County to becoming a healthy place to live, work and**

“If we are together nothing is impossible.  
 If we are divided all will fail.” - [Winston Churchill](#)

If you are interested in learning more about Turning Point or becoming involved in local activities, please contact:

Brandi McGehee  
 Pottawatomie County Health Department  
 1904 Gordon Cooper Dr  
 Shawnee, OK 74801  
 (405) 273-2157  
 Email: [BrandiM@health.ok.gov](mailto:BrandiM@health.ok.gov)  
 Website: [www.okturningpoint.org](http://www.okturningpoint.org)

**PATCH Coalition**

Coalition Priorities:

1. Provide Tobacco Education to Pottawatomie County Citizens.
2. Increase community knowledge for overall Health & Wellness.

2009 Significant Outcomes:

St. Gregory’s University– Shawnee Okla. As part of its ongoing initiative of improving campus health, St. Gregory’s University has announced it is going “tobacco free” at its three campus locations. The change will take place on August 1, 2009, and under the new policy, tobacco use of any kind will be prohibited anywhere on campus, indoors and out. SGU joins a list of approximately 160 colleges and universities nationwide that prohibit smoking and all forms of tobacco use everywhere on campus (no designated smoking areas), according to the American Lung Association. “We believe the new policy will enable students, faculty, staff, monastic community and visitors to preserve their health by providing a healthy environment where people can live, learn, teach and work free from any risks associated with tobacco use,” said SGU Executive Vice President Shingi Goto.

Throughout the roll-out of the tobacco-free campus, the university has focused on raising awareness through signage, information on its Web site and a partnership with local health agencies to offer smoking cessation classes to faculty and staff, Goto said. “Breathe Easy” stickers and various other signage will be posted at all campus entrances to remind students, employees and visitors of the tobacco ban. PATCH members delivered 1-800-QUITNOW, cessation information posters, and over 15 outdoor, metal Tobacco-Free Campus signs to the Safety Officer, David Koehler, at St. Gregory’s.