

# Public Health Priority Issues

## Issue One:

### Child Health

According to U.S. Census data, 29.4% of the population of Logan County is at or under the age of 19. The 2012 Logan County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment indicated that of respondents; 43% reported insufficient community programs for elementary age children; 48% reported insufficient afterschool opportunities for middle school and high school aged students; 61% reported insufficient recreation opportunities for children; and 65% reported insufficient non-sports related activities for children.

The 2011 State of the State's Health Report indicated infant mortality in Logan County was 7.9 per 1000 compared to the state at 8.6 and the U.S. at 6.8, earning Logan County a grade of "D." The report also indicated 7.1% of babies were born with low birth weight, compared to the state at 8.2% and the U.S. at 8.2%, earning Logan County a grade of "B."

The Community Health Needs Assessment Report by the Institute for People, Place and Possibility indicated infant mortality at 8.34 per 1000, compared to the state at 7.92 and the U.S. at 6.71, putting Logan County in the "red" on this report's dashboard indicator scale.

According to the Kids Count Data Center, Logan County's high



school drop out rate decreased from 11.8% in 2006 to 6.4% in 2010, an improvement of 45.8%.

Also according to the Kids Count Data Center, Logan County's rate of juvenile arrests for violent crimes decreased from 34.1 per 100,000 in 2007 to 6.1 per 100,000 in 2010, an 82% improvement.

The Community Health Needs Assessment Report by the Institute for People, Place and Possibility indicated a rate for "free and reduced price school lunch eligibility" of 64.77%, compared to a state rate of 60.54% and a U.S. rate of 48.34%, putting Logan County in the "red" on this report's dashboard indicator scale.

The Forces of Change Focus Group identified "no youth venue for afterschool activity" as a community issue. Threats to addressing the issue included; lack of ownership of problem, liability

associated with afterschool activities, involvement of at-risk youth, transportation, family culture at home, lack of community involvement, and expense of an activity program. Opportunities created by this issue included; grants as potential funding sources for programs and facilities, engage community churches, determine number of youth without afterschool care to quantify need, implement prevention versus reaction, offer parent education, upgrade parks, allow for community service, and implement organized sports programs for older students.

However, the Community Health Needs Assessment Report by the Institute for People, Place and Possibility reported a rate of 9.56 recreation and fitness facilities per 100,000, compared the state at 8.23 and the U.S. at 9.99, putting Logan County in the "green" on this report's dashboard indicator scale.