



Census Tract 15, Lawton OK

By Christina Wyatt

Overview



Boundaries: 38th Street on the West, G Ave on the North, 11th St to the East and Lee Blvd to the South. This tract includes small businesses, food markets, restaurants, residential area, social services, and the county health department.



Comparison

Similarities

➤ **Ethnicity**

CT 15: 61% Caucasian, Non-Hispanic

Lawton: almost 80% Caucasian

➤ **Age**

CT 15: 69% of males and females are over age of 19

Lawton: 71% of males and females over the age of 19

Differences

➤ **Population**

CT 15: Females 1,547 Males 1,362

Lawton: Females 46,556 Males 50,311

➤ **Educational Attainment**

CT 15: 45.8 % with high school diploma or equivalent

Lawton: 35.2% with high school diploma or equivalent

➤ **Public Assistance**

CT 15: 40.5% receiving benefits

Lawton: 18.4% receiving benefits



Assets

- **Education** – higher educational attainment shows promise for employment in the future, educational services are accessible through local university and a technical center for vocational training that is not far away
- **Proximity to services** – Social Security Department, Department of Human Services, Health Department, Mental health services are all within close proximity for residents as well as food markets and businesses.
- **Spiritual support** – churches provide support for spiritual needs and there is a shelter in the area for the homeless
- **Transportation access** – several public bus routes run through the area to provide transportation to other areas of the city



Problem Identification

➤ **Poverty**

Over 50% of residents reported annual incomes of less than \$25,000

Although many residents in this census tract reported achieving high school graduation or the equivalent, the low annual income suggests they work primarily in minimum wage jobs

40% of residents receive public assistance (SNAP benefits)

Over 50% of residents rent their home with 50% of residents paying between \$500-\$799 per month



Evidence Based Research and Practice

➤ **Participatory Action Research**

(PAR) - practitioners ally themselves with members of poor communities, highlights mutuality and collaboration through explicit sharing of power and voice, brings together community members to share experiences, identify concerns, and study issues relevant to community needs, and to create action plans in response to the knowledge that is generated

➤ **Linking Human Systems Community**

Resilience Model (LINC) - assumes that individuals, families, and communities are inherently competent and resilient, and that with appropriate support and encouragement, they can access individual and collective strengths that will allow them to transcend their loss, encourages people to view themselves as competent in the face of overwhelming circumstances



Evidence Based Research and Practice Cont'd

- **The Model Program** - community-based effort to alter the educational outcomes that is based on Self-Empowerment Theory, intervention efforts must involve community-based partnerships that are culturally sensitive

- **Consists of** - individualized academic tutoring and homework assistance, training to teach adaptive skills and strategies for managing negative and positive emotions and for engaging in success behaviors, end-of-day sharing of positive feelings regarding observations, parent training, and teacher training.



Application

➤ **PAR**

- Approach newly elected Ward representative with idea of organizing a town hall style meeting within the community to address community's needs and gather information
- Utilize a local church for the meeting and invite anyone within the census tract to attend and participate
- Recruit and train peer educators to share concerns within the community with representatives from local agencies (social services, mental health, local businesses, schools, etc)
- Encourage community members to share experiences among each other pertaining to concerns and identify a primary issue as a focus
- Create an action plan to address primary issue (e.g. low-wage jobs) that can involve petitions and presentations to city council



References

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