

Why Conduct A Community Assessment?

Building safe and healthy communities starts with a full understanding of who we are, what resources we have, and what challenges we face. For our work to have real impact, we must move beyond speculation and into specifics. Community Assessment is a critical first step that gives us real information about the needs we face and the assets we have so that we can develop a clear, practical, and meaningful community action plan.

Why conduct a community assessment?

A goal of a community assessment is to develop an informed understanding of the gaps or needs that exist within a community and their impacts upon the community's members



Conducting a Community Assessment: The Compassion Capital Fund National Resource Center, operated by Dare Mighty Things, Inc

Why conduct a community assessment?

A community health assessment gives organizations comprehensive information about the community's current health status, needs, and issues.

This information can help develop a community health improvement plan by justifying how and where resources should be allocated to best meet community needs.

Why conduct a community assessment?

Benefits:

- Improved organizational and community coordination and collaboration
 - Increased knowledge about public health and the interconnectedness of activities
 - Strengthened partnerships within state and local public health systems
 - Identified strengths and weaknesses to address in quality improvement efforts
 - Baselines on performance to use in preparing for accreditation
 - Benchmarks for public health practice improvements
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Why conduct a community assessment?

- Data base for guiding action
 - Useful source of information
 - Involve community members
 - Ask people what is important
 - Get valuable feedback
 - Broader agenda for action
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Principles of Community Health Assessments

- **Multisector collaborations that support shared ownership** of all phases of community health improvement, including assessment, planning, investment, implementation, and evaluation
- **Proactive, broad, and diverse community** engagement to improve results
- A **definition of community** that encompasses both a significant enough area to allow for population-wide interventions and measurable results, and includes a targeted focus to address disparities among subpopulations
- Maximum **transparency** to improve community engagement and accountability
- Use of **evidence-based interventions** and encouragement of innovative practices with thorough evaluation
- Evaluation to inform a **continuous improvement** process
- Use of the **highest quality data** pooled from, and shared among, diverse public and private sources

*Principles to Consider for the Implementation of a Community Health Needs Assessment Process. June 2013
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A large, light blue stylized human figure with arms and legs raised, centered in the background. It has a circular head and a square torso. The figure is composed of rounded, organic shapes.

Thank You For Joining Us!

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