

Assessing Community Health Needs

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1. Introduction

- A community health needs assessment identifies the health problems and priorities of a population.
- It guides planning of relevant and effective programmes.

2. Purpose

- Reveal the main health issues affecting the community.
- Identify available resources and gaps in services.
- Provide a baseline for measuring change.

3. Data Collection Methods

- **Surveys and interviews:** gather information directly from residents.
- **Observation:** assess living conditions and environment.
- Review existing records and health statistics.

4. Identifying Priorities

- Analyse data to find the most common and serious problems.
- Consider severity, number affected, and community concern.

5. Community Involvement

- Engage local leaders and residents in identifying needs.
- Participation increases ownership and relevance of solutions.

6. Summary

- Assessing community health needs uses varied data and community participation to identify priorities and plan appropriate health programmes.