

Community Health Assessment



M A & P P

"It's hard to know where you're going if you don't know where you are."

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT?

Community Health Assessment has been defined as “the ongoing process of regular and systematic collection, assembly, analysis, and distribution of information on the health of the community.” Its aim is to describe the health of the community by presenting information on health status and community health needs and resources.

Assessing the health of the community is a core function of your local public health department and is the foundation of public health practice. Information within the Community Health Assessment provides a diagnosis of the health status of the community based on a comprehensive analysis of health-related data and other factors that influence community health; in effect, it provides a picture or a “snapshot” of the health condition of the people in our community by answering important questions such as:

What are the significant health issues in our community?

What factors contribute to these health issues?

What are our community's assets and resources and where are there gaps in services?

WHY IS COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT SO IMPORTANT?

A comprehensive health profile can tell us how healthy our community is and whether or not its health status is improving. **Community health assessment should drive decisions about policies, programs, services and funding.** It is a basis for determining necessary community interventions and for setting priorities to improve the health status of the community. Assessment provides a foundation for advocating for necessary change, leveraging resources and mobilizing community partners to share resources to address priority health issues.

HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT BE ACCOMPLISHED?

Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) will facilitate the community health assessment using the **Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP)** process. MAPP is a community-wide strategic planning tool for improving community health developed by National Association for County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in partnership with CDC. MAPP helps communities prioritize community health issues and identify resources for addressing them (See Other Side - “Steps in the MAPP Process”). **Broad community participation is essential to this process because a wide range of organizations and individuals contribute to the community's health.**

Using the collaborative framework of the MAPP process, OCHD will partner with the Oneida County Health Coalition to engage the expertise and input from a broad representation of community members, community health system partners and other community partnerships in the development of an Oneida County Community Health Assessment that will describe the health status of Oneida County and develop strategies to resolve identified problems.

¹http://nccphp.sph.unc.edu/training/HEP_ASSESS/ North Carolina Public Health Preparedness Training Website

**STEPS IN THE
MOBILIZING FOR ACTION THROUGH PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS (MAPP) PROCESS:**

