

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT?

A community assessment refers to a process to collect information on the strengths, concerns, and conditions of the community and residents.

Assessment tools vary. They can be based on interviews, data, focus groups, pictures, or other facts.



Benefits of a Community Assessment:

By completing a community assessment process your committee will identify:

- Residents' priorities
- Locate hidden strengths
- Underutilized resources that could developed

A community assessment is helpful when it is completed by a collaborative partnership of citizens. When many types of partners participate in a community assessment – strategic planners, program staff, administrators, teachers, parents, and other community members – the resulting information is broad, accurate, and useful.

The assessment will assist with:

- Designing effective strategies that community members support for a well accepted plan of action.
- Encouraging community members' involvement in implementing the plan.



STATE OBESITY TASK FORCE

MISSION: Working toward prevention and reduction of obesity for a healthier Alabama

EXAMPLES OF ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Community Health Initiative Photovoice: Using Cameras to Document the Barriers- Where people live, work and play has a powerful influence on their health. By increasing opportunities for physical activity and improving access to healthy food, Kaiser Permanente's Community Health Initiatives is delivering powerful community-based prevention. The big idea: improve people's health by making the healthy choice the easy choice.

<http://xnet.kp.org/newscenter/inthecommunity/2009/062609photovoice.html>

ENACT (Environmental, Nutrition, and Activity Community Tool): Prevention Institute is a non-profit national center dedicated to improving community health and well-being by building momentum for effective primary prevention.

<http://preventioninstitute.org/sa/enact>.

Moving to the Future: Tools for Planning Nutrition and Physical Activity Programs (Assessment to Evaluation) - Use this website to develop successful community programs that promote healthy eating and physical activity. It provides: step-by-step instructions for conducting a community assessment, writing objectives, developing a plan, or evaluating your program; forms, surveys, and worksheets in MSWord for you to download and adapt to your own needs; and discussion forums to network with colleagues around the country doing this same work.

www.movingtothefuture.org

Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH): Through a multi-year partnership with the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NACCHO provides technical assistance to local health departments and their constituents in conducting community-based environmental health assessments (CEHA).

www.naccho.org/topics/environemntal/CEHA/Index.cfm