

Introduction

A. Background

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A. BACKGROUND

As mandated by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services beginning in the year of 2002, every public health department will be responsible for conducting a community needs assessment every four years. Listed below is the rationale for this process.

PURPOSE: Fulfilling society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy; creating a safe environment for persons living healthy lives; employing good health practices; and ensuring availability and accessibility for adequate medical care.

MISSION: To emphasize preventive health services and healthy lifestyles;
To reduce health disparities among the disadvantaged;
To prevent and control disease; and
To increase the span of life.

ASSESSMENT: Assessment, monitoring, surveillance of local problems and needs and of resources for dealing with them; provide programs according to the public health needs of the community.

POLICY: To provide policy development and leadership that emphasize local involvement and local needs, advocating equitable distribution of public resources and complementary private activities that are commensurate with community needs.

ASSURANCE: Assurance that high-quality health care services, needed for the protection of public health in the community, are available and accessible to the community. That community is informed about how to obtain public health, including personal health services; and how to comply with public health requirements.

PROCESS: Community health assessment is the measurement of the community; every four years, by the local health department to identify, prioritize and report to the state their county's health problems and solution strategies. These problems are summarized at the state level and used by the State Health Director to determine public health's expansion budget requests to the legislature.

GOAL: The goal of the community health assessment is to activate the community to work in a collaborative way to identify health problems and develop action plans for improving the health of the community.

PHASES OF THE 2007 COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The following steps were involved in the Wilson County Community Assessment:

- Phase I. Establish a Community Assessment Team**
- Phase II. Collect Community Data**
- Phase III. Analyzing County Health Data**
- Phase IV. Combine Your County's Health Statistics with Your Community Data**
- Phase V. Select Health Priorities**
- Phase VI. Create a Community Assessment Document**
- Phase VII. Develop the Community Health Action Plans**