

Community assessment approaches

1. Surveys
2. Descriptive epidemiologic studies
3. Community forums or town meetings
4. Focus groups

Requirements of data collection in community health

1. The exercise of sound professional judgment
2. Effective communication techniques
3. Special investigative skills

Surveys

It is an assessment method in which a series of questions is used to collect data for analysis of specific group or area .

Purposes : Surveys are commonly used to provide a broad range of data .

Variables that affect community's ability to control disease & promote wellness

1. Environmental conditions or needs
2. Socioeconomic conditions or needs
3. Behavioral conditions or needs

Choices of community health nurse while conducting a survey

- Patterns & needs
- Immunization levels
- Demographic characteristics
- Health beliefs
- Practice

Phases of survey

1. Planning phase
2. Data collection phase
3. Data analysis & presentation phase

Descriptive Epidemiologic Studies

It examines the amount and distribution of a disease or health condition in a population by person .

Benefits of D.E.S: They are useful for suggesting

1. Which individuals are at greatest risk
2. Where the condition might occur
3. When the condition might occur
4. Useful for health planning purposes
5. Useful for suggesting hypotheses concerning disease etiology

Factors that determine assessment method choice

1. The reason for data collection
2. The goals & objectives of the study
3. The available resources
4. The nurse view for community
- **Community forums or town hall meeting**

It is a qualitative assessment method designed to obtain community opinions .

Advantages :

1. Inexpensive
2. Results are quickly obtained

Focus groups : It is designed to obtain grassroots opinion.

Differences from community forum or town hall meeting

1. Small group of participants (usually 5-15 people)
2. Homogenous members with respect to specific demographic variables (pregnant women)

Advantages of focus group :

1. Efficient
2. Low cost

Sources of community data

1. Primary &secondary sources

- a. Primary sources : Information gathered by talking to people (directly obtained data)
- b. Secondary sources :people who know the community well (health team members, client records , community health statistics)

2. International sources :collected by several agencies , WHO – Pan American Health Organization

3. National sources : Official & non official sources.

a. Official agencies

1. U.S.Public Health Services (USPHS)
2. U.S.Bureau of the Census: It undertakes a major survey of American families every 10 years .
- 3.National Institutes of Health (NIH) : System of 17 biomedical research agencies focuses on improving the health of the nation .

Data gathered by U.S.Bureau

1. Data on health
2. Scioeconomic conditions
3. Environmental conditions

Activities of NIH employees

1. Prevent diseases
2. Diagnose diseases
3. Treat diseases
4. Conduct research findings

Non official agencies

1. American Cancer Society (ACS)
2. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
3. Mother Against Drunk Drivers (MADD)
4. Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD)

4. State sources : Its responsibility

1. collecting state vital statistics
2. collecting morbidity data

5. Local sources

- **The local visitor's bureau**
- **City Chamber of Commerce**
- **City planner's office**
- **Health department**
- **Hospitals**
- **County extension office**
- **School districts**
- **Universities & colleges**
- **Libraries**
- **Business & service organizations**
- **Community leaders & key informants**

Thank you