

Perry County Community Needs Assessment

Community Needs Assessment: A systematic process in which data is collected regarding the community needs and public health issues that present the most concern for community members and leaders.

Focus: Community assessments focus on local assets and resources as well as gaps, barriers, or emerging needs.

Identifying the threats to community health is the first step in improving the health of the community.

Why do an Assessment?

Helps the collaborative team to:

- assess and prioritize the needs of the community
 - clearly understand the context in which families live
 - assess and prioritize internal capacity to meet the needs of the community
 - determine which resources could contribute to comprehensive strategies, and in what way
 - develop an action plan to meet those needs
 - provides data for grant writing to secure funding to address community needs
- ❖ The more thorough the assessment the more accurate is the picture created of the status of the residents and the more useful the information will be for establishing priorities to improve the problems in the community.
- ❖ When many types of partners participate in a community assessment, the resulting information is broad, accurate, and useful.
- ❖ The needs assessment results are an important reference when attempting to develop strategies to mobilize communities and address critical public health issues.

Who does the Assessment?

- The Ohio State University Center for Public Health Practice will help ensure the reliability and validity of the data
- The Ohio State University Center for Public Health Practice will be able to administer a more comprehensive survey and conduct a more comprehensive analysis than we are able to do independently

Assessment Process:

- The Ohio State University Center for Public Health Practice will meet with partners to discuss topics important to them and select questions for surveys and focus groups
- Surveys are administered and community focus groups conducted
- Data is analyzed and a report compiled
- Community partners come back together to identify priority areas identified through the data and form task forces to identify goals and objectives to address in the community