



Community Assessment

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Course name : Community Health Nursing

Fall Semester

Week No.3

Objectives

Upon completion of this lecture, the student will be able to do the following:

- Discuss the major dimensions of a community.
- Discuss the Major Features of A Community
- Describe the process of conducting a community assessment.
- Methods Community Assessment
- Identify sources of information about a community's health.

The primary concern of community health nurses is to improve the health of the community. To address this concern, community health nurses use all the principles and skills of nursing and public health practice. This process involves using demographic and epidemiological methods to assess the community's health and diagnose its health needs.

The Nature of Community

Many dimensions describe the nature of community. These include an aggregate of people, a location in space and time, and a social system

A **community assessment** is a systematic way of identifying the needs and resources of a community by gathering statistical data, soliciting perspectives of community members and collecting information about service providers and other community resources (Samuels et al., 1995).



Major Features of A Community

1. Aggregate of people

The “who”: personal characteristics and risks

2. Location in space and time

The “where” and “when”: physical location frequently delineated by boundaries and influenced by the passage of time

3. Social System

A social system, in simple words, is a structured and formal network of relationships that exists between people in a social setting.

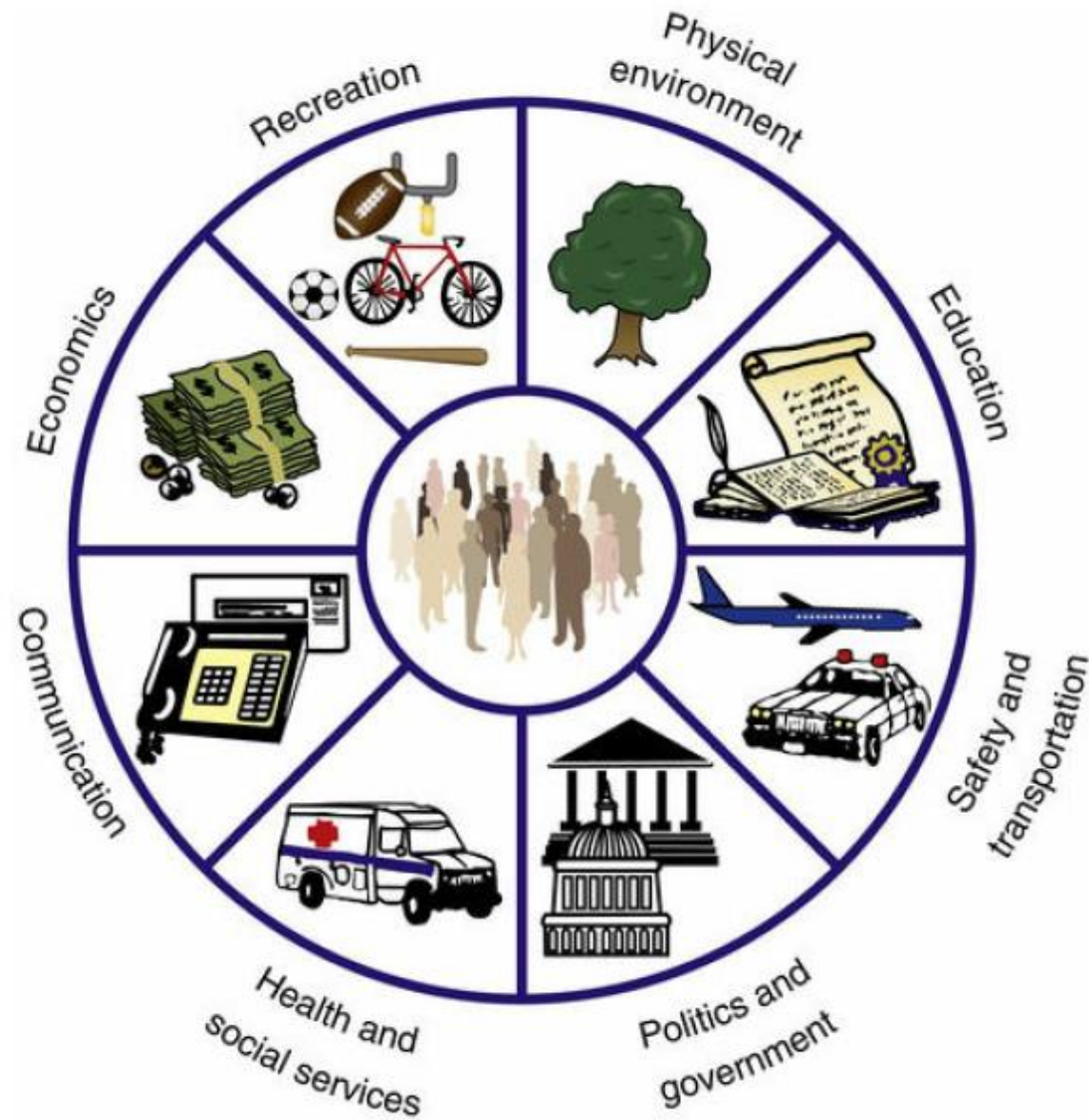


Diagram of Assessment Parameters.

(Modified from Anderson ET, McFarlane J: Community as partner: theory and practice in nursing, ed 6, Philadelphia, 2011, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.)

A **community health assessment** (sometimes called a CHA), also known as community health needs assessment (sometimes called a CHNA), refers to a state, tribal, local, or territorial health assessment that identifies key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis.



Common Elements of Assessment and Planning Frameworks

1. Organize and plan.
2. Engage the community.
3. Develop a goal or vision.
4. Conduct community health assessment(s)
5. Prioritize health issues.
6. Develop community health improvement plan.
7. Implement and monitor community health improvement plan.
8. Evaluate process and outcomes.

Diagnosing Health Problems

The diagnosis consists of four components:

1. The identification of the health problem or risk,
2. The affected aggregate or community,
3. Etiological or causal statement,
4. The evidence or support for the diagnosis.

Functions community health assessment :

1. Identifying problems.
2. Risk factors.
3. Determining its interests and priorities related to health.
4. Describing population lifestyles.
5. Delineating community strengths and resources.
6. Facilitates decision making, particularly with respect to resources allocation.
7. Provide skill training for residents.
8. Facilitates group mobilization.

Principles of Community Health Assessment:

1. Multiple sources of information should be sought to provide an overall picture of community health rather than the view of one segment of the population.
2. Assessment should address the needs of specific subgroups within the population (e.g., vulnerable populations such as the elderly or members of diverse cultural groups).

Principles of Community Health Assessment:

3. Assessment should consider all potential stakeholders in the population. Stakeholders are those concerned with the outcome of the assessment (e.g., community residents, officials, health care providers, funders).
4. Assessment should identify population assets as well as needs and problems.
5. Assessment should be conducted or directed by persons with experience in population health assessment.

Methods Community Assessment

1. Surveys

2. Descriptive Epidemiologic Studies

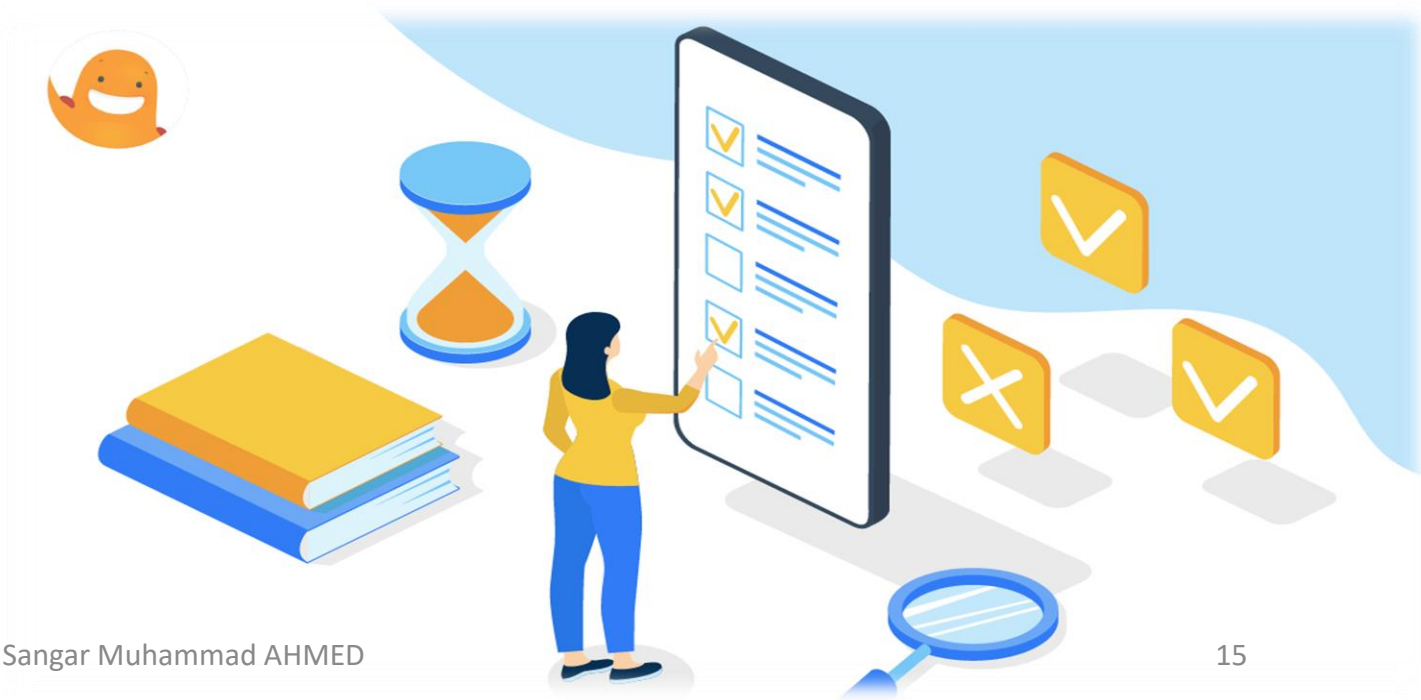
3. Community Forums or Town Hall Meetings:

4. Focus Group:

Methods Community Assessment

1. Surveys

A survey is a method of gathering information using relevant questions from a sample of people with the aim of understanding populations as a whole.



Methods Community Assessment

2. Descriptive Epidemiologic Studies

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

- 1. Person** (Who is affected?),
- 2. Place** (Where does the condition occur?),
- 3. Time** (When do the cases occur?).

They are useful for suggesting which individuals are at greatest risk and where and when the condition might occur. They are useful for health planning purposes.

Methods Community Assessment

3. Community Forums or Town Hall Meetings:

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



Methods Community Assessment

4. Focus Group:

It is similar to the community forum or town hall meeting in that it is designed to obtain grassroots opinion.

Focus
Groups



Sources of health information

1. Census
2. Registration of vital events
3. Notification of Diseases
4. Hospital Records
5. Disease Registers
6. Epidemiological Surveillance
7. Health Service Records
8. Environmental Health Data
9. Health manpower statistics
10. Population Surveys

