Community Assessment
Part 1 (Fall 2009)

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Purpose

- A defined geographic area
  - City (by hand - 1970)
  - or City (early gis 1982)
  - or City (current gis 1990+)
- A defined population with a specified characteristic

Why define a Community

- To set a baseline for improvement
- To set Goals
- To set objectives
- To inform the public

Who is involved?

- The stakeholders
  - Elected officials
  - Health-care Community
    - Drs, Administrators, Nurses, Pharmacists etc.
  - Representatives of the public
  - Local Board of Health
  - Neighborhood representatives
  - Business Community
  - "special" interests

Health Status

- The overall health of the community compared to a 'Gold Standard'
- The gold standard may be an average for the state of nation, it may be a mythical standard based on current best outcomes such as longevity, or lack of disability, or best treatment.

Process-1

- Decide the Goal of the Assessment
  - Who
  - What
  - When
  - How
  - Why
Gather Data
- Rates
- Birth
- Death
- Diseases
  - Common diseases e.g.:
    - Infections
    - Heart disease
    - Diabetes

Where is the data
- Primary Data from surveillance
  - State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
  - Local Surveys
  - NCHS Surveys
- Secondary data from reports
  - Birth data
  - Death Data
  - Hospital Discharge data
  - Local health department records

Compare rates: both incidence and prevalence
Compare with?
- Similar communities
- States
- Nation
- World
Longitudinal (Temporal) Comparisons

Display data
- Who will view the data?
- Are they likely to understand the format?
- Is the data easy to read?
- What are the display options?
  - Written
  - Graphic – Charts, columns, pies.
  - Pictures
  - Geographic (Ref: Jeff Stover’s Presentation)

Review of data
- By staff to be sure it is correct
- By supervisors
- By community interests
- Revision
- Further review

Set Goals
- After public comment
- Develop a healthy people or healthy communities plan
- Develop resource plan.
- Set time table
Action!

- Finally
- Write your plan/recommendations
- Implement them