

Community Resource Assessments

Community assets – or resources – are what is used to improve the quality of community life. This may include things such as people, relationships, policies, practices or services. These resources are the foundation for your work in preventing violence in your community. Knowing your community's strengths makes it easier to understand the types of policies, practices and programs needed to address the community's needs.

How do we identify our community's resources?

- **Environmental Scans** look at a community's ability and commitment to prevent violence. A scan may examine a number of different aspects of a community including the organizational, social, economic, cultural and political context. An environmental scan can help map out the existing systems, policies, practices and programs in place. It can also help to increase understanding of the current and available funding that supports violence prevention. Including a range of stakeholders throughout the process, and building on previous scans conducted, will enrich the environmental scan. This process provides an opportunity to communicate with other important stakeholders and build support for comprehensive violence prevention. In addition, it might highlight ways that service delivery, policies, and funding structures can be improved.
- **Asset Mapping** identifies assets that improve quality of life in a community. Asset mapping can help find supports, resources, structures and other strengths that can support violence prevention efforts. When you begin asset mapping it is important to identify the boundaries of the community you are mapping as well as the types of assets you are assessing. Once you have collected information on assets, it may be helpful to create an actual map to display the findings.
- **Capacity Assessments** help identify how well stakeholders are able to affect risk and protective factors for violence and implement violence prevention strategies and approaches. A capacity assessment can be conducted at the community level or within a specific agency or organization. Some capacity assessments focus on general capacity and others are focused on the capacity to implement specific violence prevention approaches.



Here are some general areas of capacity to assess:

- **Leadership.** Is leadership at multiple levels engaged and committed to violence prevention efforts using a comprehensive set of primary prevention strategies?
- **Staff and Resources.** Are there sufficient staff and resources necessary to support violence prevention efforts effectively?
- **Collaboration and Partnerships.** Are collaboration and partnerships maintained among a variety of stakeholders and partners within the community?
- **Data and Evaluation.** Is our violence prevention work informed by data and continuously improved through ongoing monitoring and evaluation?

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How do we collect data on resources?

There are a number of different techniques for collecting data on community resources for preventing violence:

- Compile publicly available data on resources in the community
 - Potential sources of information include neighborhood and city directories or resource guides, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, local newspapers, community or recreational facilities, and web based map services.
- Partner with state and local government planners to identify existing resources and information
- Review state and city websites for relevant legislation and regulations
- Conduct surveys with organizations and other key stakeholders in the community
- Conduct key informant interviews
- Conduct focus groups or community forums

Additional Resources



Assessing Community Needs and Resources (Community Tool Box)

<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/assessment/assessing-community-needs-and-resources/identify-community-assets/main>

Environmental Scan Resources



Environmental Scan and Strategic Planning Guidance (SAMHSA)

https://captconnect.edc.org/sites/captconnect.edc.org/files/EnvironmentalScanning_StratPlanGuide.pdf



State Legislative Websites Directory (National Conference of State Legislatures)

<http://www.ncsl.org/aboutus/ncslservice/state-legislative-websites-directory.aspx>

Asset Mapping Resources



Asset Mapping (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research)

http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/programs/health-data/trainings/Documents/tw_cba20.pdf



Map My Community (Youth.Gov)

<https://youth.gov/map-my-community>



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Additional Resources

Capacity Assessment Resources



Dating Matters Capacity Assessment (CDC)

<https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/datingmatterscapt/>



Assessing Prevention Capacity & Implementing Change [Bullying Specific] (HRSA)

<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/MaternalChildHealthInitiatives/mchb-change-pkg-12-4-17-sxf.pdf>