

Elevate CBOs Webinar Series: Community Needs Assessments Follow-Up Questions

Hello! The example that Dr. Houston used in re young TAY while male's higher intake over BIPOC youth... I am wondering about the Census ability for the two other young male populations re Intake. If that were the case, then the BIPOC young male TAY populations not having as high accessibility for Intake at an SUD center seems to make more sense.

The example in the workshop was completely made up and the statement about use of services was also made up. The multiracial men's non-use or barriers could be explained by factors that are not related to race. A purpose of a needs assessment is to uncover factors about the problem that are not always visible on the surface.

Will the CNA be used as a step in developing a strategic prevention framework? Yes, because a community needs assessment is designed to help you understand a problem in detail, it certainly can be useful in developing a strategic prevention framework because it is an important foundation for planning.

Is it common for Phase One data collection to influence the measures used in Phase Two? Yes, because decisions on what information to collect in phase two is often impacted by what is not available in phase one.

I have a needs assessment --SO WHAT NOW? That depends on the purposes of your needs assessment. For example, was it done primarily for identifying your Community Assets and Resources to inform planning, grant applications etc.? Or was it done as a subsection of ongoing program evaluation or other reason. Answering the "why" is key in determining the "what now/next". Additionally, it might be useful to consider why you/your organization care about the problem. Determining what is its impact on people's lives can also help you to think about what to do next.

Can community needs assessment data be used to lay the groundwork for long term policy suggestions for governmental organizations? Yes, because you can make strong arguments using evidence-based information from Data collected in the needs assessment. Additionally, it may be useful for understanding the context in which problems occur, which may have policy implications.

You talked about creating effective problem statements. When does this problem definition take place in the CNA process - before or after collecting and analyzing data?

The statement can start with a thought or comment or observation as you consider the population at risk. This can happen even before you begin the process of conducting a needs assessment. But it should be developed and fine-tuned as you learn more about the problem. And it should be adequately defined before the primary data collection (phase 2) because it should drive your data collection processes.

What is better a community assessment or feasibility study? Their objectives are a bit different. Generally, a community assessment is often the first step in developing a coordinated response to a problem. Whereas, a feasibility study is often designed to identify potential issues and problems that could arise while pursuing a project.

It would also be great if there's a list of recommended readings for CNA that you guys could share, also.

Issel, L. M., & Wells, R. (2017). *Health Program Planning and Evaluation: A Practical, Systematic Approach for Community Health: A Practical, Systematic Approach for Community Health* (4th edition). Jones & Bartlett Learning.