Community Needs Assessment: Maneuvering the opioid and substance abuse data terrain using interrelated frameworks

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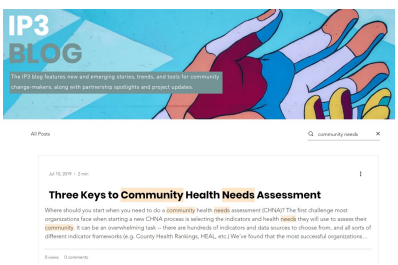
Who is The Institute for People, Place, and Possibility(IP3)?

IP3 is a non-profit organization that amplifies community change by building strategic thought partnerships through use of data, technology, and storytelling. IP3 services change makers, community organizations, health systems, local public health, philanthropic funders, and national initiatives.



What is a Community Needs Assessment?

A community needs assessment is an invaluable process that aids in identifying the factors that influence a populations health and available resources. Data for community needs can be sourced from individual surveys, focus groups, town hall meetings, interviews, or secondary data. A community needs assessment provides leaders with the insight they need to create innovative strategies for effective change and sustainability.

IP3 Assess

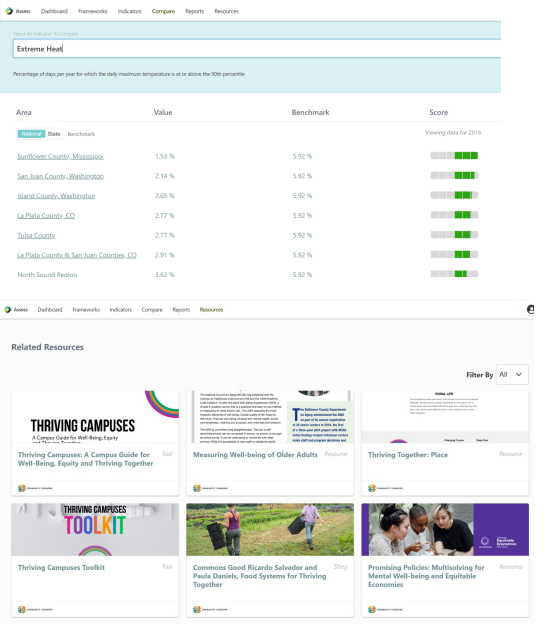
A web-based solution to community need assessments that features data analysis capabilities, community insights, shareable reports, data frameworks, and public health indicators that support data alignment the lead to concerned action.

Community Needs Assessment steps

1. Define the scope
2. Plan for a Community Needs Assessment
3. Review and categorize the data
4. Record and summarize the data
5. Create a community action plan
6. Share the findings

Fellows tasks:

Incorporate new data sources into IP3 Assess, perform quality assurance testing on the website interface, geographic information system(GIS) data population verification, score gauge testing, metadata validation, source link verification. In total, over 15 health indicators were uploaded to IP3 including data sourced from CMS Medicare Mapping Disparities, CDC Atlas plus, CDC wonder and more..



Recommendations

Community partners, health systems, and organizations are essential in contributing to the health and wellness of communities. More organizations are becoming interested in ameliorating substance use as well as other public health issues. At times it is challenging to communicate across sectors and create meaningful plans without understanding the insights that datasets provide.

Designated task forces should be developed to spearhead initiatives around substance abuse particularly as it pertains to policy, resources, and statistics. Data knowledge sharing sessions should be held throughout organizations so that stakeholders and members are informed of project objectives, data trends, internal/external benefits, and the overall contribution to the wellness of our communities.

References

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