

Key Components of the **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

ORGANIZATIONAL
OBJECTIVES
ASSOCIATES 



Overview

A needs assessment provides a health center with actionable information based on the careful analysis of data concerning the health center's service area population, target population group, and market share. An up-to-date, board-approved needs assessment is one of HRSA's 19 Program Requirements.

Data and Maps

Common sources of data for developing a needs assessment include:

- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)
- Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)
- Labor statistics
- Health department data
- UDS reports
- Patient surveys and focus groups
- Board Questionnaire (distributed during the development of the needs assessment) and collection of anecdotal evidence from health center employees

Maps are a valuable supplement to the data provided in a needs assessment. Maps not only make it easier for individuals using the needs assessment to visualize the service area (map is created using UDS data) but are also useful for demonstrating the service area penetration and any trends discovered in the data and supporting actions suggested in the analysis.

Analysis

An analysis is made based on the collected data and maps. The analysis should look at a variety of factors including:

- Patient Trends (e.g., population shifts and changing demographics, new or changing health care needs)
- Operational trends (e.g., clinical measures, number of patients served, costs)
- Data concerning the type and number of providers serving the same service area and target population groups
- HPSA, MUA, and MUP

Based on the analysis, an executive summary is developed. This narrative provides the health center and its board with the key details of the needs assessment.

Recommendations

Trends in the data often provide the basis for new goals, which require new strategies. Based upon the facts of the analysis, recommendations are made. Various options are provided, taking into account the many factors at play: the overall importance of the issue in question, the financial and operational costs required to make the recommended changes, the amount of time required to implement the recommended process, and the barriers to successful implementation.

For assistance with your Needs Assessment project,
contact us at **800.892.2409** or **info@orgobject.com**.