

Tobacco-Related and Other Chronic Disease Needs Assessment Talking Points

What is the needs assessment?

- The needs assessment will look at community settings, schools, work sites, and health systems in relation to the prevention, early detection, and management of chronic disease.
- The needs assessment will focus on conditions that support healthy lifestyle choices: being physical active, choosing healthy foods, and being tobacco free, as well as resources for health information and services that reduce or control factors that put people at risk for chronic diseases.
- Through the needs assessment we will look at both policies that are in place and the resources -- human, financial, in-kind, and existing services -- that are available to support these policies.
- The needs assessment will include numerical measurement of information as well as non-numerical or qualitative measurement of information.
- We will begin the assessment in June and are expecting to complete the assessment by the end of September.

What will a needs assessment accomplish?

- The needs assessment will identify local resources and gaps that can be used to identify future policy and system change initiatives addressing the prevention, early detection, and management of chronic diseases.
- The needs assessment will help identify champions in the community – people who will work to help reduce tobacco use and increase opportunities for physical activity and healthy food choices, and chronic disease self-management.
- The needs assessment will help the county public health department and many community partners provide leadership and plan for policy and system change initiatives that will address the prevention, early detection, and management of chronic diseases. These initiatives will begin in 2009.

What can you do? [possible asks – depending on your audience]

- We are asking for a one-on-one interview with you so that we can learn from you and be better prepared to gather additional information during the needs assessment.
- We are asking for a one-on-one interview with you so we can learn about your organization and the activities you have been involved in.
- We would like you to participate in our Community Health Advisory Council.