

Needs Assessment Tool

Assessing and prioritizing your community's diabetes needs will help to strengthen your diabetes program. Information from a simple community needs assessment can help lay the foundation for a strong diabetes program. After completing your assessment your diabetes program will have a better understanding of the most important issues and needs facing your clinic and community. Here are some steps to complete a simple needs assessment.

1) Use your latest [IHS Diabetes Care and Outcomes Audit](#) data, GPRA data or school data to describe your diabetes-related needs.

- How many people have diabetes _____
- How many youth are overweight _____
- How many _____ (what else do you want to know - you fill in the blank)

2) Review records on use of health services and from other health-related sources if available. Find out:

- From the Audit data find out how many people:
 - Have diabetes-related foot issues?
 - Have elevated blood sugar levels?
 - Need weight management?
 - Have diabetes-related eye disease?
- What else can you think of? (you fill in the blank)

- From school records find out
 - How many school children are overweight?
- What else can you think of? (you fill in the blank)

3) Review the data and make a list of top diabetes-related health issues. List the top diabetes issues:

- _____
- _____
- _____

4) For each health issue determine:

- How big a health problem is it?
- What are the causes?
- Is it getting better or worse over time?
- If nothing is done, what will be the consequences?

When you complete this tool, return to your visual planning tool and add the additional resources that you identified as available to your diabetes program (audit data, school records).