



Needs Assessment

“How do we know what the target group needs?”

A need describes that which the target group requires to improve its health status or its opportunities for good health.

Target group needs can be assessed in a variety of ways. In Participatory Quality Development, need is not only determined by external experts, but also by project personnel and the target group. The needs of the target group are best captured when distinct perspectives and knowledge bases (of project personnel, target group, funding body, academic research and relevant other stakeholders) are brought together.

Several information sources are therefore tapped into for a Needs Assessment. If important data are missing (e.g. the local perspective of the target group), they can be collected using participatory methods.

When the needs of the target group are determined, interventions can be appropriately planned and argued for (e.g. in funding applications). Target-group-oriented work in health promotion and prevention is a good foundation for putting participation into practice in Needs Assessments as well.

Continue with:

- Target-Group-Oriented Work as the Foundation
- Needs Assessment (Target Group)
- Participatory Needs Assessment
- Further Reading

Authors: Unger/Block/Wright

Needs Assessment: Further Reading and Links

Quint-Essenz (Schweiz): Hier wird allerdings zwischen Bedarf (im Sinne von „objektiv“ durch Experten feststellbar) und Bedürfnissen („subjektiv“ von Zielgruppe geäußert) unterschieden – diese Unterscheidung ist für den hier vertretenen Ansatz nicht relevant
<http://www.quint-essenz.ch>

(Quintessence (Switzerland): Here however, a distinction is made between requirements (i.e. the “objective” need determined by experts) and needs (i.e. the “subjective” needs as expressed by the target group). This distinction is not relevant for the approach advocated here. <http://www.quint-essenz.ch>)

Workshops und Arbeitsblätter zur Bedarfserhebung in Gemeinden zum Thema Suchtprävention
<http://www.bedarfserhebung.ch>

(Workshops and Worksheets about Needs Assessments in Local Communities on the Prevention of Drug Dependency

<http://www.bedarfserhebung.ch> in German and French)



Participatory Quality Development in HIV Prevention

www.pq-hiv.de/en
Wright/Block/Unger



Partizipative Methoden der nexus-Akademie

<http://www.partizipative-methoden.de/index.php?page=angebotsvarianten>

(Participatory Methods of the nexus-Academy

<http://www.partizipative-methoden.de/index.php?page=angebotsvarianten>)

Moser, H (2003). Instrumentenkoffer für den Praxisforscher. Freiburg: Lambertus.

(Moser, H (2003). Toolkit for Research Practitioners. Freiburg: Lambertus. In German).