

Community Health Scorecards: Environmental Scan of Internet

About the research

This research is based on an environmental scan of the Internet conducted April 1 – April 4, 2008. Research ascertained the availability of community-based health assessment tools and scorecards. While these findings are based on a cursory scan, major sites should have been identified by such a targeted scan.

Summary of Findings

No national scorecards identified. The majority of web sites identified are geared towards helping communities select their own health indicators and build their own measurement tools. These sites provide a vast amount of information – but stop short of providing an example of a successful, well-thought out score card or a template.

Limited local Community Scorecards found. The health assessment tools/scorecards found were mainly provided by individual communities. These tools were not part of larger efforts, but posted on community websites to showcase their work.

Environmental factors not included in scorecards. Of those few scorecards found, none found scorecards which included environmental factors (outside of smoking) Only a Canadian Government site even recognized environmental factors as a component which communities should consider when devising their scorecards.

Healthy People 2010. Healthy People 2010 report asserts that a number of states (Colorado, Rhode Island, Michigan, etc.) created benchmarks for their communities as part of their Healthy People 2000 efforts, but does not provide a website/contact for where information could be found (search could not find information either).

Four (4) types of websites identified

- **Major Foundations/Universities.** “How-to” advice for communities to devise their own scorecards. These type of sites provide pages upon pages of information and links to data sources; but all appear to lack concrete examples or templates.
- **State websites.** A few states (NY, MN, NC) have taken the initiative to help their communities benchmark their health. If these sites provide examples of scorecards, the information is limited to 1) examples within their borders and 2) is reliant on what the individual community choose to post on their own website.
- **National Government Websites.** Both the United States and Canadian governments provide resources for communities to develop health improvement projects. Neither site provides a template for communities to use to assess “health.”
- **Private companies/member-based organizations (dues paying).** Private companies specialize in conducting – for a fee – community health assessments; as well as fee-based websites may provide template information.

Conclusions

The cursory environmental scan did not identify any web sites which provide communities with health measurement scorecard templates – without cost. The few examples of scorecards found on the web were often not presented in detail and did not include environmental factors.

Examples of website Identified

1. Individual Community Scorecards:

- **Kansas City, Kansas:**

https://www.bcbskc.com/Public/Uploads/About_BCBSKC/Kansas_City_2007_Health_Scorecard.pdf

Published in 2007; sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas City; presents a broad overview of their scorecard

Criteria used included: Tobacco Use, Physical Activity, Substance Abuse, Responsible Sexual Behavior, Mental Health, Injury and Violence (e.g. Deaths from motor vehicle crashes), Environmental Quality (Ozone pollution exposure, tobacco smoke), Immunization, Access to Health Care, Other Objectives (e.g. Annual dental visit, Daily fruit and vegetable intake)

- **Cortland County, NY**

<http://www.sevenvalleyshealth.org/projects/cc.htm>

Published their most recent scorecard 2007.

Scorecard includes general categories such as births, deaths, smoking, cancer, and crime. No environmental factors included.

- **Health Council of Southern Florida**

<http://www.healthcouncil.org/communityreportcardmethod.asp>

Designed to help Southern Florida communities.

Key health indicators measure only access to care, and health disparities.

Measures include: infant/maternal health; adult/youth risky behavior; residents practice healthy behaviors; families use of health services/when needed/cost-effective settings; chronic disease prevention; options for healthcare access; safe supportive community and environment; elder health and care.

- **Anne Arundel County (MD) Department of Health**

http://www.aahealth.org/App_pdfs/aahealthreportcard2007.pdf

Great analysis of community health indicators; but does not have a scorecard.

2. University/Foundation Projects

- **Western Connecticut State University**

<http://www.wcsu.edu/reportcard/indicators.asp>

Provides a broad list of indicators communities might want to include in a score card, such as: access to healthcare, child abuse, disease, education, ER visits, health and lifestyle, mental health, poverty, and suicide.

Does not contain an explicit template or details on the scorecard.

- **University of Kansas Community Tool Box: Community Assessment**

http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/chapter_1003.htm

From the University of Kansas Community Tool Box, with information about how to assess community needs and resources (e.g. conducting listening sessions, analyzing problems); however section which is to have assessment templates is empty at this time

- **Commonwealth Fund**

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/statescorecard/>

The closest thing to a Commonwealth Fund community health scorecard the scan identified was a State Health System Performance measure.

3. National Government Projects

- **CDC Program: Planned Approach to Community Health : A Guide to the Local Coordinator (PATCH) (2000)**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/publications/PATCH/index.htm>

The Planned Approach to Community Health (PATCH), developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its partners, is an effective model for planning, conducting, and evaluating community health promotion and disease prevention programs; contains "how to" information, adapting the process to your community, and sample overheads and handout materials.

Helps communities evaluate success of initiatives, but does not explicitly provide scorecard advice, examples, or templates.

- **Canadian Government: Population Health (created 2004)**

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/phdd/>

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/phdd/approach/approach.html#key_elements

The Public Health Agency of Canada provides information and resources focusing on population health and including such topics as: defining the population health approach, determinants of health, and implementation strategies.

The website does not provide measures, but does list key determinants of health.

4. **State Projects:**

- **New York States Initiative Assessment** (TERMINATED PROJECT/SPONSORED BY CDC)
<http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/chac/>

Website provides: data access for NY; how-to guide; examples from NY State (many out of date); and training options;

The New York State Assessment Initiative cycle was funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Assessment Initiative. Four other state partners were involved in the project (Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Vermont). Other states have taken down their websites.

- **North Carolina (state initiative)**
<http://www.healthycarolinians.org/assess.htm>

North Carolina requires each local health department to engage in community assessment every four years. This website provides limited resources – primarily directed at providing data to communities. However, scorecard template is not readily available.

Due to this requirement, there appear to be more services geared toward helping NC communities with this assessment. For example:

University of North Carolina Health Sciences Library: “Finding information on a community health assessment”

<http://www.hsl.unc.edu/services/guides/communityHealth.cfm>

- Minnesota State Office of Public Health Practice
Community Health Assessment and Action Planning (CHAAP): 2005-2009
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/ophp/system/planning/chaap/index.html#what>

The information provided by this site does not include overall scorecards. It requires communities to select and issue and target their efforts to a specific areas. Worksheets focus mainly on assessment and prioritization rather than overall measurements. Content is interesting nonetheless.

5. **Private Companies/Dues based Organizations**

- **Holmes & Associates** <http://adirondackresearch.com/>
Private company specializing in rural community health assessments.

Association for Community-Health Improvement (Fee, member site)

http://www.communityhlth.org/communityhlth_app/index.jsp

6. Examples of pure data sources (national data sources)

- National Library of Medicine - [FAQ on Finding Statistics](#) (link)
- Cornell Medical Library - [Finding Health Data and Statistics on the Web](#) (link)
- University of Michigan - [Statistical Resources on the Web - Health](#) (link)
- University of Chicago John Crerar Library - [Health Statistics Research Guide](#) (link)