

- (5) Environmental Health Data
MHD environmental health programs collect and maintain program and/or population data. They are important data sources for environmental health assessment.
 - a. Restaurant inspection data
 - b. Air quality data
 - c. Others data (animal, daycare inspection, etc.)

- (6) Socio-economic and demographic data
 - a. Population data
Source: 1990 Census
Location: Metro Health Department Library or any public library
Data format: CD-RAM: ASCII
 - b. Population estimation/projection
Source: Census Bureau/Internet, TDH, UT Sociology Department
 - c. Other demographic data: marketing firms and other for-profit agencies, universities. Two reputable companies are: CACI Marketing system (www.demographics.caci.com) and Claritas (www.claritas.com). The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce is a valuable source for historic socio-economic and demographic data in this community.

- (7) Community perception (survey, focus group, key informant interview)
Perceptions drive behavior. Gathering community perception data is useful for planning and assessment purposes, especially in the community needs assessment and prioritization process. Sometimes we may depend on interviews or surveys of “key informants” to gather information. Nurses, physicians, social workers, and hospital or clinic clerks may be regarded as key informants. In theory, these people are able to synthesize or filter the “raw” data inexpensively and rapidly, thereby, providing us with useful information.

- (8) US and State data
Source: TDH, CDC, and Census Bureau publications.

IV. COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A community-centered community health assessment process should be established to conduct a comprehensive community health assessment. The APEXCPH Community Health Status Assessment’s nine steps are recommended to guide MHD’s community health assessment. The nine steps are:

1. Establish a committee to oversee the community health assessment
2. Review the indicator listing and begin to collect data for core indicators
3. Select additional locally-appropriate data indicators