

3. The Assessments

Organizing

Visioning

Assessments

Strategic Issues

Goals/Strategies

Action Cycle

Each assessment will yield important information for improving community health, but the value of the four MAPP Assessments is multiplied by considering the findings as a whole. Disregarding any of the assessments will leave participants with an incomplete understanding of the factors that affect the local public health system and, ultimately, the health of the community.

Phase 3 Highlights

What are the four MAPP Assessments?

The four MAPP Assessments—the third phase of MAPP—and the issues they address are described below:

- The **Community Themes and Strengths Assessment** provides a deep understanding of the issues that residents feel are important by answering the questions: "What is important to our community?" "How is quality of life perceived in our community?" and "What assets do we have that can be used to improve community health?"
- The **Local Public Health System Assessment** (LPHSA) focuses on all of the organizations and entities that contribute to the public's health. The LPHSA answers the questions: "What are the components, activities, competencies, and capacities of our local public health system?" and "How are the Essential Services being provided to our community?"
- The **Community Health Status Assessment** identifies priority community health and quality of life issues. Questions answered include: "How healthy are our residents?" and "What does the health status of our community look like?"
- The **Forces of Change Assessment** focuses on identifying forces such as legislation, technology, and other impending changes that affect the context in which the community and its public health system operate. This answers the questions: "What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?" and "What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?"