



WINDSHIELD TOURS

A Method for Conducting a Needs Assessment

DESCRIPTION

Consists of physical, structural, and social observations to understand and identify gaps within the context and lifestyles of people in a community.

HOW TO USE

1. Choose the survey conductor.
2. Decide the types of observations and/or questions.
3. Select the areas to be surveyed, preferably with a map.
4. Choose the date and time of the survey.
5. Train survey assistants.
6. Conduct the survey.

USE WHEN

7. An in-depth look at specific community characteristics, resources, and conditions is needed.
7. Vital resources that are lacking need to be identified.

PROS

- Ideal for becoming familiar with a specific area
- Assesses general community needs
- Provides an overview of a community by driving through it

CONS

- Time-consuming
- High variability potential
- Requires many resources (i.e., people, pathways, maps, a navigation system, transportation, etc.)



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