Community Assessment:
The Foundation for Program Planning in Head Start
Interactive Overview
Step 4: Analyze and Make Decisions

Text Version

Navigation Tips

- This highlighted box tells you which section of the Community Assessment you are in.
- The Contents menu lets you monitor your progress and review section topics.
- Select the Home button to return to the opening page.
- Select PREVIOUS to review previous pages.
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Introduction

- During the community assessment process, data is used to identify ongoing changes in the community and plan for the future.
- Analyzing the data, identifying trends, and making data-informed decisions are crucial steps.
- Do you know how to analyze data and use research findings to inform decision-making?

1   Support Regular Data Collection

1   Programs only collect and analyze data during the community assessment, including its annual update.

Correct	Choice
	True
X	False

Feedback when correct:

Correct! The answer is **False.** Staff regularly engage in data collection and analysis when they tally attendance, summarize parent feedback, or evaluate in-service training. These sources of data can inform a program's community assessment, self-assessment, and ongoing continuous improvement.

Feedback when incorrect:

Oops, not quite! The answer is **False.** Staff regularly engage in data collection and analysis when they tally attendance, summarize parent feedback, or evaluate in-service training. These sources of data can inform a program's community assessment, self-assessment, and ongoing continuous improvement.

2 Be a Responsive Data Collector

2 Once data collection begins, the process should not change and must follow a set protocol and use a strict set of tools.

Correct	Choice
	True
X	False

Feedback when correct:

Correct! The answer is **False.** Even though data collection and analysis should follow an established protocol, it is an evolving process. Programs should adapt their data collection tools if gaps are identified or if preliminary findings reveal unanticipated trends.

Feedback when incorrect:

Oops, not quite! The answer is **False.** Even though data collection and analysis should follow an established protocol, it is an evolving process. Programs should adapt their data collection tools if gaps are identified or if preliminary findings reveal unanticipated trends.

3 Apply Data Analysis Strategies

3 There are different techniques for analyzing data.
Match the type of data to its corresponding technique.

Drag Item	Drop Target
Same data analyzed over time	Disaggregate
Data analyzed by program option	Disaggregate
Program Information Report (PIR) data	Aggregate
Child outcome data combined	Aggregate
Returning vs. newly enrolled children	Compare
Child outcome vs. national norm data	Compare

Feedback when correct:

Good job! Different data analysis techniques offer different perspectives. To provide a comprehensive view of a community's needs, strengths, and resources, programs need to examine the data from multiple perspectives.

4   Use Group Discussions

4   Focus groups and large-group discussions yield unique insights.
Match the purpose to its corresponding technique.

Drag Item	Drop Target
Gather input from a broad constituency	Large-Group
Discuss general, uncomplicated topics	Large-Group
Surface opinions from a set demographic	Focus Group
Make decisions with broad buy-in	Large-Group
Explore nuances in perspectives	Focus Group
In-depth analysis of a current service	Focus Group

Feedback when correct:

Good job! While addressing distinct research needs, focus groups and large-group discussions can both supplement statistical data and add richness to your overall data-gathering effort.

5   Identify Service Area Needs

5   The community assessment should look beyond the recruitment area and gather information on the entire service area.

Correct	Choice
X	True
	False

Feedback when correct:

Correct! The answer is **True.** Service areas can be vast. It is helpful to use the community assessment to identify areas with the greatest need for service, even if your program is not currently serving children there.

Feedback when incorrect:

Oops, not quite! The answer is **True.** Service areas can be vast. It is helpful to use the community assessment to identify areas with the greatest need for service, even if your program is not currently serving children there.

6 Establish Goals and Priorities

6 According to the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), community assessment data should inform which of the following activities?
Select all that apply.

Correct	Choice
X	Establishing goals and objectives
X	Choosing a program option
X	Developing a program calendar
X	Establishing and revising selection criteria
X	Identifying potential nutrition issues
X	Establishing collaborative partnerships

Feedback when correct:

Correct! The answer is **all of these.** The HSPPS describe the types of decisions community assessment data should inform. Be sure to review these expectations before data collection begins.

Feedback when incorrect:

Oops, not quite! The answer is **all of these.** The HSPPS describe the types of decisions community assessment data should inform. Be sure to review these expectations before data collection begins.

Next Steps

Results for
1 Support Regular Data Collection
2 Be a Responsive Data Collector
3 Apply Data Analysis Strategies
4 Use Group Discussions
5 Identify Service Area Needs
6 Establish Goals and Priorities

Result slide properties

Passing Score   75%

Success (Slide Layer)

Great job. It looks like you know how to use information to inform decision-making. Learn more about this process in Step 4: Analyze and Make Decisions of Community Assessment: The Foundation of Program Planning in Head Start. Then, turn to Step 5: Communicate and Incorporate to learn how to share your community assessment's findings and recommendations.

Failure (Slide Layer)

Maybe a little more review is in order. Learn more about how to use information to inform decision-making in Step 4: Analyze and Make Decisions of Community Assessment: The Foundation of Program Planning in Head Start. Then, turn to Step 5: Communicate and Incorporate to learn how to share your community assessment's findings and recommendations.