

## **Assessing Community Capacity for Change**

by Michael Bopp, Kathy Gormann, Judie Bopp, Lori Baugh Littlejohns and Neale Smith (2002)

This handbook presents a framework for assessing community capacity related to taking collective action to improve human well-being (i.e. health).

Seven community capacity domains (i.e. categories of capacity) were identified and defined such as the capacity to engage community members in participatory processes, the capacity to effectively secure and manage resources, to systematically learn from experiences, and to continuously improve community practice. Simple indicators of each capacity are presented, and a process for engaging communities in assessing their own capacity to manage and sustain change is described in detail.

While the particular capacity domains identified are useful, what is most important about this framework is that it is flexible and generic. It can be adapted and used in many different kinds of community development related situations, either to focus on a particular problem or issue, or to assist in building community for a broad spectrum of learning activities.

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