

Windshield Survey

“Community Assessment is a systematic process: it is the act of becoming acquainted with a community” (Vollman, Anderson & McFarlane, 2004, p. 203). Its purpose is to become familiar with the community and the population by examining factors which impact the health of the population. The examination allows us to identify strengths and capacities as well as gaps and risks. Health care professionals acquire insight and important information necessary to guide work with the population through community assessment. Such an assessment will allow you as students to develop professional interventions in a collaborative manner which will hopefully contribute to community empowerment and change which is appropriate and acceptable for the target population.

One aspect of the community assessment is a **windshield survey** and Stamler and Yiu (2012) identify this survey as a tool to complete an environmental scan, “the most preliminary and fundamental assessment of the community” (Stamler & Yiu, 2012, p. 218). Using the physical senses of the observer, its purpose is to “capture the essence of the community, determine areas for further investigation, and sense of the tone of the community” (Vollman et al, 2004, p. 208). For Nurs 3065 students will complete a windshield survey of the community they are assigned to in Nurs 3066. The structure of the survey is based on the Community-As-Partner model of Vollman, Anderson and McFarlane (2004).

The Windshield Survey will Include the Following:

- **A Cover Page**
- **An Introduction indicating the address, the purpose of a windshield survey, and community boundaries.**
- **The completed windshield survey as on the following pages.**

Windshield Survey

Address:

Community Core	Observations/Data
<p>1. History – What can you glean by looking? Is this an established neighborhood, or new. Is there a specific history associated?</p>	
<p>2. Demographics – what sorts of people do you see? Age? Families?</p>	
<p>3. Ethnicity – do you note indicators of different ethnic groups? Specific ethnic shops/restaurants?</p>	
<p>4. Values and Beliefs – are there churches, mosques, temples? Do you advertisements for youth groups, children’s groups, family supports?</p>	

Subsystems	Observations/Data
<p>1. Physical Environment – how does the</p>	

<p>community look? Is there green space? Air quality? Environmental concerns?</p>	
<p>2. Health and Social Services – Evidence of acute or chronic health condition? Where are social services facilities, hospitals, shelters, clinics and other supports?</p>	
<p>3. Economy – Is it a thriving community or does it feel rundown? Are there places of employment, stores, industries, or development?</p>	
<p>4. Transportation and safety – how do people get around? Are there buses, private vehicles, transit for physically disabled, taxis, bicycles? Do you see sidewalks, road, trails and what is their condition? What type of protective services are there? Are there some informal protective services such as Neighborhood Watch?</p>	
<p>5. Politics and government – are</p>	

<p>there signs of political activity? What is the governmental jurisdiction of the community? Is this a town? A city? Is there a town council?</p>	
<p>6. Communication – Are there common areas where people gather? Is there evidence of radios, TVs, computers, etc. Are there newspapers/bulletin boards, community events announcements?</p>	
<p>7. Education – are there schools in the area? How do they look? Are there libraries and computer access within community centres? Is there access to all levels of education within the community?</p>	
<p>8. Recreation – where do the children play? What are the forms of recreation? Who is participating? Is there access to facilities readily available? Cost?</p>	

Perceptions and Observations – what do residents indicate about their community and what are your observations and perceptions based upon your own personal observations.

1. The residents

2. Your perceptions