Classifications of Needs Assessment:

There are different conceptualizations of needs. For example:

- Felt needs: what people say
- Expressed needs: expressed in action
- Normative needs: defined by experts
- Comparative needs: group comparison

- Inferred needs: derived from developments in diagnosis, treatment, technology, regulations, organizations, etc.
- Verbalized needs and interests: informal comments, formal surveys, etc.
- Proven needs: i.e. epidemiological data, quality assurance/audit data, etc.

System or population needs: can be identified by population-based data and information about care-seeking behaviour and referral patterns

Points to consider:

- Needs assessment strategies will depend on purpose of needs assessment, the kind of data desired, and resources.
- A combination of strategies will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the situation.
- Identified needs likely represent only a portion of existing needs.

References


Updated February 2008