Windshield Survey Community Assessment Example

Community Assessment Using the Windshield Survey on Oklahoma

Introduction

In every society, community assessment plays a significant role in promoting the community welfare. One of the main importance of a community assessment exercise is to understand what the community needs and hence their various problems. In order to have a clear picture of these needs or problems that may be facing the community, there is need to have a critical analysis of various aspects, which affects the community. Some of these aspects involve the history of the particular community, the physical environment, demographics, economy, politics as well as the government, education, communication and recreational aspects of the community. This analysis plays a pivotal role in understanding and finding out the solutions to the problems facing the society.

History

Oklahoma is one of the States in the United States. It is situated in the southern part of the United States. The name Oklahoma was derived from the words okla and humma. These are Choctawian words meaning red people. This state was formed after the merging of Indian and Oklahoma territories. The people in the region were nicknamed sooners after the people living there.

The Oklahoma area attracts a large number of tourists from across the world. The major tourist attraction in the area is music and the atmosphere of the area with good recreational joints. Having a great reputation in music, the area has hosted several festivals that have attracted a great number of people from all over the world.

Demographics

According to the statistics recorded in the year 2010, the area has a population of about 3,751, 351 residents. This reveals a significant growth compared with other years. For instance, the total number of residents in the year 2000 was about 3,450,654

Windshield survey community assessment example is a valuable tool used by public health professionals, urban planners, and social workers to gather qualitative data about a community. By observing a community from a vehicle, professionals can assess various characteristics, such as housing, infrastructure, demographics, and resources, without extensive prior engagement with the community. This article will delve into the concept of a windshield survey, its importance, the process of conducting one, and an illustrative example.

Understanding Windshield Surveys

A windshield survey is an observational assessment method that allows professionals to gain insight into a community's structure, environment, and culture. It is particularly useful for identifying public health issues, community needs, and available resources.

Importance of Windshield Surveys

The significance of windshield surveys lies in their ability to:

1. Provide Immediate Visual Data: They offer real-time observations of a community's physical environment, which can often be more telling than interviews or surveys.
2. Identify Patterns and Trends: Observing various aspects of the community can help identify patterns, such as areas of poverty, high crime rates, or lack of resources.
3. Complement Other Assessment Methods: Windshield surveys can be used alongside other assessment tools, such as focus groups or surveys, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the community.
4. Foster Community Engagement: By understanding the community better, professionals can design more effective interventions and engage community members in addressing local issues.

The Process of Conducting a Windshield Survey

Conducting a windshield survey involves systematic observation and data collection. Here are the steps typically involved:

1. Preparation

Before conducting a survey, it's essential to prepare thoroughly:

- Define the Purpose: Clearly outline what you hope to achieve with the survey. This could range from understanding health needs to assessing infrastructure.
- Select the Area: Choose a specific neighborhood or community to focus on, ensuring it aligns with your defined purpose.
- Gather Materials: Prepare necessary tools for data collection, such as a notebook, camera, or digital devices for recording observations.

2. Observational Assessment

During the survey, observers should take note of various aspects of the community:

- Housing and Buildings: Assess the condition, types, and density of housing. Look for signs of neglect or maintenance.
- Infrastructure: Evaluate roads, sidewalks, public transportation, and utilities. This includes the availability of streetlights, traffic signs, and accessibility features.
- Demographics: Observe signs of diversity, such as the presence of different cultural institutions, language use, and age distribution.
- Community Resources: Identify schools, parks, healthcare facilities, grocery stores, and other essential services. Note their accessibility and condition.
- Safety and Environment: Look for indicators of safety, such as the presence of law enforcement, community centers, and overall cleanliness of the area.

3. Data Recording

It is crucial to record observations accurately:

- Take detailed notes on each aspect observed.
- Use photographs to visually document significant findings.
- Organize data systematically, possibly categorizing it based on the different aspects of the community.

4. Analysis and Reporting

After completing the survey, analyze the collected data:

- Identify key strengths and weaknesses within the community.
- Highlight significant health and social issues that require attention.
- Prepare a report summarizing your findings, including recommendations for potential interventions or further research.

Example of a Windshield Survey

To illustrate how a windshield survey is conducted, consider the following example based on a fictional community named "Greenwood."

Community Overview

Greenwood is a suburban neighborhood with a mix of residential, commercial, and open spaces. The community has a population of approximately 25,000 residents, with a diverse demographic profile.

Preparation Phase

The purpose of the windshield survey in Greenwood was to assess community health needs and identify available resources. The survey team defined the area as the central neighborhoods, including residential blocks, parks, and commercial areas.

Observational Assessment Findings

During the survey, the team made several observations:

- Housing and Buildings: The team noted a mixture of single-family homes and apartment complexes. While many houses were well-maintained, some areas showed signs of neglect, such as peeling paint and overgrown yards.

- Infrastructure: Sidewalks were generally in good condition, but some areas lacked proper lighting, which raised concerns about safety at night. Public transportation was available but limited, with only one bus route serving the area.

- Demographics: The team observed a diverse population, with residents of varying ethnic backgrounds. Community centers promoted cultural events, indicating active community engagement.

- Community Resources: Several schools were present, along with a community health clinic and a grocery store that provided fresh produce. However, the clinic had limited operating hours, which could affect access to healthcare.

- Safety and Environment: The overall cleanliness of the area was decent, though some streets had litter and debris. The presence of local law enforcement was noted, contributing to a sense of safety in the community.

Data Recording

The team recorded their observations meticulously. Key findings included:

- 60% of homes were in good condition, while 20% showed signs of neglect.
- One major grocery store served the community, but there were no farmers' markets.

- Parks were well-maintained, but some lacked recreational facilities for children.

Analysis and Recommendations

Upon analyzing the data, the team identified several key issues:

- Healthcare Access: The limited operating hours of the community health clinic presented a barrier to healthcare access. The team recommended extending clinic hours and increasing outreach efforts.

- Transportation: The lack of public transportation options restricted access to essential services. They suggested exploring partnerships with local transportation services to improve accessibility.

- Community Engagement: Despite a diverse population, the team noted a need for more community-wide events to foster engagement. They recommended organizing cultural festivals and health fairs.

Conclusion

Windshield surveys are an effective method for assessing community needs and resources through direct observation. The example of Greenwood illustrates how this method can reveal important insights into community health and infrastructure. By conducting windshield surveys, public health professionals and community planners can make informed decisions that enhance the well-being of communities, ultimately fostering a healthier environment for all residents.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a windshield survey in community assessment?

A windshield survey is a method of gathering information about a community by driving through it and making observations about its physical environment, demographics, and social conditions.

What are the key components to observe during a windshield survey?

Key components include the condition of housing, availability of services, presence of parks and recreational areas, traffic patterns, and the overall cleanliness of the community.

How can a windshield survey help identify community needs?

By observing various aspects of the community, a windshield survey can highlight areas that may require improvement, such as lack of recreational facilities, inadequate housing, or insufficient healthcare services.

What tools can be used to conduct a windshield survey?

Common tools include a notebook for taking notes, a camera for documenting observations, and mapping software to track locations and identify patterns.

Is a windshield survey quantitative or qualitative?

A windshield survey is primarily qualitative, as it relies on subjective observations and interpretations rather than quantitative data.

What are some limitations of a windshield survey?

Limitations include potential biases from the observer, the inability to gather detailed demographic data, and the lack of direct interaction with community members.

How can findings from a windshield survey be utilized?

Findings can be used to inform public health initiatives, community development projects, and policy decisions aimed at addressing identified needs.

Can a windshield survey be combined with other assessment methods?

Yes, it is often beneficial to combine windshield surveys with methods like interviews, surveys, and focus groups to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the community.

What are some examples of communities where windshield surveys have been effective?

Windshield surveys have been effective in urban neighborhoods assessing housing quality, rural areas evaluating access to healthcare, and suburban communities examining transportation needs.

[Windshield Survey Community Assessment Example](#)

"windshield " 〜 "windscreen" | HiNative
windshield wipers 〜 windscreen wipers Can you make the windshield wiper faster? I need to replace the windshield wiper gums of my car with new ones. …

"tinted windows" 〜 "windshield" | HiNative
The windshield is essentially the front window of a car, it is the glass that the driver looks out of to drive. (The windshield wipers clear away the rain so the driver can see well out of the …

"rift" 〜 "crack" | HiNative
riftGood question. In common usage, a "crack" is used to reference a literal break in a hard object, like a wall, stone, or piece of porcelain. A "rift" is generally used to describe a "crack-like" tear …

"superimpose" 〜 *"overlap"* | *HiNative*
Superimpose means to lay something over another thing. It's often used with images. Example: "The new BMW superimposes navigation directions onto the windshield". Overlap also means …

"shave " 〜 *"shave off"* | *HiNative*
"to shave" is usually when referring to shaving your face, armpits, legs, etc. "shave off" refers to other things normally. Like you would shave off the bark on wood. Or you would shave off the …

"à travers" 〜 "au travers" | HiNative
à travers@SmallAxe La différence entre " à travers" et " au travers" vient de la manière de les utiliser dans une phhrase. " au travers " est toujours suivie de la préposition "De" ou d'une de …

"defrost " 〜 *"thaw"* | *HiNative*
defrost I'd say defrost is used more with cars, ex: I let the windshield defrost. If I were talking about food, I'd say, "Thaw the chicken."|they are the same

"look forward" 〜 "looking forward" | HiNative
look forwardNo difference, you can say: I look forward to meeting you, or I am looking forward to meeting you. NOTE: If you are looking forward TO or you look forward TO something it …

seat belt or seatbelt? - HiNative
Jul 6, 2025 · Is the car called a hatchback or a wagon? Thanks=) Is a GPS mounted *on* a car, or *in* a car? Do you call this a car radio or car stereo? What do you call this? Windshield or …

"at the left side of" 〜 *"on the left side of"*
They mean basically the same, but "on the left side of" is much more common. I put the book on the left side of the computer. There is a huge scratch on the left side of the car. I have a …

"rift" "crack" ? | HiNative

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"*superimpose*" "*overlap*" ? | *HiNative*

Superimpose means to lay something over another thing. It's often used with images. Example: "The new BMW superimposes navigation directions ...

"*shave* " "*shave off*" ? | *HiNative*

"to shave" is usually when referring to shaving your face, armpits, legs, etc. "shave off" refers to other things normally. Like you would shave off ...

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