

TABLE 2: Summary of Needs Assessment Methods

METHOD	PURPOSE	COST	TIME INVOLVED	ADVANTAGES
A. Secondary Data From Epidemiological Surveys	Needs or problem analysis	Very Inexpensive	Extremely Fast	Data readily available
B. Other Secondary Data	Needs or problem analysis	Inexpensive	Fast to Moderate	Data available (self-reported and other fiscal or regulatory information)
C. Demographic Indicators	Needs or problem analysis	Inexpensive	Very Fast	Data available from public documents
D. Analyzing Nonclinical Data	Resources analysis	Inexpensive to Moderate	Fast	Can also use for annual reports; trend analysis of activities
E. Analyzing Clinical Program Data	Resources analysis	Inexpensive to Moderate	Moderate	Can also use for annual reports; understand extent of services provided
F. Public Comment	Needs or problem analysis	Inexpensive	Moderate	Invitation of public input and exchange
G. Informant Groups	Needs or problem analysis	Inexpensive to Moderate	Fast to Moderate	Minimal preparation time; facilitates communication from providers and consumers
H. Questionnaire/ Interview Survey	Needs or problem analysis	Moderate	Moderate	Relatively good way to obtain information about knowledge and behavior
I. Basic Screening Survey	Needs or problem analysis	Moderate to Expensive	Moderate to Slow	Assesses individuals; good estimate of population if probability sampling is used