

Analyzing Community Problems

Early College HS

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

Created By Larry Hood



Communities have problems, just like people

- Communities, like people, try to solve their problems.
- Analyzing these problems helps in their solution.

Early College HS

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

Created By Larry Hood



Examples of Community Problems

- Arson
- Child abuse
- Crime
- Transportation
- Drugs
- Elder care
- Racism
- Ethnic conflict
- Health
- Housing
- Hunger
- Inequality
- Jobs
- Noise
- Overwork
- Poverty
- Sexism
- Teenage pregnancy
- Domestic violence
- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Safety
- Emergency services
- Schools

Early College HS

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

Created By Larry Hood



Criteria for defining a community problem:

- Frequency
- Duration
- Scope or range
- Severity
- Legality
- Perception

Early College HS

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

Created By Larry Hood



Why analyze a community problem?

- To identify the problem or issue.
- To understand what's at the heart of a problem.
- To determine barriers and resources associated with addressing the problem.
- To develop the best action steps for addressing the problem.

Early College HS

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

Created By Larry Hood



When should you analyze a community problem?

- When the problem isn't defined very clearly.
- When little is known about the problem or its possible consequences.
- When you want to find the causes that may improve the chance of successfully addressing the problem.
- When people are jumping to “solutions” much too soon.
- When you need to identify actions to address the problem, and learn what persons or groups could best collaborate in taking action.

Early College HS

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

Created By Larry Hood



Does analysis really work?

- Analyzing community problems can be hard work.
- Real community problems can be complex and hard to solve.
- When you look for reasons and underlying causes for significant problems, you're likely to find more than one.
- The problem may not only have more than one reason, it may have more than one solution, too.

Early College HS

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

Created By Larry Hood



Criteria for judging the best possible solution to a problem

- Cost
- Time
- People
- Obstacles
- Impact
- Side consequences, or spin-offs, or unanticipated effects
- Community preference
- The likelihood of success

Early College HS

COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

Created By Larry Hood

