Despite the increasing necessity for needs assessments in a variety of fields, much confusion still prevails on how to conduct such assessments successfully. This book is a practical guide to that end. The authors first introduce a three-phase model - preassessment, assessment and postassessment - to clarify the distinctions between the needs of primary service recipients and the people and resources that exist. They go on to describe methods appropriate for gathering data for assessing needs and for causal analysis. The presentation of the framework, the coverage of several approaches for analyzing data, the balanced description of qualitative and quantitative methodologies and the multiple case studies make this an excellent resource for researchers and practitioners.