

Types of Program Evaluation

Type of Program Evaluation	Purpose	When used	Questions Addressed
Formative Evaluation	Identifies the “fit” between the program activities and the needs identified in the community assessment	Before implementing the program – helps test the logic used in planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Will the activities meet the needs? * Can the program be improved before implemented?
Process Evaluation	Examines the actual activities used in the program compared to what was planned	During implementation – used to understand what is occurring in service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What is actually happening compared to what was planned? *How are interventions related to outcomes?
Outcome Evaluation	Looks at actual program outcomes	Immediately following the end of an activity or intervention cycle – used to determine the program’s short term influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Is the program achieving the predicted changes? *Is the program achieving any stated objectives?
Impact Evaluation	Assesses the net effect a program has had in the long term	After a program has concluded – at least a year after activities have ended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Is the program making a difference over the long run? *What are the results of the program, both intended and unintended? *Have the immediate effects been sustained over time?