

Evaluation Module:
Developing Evaluation Questions Exercise

Instructions: Carefully read the below scenario about our example program. You are given four generic process evaluation question examples and three generic outcome evaluation question examples. Based on the details provided in the scenario, develop at least two specific sub-questions that an evaluator would want to consider in addressing the more general over-arching question provided. The first one has been completed for you.

You are implementing a school-based substance use prevention program. The program is being implemented at 10 participating high schools out of 15 in your county. The program consists of 3 lessons across 3 days, delivered by teachers. Inevitably, some student participants may not have participated in all 3 days. There is a set curriculum; however, there is no oversight to confirm teacher adherence to the model. Teachers are trained in the model by the model developer; however, they may implement the program if they are only partially trained. Your neighboring county is demographically similar but is not implementing the program. The program aims to reduce substance use, improve health outcomes, and improve educational outcomes through improving knowledge of substance misuse, effective study habits, substance awareness and refusal skills, and social/self-management skills.

Process Evaluation Questions: Did we do what we said we would do?

1. Was the school-based program and training implemented as planned?
 - a. How many teachers were fully trained? Which teachers?
 - b. How many teachers were partially trained? Which teachers?

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Process Evaluation Questions: Did we do what we said we would do?

2. What adaptations were made?
 - a. How did teachers deviate from the model?
 - b. How many & which teachers?
 - c. How many & which of the 3 lessons in the program deviated from the model?

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Process Evaluation Questions: Did we do what we said we would do?

3. Who/How many students participated in the program?
 - a. How many students received the full program or only part? Which students?
 - b. How many students received the program as designed or with deviations? Which students?

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Outcome Evaluation Questions: What effects did the program have/what did the program accomplish?

1. What were the results of the program?
 - a. Did students who received the program show improvements (pre/post) in: (short-term)
 - I. Knowledge of risks of substance misuse
 - II. Knowledge of effective study habits
 - III. Knowledge of substance awareness and refusal skills
 - IV. Knowledge of social and self-management
 - b. Did the schools or students who received the program show improvements (pre/post) in: (medium and long term):
 - I. Annual substance use
 - II. Stimulant misuse
 - III. Academic achievement
 - IV. Enrollment in clubs and activities
 - V. Long-term graduation rates
 - VI. Long-term health outcomes

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Outcome Evaluation Questions: What effects did the program have/what did the program accomplish?

2. How did changes to the program affect expected outcomes?
 - a. Did youth who received all 3 lessons have different outcomes (short/medium/long) than youth who received only some?
 - b. Did youth who received lessons from fully trained teachers have different outcomes (short/medium/long) than youth who received lessons from partially trained teachers?
 - c. Did youth who received lessons from teachers who deviated from the model have different outcomes (short/medium/long) than youth who received lessons from teachers who did not deviate from the model?

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Outcome Evaluation Questions: What effects did the program have/what did the program accomplish?

3. How do outcomes differ between students?
 - a. Were there different outcomes (short/medium/long) between students in the county that implemented the intervention and the neighboring county which did not?
 - b. Were there different outcomes (short/medium/long) between students at the 10 schools in the county who received the intervention and the 5 schools in the county who did not?
 - c. Were there different outcomes (short/medium/long) between students within the 10 schools who received the intervention and those who did not?