

Evaluation Module:
Developing Evaluation Questions Exercise

Instructions: Carefully read the below scenario about our example program. You are given three 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 an in-person, 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. Teachers are trained in the model by the model developer; however, some implemented the program when only partially trained leading to some deviation from the set curriculum. Due to an unexpected lack of funding, some students did not receive the in-person program and instead completed an at-home virtual adaptation. 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 teacher 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 to the in-person curriculum by teachers?
 - a. How many & which of the 3 lessons in the program deviated from the model?
 - b. How did teachers deviate from the model?
 - c. How many & which teachers?

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

3. What adaptations were made to how the program was delivered?
 - a. How did the virtual adaptation differ from the in-person program?
 - b. How many & which students received the virtual adaptation vs the in-person program?

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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 substance misuse
 - II. Effective study habits
 - III. Substance awareness and refusal skills
 - IV. Social/self-management skills
 - b. Did the schools or students who received the program show improvements (pre/post) in: (medium and long term):
 - I. Substance use reduction
 - II. Health outcomes
 - III. Educational 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 the virtual program have different outcomes (short/medium/long) than youth who received the in-person program?
 - b. 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?