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**MEASURING PROGRESS: MONITORING & EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION
PROGRAMS FOR POLICYMAKERS**



MEASURING PROGRESS

Monitoring & Evaluation for Policymakers

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Monitoring and Evaluation

- 1) Monitoring and evaluation is super important!
- 2) Impact evaluation is the gold standard, but can be costly and time consuming. It is most appropriate for mature programs.
- 3) Good news – process evaluation is something you can do early and often with your programs with a limited budget.

Center for Court Innovation

- Working to create a more effective and humane justice system by performing original research and helping launch reforms around the world.

Areas of interest

- Rethinking incarceration
- Preventing crime
- Strengthening families
- Engaging communities
- Improving decision-making
- Aiding survivors
- Advancing fairness

Themes

- Diversion
- Restorative Justice
- Youth Programs
- Risk Assessment
- Domestic Violence
- Human Trafficking
- Reducing Trauma
- Placemaking

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Your favorite program



What do you want the program to accomplish?

- Reduce crime
- Make the country safer
- Keep families together
- Reduce the demand for drugs
- More opportunities for youth
- Fewer overdoses

1. What is Evaluation?

- Evaluation answers questions such as:
 - What is the program actually doing?
 - What kinds of outcomes is it producing?
 - Is it worth the money it costs?
 - Should it be continued, expanded, cut back, changed, or abandoned?
 - Does it work for everybody or only for certain people?

2. Impact Evaluation

Tests the effect of the program on target outcomes/goals.

- Volume (high)
- Cost (\$\$\$)
- Time (2+ years)
- Data (Recidivism)
- Comparison (same population but not in program)
- Independence (not you)

= FIND A RESEARCH PARTNER

3. Process Evaluation

- Role of staff is to focus on each individual case
- Role of policy makers is to focus on the process
 - Typically on a steering committee throughout the pilot phase

Process Evaluation

- Examines program planning, operations, implementation, and service delivery
- Need to know what the program actually does before drawing conclusions about whether it was successful or not
- Components:
 - Qualitative
 - Quantitative
 - Fidelity Assessment

Reach

How many participants were served?

What were the characteristics of those served?

Quality

How well was the program implemented?

Did the program adhere to evidence based practices?

Satisfaction

How satisfied were participants in the process?

Challenges

What were the barriers to implementation?

Periodically review the program

- Collect data
- Identify gaps
- Address conflict between agencies
- Talk to participants
- Reevaluate goals
- Dynamic process

As you monitor your program, you can make informed decisions

- Mid-course corrections
- Continuing, expanding, or institutionalizing the program (or cutting, ending or abandoning it)
- Try new ideas in the program
- The best choice among various alternatives
- Decide if you will keep funding the program

REMEMBER:

- 1) Monitoring and evaluation is super important!
- 2) Impact evaluation is the gold standard, but can be costly and time consuming. It is most appropriate for mature programs.
- 3) Good news – process evaluation is something you can do *early* and *often* with your programs with a limited budget.