The Evaluation Dictionary
for AMH Research

An overview of evaluation terms and concepts.

evaluability assessment

[ih-**val**-yoo-bil-i-tee uh-**ses**-muh nt]

noun

- A process to identify whether an evaluation of a program* is justified, feasible and likely to provide useful information

formative evaluation

[**fawr**-muh-tiv ih-val-yoo-**ey**-shuh n]

noun

- A process to identify information that can be used to improve a program from an early stage and on an ongoing basis

goal-based evaluation

[gohl beyst ih-val-yoo-**ey**-shuh n]

noun

- A process to assess how well a program is meeting its predetermined goals or objectives

indicator

[**in**-di-key-ter]

noun

- A measure selected as a marker of whether a goal or objective was achieved (such as participation rate)
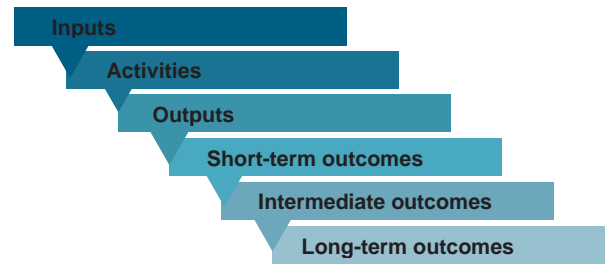- Answers the question "How will I recognize success?"

*The term "program" is used broadly to refer to any group of activities intended to achieve specific outcomes; this includes projects, initiatives, interventions, policies, or strategies.

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logic model

[**loj**-ik **mod**-l]

noun

- A visual depiction of the relationship between a program's resources, activities, and what the program intends to accomplish

outcome evaluation

[**out**-kuhm ih-val-yoo-**ey**-shuh n]

noun

- Assesses whether a program was successful in achieving its intended outcomes (short-term, intermediate and long-term)

process evaluation

[**pros**-es ih-val-yoo-**ey**-shuh n]

noun

- Assesses whether program activities have been implemented as intended
- Usually conducted during the implementation of a program
- Answers the question "Did we do what we said we would do?"

summative evaluation

[**suhm**-uh-tiv ih-val-yoo-**ey**-shuh n]

noun

- Provides information to establish program effectiveness
- Usually conducted when a program is in its later stages or after completion

References

Juvenile Justice Evaluation Centre (2003). *Evaluability assessment: Examining the readiness of a program for evaluation*. Retrieved from http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/juv-justice/evaluability-assessment.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014). *Types of evaluation*. Retrieved from: http://www.cdc.gov/std/Program/pupestd/Types%20of%20Evaluation.pdf