

Achieving Community Results: A Process for Strategic Community Planning
CADCA FORUM XIV
January 23rd, 2004

 <p>17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 United States of America</p> <p>Organization of American States</p> <p>P. 202.458.3000 www.oas.org</p>	<p>INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION CICAD</p> <p>Secretariat for Multidimensional Security</p>
<p>FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION May 9 - 11, 2012 Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.51 CICAD/doc.1944/12 7 May 2012 Original: English</p>
<p>EVIDENCE-BASED NATIONAL POLICIES: SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPLICATIONS DR. JOHN CARNEVALE, CARNEVALE ASSOCIATES LLC</p>	

<p>EVIDENCE-BASED NATIONAL POLICIES: SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPLICATIONS</p>
<p>John Carnevale, Ph.D. Carnevale Associates, LLC</p> <p>.John@carnevaleassociates.com</p>
<p>Presentation to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission Fifty-First Regular Session May 9-11, 2012 Washington, DC</p>



John Carnevale Ph.D.
Darnestown, MD
301-977-3600
john@carnevaleassociates.com

WHAT IS A POLICY?

A policy is nothing more than a course of action selected from among alternative actions to guide present and future decisions.



3

WHAT CONSTITUTES EVIDENCE?

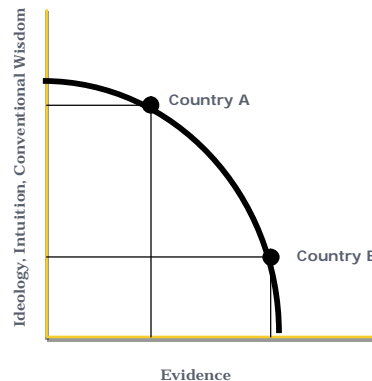
- ☛ Evidence constitutes published and existing research; good data from surveys; expert knowledge; past experience.
- ☛ It is derived from a sound, valid, and reliable methodology that allows for a practical consideration of the nature of the issue or problem.
- ☛ It can withstand public scrutiny; it is transparent.
- ☛ It comes from individuals skilled in quantitative methods.



4

WHAT IS AN EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY?

- It is simply a policy based on evidence.
- It is NOT policy based on ideology, conventional wisdom, or intuition.



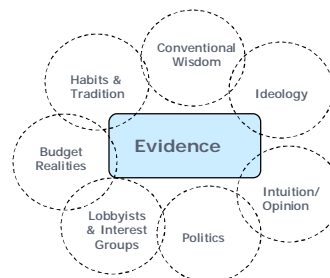
5



WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES?

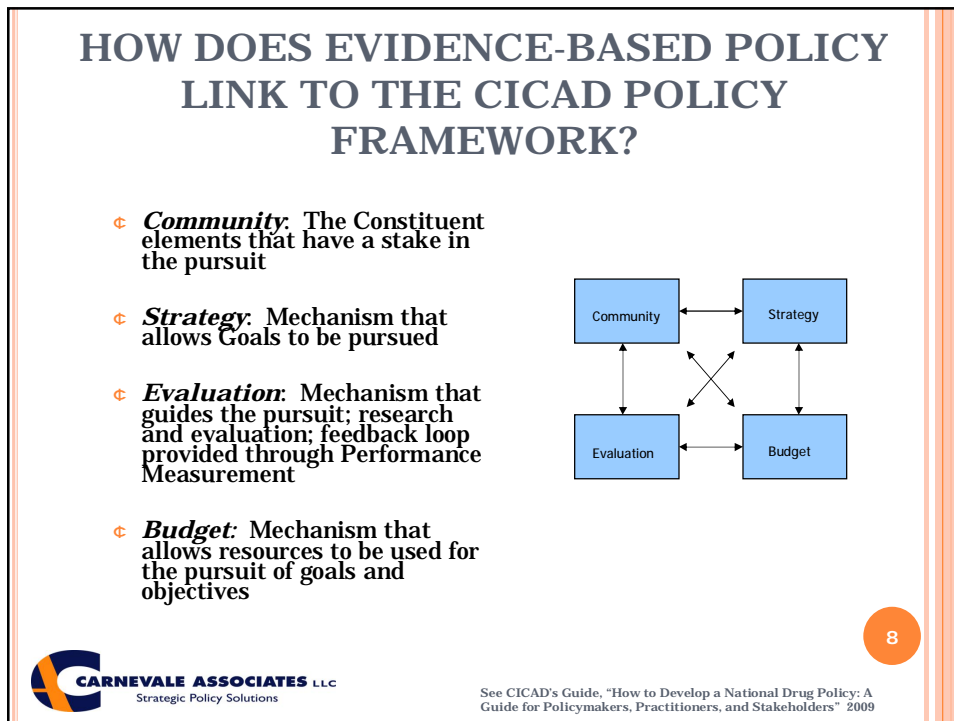
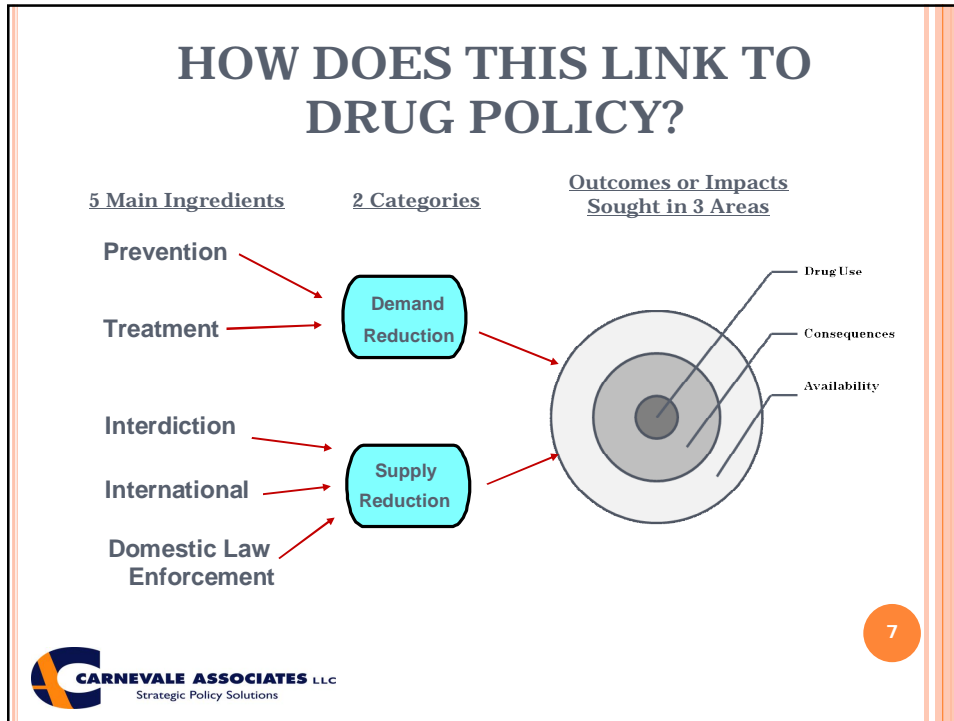
Making a policy based on evidence should be obvious, but there are practical challenges:

- The fluid nature of the policy formulation process.
- Confusion about how the policy & budget formulation process works.
- Confusion about when and how evidence should enter the policy formulation process.
- Competing interests/priorities—not all policy issues can get equal standing in government decisions.
- Resource constraints limit implementation of evidence-based policies.
- Evidence is never complete or adequate enough.
- Evidence may stand in the way of ideology/politics.



6





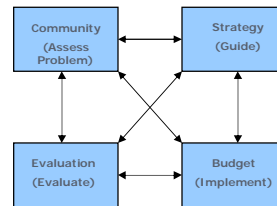
COMMUNITY

Evidence: Research and data systems are key and evidence is strong. Good research on evidence-based programs exists and knowledge of what data systems provide the best evidence to inform policy formulation:

There are many examples of comprehensive data systems that can inform stakeholders about the nature and extent of a country's drug problem (in the areas of drug use, drug use health and crime consequences, societal costs) .

There are well documented methods about how best to analyze data for purposes of informing policy

There are well documented methods about how to define the community of stakeholders who should be engaged in a comprehensive, evidence-based needs assessment.



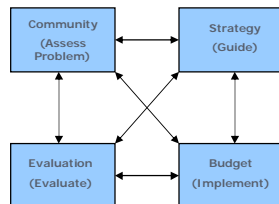
STRATEGY (THE GUIDE)

Evidence: There is a substantial body of work about how to design or structure a country's drug control strategy in a way that will inform program and budget decisions—the evidence is strong:

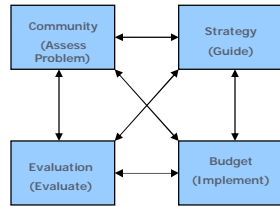
CICAD's Guide "How to Develop a National Drug Control Policy" is one of many examples .

The knowledge base about establishing goals and objectives to direct supply reduction and demand reduction activities is extensive.

Likewise, there is a literature and decades of country-level experience about setting impact targets (the ultimate results sought by a country's drug control strategy).



BUDGET



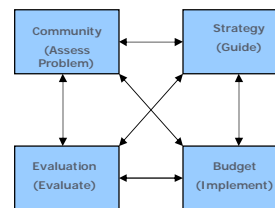
Evidence: The evidence is weak about how best to account for drug control spending. There are no standards from research. We rely on country examples:

Drug budget accounting appears simple, but can be difficult. Direct program spending is easily counted (e.g., funding for a drug task force targeting drug trafficking organizations), but indirect spending is not (a "wellness" program that promotes healthy life choices among youth is more than drug prevention).

Problems in accounting for non-government expenditures (e.g., workplace prevention).

11

POLICY EVALUATION



Evidence: The evidence is strong about methods used to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of a country's drug control strategy:

Evaluation includes monitoring routine data collected on various factors (e.g., behaviors, drug prevalence, drug -related crime) that can be used for analysis.

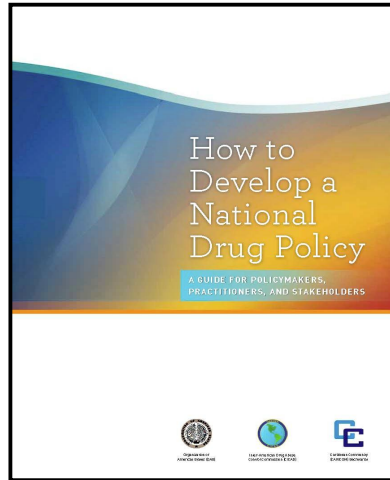
Evaluation is the systematic assessment if an ongoing or completed project, program, or strategy in achieving its expected results.

Monitoring and evaluation are critical management tools .

Extensive literature and country-level experience is available.

12

CICAD GUIDE: REFERENCE SOURCE



13