Building Evaluation Capacity in the Area of Demand Reduction

Colleen Ryan,
Canada’s Drug Strategy Secretariat, Health Canada

Presentation Overview

• Role of Evaluation and the MEM
• Why Don’t We Evaluate?
• Why Evaluate?
• Challenges in the Field of Prevention
• Proposed Workshop
Evaluation and the MEM

- The MEM as an important instrument of Evaluation

- 22 recommendations issued in the 2nd Round Evaluation

- ?? recommendations issues in the 3rd Round Evaluation

- Capacity issues (financial and technical) identified as primary reason for lack of progress to date

Why Don’t We Evaluate?

- Time
- Financial Resources
- Expertise
- We already “know” the program is effective
- Philosophy
- Long-term change vs. short-term funds
- Fear
Why Evaluate?

- Decision-making and overall good management of initiatives
- Program/project improvement
- Understanding what works and what doesn’t
- Tracking unanticipated outcomes
- Overall accountability for investment
- Public relations/fundraising

Challenges in the Field of Prevention

- Need to establish “perceived” risk for substance use/abuse at the outset
- Difficult to measure longer-term impacts
- Costly to track cohorts over a prolonged period of time
- Challenges in establishing valid control or comparison groups
Train-the Trainer Workshop: Evaluating Prevention Initiatives

Rationale:
- Member countries have requested information, training and guidance on developing & implementing program evaluations

Location & Duration:
- To be hosted by an interested Member State
- Approximately 3 days of training.

Module 1: An Overview of Evaluation
Explores why evaluation is important, why it isn’t done, and what it is and can look like.

Module 2: Setting the Stage – Preparing a Logic Model
Identifies and walks participants through the development of a program logic model.
Train-the Trainer Workshop: Evaluating Prevention Initiatives

Module 3: Developing an Evaluation Plan
Explores what an evaluation plan should look like, what kinds of evaluation questions should be asked, and reviews a variety of potential data sources.

Module 4: Data Collection Methods
Provides opportunities for the participants to learn about the different ways in which to gather data and the pros and cons of each approach.

Train-the Trainer Workshop: Evaluating Prevention Initiatives

Module 5: Evaluation Designs
Explores the differences between various evaluation designs including process vs. outcome evaluations and identifies the strengths and weaknesses of each design.

Module 6: Analyzing Data & Reporting on Results
How to conduct basic analysis including quantitative data analysis and prepare and present data in a useful report.
Train-the Trainer Workshop: Evaluating Prevention Initiatives

Module 7: Evaluation Challenges and Solutions
Identifies some of the key challenges to anticipate in undertaking evaluations of prevention programs and offers suggestions on how to address them.

Module 8: Presentation Skills
Provides participants with an opportunity to develop some presentation skills.

Train-the Trainer Workshop: Evaluating Demand Reduction Projects

- Who would benefit?
  - Countries implementing wide-scale or community-based Prevention programs.
  - Countries identified in MEM as requiring assistance to evaluate prevention programs.

- How to sign up?
  Contact: Colleen Ryan, Manager
  Canada’s Drug Strategy Secretariat
  Email: colleen_ryan@hc-sc.gc.ca
  Phone: (country code) + 613 957-2867