Indicator Selection Tools

Indicator Inclusion Criteria

The indicator Inclusion Criteria questions determine if an indicator is appropriate for your evaluation. They help to provide an initial inclusion or exclusion determination.

Evaluation Question:

Indicator Proposed:

Does the indicator help to answer the evaluation question?

No →

Yes ↓

Does the indicator logically relate to the problem and desired effects of the program (outcomes)?

No →

Yes ↓

STOP

Identify a different indicator

What does this indicator measure relative to the program and its evaluation?

Perpetration
Victimization
Risk Factor
Protective Factor
Proxy
Contextual Factor

If the indicator does not measure any of these items, or you are not sure what the indicator measures, consider consulting with your evaluation staff. Understanding what the indicator measures will help determine how the indicator can be used and how the evaluation findings can be interpreted

Indicator Fit Criteria

Indicator Selection Tools

Indicator Fit Criteria

The Indicator Fit Criteria help you consider if an indicator is the best fit for your evaluation. It provides guiding questions and criteria to use when deciding between indicators. Answering "No" to a guiding question does not mean it is not an appropriate indicator, but you should have follow-up discussion about its use for your needs.

Guiding Question	Guiding Criteria	Answering to the Guiding Question
1. Does the timeline for when data are available align with your program implementation and evaluation?	a. If the data do not align directly with your program implementation timeline, assess if the data can still be used to inform the evaluation. b. Would you expect to see a change in the data because of program activities during the implementation timeframe?	Yes No
If "NO" Consider... If data availability does not align directly with program implementation or if data are not expected to show changes within implementation timeframe, examine whether the indicator may still be valuable to your evaluation. For instance, could the indicator be used to help answer the evaluation question if used in combination with other indicators or could it inform other evaluation activities or future program planning activities.		
2. Is the indicator specific enough to measure progress towards the desired outcomes?	a. Assess if the indicator is specific to your program's target population. b. Assess if the level of data provided by the indicator aligns with program implementation.	Yes No
If "NO" Consider... If data provided by the indicator are not specific to the target population, it is important to understand how that may limit your evaluation findings or what can be said about evaluation findings. If data provided by the indicator do not align with the geographic level of program implementation, consider ways you can link the tracking of this indicator at the state or local level to specific program implementation. For example, you may also choose to collect additional data from program participants within the geographic area related to the indicator.		
3. Is the indicator realistic, based on needed resources for tracking?	a. Assess the ability of your data system to track the indicator. b. Ask staff managing data tracking if they feel the indicator is reasonable to track.	Yes No
If "NO" Consider... If tracking of the indicator is not realistic based on resources, examine whether are there other ways to obtain data or use a similar indicator that is less burdensome to the program evaluation.		
4. Are there different interpretations of the indicator that may have unintended consequences?	a. Assess if any changes in data, may be interpreted in multiple ways. b. Assess if any of these interpretations may have negative consequences.	Yes No
If "NO" Consider... If there are possible negative interpretations of the indicator, work with stakeholders to determine how important this indicator is to the evaluation question. Acknowledging the limitation or possible alternative interpretations when reporting findings may help to address these concerns.		

Indicator Selection Tools

Additional Selection Criteria

The Additional Selection Criteria provide considerations to help understand the use and importance of the indicator relative to your program's context.

Guiding Question	Importance to Program Context	Answering to the Guiding Question	
1. Do stakeholders see the indicator as credible and important? • Assess if the indicator is compelling to primary stakeholders • Assess if stakeholders feel they can use data for decision making	Low Medium High	Yes	No
2. Are there multiple uses for the data beyond answering the evaluation question? • Assess if data can be used for informing program planning and decision making • Assess if data can be used to develop or enhance partnership	Low Medium High	Yes	No
3. Is the indicator applicable in different settings? • Assess comparability across sites and populations of interest • Assess if the indicator applies to more than one type of violence within the setting or populations of interest	Low Medium High	Yes	No
4. Is there evidence that supports using this indicator as a measure? • Understand what scientific evidence supports the use of the indicator • Understand what other types of evidence (e.g. contextual evidence, stakeholder experiences) support the use of this indicator	Low Medium High	Yes	No
5. Is the indicator applicable to other health topics? • Assess if the indicator can be used as a measure of risk or protective factors for other health topics • Understand the use of the indicator for other current or potential stakeholders	Low Medium High	Yes	No
6. Are the data collected and reported in a way that is reliable and accurate? • Understand how data are collected and analyzed • Assess the consistency of data quality	Low Medium High	Yes	No
7. Is this indicator alone able to comprehensively answer the evaluation question? • Assess if additional indicators are needed to tell the story of your program's impact • Assess if different types of data (e.g. qualitative) would complement this indicator	Low Medium High	Yes	No

Based on your responses to the above questions, describe the identified strengths and limitations for use of this indicator to your program's evaluation:

Given the level of importance for each consideration to your program's context, describe why or why not this indicator is important for use in your program evaluation:

Indicator Selection Tools

Assessing a Set of Indicators
Does the selected set of indicators adequately address the evaluation question?

1.   4.   7.

2.   5.   8.

3.   6.   9.

Guiding Question	Criteria	Answer	Considerations
1. **Does the set provide results that can inform future decision-making?**	• Assess if the indicator set allows for the assessment of progress toward goals. • Assess if there are sufficient amounts of indicators to measure the change in outcomes.	Yes No	If the set of indicators does not depict sufficient changes at the state or local level to inform future decision making, consider what additional indicators may be needed to help increase the usability of the set of indicators.
2. **Is the set of indicators balanced?**	• Assess if all indicators in the set are unique and do not contribute to redundancy. • Assess if the set of indicators is missing any important information needed to answer the evaluation question. • Assess the need for the set of indicators to provide both quantitative measures and qualitative information.	Yes No	Each indicator should provide important information to the evaluation, while together the set should comprehensively answer the question and tell the story of program impact. If the set is unbalanced, assess ways that the set of indicators can be improved by either eliminating indicators or including missing indicators.
3. **Is the indicator set manageable?**	• Assess if the number of indicators is reasonable to answer the question. • Ask staff managing data if they consider the set manageable and not burdensome to track or collect.	Yes No	If the set of indicators is not deemed manageable, work with program staff and stakeholders to prioritize indicators in the set and make determinations on how to reduce burden.
4. **Are the set of indicators agreed upon by stakeholders?**	• Reflect on if stakeholders were involved in the selection or validation of the indicator set. • Assess if the set of indicators provides information that can be useful for stakeholders.	Yes No	Stakeholders should be able to see value in the data collected for both the program evaluation and their own uses. Stakeholders may not be able to use all the data collected for their own purposes but it is important to ensure they understand why data is being collected and support these activities.