

Framework for Evidence-Informed Practice:

Building Capacity to Meet Requirements under the Ontario Public Health Foundational Standard

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Ontario Public Health Foundational Standard

"Public health programs and services that are informed by evidence are the foundation for effective public health practice."¹

Foundational Standard components include:

- Research & Knowledge Exchange
- Program Evaluation
- Population Health Assessment
- Surveillance

The Foundational Standard has elevated interest in evidence-informed practice, yet few tools exist to operationalize Foundational Standard requirements.

Towards Evidence-Informed Practice

Towards Evidence-Informed Practice (TEIP) features three field-tested and rigorously evaluated tools:



Program Assessment – Criteria to strengthen planning of new or existing programs



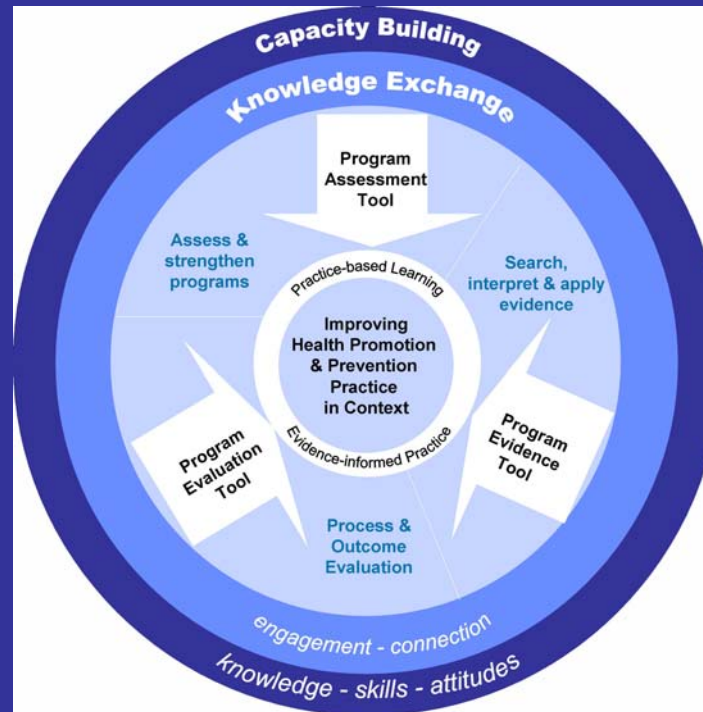
Program Evidence – Guidelines to search, interpret and apply relevant and credible evidence to facilitate evidence-informed decision-making



Program Evaluation - User-friendly guidelines for developing useful and realistic evaluation plans that include both process and outcome measures

TEIP Tools focus on processes that can be applied to many program standards.

TEIP tools operationalize several requirements within the Knowledge Exchange, Program Evaluation and Assessment components of the Foundational Standard.



Requirements Addressed by TEIP:

- # 4 Tailor programs & services to meet local needs
- # 8 Engage in knowledge exchange (KE)
- # 9 Foster relationships to support research & KE
- #11 Improve implementation & effectiveness
- #12 Conduct program evaluations
- #13 Facilitate awareness of factors contributing to program effectiveness

Framework Components

Knowledge Exchange (KE)

To engage practitioners, researchers and stakeholders in meaningful dialogue and mutual learning through the process of exchanging evidence and knowledge^{2, 4}

TEIP Tools provide KE guidelines and processes to:

- ✓ Facilitate multi-level dialogues
- ✓ Support evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM)
- ✓ Respect local context

Capacity Building

Capacity is the set of knowledge, skills, resources as well as organizational culture, values and attitudes that support and motivate practitioners to integrate continuous improvement practices into their core work.^{2, 3}

TEIP recognizes the centrality of capacity-building

- ✓ Tools build practitioners knowledge and skills
- ✓ Master Trainer workshops strengthen organizational supports for EIDM

Evidence-informed Practice

Processes intended to create and apply the best available evidence to health promotion and disease prevention programs.⁴

TEIP supports use of credible and relevant evidence

- ✓ Considers academic and practice-based learning

Practice-based Learning

Processes that enable ongoing improvement and learning from program evaluations and related knowledge exchange processes.⁴

TEIP supports process and outcome evaluation

- ✓ Tools build capacity for useful, relevant and practical program evaluation plans

References

1. Ontario Public Health Standards (2008) Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
2. Canadian Health Services Research Foundation http://www.chsrf.ca/keys/glossary_e.php
3. Goodman, R., Speers, M., McLeroy, K., Fawcett, S., Kegler, M., Parker, E., Smith, S., Sterling, T., & Wallerstein, N. Identifying and defining the dimensions of community capacity to provide a basis for measurement. Health Education and Behaviour. 1998; 25(3): 258-278.

4. Centre for Behavioural Research and Program Evaluation (2008). Towards an Enabling System for Knowledge Development and Exchange: Planning to Support Evaluation and Practice-based Learning – Project Overview.

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