



# Indigenous Evaluation Toolkit

Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center

The Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Indigenous Evaluation Toolkit is a resource provided to tribes for evaluation support and serves as an overview to indigenous evaluation concepts.

## What is Evaluation?

Evaluation, according to A Dictionary of Epidemiology (2008), is “A process that attempts to determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of activities in light of their objectives.”

Collecting and analyzing evaluation is helpful in determining or assessing value and for in providing feedback for improvements and for decision-making purposes

In Program Evaluation, there are five types of evaluation. There are formative, summative, process, outcomes and impact evaluation. What type of evaluation you employ depends on your program needs. These various evaluations provide data and analysis for:

- Understanding the needs and expectations of program staff, target population and interested parties on the entirety of the program.
- Assessing whether the program is serving its intended purpose, is being conducted appropriately, if program goals are being met, and to identify potential problems.
- Providing accountability in the form of reporting program effectiveness to funding agencies

## Evaluation in Indigenous Communities

When evaluation became particularly relevant in the U.S. in the 1960s during the period of the Great Society social programs associated with the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, there were just a few problems:

- Most evaluations included indigenous population research that was inaptly based on western methodologies.
- Western methodologies did not embrace non-western cultural norms, so the concept of situating knowledge systems was overlooked.
- Unethical research practices were quite prevalent in People of Color communities.

In response, ranks of scholars and grassroots groups began to develop indigenous evaluation practices. Indigenous Evaluation interest and methodologies are currently growing; please see the composition of [Indigenous Research Articles](#) and [Indigenous Evaluation Tools](#) in this guide for further reference to models and discourse.

Note that in this guide:

- Indian Country refers to the collection of tribal nations and Alaska Native communities that occupy a shared homeland and live in culturally bounded communities.



- Indigenous refers to the first native residents of lands that have been taken over by outsider populations—specifically, Indian tribes and Alaskan Natives in North and South America, and the Pacific.

## Data and Statistics

Data and statistical information are critical to the public health mission of the Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center. There are many different uses of data. The public health science of epidemiology relies on data to understand patterns of sickness and health in tribal communities. Data are also used to support the public health function of assuring that persons have access to appropriate health care and for assessing the effectiveness of that care. Finally, public health data may be used to inform the development and implementation of tribal, state, regional, and national health policies. Check out <https://gptec.gptchb.org/data-and-statistics/>

GPTEC is committed to helping area tribes access health data in a way that is culturally appropriate and respects tribal sovereignty. The following activities advance this goal:

- Provide Great Plains Area tribes with reports of timely, accurate, and useful data on health priorities
- Support the GPTEC mission, objectives, and activities across strategic focus areas
- Consult with tribal programs and GPTCHB staff on data management issues
- Provide leadership to other public health agencies and workgroups on data issues affecting Northern Plains American Indians
- GPTEC is also working to strengthen the public health infrastructure throughout the Great Plains Area in order to address the lack of usable data for public health planning and evaluation at the local and regional levels.

For individualized assistance with data and statistics, please contact our Technical Assistance Coordinating Unit at <https://gptec.gptchb.org/request-technical-assistance/>



## Resources

### Indigenous Evaluation Articles

<b>Title</b>	<b>Evaluating Government Health and Substance Abuse Programs for Indigenous Peoples</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Australia:</b> This review aimed to identify culturally appropriate models for the monitoring and evaluation of government health and substance abuse programs for indigenous peoples, and builds upon a previous project undertaken for the Western Australian Aboriginal Affairs Department.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1753-6405.1995.tb00460.x">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1753-6405.1995.tb00460.x</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Gray, D., Saggars, S., Drandich, M., Wallam, D., & Plowright, P. (2010). Evaluating government health and substance abuse programs for indigenous peoples: A comparative review. <i>Australian Journal of Public Health, 19</i> (6), 567-572. doi:10.1111/j.1753-6405.1995.tb00460.x

<b>Title</b>	<b>Across the Colonial Divide: Conversations About Evaluation in Indigenous Contexts</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Aotearoa/New Zealand:</b> A look at the contrast in conversations amongst ‘mainstream’ practitioners—where the focus is on difference, competency, and issues of access—relative to those occurring amongst indigenous evaluators and communities— where evaluation praxis is framed within broader struggles for sovereignty and self-determination.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1098214013489338">http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1098214013489338</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Cavino, H. M. (2013). Across the Colonial Divide. <i>American Journal of Evaluation, 34</i> (3), 339-355. doi:10.1177/1098214013489338

<b>Title</b>	<b>Effective Knowledge Translation Approaches and Practices in Indigenous Health Research: A Systematic Review Protocol</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Canada:</b> A systematic review will examine literature on KT initiatives in Indigenous health research to help identify wise and promising Indigenous KT practices and language in Canada and abroad.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="http://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-017-0430-x">http://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-017-0430-x</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Ninomiya, M. E., Atkinson, D., Brascoupé, S., Firestone, M., Robinson, N., Reading, J., Smylie, J. K. (2017). Effective knowledge translation approaches and practices in Indigenous health research: a systematic review protocol. <i>Systematic Reviews, 6</i> , 34. <a href="http://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-017-0430-x">http://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-017-0430-x</a>



<b>Title</b>	<b>Building True Capacity: Indigenous Models for Indigenous Communities</b>
<b>Summary</b>	This article discusses how community capacity building and community empowerment as strategies for reducing health disparities and promoting public health, best practices and concepts delivered to indigenous communities, these mainstream models and their practical conclusions, however, have limited application in indigenous communities.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2004.053801">https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2004.053801</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Chino, M., & DeBruyn, L. (2006). Building True Capacity: Indigenous Models for Indigenous Communities. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> , 96(4), 596-599. doi:10.2105/ajph.2004.053801

<b>Title</b>	<b>Culturally Competent Evaluation in Indian Country</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<u>USA</u> : This article discusses the importance of understanding the implications of sovereignty when working in Indian Country, the significance of an emerging indigenous framework for evaluation, Indian self-determination in setting the research and evaluation agenda, and methodological approaches.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.betterevaluation.org/sites/default/files/CCevalinidancountry.pdf">https://www.betterevaluation.org/sites/default/files/CCevalinidancountry.pdf</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	LaFrance, J. (2004). Culturally competent evaluation in Indian Country. <i>New Directions for Evaluation</i> , 2004(102), 39-50. doi:10.1002/ev.114

<b>Title</b>	<b>Strength-based Well-being Indicators for Indigenous Children and Families: A Literature Review of Indigenous Communities’ Identified Well-being Indicators</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<u>Global</u> : This article is a review of literature that features Indigenous communities’ self-identified strength-based indicators of child and family well-being. The literature search included Indigenous communities from across the world, incorporating findings from American Indians and Alaska Natives, First Nations, Native Hawaiians, Māori, Aboriginal Australians, and Sámi communities.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/research/centers/CAIANH/journal/Documents/Volume%2023/Rountree_23(3)_Strength-based_well-Being_indicators_206.pdf">http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/research/centers/CAIANH/journal/Documents/Volume%2023/Rountree_23(3)_Strength-based_well-Being_indicators_206.pdf</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Roundtree, J, Smith, A. (2016). Strength-based well-being indicators for indigenous children and families: A literature review of indigenous communities’ identified well-being indicators. <i>American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research</i> , 23(3), 206-220. doi:10.5820/aian.2303.2016.206



### Indigenous Evaluation Tools

<b>Title</b>	<b>Indigenous Evaluation Framework: Telling Our Story in Our Place and Time</b>
<b>Summary</b>	The AIHEC Indigenous Evaluation Framework provides an overview of evaluation and a variety of guidance and tools, all informed by traditional ways of knowing and frame around core indigenous cultural values. According to the authors, the workbook provides “a general framing for an Indigenous approach to evaluation”.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://portalcentral.aihec.org/Indigeval/Pages/Document-Collections.aspx">https://portalcentral.aihec.org/Indigeval/Pages/Document-Collections.aspx</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	LaFrance, J. & Nichols, R. (2009). <i>Indigenous evaluation framework: Telling our story in our place and time</i> . Alexandria, VA: American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Indigenous Approaches to Evaluation</b>
<b>Summary</b>	A publication by the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health. Introductory information on basic Aboriginal evaluation and frameworks, programs and logic models, community-based participatory evaluation frameworks.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/495/Indigenous_Approaches_to_Program_Evaluation.nccah?id=125">https://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/495/Indigenous_Approaches_to_Program_Evaluation.nccah?id=125</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Cauchie, L. (n.d.). National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health Home PUBLICATIONS Publication Search. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.ccnsa-nccah.ca/495/Indigenous_Approaches_to_Program_Evaluation.nccah?id=125">https://www.ccnsa-nccah.ca/495/Indigenous_Approaches_to_Program_Evaluation.nccah?id=125</a>

### General Program Evaluation Resources

<b>Title</b>	<b>Developing a Logic Model to Guide Evaluation: SAMHSA’s Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies</b>
<b>Summary</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration’s
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/sites/default/files/resources/developing-logic-model-guide.pdf">https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/sites/default/files/resources/developing-logic-model-guide.pdf</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Developing a Logic Model to Guide Evaluation: SAMHSA’s Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (2011). Retrieved from <a href="https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/sites/default/files/resources/developing-logic-model-guide.pdf">https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/sites/default/files/resources/developing-logic-model-guide.pdf</a>



<b>Title</b>	<b>Introduction to Program Evaluation for Public Health Programs: A Self-Study Guide</b>
<b>Summary</b>	This document is a “how to” guide for planning and implementing evaluation activities. The manual, based on CDC’s Framework for Program Evaluation in Public Health, is intended to assist managers and staff of public, private, and community public health programs to plan, design, implement and use comprehensive evaluations in a practical way. The strategy presented in this manual will help assure that evaluations meet the diverse needs of internal and external stakeholders. Such needs include assessing and documenting program implementation, outcomes, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of activities, and taking action based on evaluation results to increase the impact of programs.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/eval/guide/CDCEvalManual.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/eval/guide/CDCEvalManual.pdf</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Introduction to Program Evaluation for Public Health Programs. (n.d.). Retrieved from <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/eval/guide/cdcevalmanual.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/eval/guide/cdcevalmanual.pdf</a>

<b>Title</b>	<b>W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide</b>
<b>Summary</b>	Using logic models to bring together planning, evaluation, and action.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.wkkf.org/resource-directory/resource/2006/02/wk-kellogg-foundation-logic-model-development-guide">https://www.wkkf.org/resource-directory/resource/2006/02/wk-kellogg-foundation-logic-model-development-guide</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (January 2004). Logic model development guide: Using logic models to bring together planning, evaluation, and action. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.wkkf.org/knowledge-center/resources/2006/02/wk-kellogg-foundation-logicmodel-development-guide.aspx">http://www.wkkf.org/knowledge-center/resources/2006/02/wk-kellogg-foundation-logicmodel-development-guide.aspx</a>

<b>Title</b>	<b>The Logic Model: A Blueprint for Describing Programs</b>
<b>Summary</b>	A blueprint for describing programs, What components and activities are, who target groups are, and why outcomes are important. Provides examples of logic models and worksheets.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="http://med-fom-familymed-research.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2012/03/logic_model_e.pdf">http://med-fom-familymed-research.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2012/03/logic_model_e.pdf</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Porteous, N. L, Sheldrick, B. J., Stewart, P. J. (1997). Program evaluation tool kit: A blueprint for public health management, Ottawa, On: Ottawa-Carleton Health Department.



<b>Title</b>	<b>Framework for Program Evaluation in Public Health</b>
<b>Summary</b>	The Evaluation Framework’s steps include: Engaging stakeholders; Describing the program; Focusing the evaluation design; Gathering credible evidence; Justifying conclusions; Ensuring use and sharing lessons learned. The Evaluation Standards are organized into the following four groups: Utility; Feasibility; Propriety; and Accuracy. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Framework for program evaluation in public health. MMWR
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4811.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr4811.pdf</a>
<b>APA Reference</b>	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Framework for program evaluation in public health. MMWR 1999;48(No. RR-11).

## For More Information

If you want individualized assistance with evaluation processes, please contact our Technical Assistance Coordinating Unit at <https://gptec.gptchb.org/request-technical-assistance/>

If you would like assistance in filling out the form, please contact Hillary Presecan, Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator for GPTec at 605-721-1932 or email [Hillary.Presecan@gptchb.org](mailto:Hillary.Presecan@gptchb.org)

For general evaluation questions, contact GPTec’s Evaluation Coordinator, Molita Yazzie, at [Molita.Yazzie@gptchb.org](mailto:Molita.Yazzie@gptchb.org)

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