



NIOSH Evaluation Capacity-Building Plan (ECB) Year 1 Update

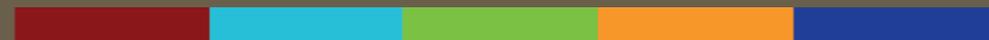
Amia Downes, DrPH

Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation

NIOSH Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting

October 5, 2021

Background



Why evaluation capacity-building?

- Critical feedback from program reviews
- Lack of evaluable programs
 - Overlap
 - Burden
- Foundations of Evidence-Based Policy Making Act



Topics to be included in the ECB Plan



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)



2. Implementation of program review recommendations



3. Communication of intermediate outcomes and evaluation findings

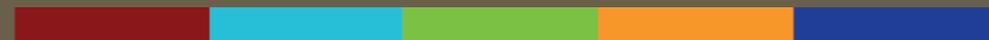


4. Long-term program review strategy



5. Translation research

Year 1 progress update



Topics to be included in the ECB Plan



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)



2. Implementation of program review recommendations



3. Communication of intermediate outcomes and evaluation findings

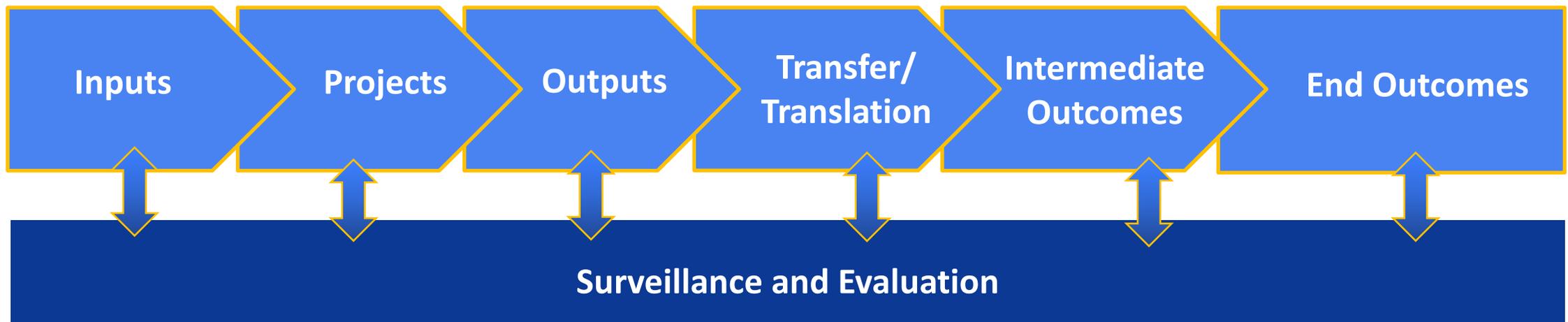


4. Long-term program review strategy

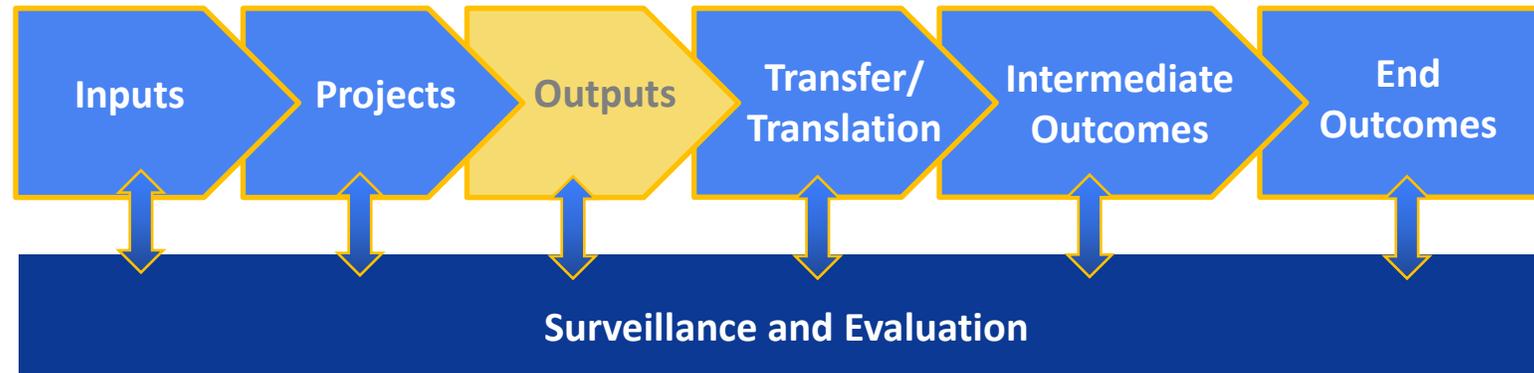


5. Translation research

1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)



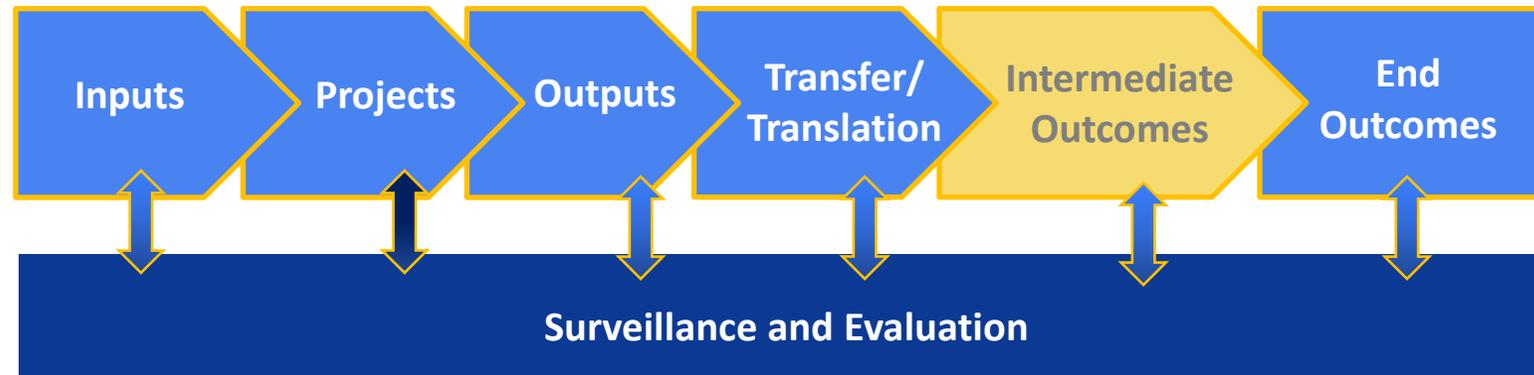
Outputs



Products from NIOSH research and service activities

- publications in peer-reviewed journals
- recommendations
- reports
- website/social media content
- educational materials
- new technologies
- patents
- workshops and presentations
- databases

Intermediate Outcomes



An outside person or organization uses NIOSH outputs

- adoption of new or revised standards or regulations
- commercialization of NIOSH-developed technologies
- citations of NIOSH research by industry and academic scientists
- further dissemination of NIOSH outputs
- use of publications, technologies, methods, or recommendations by workers, industry, and occupational safety and health professionals in the field



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

- **Key Learning Activity:** Assess motivations and barriers to collecting IOs. (Year 1)
 - **Process Steps:**
 - Conduct focus groups with researchers, division/laboratory/office (DLO) branch managers, and program leaders.
 - Conduct interviews with division/laboratory/office directors.



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

- Activity:
 - Four focus groups (6-8 people)
 - Four interviews
- Study questions:
 - 1. How knowledgeable are NIOSH staff about IOs?
 - 2. What value do NIOSH staff place on identifying, collecting, and documenting IOs?
 - 3. What processes currently exist at NIOSH to support the identification, collection, and documentation of IOs?
 - 4. What are NIOSH staff concerns and the barriers associated with identifying, collecting, and documenting IOs?
 - 5. How can NIOSH support and improve processes associated with the identification, collection, and documentation of IOs?



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

- Sample findings:
 - Varied levels in understanding of IOs
 - DLO Directors and middle management expressed the importance of IOs
 - Researchers do not see the value
 - No formal or best practice to develop potential IOs
 - Varying opinions on who and how IOs should be collected



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

- **Recommendation 1:** Official definition of IO.
- **Recommendation 2:** Guidance and resources to aid in the process of identifying, collecting, and documenting IOs.
- **Recommendation 3:** Evaluation training.
- **Recommendation 4:** Education campaign.
- **Recommendation 5:** Resource website.

Next Step: Key Learning Activity 2: Develop further guidance to encourage collection and documentation of IOs.



2. Implementation of program review recommendations

- (Question 1) **Key Learning Activity 1:** Understand why review panels might provide recommendations that are beyond the capacity of NIOSH programs to implement. (Year 1)
- (Question 2) **Key Learning Activity 1:** Identify barriers and motivators at the researcher, program, and NIOSH levels to implementing feasible review panel recommendations. (Year 1)
- **Process Steps**
 - Review current external program review materials.
 - Interview program portfolio managers and research staff that have been or could be involved in program reviews in the future.
 - Interview leaders of programs and the Institute who are responsible for implementation responses and decisions.



2. Implementation of program review recommendations

- Formed 2 workgroups
 - Charge was given
 - Current review process was explained
 - Program review materials were disseminated
 - Questions for focus groups and interviews were developed



4. Long-term program review strategy

- **Key Learning Activity 1:** Develop a better understanding of program review strategies utilized by other federal agencies and research organizations. (Year 1)
- **Process Steps:**
 - Search the literature and scan the environment for alternate program review processes.
 - Interview program leaders that have experience previous external impact reviews.

4. Long-term program review strategy

- Formed a workgroup
 - Charge was given
 - Current review process was explained
 - Program review materials were disseminated
 - Questions for focus groups and interviews were developed
- Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation staff began environmental scan
 - Search of other federal agencies webpages related to evaluation
 - Follow-up interview with National Center for Injury Prevention and Control



2. Implementation of program review recommendations



4. Long-term program review strategy

- Activity: Weststat conducted:
 - Four focus groups
 - 12 interviews
- Study questions:
 - 1. What value do NIOSH staff place on program review and evaluation?
 - 2. How can the program review process be improved?
 - 3. How can NIOSH ensure that appropriate review panelists are selected to conduct program reviews?
 - 4. How can NIOSH support the use of program review recommendations?



2. Implementation of program review recommendations



4. Long-term program review strategy

- Sample findings:
 - Value in program reviews
 - Concern around building evaluation culture
 - More resources dedicated to implementation
 - More time committed if this is to be successful
 - Panelists liked evidence packages and want more interaction with programs
 - Include weaknesses in evidence package

Next Step: Develop a statement of purpose and objectives that guide external program reviews.



5. Translation research

- Key Learning Activity 1: Develop a shared understanding of translation research across the Institute. (Year 1)
 - Process Steps:
 - Search the literature and scan the environment relevant to TR.
 - Refine a definition and conceptualization of TR application at NIOSH.



5. Translation research

- Activities:
 - Literature review is complete and has been submitted for publication.
 - Environmental scan report is also complete.
 - Currently working with SME, Dr. Borsika Rabin on refinement of translation research.
- Additional progress not specified by ECB
 - 23 interviews (intra/extramural) conducted
 - Draft glossary of terms complete

Integration of Centers for Agricultural Safety and Health



Centers for Agricultural Safety and Health (Ag Centers)

- Funded through extramural, cooperative agreements
- 11 currently funded centers
- Activities include:
 - Research
 - Outreach
 - Training
 - Development of educational materials
 - Development of relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations
- National, regional, and local levels



Integration of Ag Centers

- All Centers have contributed to at least one of three draft logic models:
 - Health-related illness
 - Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS)
 - Hazardous exposures to livestock workers
- Will finalize later this year along with evidence table
 - Interest in developing additional models
 - Interest in learning more about translation research
- More evaluative and translation research concepts into next Ag Center FOA



Thank you to the NIOSH staff who were part of Year 1 implementation!

- Rebecca Guerin
- Tom Cunningham
- Christy Forrester
- Trudi McCleery
- Jennifer Lincoln
- Dawn Castillo
- Doug Johns
- Megan Casey
- Todd Steuckle
- Scott Earnest
- Audrey Reichard
- Zoe Dugdale
- Matt Dahm
- Alice Shumate
- Ed Hitchcock
- Lew Radonovich
- Chad Dowell
- Kyle Moller
- Susan Moore
- Summer Slaughter
- Kara Perritt
- Dave Fosbroke
- Lisa Steiner
- Emily Novicki
- Tom Hales
- Donjanea Williams

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

