Monitoring and Improvement Approaches Appropriate When Implementing a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

February 23, 2023

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OASH | Office of Population Affairs

Welcome
Jaclyn Ruiz

What you can and cannot expect on today's call

You can expect us to:

- Discuss the monitoring and evaluation activities that might be part of an OPA-funded project
- Present design considerations for planning monitoring and improvement activities

We will not:

- Talk about specific requirements of OPA grants or NOFOs
- Provide consultation on your proposed project

Presenter

Katie Adamek

- Former sexuality educator in Massachusetts, Washington, New York City and the U.S. Peace Corps

- Former staff in Planned Parenthood clinics

- On Evaluation TA team for 2010 and 2015 TPP grantees

- Works in sexual and reproductive health space, including evaluations of the Title X program

- Understands the benefits and challenges of real-world TPP program implementation
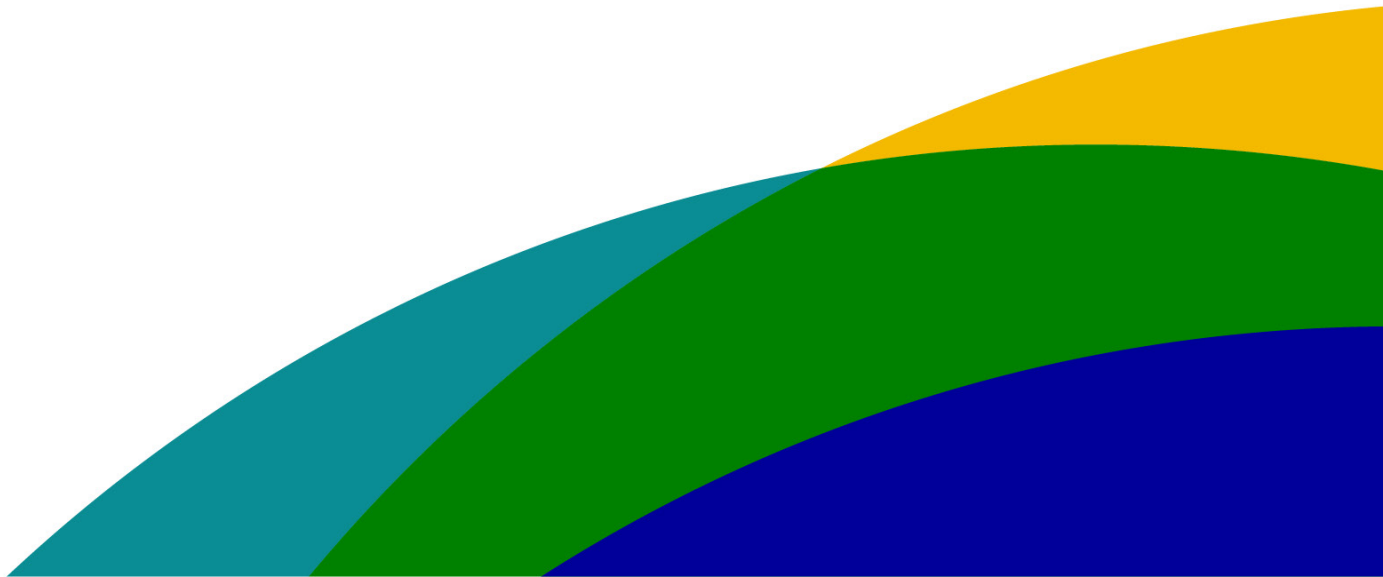
Agenda

- Reminder: formative evaluation
- Preparing for monitoring and improvement
- Design considerations
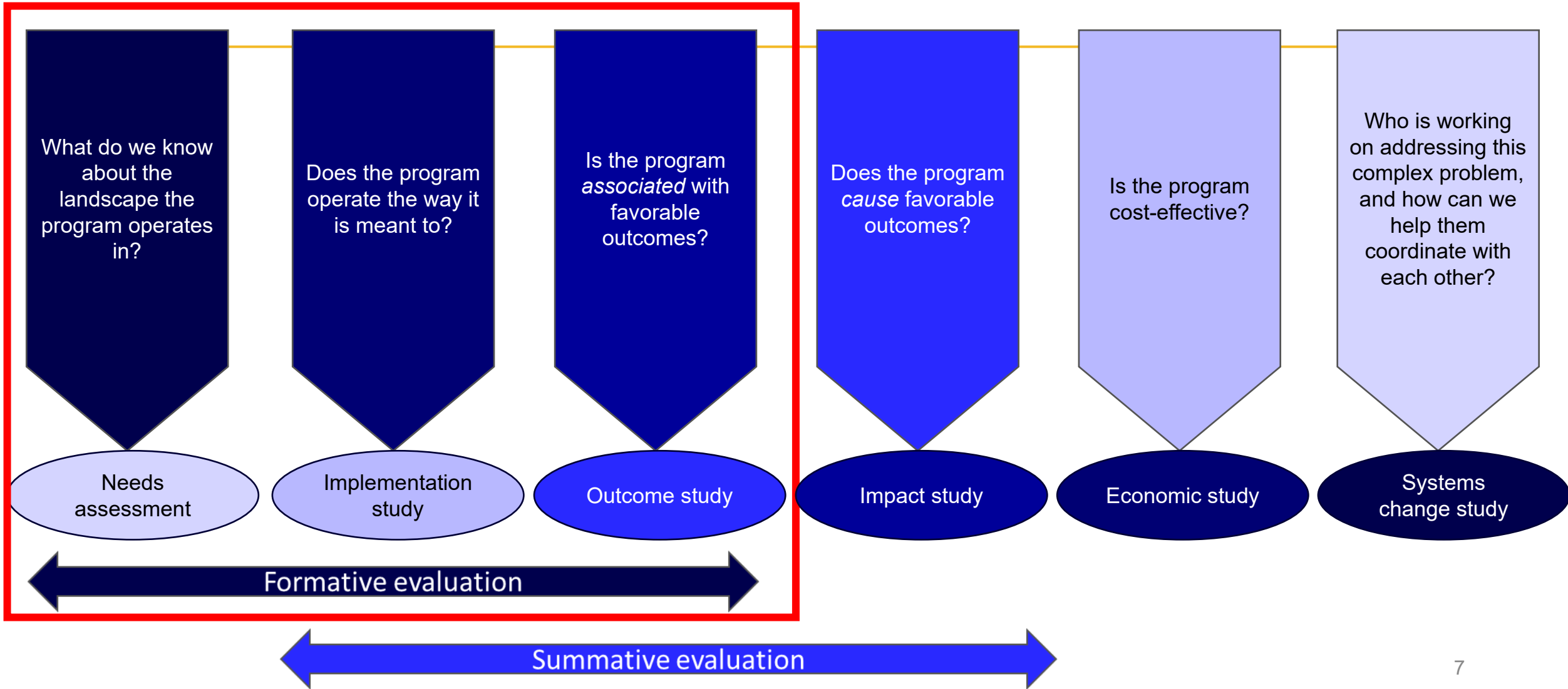
Reminder: Formative Evaluation

Which study type(s) are right for you?

What do we know about the landscape the program operates in?

Does the program operate the way it is meant to?

Is the program *associated* with favorable outcomes?

Does the program *cause* favorable outcomes?

Is the program cost-effective?

Who is working on addressing this complex problem, and how can we help them coordinate with each other?

Needs assessment

Implementation study

Outcome study

Impact study

Economic study

Systems change study

Formative evaluation

Summative evaluation

Preparing for Monitoring and Improvement

Purpose of monitoring and improvement

- Plan your TPP project
- Monitor program implementation, identify issues, and improve the project
- Identify key lessons and findings throughout the project life cycle that warrant dissemination

Using needs assessment data to plan your program

- Determine gaps or needs for TPP programming and complementary services
- Select programs that are a good fit for intended population and settings
- Identify services to complement program implementation
- Identify community partners

Monitoring and improvement during implementation

- Assess the quality of project implementation
- Identify problems and improve the way you are implementing programs, including the use of evidence-based programs (EBPs)
- Identify strategies to solve problems and document how those strategies were used
- More details in the next section

Disseminating information

- Beginning of project period
  - **Chosen intervention and the reason for the choice**
  - **Identifying, recruiting, and working with potential partners**
  - **Community feedback**
- Middle of project period
  - **What is going well and what needs to be improved**
  - **Early implementation findings**
  - **CQI process**
- End of project period
  - **Findings**
  - **Lessons learned**

Design Considerations

Monitoring and improvement goals

- Goals help keep the project on track and help you understand:
  - **If a project is meeting benchmarks**
  - **If individual programs are being implemented with high quality and fidelity to the program models**
  - **If project staff are creating a safe and inclusive environment for participants**
  - **How adolescent-friendly your partners' services are**
  - **Whether the community is aware and supportive of the programs being implemented**
- Goals should be holistic and tied to the logic model

Questions to ask about monitoring and improvement structure

- Will we use an established approach (Plan-Do-Study-Act; Getting to Outcomes; Learn, Innovate, Improve (LI^2)) or an original approach?

- Do we plan to do the monitoring ourselves or hire an outside evaluator?
  - **If using an outside evaluator, be involved in all decision making on which data are being collected and how they will be used**

Matching monitoring and improvement goals to data sources

- The data sources you choose should be the ones that align best with your monitoring and improvement goals
  - **Sources for monitoring whether implementation is on track**
  - **Sources for monitoring when things go awry**
  - **Sources for measuring whether program tweaks have improved the program**
- Different types of data (qualitative and quantitative) will probably be necessary to comprehensively monitor and promote improvement

Quantitative data sources

- Fidelity monitoring tools
- Enrollment or attendance data
- Partnerships and referral data
- Facilitator surveys
- Progress reports
- Youth pre- and post-test surveys

Qualitative data sources

- Observations
- Debrief meetings or interviews
- Focus groups
- Meeting notes from community engagement

Timeline

- How often do you need to collect data to monitor implementation (fidelity, quality, and satisfaction)?
- Ongoing data collection to understand quality and reach
  - **Fidelity logs**
  - **Enrollment data**
- Point-in-time data collection to understand progress or satisfaction
  - **Interviews with facilitators**
  - **Focus groups with participants**
- Timing may vary over the course of your project

Illustrative Example #1

- Goal: To understand whether an EBP is being implemented with high quality and fidelity to the program model
- Data sources and frequency of data collection
  - **Ongoing: independent observations, fidelity monitoring tools**
  - **Point-in-time: debrief meetings with facilitators, focus groups with participants**
- Potential issue identified through monitoring: Key content not being delivered due to time constraints
  - **Use data to identify problem, create solutions, and monitor whether solutions addressed issue (CQI)**

Illustrative Example #2

- Goal: To understand how youth-friendly partner's services are

- Data sources and frequency of data collection

  - **Ongoing: partnership referral data**

  - **Point-in-time: discussions or interviews with partners, focus groups with participants**

- Potential issue identified through monitoring: Youth concern that services are not confidential

  - **Use data to identify problem, create solutions, and monitor whether solutions addressed the issue**

Key reminders

- Set realistic, useful, and relevant goals
- Determine the best structure for monitoring and improvement activities
- Select data sources well matched to your goals
- Assess what you are learning regularly
- Disseminate information and findings throughout the project

Questions?