

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Assignment

Whitley, Chapter 15 (ER)

Terms You Should Know.

Needs assessment
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Proximal outcome
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Distal outcome
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Stakeholder
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Process evaluation
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Summative evaluation
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Measuring Change

 Reliable Change Index
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 Alpha change
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 Beta change
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Gamma change

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Concepts you should master.

1. What is needs assessment and why is it important to conduct it when contemplating the implementation of an intervention?

2. What are the reasons for program implementation failure and how can they be overcome?

3. Why would you contemplate using multiple evaluation criteria when assessing the impact of a program?

4. What are the major threats to internal validity in doing evaluation research?

5. What is meant by 'unintended effects' and what impact do they have on evaluation research?

6. What are the issues surrounding the use of change scores to assess the impact of a program?

Application

1. The following questions refer to Poresky & Daniels' article *Two-year Comparison of Income, Education, and Depression Among Parents Participating in Regular Head Start of Supplementary Family Service Center Services* (Patten article 29)
 - a. What was the goal of this research?
 - b. Why did the authors focus on depression as a variable in this research?
 - c. Method
 - i. What was the basic research design?
 - ii. How were parents assigned to treatment and control conditions?
 - iii. Is this a true experimental design?
 - iv. How much time was there between
 - (1) the baseline and follow-up number 1.
 - (2) Follow-up 1 and follow-up 2.
 - d. Results
 - i. What were the major findings for
 - (1) Family income?
 - (2) Education?
 - (3) Depression?

e. Discussion

i. What conclusions did the authors reach?

ii. What limitations do you see with the study?