

Tool for Assessing Applicability and Transferability of Evidence



National Collaborating Centre
for Methods and Tools

Centre de collaboration nationale
des méthodes et outils

Building capacity for
evidence-informed public health

Will it work here?

Version A: When considering *starting* a new program.

Purpose and Target Audience

This tool aims to help public health managers and planners use evidence to choose an appropriate program for their community.

You may have found evidence about an intervention that worked. Can you apply that evidence to your situation? Do you need to adapt the intervention for your population? your community? your team?

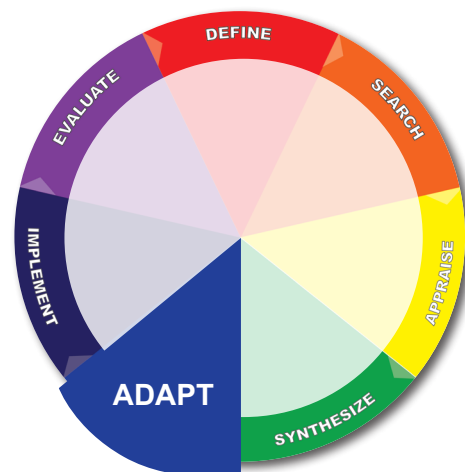
This tool provides you with a framework to assess the applicability and transferability of evidence to public health practice and policy.

How to Use this Tool

At this stage, you will have already completed the first four steps in the evidence-informed public health process. You developed a clear and specific question during the Define stage, conducted a search for evidence in the Search stage and then assessed the quality of found evidence as part of the Appraise stage. Based on this evidence, you formed some recommendations during the Synthesis stage. (See www.nccmt.ca/eiph for more information.) Now it is time to begin the Adapt stage and decide whether to introduce a program or intervention in **your** local community.

The following steps outline the process for adapting the evidence you have found and the recommendations you have formed to your local community.

1. Decide who will be involved in the decision. Consider including partners from other sectors, disciplines and client groups. *The remaining steps involve this entire group.*
2. Orient group members to the issue and the process; establish time lines.
3. From the reverse of this sheet, choose the most important assessment questions for the intervention of interest and your local context. The group may decide that some criteria are more important than others at this time in your community.
4. Decide how final scoring will be done. For example, will you discuss each criterion to achieve consensus, or add ratings from all group members? Decide if all the criteria are equally important or if they should be weighted differently. If so, decide how to weight criteria.
5. Document the scoring process used.



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Assessment of Applicability & Transferability

Construct	Things to consider	Questions to Ask
Applicability Can the intervention work for us?	Political acceptability or influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the intervention be allowed or supported in the current political climate? • Is there a potential public relations benefit for local government to implementing the intervention? • Will the public and target groups accept and support the intervention in its current format? • Is this intervention allowed/expected or required by local or provincial legislation/bylaws?
	Social acceptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the target population be interested in the intervention? • Is the intervention ethical?
	Available essential resources (human and financial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who/what is essential for the local implementation? • Who will do the work? Are these people available (or are they too busy with other projects)? Do they know how? If not, is training available (and affordable)? • How much will the intervention cost? Is the program affordable to deliver? • Does the intervention need to change to suit the local situation? • What are the full costs (including supplies, systems, space requirements for staff, training, technology/administrative supports, etc.)? How much will this intervention cost per unit of expected outcome? (i.e., total cost divided by number of people we expect to help) • Are there any other incremental health benefits to consider that could offset the costs of the intervention?
	Organizational expertise and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the intervention fit into the organization's current strategic and operational plans? • Does the intervention fit with the organization's mission and local priorities? • Does the intervention overlap, or will it complement, existing programs? • Will this program enhance the reputation of the organization? • What barriers/structural issues or approval processes within the organization need to be addressed? • Is the organization motivated and open to new ideas? Is it a learning organization?
Transferability Can we expect similar results?	Magnitude of health issue in local setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the need exist? • How many people in the local population does this issue affect now? (i.e., what is our baseline prevalence?) How does this compare to the prevalence of the issue (risk status) described in the intervention we are considering?
	Magnitude of the "reach" and cost effectiveness of the intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the intervention effectively reach a large proportion of the target population?
	Characteristics of target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the local population comparable to the study population? • Will any differences in characteristics (e.g., ethnicity, socio-demographic variables, number of persons affected) influence the effectiveness of the intervention locally?