

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 B: When considering *stopping* an existing program.

Purpose and Target Audience

This tool aims to help public health managers and planners use evidence to stop a program when there is evidence that the program or intervention may not be effective.

You may have found evidence that an intervention you are currently implementing has no or little effect. Can you apply the evidence to your situation? What would ending the intervention mean for your population? your community? your team?

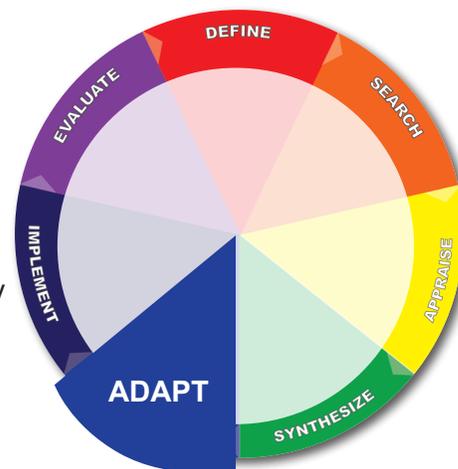
This tool gives you a process and criteria to assess the applicability and transferability of evidence to public health practice and policy

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 end 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 Will stopping the intervention be acceptable?	Political acceptability or influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will stopping the intervention be allowed or supported in the current political climate? • Is there a potential public relations benefit for local government to stopping this intervention if its lack of effectiveness becomes generally known? • Will the public and target groups accept and support the end of the program in its current format? • Is this intervention expected or required by local or provincial legislation/ bylaws?
	Social acceptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the target population miss the intervention? • Is it ethical to stop the intervention?
	Available essential resources (human and financial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who/what resources will be saved by stopping the program? • What are the financial and human costs of stopping the intervention? • What other options will be offered if this intervention/program is stopped? • How might staff members who are working on this project be redeployed?
	Organizational expertise and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the intervention fit into the organization's current strategic and operational plans? Will we miss an opportunity to support the strategic plan by stopping this program? • What steps need to be taken if this program is stopped? • What barriers/structural issues or approval processes within the organization need to be addressed? • How will using the evidence to stop the current program affect the reputation of the organization? • What is the emotional attachment of the staff to this program and how will it be dealt with?
Transferability Can we expect similar results?	Magnitude of health issue in local setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there other (more effective) ways to achieve the same goals?
	Magnitude of the "reach" and cost effectiveness of the intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we miss the opportunity to interact with a large proportion of the population if we stop this intervention?
	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?