

# Evaluation module: CIHR resource

## A summary of

Bowen, S. (2012). A Guide to Evaluation in Health Research. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.



National Collaborating Centre  
for Methods and Tools  
Centre de collaboration nationale  
des méthodes et outils

## How to cite this NCCMT summary:

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (2012). *Evaluation module: CIHR resource*. Hamilton, ON: McMaster University. (Updated 18 September, 2017)  
Retrieved from <http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/search/149>.

## Categories:

Tool, Evaluate, KT evaluation, Organizational capacity and management

Date posted:  
October 9, 2012

Date updated:  
September 18, 2017

## Tool

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## Relevance For Public Health

This module serves as a practical guide for evaluation of public health programs, research and knowledge translation initiatives.

## Description

This [online module](#), developed for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, has been developed to support practitioners, managers and researchers in the evaluation of health and health research initiatives (including knowledge translation). A key aim of this module is to develop capacity to conduct evaluation to support evidence-informed action.

This module has been developed to support [Knowledge Translation](#) (KT), and is available along with other [KT resources from CIHR](#).

Other objectives of the module are to:

- Support development of evaluation plans appropriate for research funding proposals
- Facilitate assessment of evaluation plans by peer and merit reviewers.

The learning module serves to:

- provide an overview of the scope and potential of evaluation activities
- define key concepts of evaluation
- explore the relationship between evaluation and knowledge translation
- provide guidance when selecting the purpose, approach and focus of an evaluation
- guide key steps in evaluation planning and implementation

The module has five sections:

- Section 1: Evaluation: A Brief Overview
- Section 2: Getting Started (preliminary work)
- Section 3: Designing an Evaluation (developing an evaluation plan)
- Section 4: Special Issues in Evaluation (ethical, conceptual and logistical issues)
- Section 5: Resources (glossary, checklist and evaluation templates)

## Implementing the Tool

### Who is Involved?

Anyone interested in gaining the knowledge and skills to conduct evaluations could benefit from this resource, including public health practitioners, managers, researchers and decision makers assessing the quality of proposed evaluation plans.

### Steps for Using Tool

A number of resources are available in this online module, including:

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These summaries are written by the [NCCMT](#) to condense and to provide an overview of the resources listed in the [Registry of Methods and Tools](#) and to give suggestions for their use in a public health context. For more information on individual methods and tools included in the review, please consult the authors/developers of the original resources.

- Evaluation Checklist: questions to consider when developing and assessing an evaluation plan
- Evaluation Planning Matrix (Appendix A)
- Sample Evaluation Planning Matrix (Appendix B): a completed matrix for reference

The guide includes resources, examples and case studies. The evaluation steps outlined in the guide include:

- Consider the purpose(s) of the evaluation
- Identify intended users of the evaluation
- Create a structure and process for collaboration on the evaluation
- Assess evaluation capacity, build an evaluation team
- Gather relevant evidence
- Build a shared level of consensus about the evaluation
- Describe the program/intervention
- Confirm purpose, focus the evaluation
- Identify and prioritize evaluation questions
- Select methods and data sources
- Clarify resources and responsibility areas
- Implement evaluation activities
- Communicate evaluation findings

## Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

### Evaluation

Information not available

### Validity

Not applicable

### Reliability

Not applicable

### Methodological Rating



Not applicable

## Tool Development

### Developers

Sarah Bowen  
 Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
 Website: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html>

### Method of Development

Information not available

### Release Date

2012

### Contact Person

Sarah Bowen  
 Department of Public Health Sciences, School of Public Health  
 University of Alberta  
 Email: [sbowen@ualberta.ca](mailto:sbowen@ualberta.ca)

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## Resources

<b>Title of Primary Resource</b>	A Guide to Evaluation in Health Research
<b>File Attachment</b>	None
<b>Web-link</b>	<a href="http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45336.html">http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45336.html</a>
<b>Reference</b>	Bowen, S. (2012). <i>A Guide to Evaluation in Health Research</i> . Ottawa, ON: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
<b>Type of Material</b>	Online module
<b>Format</b>	On-line Access
<b>Cost to Access</b>	None.
<b>Language</b>	English, French
<b>Conditions for Use</b>	Not specified

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