

It worked there. Will it work here? a tool for assessing Applicability and Transferability of Evidence

A: When considering starting a new program

Purpose and target audience

To help public health managers and planners use evidence to choose appropriate programs for their community.

Where does this fit?

This tool helps you with the fifth step in the evidence-informed public health process: **Adapt** the information to a local context.

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

This tool gives you a process and criteria to assess the applicability (feasibility) and transferability (generalizability) 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 have defined your question (step 1), found (step 2) and appraised (step 3) the research evidence relevant to your question. You have also formed some recommendations based on the evidence that you found (step 4). (See <http://www.nccmt.ca/professional-development/eiph> for more information.) These are all necessary steps but you are not yet ready to decide whether to introduce, continue, or end a program or intervention in **your** local community.

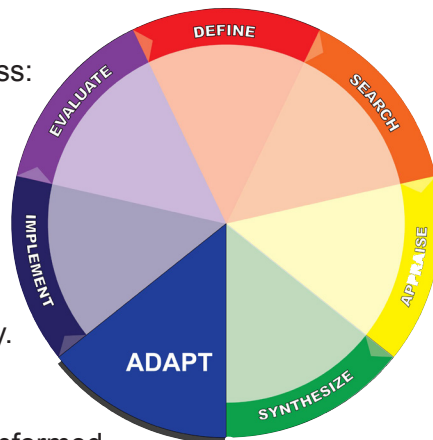
1. Decide who will be involved in the decision. Consider including partners from other sectors, disciplines and client groups. (*The remaining steps are done in collaboration with this entire group.*)
2. Orient group members to the process; establish time lines.
3. From the following list of criteria, choose the most important applicability and transferability assessment questions for the intervention of interest and the local context. Are these criteria equally important or should they be weighted differently? If so, choose what weights to assign. Not all criteria are relevant all the time. The group may decide that some criteria are more important than others at a particular time period and in a particular community.
4. Decide how final scoring will be done: Will you discuss each criterion to achieve consensus or add ratings from all group members? In that case, you would individually rate the importance/relevance of each question on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is low and 5 is high. Priority would then go to the highest scoring program.
5. Be sure to document the scoring process used.

How to cite this resource

Buffet, C., Ciliska, D., & Thomas, H. (2011). It worked there. Will it work here? Tool for Assessing Applicability and Transferability of Evidence (A: When considering starting a new program). Hamilton, ON: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools. (See the full paper on the NCCMT website here: <http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/publications/9>)

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Assessment of Applicability & Transferability

Construct	Things to consider	Questions to Ask
Applicability <i>(feasibility)</i> Can the intervention we found 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? • 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 my 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? Can we afford to deliver the program (or is our budget already committed to other projects)? • How do we need to change the intervention to suit our local situation? • What are the full costs (include supplies, systems, space requirements for staff, training, technology/administrative supports, etc.)? How much will this intervention cost per unit of expected outcome? (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 compliment, 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 <i>(generalizability)</i> 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 my 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 (ethnicity, socio-demographic variables, number of persons affected) influence the effectiveness of the intervention locally?

The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools is affiliated with McMaster University and funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Production of this document has been made possible through a financial contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

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