



Building the Evidence Base for Home Visiting in Tribal Communities

National Child Welfare Evaluation
Summit 2011

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Administration for Children and Families

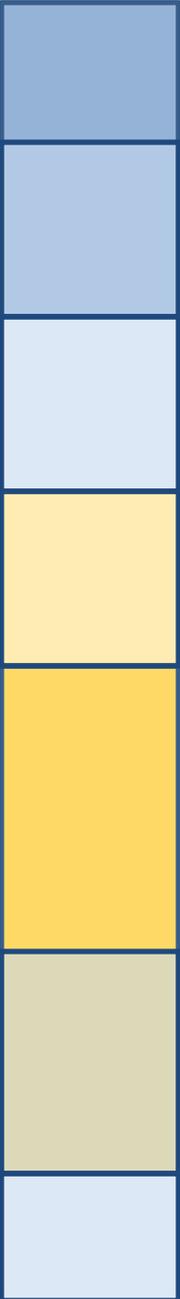
*Acknowledgement to Kate Lyon from the
DOHVE team (Design Options for Home Visiting
Evaluation)



Year 1 (Phase 1) Activities

- 1) Conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment
- 2) Engage in planning and capacity building activities to prepare for implementation and rigorous evaluation of home visiting program
- 3) Develop and submit an Implementation Plan as part of the Non-Competing Continuation Application for Year 2 (Phase 2) funds

Tribal HomVEE Results

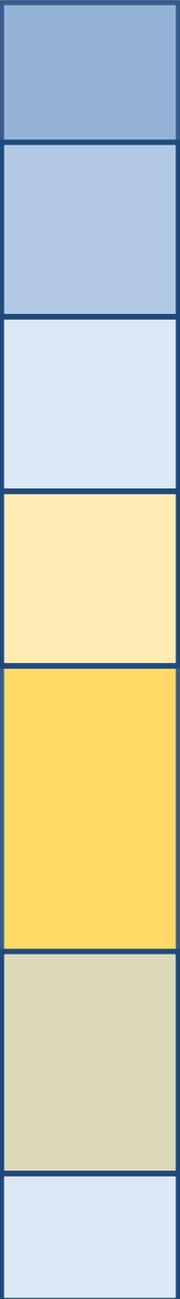
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- Identified 16 studies of home visiting programs implemented in tribal communities for review
 - Of these, none met the criteria for evidence of effectiveness
 - RCTs experienced too much sample attrition; QEDs could not determine baseline equivalence
 - Valuable information about implementation lessons learned

The Next Step: Determining Impact

- Your program's evaluation should allow you to determine the *impact* of your intervention in your community
- Select an evaluation design that allows you to establish *causality*
- The goals of evaluating home visiting in your communities are to learn how well it works in your community and to add to body of evidence about effective interventions in AIAN communities



Evaluation of Tribal HV Programs

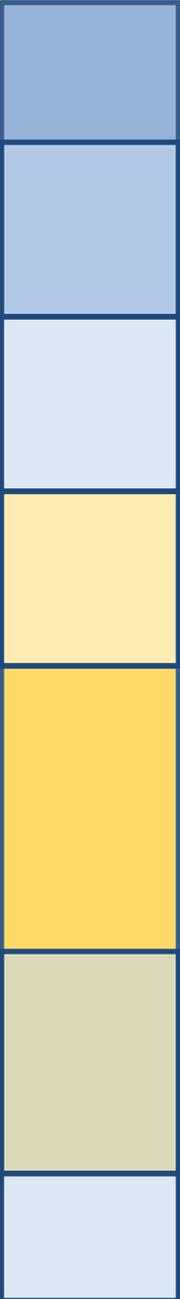
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- Program evaluation is the use of good quality research methods to systematically study, appraise, and help improve social programs, including their conceptualization and design, their implementation and administration, their **outcomes**, their **effectiveness**, and their **efficiency** (Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey, 2004)
 - PICO exercise is one example of a method of determining which research methods are appropriate for your evaluation questions

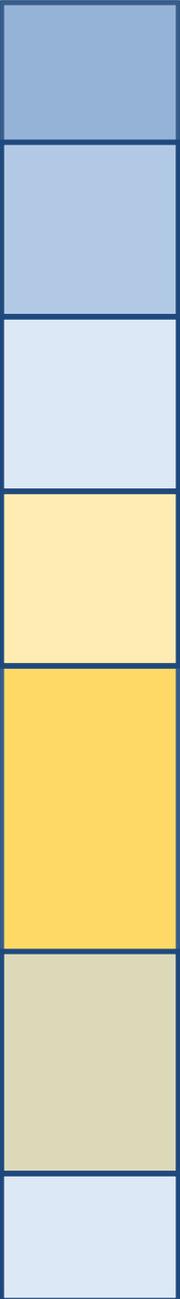
PICO

- **P** – Target population as described in your needs assessment
- **I** – Intervention or program you are interested in evaluating
- **C** – The comparison you will make to understand how well home visiting works for your community (e.g., what will be your contrast?)
- **O** – The intended short- and long-term outcomes of your home visiting intervention

Adapted from: Permanency Innovations Initiative Evaluation Team (2011) *Logic Model and Theory of Change*. Presented at The Children's Bureau's PII Kickoff Meeting, Washington DC, November 2010

PICO Example

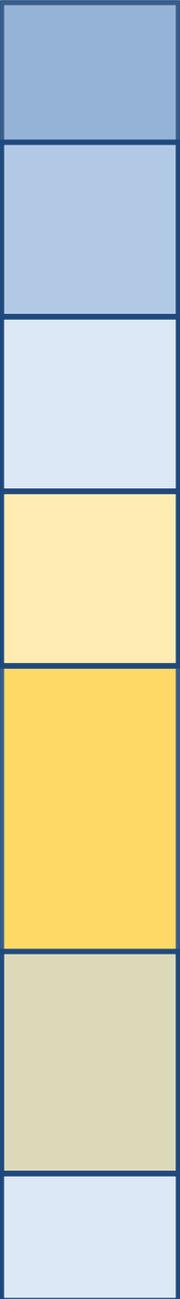
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- Do urban American Indian children ages 0-5, living below the poverty level (**P**) whose families receive Parents as Teachers home visitation services (**I**) demonstrate greater school readiness (**O**) compared to children whose families receive usual services (**C**)?
 - The intervention is developed/selected because it links the target population's needs to the desired outcomes through a theory of change.



Evaluation Activities for Year 2 of Grant

(i.e., first year of program implementation and evaluation)

- Study implementation process and feasibility
- Modify/refine program components
- Further develop evaluation plan (i.e., decide on design, select measures, sample retention strategies)
- Pilot test evaluation methodology
- Develop and submit IRB application
- Train staff on evaluation protocol

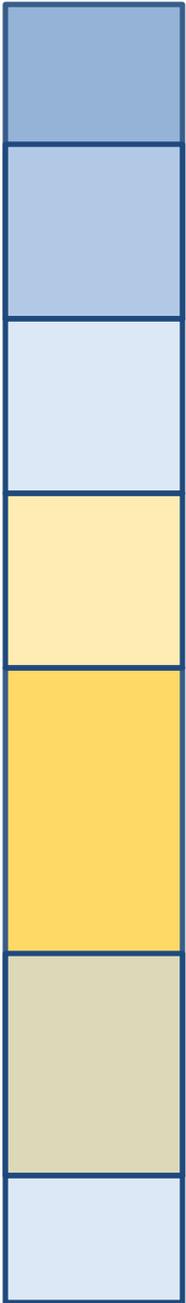


Plan for Building Knowledge Base

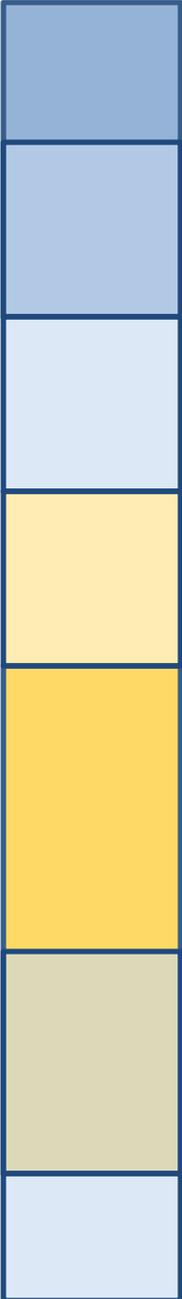
- Strategy for community participation in and Tribal oversight of evaluation
 - Community-based participatory approach to evaluation
 - What does Tribal oversight look like in your community?
- Evaluation partners
 - Methodological expertise (design, measures)
 - Relevant experience (HV, tribal communities)
 - History of partnership

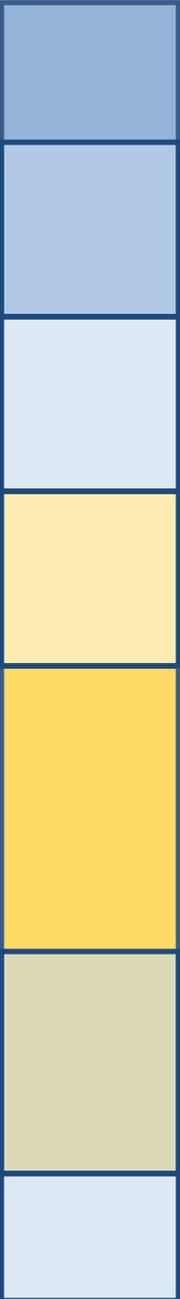
Plan for Building Knowledge Base

- Summary of current knowledge base
 - Impact of HV model
 - Implementation of HV model
 - Use in Tribal communities
 - Rationale for adaptations to model
- Goals of the evaluation
- Four year plan



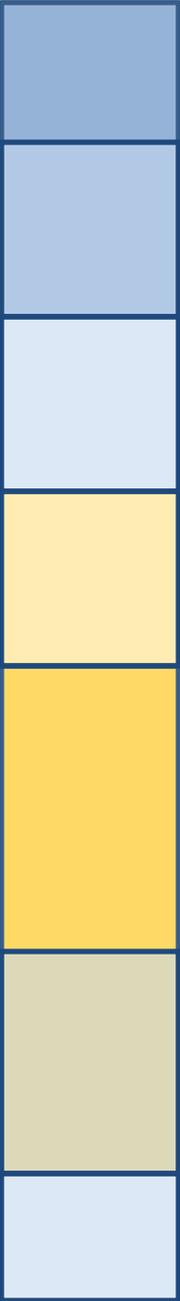
Developing Evaluation Questions

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- Link existing research to your evaluation questions. How will your research add to the existing body of evidence?
 - Link evaluation questions to benchmarks
 - Link evaluation questions to measurement of implementation quality
 - Questions should also reflect community priorities, cultural context, and needs of the target population
 - Consider feasibility of answering questions with available resources



Sample Evaluation Questions

1. Does the HV intervention decrease substance abuse, more than existing services?
2. Does a culturally adapted HV intervention achieve better health and parenting outcomes than a HV intervention that is not culturally adapted?
3. Does the onset of the HV intervention demonstrate a clear change in the pattern of parenting practices (e.g., use of appropriate discipline techniques) compared to the pattern of parenting practices before the intervention?



Research Design & Methods

- Potential designs include: random assignment, wait list, quasi-experimental design (comparison group), single case design
- Balance between designs that meet interests of stakeholders and move the field forward
- Match design to evaluation questions – strongest contrast possible
- Plan for ensuring integrity to your design
- Plan for retaining your sample
- Sample sizes and estimated power

Using Graphics to Convey Your Evaluation Design

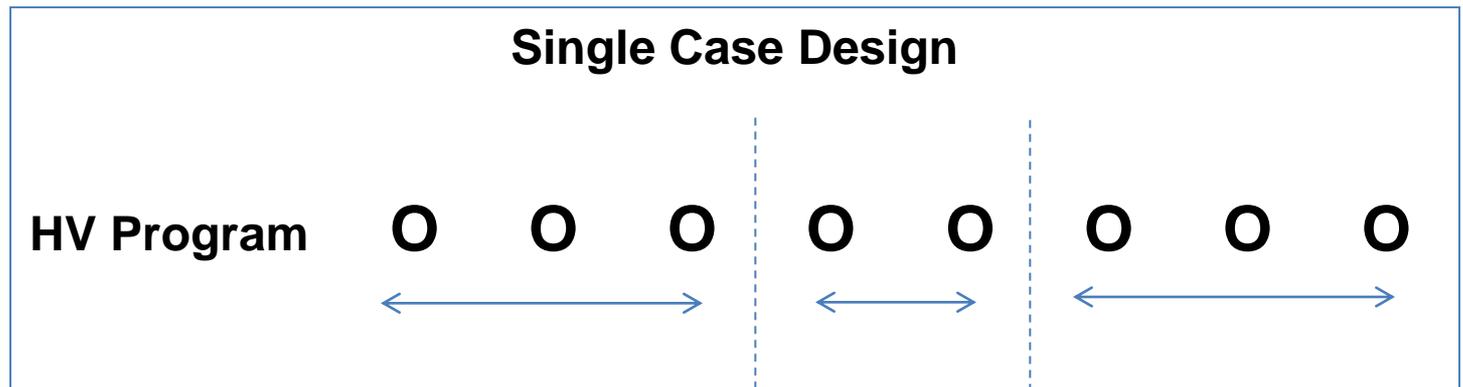
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Quasi-Experimental Design

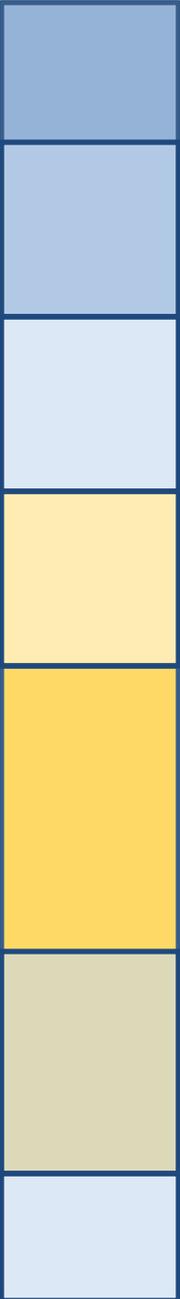
	T ₁		T ₂	T ₃	T ₄
HV Program	O	X	O	O	O
Services as Usual	O		O	O	O

Using Graphics to Convey Your Evaluation Design

3. Does the onset of the HV intervention demonstrate a clear change in the pattern of parenting practices (e.g., use of appropriate discipline techniques) compared to the pattern of parenting practices before the intervention?

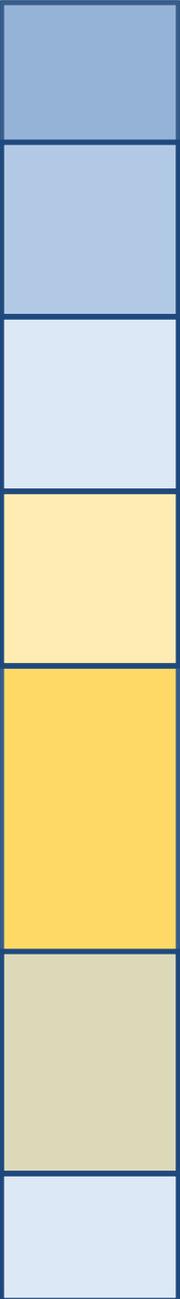


Note: This figure is an oversimplification of Single Case Design. For more complete information see: http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/wwc_scd.pdf



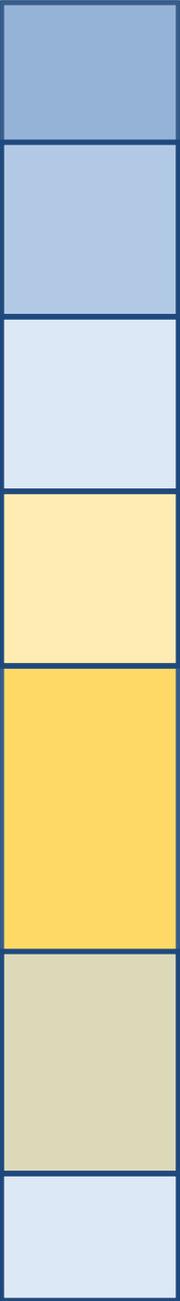
Data Collection & Analysis

- Data sources: existing measures, plans to develop instruments, administrative data
- Consider selecting measures that serve multiple purposes (i.e., evaluation, benchmarks, CQI)
- Data collection and management processes and schedule
- How will the data be analyzed?



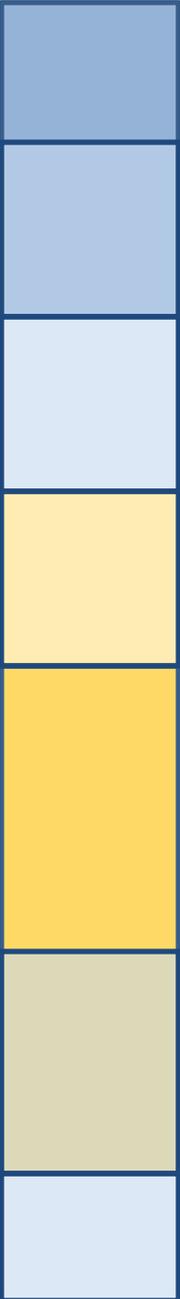
Tribal Oversight & IRB

- Tribal oversight over protection of human subjects is key
 - Method of engaging Tribe in plans for protecting participants
 - Plans for protecting confidentiality (e.g., stripping data of identifying information, securing data, etc.)
 - Plans for training staff on research ethics and procedures (e.g., <http://www.citiprogram.org/> or <http://phrp.nihtraining.com/>)



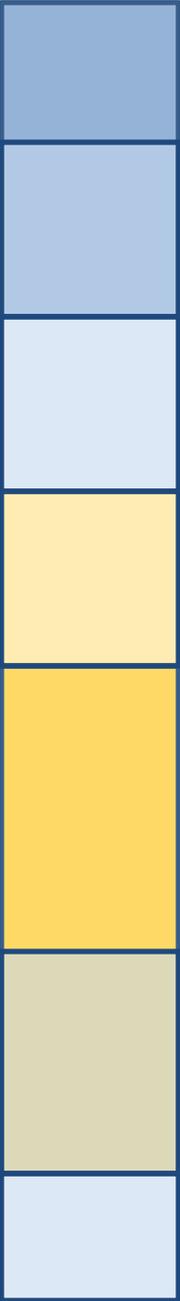
Tribal Oversight & IRB

- IRB is required
 - Identify the IRB (e.g., your agency's IRB, university, Epi Center, private IRB)
 - Include timeline for securing IRB approval (during 2nd year of grant)
 - Annual renewal
- Approved Federal-wide Assurance (FWA)
 - Statement assuring that your organization complies with Federal regulations for protection of human subjects and uses an IRB recognized by OHRP
 - Renew every 5 years



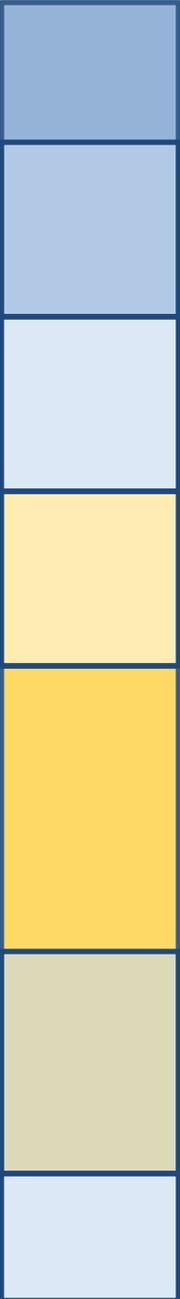
Data Collection & Management Plan

- Organizations responsible for collecting and reporting data
- Plans for data safety and monitoring
 - Secure storage and transportation of data
 - Examples: password protected laptops; paper forms without personally identifying data; encrypted data; protocol for securely transporting laptops and data before, during, and after home visits



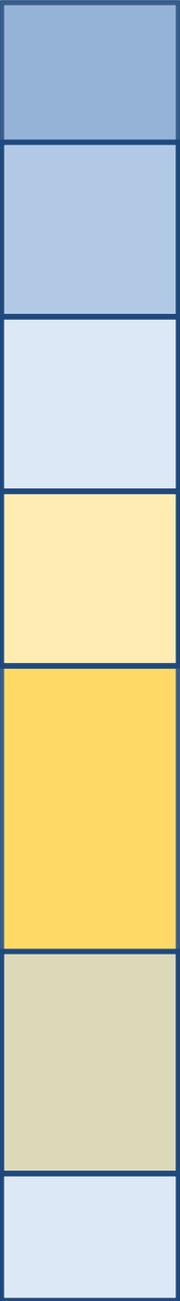
Evaluation Staffing & Timeline

- Evaluation organization chart/staffing
 - Consider a team approach
 - Include lead evaluator, experts/consultants, data collection staff, analysts (if applicable)
 - Hiring community members builds evaluation capacity and brings valuable perspective
- Evaluation timeline
 - Planning, Tribal oversight & IRB, instrument development, pilot testing, staff recruitment and training, data collection, analysis, reporting, etc.



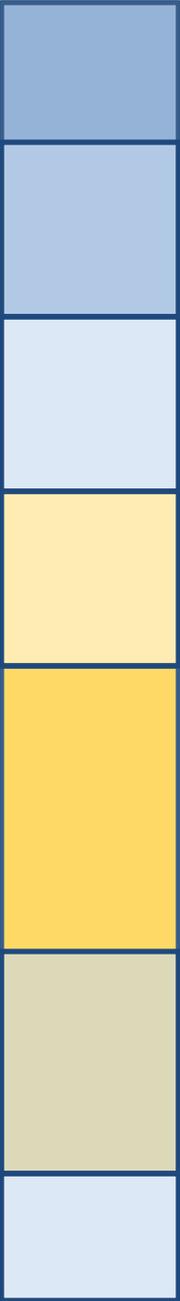
Evaluation Budget

- Developing an evaluation budget is a process done in tandem with development of evaluation plan
- Consider staffing needs & evaluation direct costs (e.g., software, copyrighted measures, laptops, incentives, etc.)
- Include line item for evaluation expert(s)
- Budget for sample retention activities (e.g., incentives, tracking, and follow-up data collection)
- Consider selecting methods and measures that can maximize resources (i.e., for both benchmarks and evaluation)



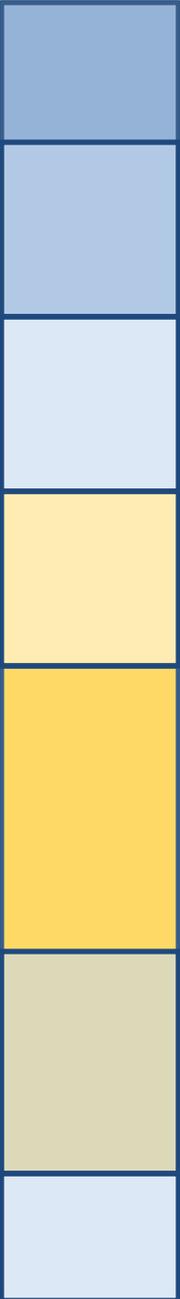
Planned Evaluation Dissemination Activities

- Plans for sharing what you've learned to increase the knowledge base around home visiting in tribal communities
- Dissemination *within* your community and to other audiences
- Budget for conferences, journal articles, etc.



Challenges & Risks

- What could derail your evaluation plan?
- How will you address these issues?
- Examples:
 - Tracking families that move back and forth between the city and the reservation could be difficult. We are taking the following steps to retain our sample...
 - Our community has historically been very suspicious of data collection. We are taking the following steps to educate the community about the program and evaluation and get buy-in at all levels...



#1 Challenge for Programs Reviewed in the Tribal HomVEE

- **Every program should anticipate sample retention as a challenge and risk to the evaluation.**
- Data collection plan should include plan for ensuring a high response rate.
- Effective strategies may differ for participants and members of comparison group.
- Budget for tracking, follow-up, and incentives for data collection.