

EVALUATION

inform and guide effective activities.

Evaluation is critical to successful public health programs. Effective program and training evaluation helps collect evidence needed to determine a program's impact and uncover successful and less successful components. It helps shape and assess public health activities. The Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) focuses on three areas of evaluation: public health programs, public health training needs, and public health trainings.

Evaluating public health programs

Evaluating the King County Healthcare Coalition

How do health departments know if their programs are producing the results that they are working to achieve? Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC) wanted to clearly demonstrate the outcomes of their work invested in the King County Healthcare Coalition (HCC). For the past two years, PHSKC has contracted with NWCPHP to conduct an evaluation of the seven projects, as well as an overall evaluation of the HCC.

The work is part of a health care facilities partnership grant awarded in 2007 by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Four of the projects were:

- **Evaluating Business Resiliency Workshops:** The project provided training, tools, and techniques for assessing gaps in preparedness and supported agency planning through enhancement grants, continuity of operations workshops, technical assistance, and guidance on sustaining operations and services during an emergency response. NWCPHP worked with PHSKC to develop project monitoring spreadsheets, business resiliency assessment tools, and final reporting tools and conducted pre- and post-evaluations of business resiliency workshops.

- **Regional Healthcare Worker Survey:** The Regional Healthcare Worker Survey provided an assessment of the ability and willingness of healthcare workers in King County to report to work during a public health emergency. The data from this study provided valuable information to inform both regional and organizational emergency preparedness and response planning.

- **Healthcare Coalition Self-Assessment Survey:** The Healthcare Coalition Self-Assessment Survey was based on the Partnership Self-Assessment Tool,* which was designed to help partnerships understand how well the collaborative process is working and identify specific areas of improvement. The HCC Self-Assessment Survey was administered electronically using SurveyMonkey, a Web-based survey tool.

- **Overall Evaluation of King County Healthcare Coalition:** NWCPHP collaborated with the HCC and PHSKC to conduct key informant interviews with government leadership and Coalition executives, members, and staff.



Example of a condensed logic model presented at the National Healthcare Preparedness and Improvement conference.

More information available online at: www.nwcp.org/evaluation

*The Partnership Self-Assessment Tool was created by Roz Lasker, Elisa Weiss, and Rebecca Miller Anderson at the Center for the Advancement of Collaborative Strategies in Health. Minor modifications were made for use with the HCC.