



The tables below describe different types of formative and summative evaluations; what it is, when to use it, what it shows and why it is useful.

Formative Evaluation

Evaluation Types	What it is	When to use	What it shows	Why it's useful
Evaluability Assessment	Ensures that a program or program activity is feasible, appropriate, and acceptable before it's fully implemented.	During the development of a new program. When an existing program is being modified or is being used in a new setting or with a new population.	Whether the proposed program elements are likely to be needed, understood, and accepted by the target population. The extent to which an evaluation is possible, based on goals and objectives.	Allows for modifications to be made to the plan before full implementation begins. Maximizes the likelihood that the program will succeed.
Needs Assessment	Determines who needs the program, how great the need is, and what might work to meet the need.	As above.	As above.	As above.
Process Evaluation Program Monitoring	Determines whether program activities have been implemented as intended.	As soon as program implementation begins. During operation of an existing program.	How well the program is working. The extent to which the program is being implemented as designed. Whether the program is accessible and acceptable to its target population.	Provides an early warning for any problems that may occur. Allows programs to monitor how well their program plans and activities are working.

Summative Evaluation



Evaluation Types	What it is	When to use	What it shows	Why it is useful
Outcome Evaluation Objectives-Based Evaluation	Measures program effects in the target population by assessing progress in the outcomes the program is to achieve.	After the program has made contact with at least one person or group in the target population.	The degree to which the program is having an effect on the target population's behaviour.	Tells whether the program is being effective in meeting its objectives.
Economic Evaluation	Compares the costs and benefits of two or more interventions. Methodologies include: Cost Analysis, Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Cost-Utility Analysis	At the beginning of a program. During the operation of an existing program.	What resources are being used in a program and their costs (direct and indirect) compared to outcomes.	Provides program managers and funders a way to assess cost relative to effects. "How much bang for your buck."
Impact Evaluation	Assesses program effectiveness in achieving its ultimate goals.	During the operation of an existing program at appropriate intervals. At the end of a program.	The degree to which the program meets its ultimate goal.	Provides evidence for use in policy and funding decisions.

Adapted from: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/Program/pupestd/Types%20of%20Evaluation.pdf>