



Looking out for our communities

Evaluating Methamphetamine Prevention Efforts

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Five Functions of Evaluation

or when to fire your evaluator . . .

- **Coordination**
- **Improvement**
- **Celebration**
- **Accountability**
- **Sustainability**



Evaluation:

The *functional* flow of information for leadership decision making.



AUDIENCE

Who cares?

QUESTION

What do they care about?

DATA

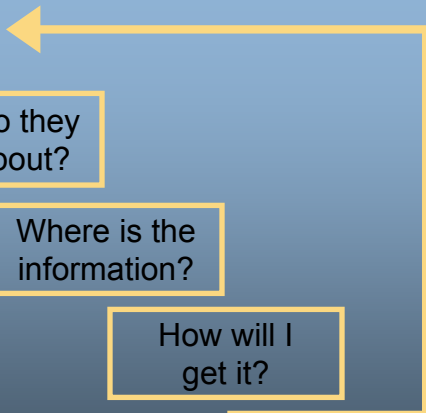
Where is the information?

METHOD

How will I get it?

REPORT

How will I share it?





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Active citizens . . .

- (1) Recognize / report meth labs.
- (2) Spot and address theft and purchase of precursors.
- (3) Utilize tamper tags.
- (4) Provide information to others in the community.
- (5) Change how key agencies work together.

can create safe environments . . .

- (1) Reduction in theft and sale of precursor products at stores.
- (2) Reduction in theft of anhydrous ammonia.
- (3) Increase in lab seizures.
- (4) Low perceived availability of meth.
- (5) Better environmental clean-up of toxic chemicals

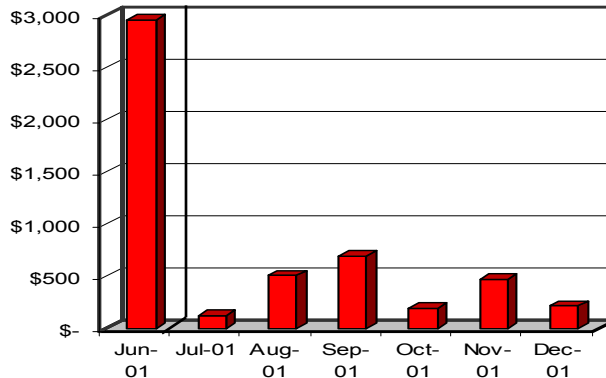
that reduce meth use.

- (1) Treatment data.
- (2) Youth use in the past 30 days.
- (3) Lifetime prevalence.



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**Ephedrine Related Losses
Tracked by a Major Kansas Retailer**





Some Early Conclusions from Kansas:

- Local communities will respond when provided adequate support.
- Local communities are capable of implementing community-wide environmental interventions at a reasonable cost when state systems are properly aligned to support their efforts.
- Early data suggest a reduction in the theft of precursors.
- Early data suggest a reduction in perceived availability by teens.



Some Lessons Learned in Kansas:

- Efforts to support local meth prevention should support community adaptation to fit their local context.
- Communities need practical, how-to support from both technical experts in prevention **and** from their counterparts in similar communities to learn and receive needed support.
- Sustaining a comprehensive program is less likely if it requires creating an entirely new infrastructure. Funders should look for opportunities to fund efforts when there is a strong local foundation on which to build.



- Evaluation should not be just the summative judgment of success or failure (e.g. evaluation by autopsy) but rather should provide ongoing information for effective coordination, improvement, accountability and celebration.
- States should provide an epidemiology of drug risk and use in the same way it provides other public health data. Leaving the collection of such data to local communities is unrealistic as it is usually beyond the means, skill and resources of local partners.



Sometimes . . .
we must act
before we know
in order to learn.