



Evaluative Thinking from the Beginning
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Real-Time Evaluation (RTE): Some Key Characteristics

- Takes place during program implementation
- Short time-frame
- Iterative process
- Immediate lesson-learning
- Course corrections

RTE Process Integrated within the Program Cycle: Some Implications

- Focus on ToC and process rather than final outcomes
- Evaluator as “facilitator”
- De-emphasis on report

RTE and *Ex Ante* Evaluation: How Does Data Collection and Use Differ?

- Types of data
- Reliability of data
- Sources of data

RTE: Relevant Types of Data

- Administrative
- Organizational capacity
- ToC element indicators

RTE: Data Sources

- Archival materials
- Program staff interviews
- Grantee interviews
- Expert/stakeholder interviews
- Prior research
- Logical reasoning
- Model Projections

RTE: Data Reliability

- Internal consistency
- Directional soundness
- Spatial and temporal continuity
- Analogical reasoning
- Narrative coherence

RTE: Data Time-Frames

- Environmental response
- Intervention element time-cycle
- Client organizational capabilities
- Analytical tractability

RTE: Closing Thoughts

- Continuum rather than dichotomy
- Relevant time
- Evaluator as critical participant