

# Return on Investment: Practical Evaluation

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# JRSA/BJA Evaluation Projects

- BJA State Evaluation Development (SED) Program
  - 1987 – 1997
  - Training, technical assistance, publications on evaluation for SAAs
- BJA Center for Program Evaluation
  - [www.bja.evaluationwebsite.org](http://www.bja.evaluationwebsite.org)

# Evaluation vs. Performance Measurement

- Evaluation
  - One time, intensive effort to determine program effectiveness
  - Unequivocally attribute outcomes to intervention
  - Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) is ideal
- Performance Measurement
  - Ongoing data collection to determine if program is implementing activities and achieving objectives
  - Measures inputs, outputs and outcomes over time
  - Uses pre/post comparisons to assess change

# State Strategy for Performance Measurement and Evaluation

Develop a funding strategy

- ✓ emphasize evidence-based programming

Develop and implement a performance measurement system

- ✓ standardize measures and ensure consistency among local, state and federal agency measures

Develop and implement a statewide evaluation plan

- ✓ to supplement performance data

# Performance Measurement at the Local Level

- 7 Steps
  - Define the problem
  - Implement evidence-based programming
  - Develop program logic
  - Identify performance measures
  - Collect and analyze data
  - Report findings
  - Reassess program logic

# Developing an Evaluation Plan

- Which funded programs will be evaluated?
  - Pilot programs
  - Programs that have not been evaluated elsewhere
  - Programs that appear to be meeting their objectives
  - Expensive programs or programs being implemented in multiple locations

# Maximizing Return on Investment

- Fund evidence-based practices
- Assess “readiness” for evaluation
- Develop in-house evaluation capacity
- Develop offender tracking databases
- Use standard performance measures and data collection instruments
- Assess relationship between specific program components and outcomes

# Evaluation Resources

- BJA Center for Program Evaluation
  - *[www.bja.evaluationwebsite.org](http://www.bja.evaluationwebsite.org)*
- OJJDP Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center *Online*
  - *[www.jrsa.org/jjec](http://www.jrsa.org/jjec)*



# Center for Program Evaluation

[Evaluation Resources](#)

[Program-Specific Information](#)

[Glossary](#)

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## Welcome to BJA's online evaluation tools

State and local agencies will find useful resources for planning and implementing program evaluations and for developing program performance measures.

### Evaluation Resources

- [Guide to Program Evaluation](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Useful Links](#)
- [Reference Materials](#)
- [Evaluation News](#)

### Program-Specific Information

- [Community Justice Programs](#)
- [Drug Courts](#)
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- [Tribal Courts](#)