



Tribal Prep Evaluations and Performance Measures

This resource provides an overview of the goals of the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) performance measures and the Tribal PREP evaluations. Tribal PREP grantees reported on an abbreviated set of performance measures approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 2018. An extended set of measures have been approved by OMB for annual reporting, and the Administration for Children & Families (ACF) and their contractor recently released the latest set of performance measures that focus on the individual participants and their outcomes. Given the potential overlap between the performance measures and evaluation outcomes, this resource discusses:

- The goals of performance measures and evaluations
- How the goals of performance measures and evaluations goals might intersect
- Suggestions on what Tribal PREP grantees and evaluators can start thinking about to prepare for upcoming changes to the PREP performance measures

What are the goals of the PREP performance measures?

As part of the PREP grant programs, ACF collects performance measures from all grantees. The primary purpose of the PREP performance measures is to gauge the extent to which grantees are meeting the PREP objectives. PREP performance measures can help identify lessons learned from implementing evidence-based and/or effective programs, and can create a foundation for program improvement efforts. PREP performance measures are not used to measure program effectiveness, unless grantees use them as part of an evaluation with a comparison group. ACF has grouped the PREP performance measures into three categories for purposes of collecting and submitting data:

1. Structure, cost, and support for program implementation (grantees started reporting in 2018)
2. Attendance, reach, and dosage (grantees started reporting in 2018)
3. Participants' characteristics, behaviors, and perceptions of program experiences and effects (grantees will start reporting in 2020)

Current grantees began submitting data in two of the three categories in 2018. The instrument for 2018–2019 data collection included some measures of participants' characteristics that grantees collect at the individual level, through entry and exit

surveys, and aggregate to the program level for reporting. The 2019–2020 participant-level performance measures have now been released and include sexual behaviors and perceptions of the program’s effects. All surveys are available at <https://www.prepeval.com/DataCollectionToolsAndGuidance.html>. Additional information about performance measures and related trainings can be found on <https://www.prepeval.com>.

What are the goals of Tribal PREP evaluations?

Tribal PREP evaluations serve two purposes: (1) to support others in replicating the intervention and (2) to identify ways to improve future implementation of the program. Each evaluation includes an examination of program implementation, known as the implementation study, and youth outcomes, known as the outcomes study. The implementation study will examine and document the delivery of program services. The outcomes study will examine the results of the intervention for youth by exploring changes in outcomes to see what can be learned about the program.

Lessons learned when examining knowledge outcomes

An outcomes study that examines changes in knowledge from entry to exit among the program group can determine whether youth have more knowledge than when they started the program. Without a comparison group, the outcomes study cannot determine whether the program is solely responsible for the knowledge gain. Knowledge gains could come with age and exposure to the topics outside of the program. However, if the outcomes study documented a lack of knowledge gains, even without a comparison group, that would provide a useful lesson. A lack of knowledge gains would suggest a program was not successful in achieving its goals and should consider strengthening program implementation (for instance, content, attendance, fidelity to the program model, or program quality).

The Tribal PREP evaluators, in partnership with grantee staff, developed an evaluation plan to guide evaluation activities. The plan specifies the program content and components, target population(s), outcomes, and research questions for implementation and outcome evaluations. For each research question, it specifies data sources for addressing the question and the manner in which the evaluator will analyze the data. Some evaluation plans identified measures that were also performance measures.

How do the goals of PREP performance measures and Tribal PREP evaluations intersect?

Performance measures and data collected for evaluations can both contribute to lessons learned and support strengthening program delivery. Data collected by Tribal PREP grantees and submitted for PREP performance measures may also address a grantee’s evaluation research questions. For example, evaluators could use several PREP performance measures to address research questions about whether sites implement programs as intended (implementation fidelity). These might include number of facilitators trained and observed, number of program hours delivered for each program cohort, or number of youth completing at least 75 percent of intended program hours. Similarly, evaluators might use performance measures for youth outcomes, such as knowledge gains or restraining from risky sexual behaviors. Of course, the performance measures used would depend on the evaluation’s specific research questions, and grantees might collect data that are not part of the PREP performance measures to examine program implementation and youth outcomes.

Performance Measures	Performance Measures and Evaluations	Evaluations
Information that gauges the extent to which all grantees are meeting the PREP grant program objectives	Contribute to lessons learned and support strengthening program delivery Address evaluation research questions, as applicable	Describe how a grantee's program was delivered so that others can replicate it Examine changes from entry to exit among the program group May measure program effectiveness (depending on research design)

How do the PREP performance measures requirements and timelines affect Tribal PREP evaluations?

Tribal PREP grantees should collect performance measures data according to a timeline that allows for submission to ACF on the required schedule.

Tribal PREP grantees will submit the complete set of performance measure data for participants' behaviors and perceptions of program experiences beginning in 2020. ACF has provided more information on the specific participant-level performance measures and the timeline for collecting and submitting the data during the Oct. 15 webinar and at www.prepeval.com.

Tribal PREP grantees should be aware of the implications for their evaluations with the release of the participant-level performance measures. For example, grantees must administer the performance measures as approved, which means grantees cannot change the instrument or survey questions (and OMB-approved measures must be labeled accordingly). Grantees may add the performance measures before their own survey questions, but cannot intersperse their own questions in between the performance measures. Grantees also may want to consider whether the new performance measures substantially overlap with their existing survey questions. If so, grantees might consider using the new performance measure survey items for their evaluation, which could help avoid issues such as item duplication, lengthy surveys, or inconsistent data. In this case, grantees may need to consider how to interpret results across cohorts served in different years of the grant because participants served in different years will respond to different survey items. Another implication is whether to submit the updated measures to Tribal IRBs for approval and how that could affect the evaluation timeline. With the release of the participant-level performance measures, Tribal PREP grantees should feel free to reach out to discuss implications for evaluations with their federal project officer and Rigorous Evaluation Technical Assistance (RETA) liaison.

Other questions?

Tribal PREP grantees and evaluators should feel free to raise any evaluation-related questions with their RETA. Questions about the performance measures should be directed to federal project officers.