

# Local Evaluation

## ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR STAKEHOLDERS

Evaluation is an essential component of human service delivery. It allows organizations to determine whether their programs, practices, and policies are being implemented as intended and whether these efforts are having the expected impact on the target population. Evaluation can also be used to identify opportunities for program improvement and to promote sustainability.

RTI International has extensive experience collaborating with state and local government agencies, community-based organizations, and foundations to evaluate their local intervention efforts. These interventions have targeted a variety of outcomes—including substance use, mental health, teen pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, dating violence, sexual assault, family violence, trauma, crime, positive youth development, and positive parenting. RTI also works with our clients on all phases of the evaluation research process—from writing grants for programming and evaluation to evaluation design, data collection, and analysis and reporting of evaluation findings.

### Project Highlights

**A Randomized Evaluation of a Comprehensive, Whole-School Intervention for Discipline Disparities (National Institute of Justice [NIJ], 2018–2021).** RTI is partnering with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (North Carolina) to evaluate their three-pronged approach to reducing disparities in suspensions and expulsions among African American males in high school. The approach uses Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, restorative practices, and culturally responsive practices to engage youth and staff members in reducing bias and improving school safety behaviors.

**Prevention Matters Evaluation (Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, 2018–2021).** The Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation is investing \$12 million in school-based drug prevention programming in Marion County, Indiana. As the Prevention Matters evaluator, RTI will be conducting a process and outcome evaluation to assess program implementation and impact on student outcomes.

**Evaluation of AB 109 Realignment/Unified Reentry Services in San Mateo County, California (2018).** For this project, we draw upon our experience with conducting multisite evaluations of offender reentry programs to assess the implementation and collective impact of AB 109 Realignment/Unified Reentry Services on county and participant outcomes. This 7-month project involves RTI working closely with the County Manager’s Office, Sheriff’s Office, Probation Office, and other departments

### More Information

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to collect and analyze implementation, outcome, and cost data; the project also involves sharing these findings with local stakeholders.

**Evaluation of Men of Strength (MOST) Club (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017–2020).** Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR) is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, that works to reduce men’s violence against women by challenging traditional norms about masculinity. RTI is working with MCSR to evaluate their MOST Club in high schools. The evaluation will collect web-based survey data from school staff members, MOST Club facilitators, and student participants to assess MOST Club implementation and outcomes; a social network analysis will examine how program messages are disseminated from MOST Club members to their peers.

**Evaluability Assessment and Evaluation of El Futuro (2017–2019).** This project involves RTI’s strategic partnership with El Futuro, a behavioral health organization serving Latino immigrant families in Durham, North Carolina. RTI has conducted an organizational capacity analysis, evaluability assessment, evaluation planning, and logic model training.

**Georgia Alcohol Prevention Project and Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Project Evaluations (2016–2019).** These statewide initiatives aim to prevent alcohol and other substance misuse and abuse by Georgia youth and young adults (ages 9–25). As the lead evaluator, RTI conducts document reviews, provider site visits, evaluation training and technical assistance, data collection, and analysis and reporting of process and outcomes measures.

**School-Based Mental Health Program in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (NIJ, 2016–2019).** Funded by NIJ’s 2015 Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, this project tests the implementation, cost, and outcomes of three types of school-based mental health services in Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Schools (North Carolina). Enhanced school-based mental health services include training in evidence-based treatments, dialectical behavior therapy, and trauma-informed Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress groups.

**Evaluation Services for the City of Alexandria Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Program (C-PREP) Grant (2016–2018).** RTI assists the City of Alexandria (Virginia) with developing survey instruments and analyzing evaluation data for their Family and Youth Services Bureau C-PREP adolescent pregnancy prevention grant.

**Arizona Department of Health Services’ Bureau of Tobacco and Chronic Disease Epidemiological Tobacco Study (Pima Prevention Partnership, 2014–2016).** Under this project, RTI investigated existing tobacco-related data collection, assessed tobacco-related data needs, and determined the best tool to support future statewide tobacco-related data collection efforts.

**Evaluation of the Collaborative Partnership for Excellence in Youth Development (United Way of the Greater Triangle, 2013–2015).** RTI was the evaluator for Youth Thrive, an initiative in Wake County, North Carolina, that focuses on building organizational capacity to promote youth development and compiling local data sources for use in making decisions about youth services. The evaluation involved surveys with youth and youth service providers and interviews with local stakeholders.

**Local Evaluations of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Program (2005–2014).** RTI served as the contracted evaluator for Arkansas, Nebraska, Georgia, and Washington, DC, for their substance abuse prevention grants. RTI worked with each grantee to collect and analyze process and outcome data and to share these evaluation results with the federal funder and other stakeholders.

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