

## LESSON 2: ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH POLICY EVALUATION

This lesson explained the value of policy evaluation within and across the domains of the policy process.

The objectives for this lesson were

- **Explain how policy evaluation can be used to advance public health goals.**
- **Identify opportunities for policy evaluation throughout the policy process.**

### KEY POINTS

- Formative and process evaluation can inform needed adjustments and improvements during the course of a long-term policy effort so that intended public health outcomes are achieved.
- Some of the benefits of advancing public health goals through policy evaluation include
  - Contributions to the evidence base
  - Determining which policies may be most effective
  - Helping to triage policy options
  - Preparing for windows of opportunity
  - Documenting and informing implementation
  - Identification of gaps in implementation and enforcement
  - Demonstrating value of policy and accountability for resources used
- Opportunities for policy evaluation throughout the policy process are listed below.

Policy Process Domain	Evaluation Opportunities
Problem Identification	Evaluating the problem statement and whether the problem can be addressed through policy
Policy Analysis	Determining whether the data review is sufficient and assessing the criteria and process used to compare policies
Strategy and Policy Development	Evaluating the viability of the prioritization based on evidence and assessing the drafted ordinance
Policy Enactment	Assessing public awareness and identifying barriers to and facilitators for enactment
Policy Implementation	Evaluating enforcement, implementation, and outcomes
Overarching Domains	Assessing stakeholder engagement and evaluating outcomes and impacts

