LESSON 1: OVERVIEW OF POLICY EVALUATION

This lesson introduced you to evaluation as it applies to policy. It provided a review of policy, the policy process, and the CDC Evaluation Framework, before presenting some considerations for policy evaluation.

The objectives for this lesson were

- **Define policy evaluation.**
- **Describe considerations that distinguish policy evaluation from program evaluation.**

KEY POINTS

- CDC defines policy as a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions.

- The CDC policy process model can assist you in policy development and evaluation.

- CDC plays an important role in identifying and describing policy options to address problems, analyzing policies to understand their potential health and economic impact, and identifying evidence-based policy solutions and gaps in the evidence base.

- CDC does not lobby for or against any legislation, regulation, administrative action, or order proposed or pending before the U.S. Congress or any state or local government or legislative body.

- Policy evaluation is the systematic collection and analysis of information to make judgments about contexts, activities, characteristics, or outcomes of one or more domain(s) of the policy process.

- Evaluation may inform and improve policy development, adoption, implementation, and effectiveness, and builds the evidence base for policy interventions.

- The CDC Evaluation Framework is a non-prescriptive tool for organizing the ongoing and iterative process of evaluation.

- Policy evaluation may be distinct from program evaluation in several ways:
  - Identifying impacts
  - Collecting data
  - Working with stakeholders
  - Complying with regulations
  - Dealing with uncertainty