EVALUATION AND POLICY ANALYSIS

THE D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

What do we know about the D.A.R.E. Program?

Program Evaluation Results

RTI's Evaluation Results
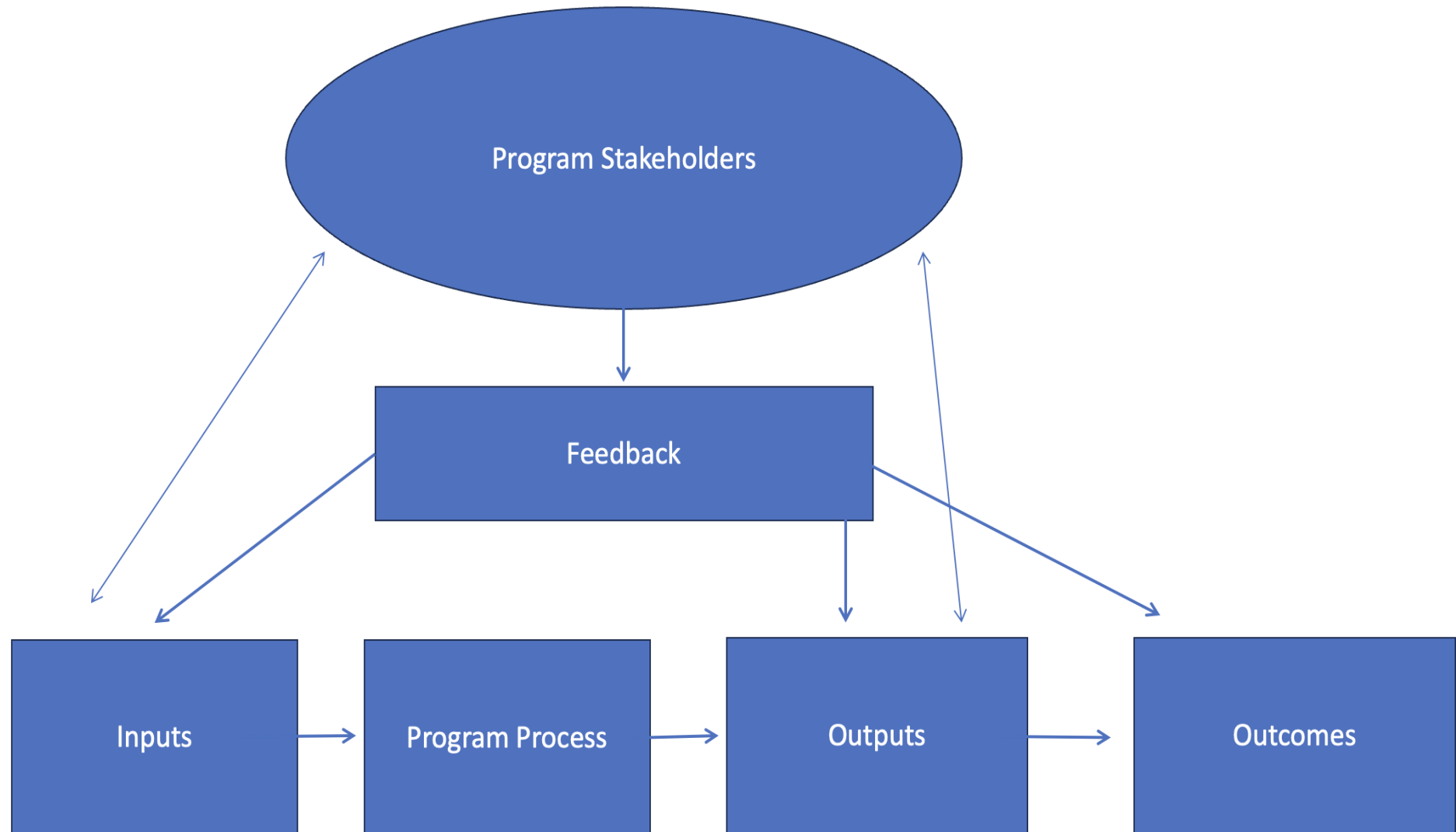
A BRIEF HISTORY OF EVALUATION RESEARCH

(images: City of Columbus)

JOINT COMMITTEE'S STANDARDS OF EVALUATION

4 Features all evaluations should have:

EVALUATION BASICS

EVALUATION ALTERNATIVES

All evaluation is empirical and data driven. Objective and empitical assemnets of policies and programs are the corner stone of the evaluation field.

Evaluation of need (Is the program needed?)

Evaluability assessment (Can the program be evaluated?)

Evaluation process (How does the program operate?)

Evaluation of impact (What is the program's impact?)

Evaluation of efficiency (How efficient is the program?)

EVALUATION ALTERNATIVES

Impact Evaluation - Analysis of the extent to which a treatment or another service has an effect

Efficiency Analysis - a type of analysis that compares program cost, with program effects.

```
1.) Cost-benefit analysis - Compares program cost with the economic value of
the program
```

```
2.) Cost effectivness analysis - comapres cost with actual program outcomes.
```

CASE STUDY

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES

Sacks et al., (2002) conducted a cost-benefit analysis of modified therapeutic communities (TC).

DESIGN DECISIONS

BLACK BOX EVALUATIONS OR PROGRAM THEORY

Black Box Evaluations

- The focus is on whether cases seem to have changed as a result of the exposure to the program.

(images: SlidePlayer)

DESIGN DECISIONS

BLACK BOX EVALUATIONS OR PROGRAM THEORY

Program Theory

- Describes what has been learned about how the program is effective.

(images: giphy)

DESIGN DECISIONS

RESEARCHER OR STAKEHOLD ORIENTATION

Stakeholder Approach

- Encourages researchers to be responsive to program stakeholders.

- Issues for study are centered on the views of people involved with the program, and reports are made for the participants.

- *Utilization-focused evaluation* the evaluator forms a task force that help to shape the evaluation project so they are more likely to get successful results.

DESIGN DECISIONS

RESEARCHER OR STAKEHOLD ORIENTATION

Social Science Approach

- Emphasizes the importance of researcher expertise and maintenance of some autonomy to develop the most trustworthy unbiased program evaluation.

Integrated Approaches

- Attempt to cover issues of concern to both stakeholders and evaluators.

EVALUATION IN ACTION

CASE-STUDY

Problem-Oriented Policing in Violent Crime Areas

Braga et al., (1999)

Randomized experimental design study used to evaluate Problem-Oriented Policing

STRENGTH OF RANDOMIZED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS IN IMPACT EVALUATIONS

Braga et al., (1999) used a true experimental design.

- What are the three elements of experimental design?

- Are these finding generalizable? In other words, can we apply them to a larger population?

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS

Traditionally, evaluation methods are quantitative.

Although, qualitative methods can often offer more depth in understanding the program effectiveness. For example, figuring out what inside 'the black box.' This can be completed with intense interviewing of staff or clients.

Usually, the more complex the program, the more effective qualitative methods are.

INCREASING DEMAND FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY

Figure 1
Steps in Evidence-Based Policymaking

Program assessment
Review evidence of effectiveness of public programs

Budget development
Incorporate evidence into budget and policy decisions

Implementation oversight
Ensure programs are effectively delivered

Outcome monitoring
Determine whether programs are achieving desired results

Targeted evaluation
Rigorously evaluate programs that lack strong evidence of effectiveness

Evidence-based policymaking

Source: Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative, "Evidence-Based Policymaking: A Guide for Effective Government" (2014), http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2014/11/evidence-based-policymaking-a-guide-for-effective-government

© 2018 The Pew Charitable Trusts

INCREASING DEMAND FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY

The **Campbell Collaboration**

- An international research network

- Purpose is to prepare and disseminate systamic reviews of social science evidence in three fields - criminal justice, education, and social welfare.

- For more information click here

ETHICS

These programs directly affect people's lives. Therefore we must be honest and transparent with *how* the studies are conducted.

Furthermore, letting programs continue that have no evidence of working (e.g., the D.A.R.E. program) takes money away from other programs that may benefit people's lives.

This is why policy and evaluation research is so important.

THANKS FOR COMING! HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND!

(images: giphy)