



BUILDING EVALUATION CAPACITY IN ONTARIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Identify, adapt and pilot

an appropriate tool to assess current evaluation capacity within and across Public Health Units

Assess the extent of evaluation capacity within and across Public Health Units

Identify effective elements key to building evaluation capacity in Public Health Units across Ontario

WHAT WE DID

- **Literature review** of 194 abstracts including peer reviewed journals and grey literature
- **7 articles** met the inclusion criteria
- **Direct communication** with ECB/evaluation experts and researchers
- **Worked with** Dr. Isabelle Bourgeois, PHD to adapt, test and pilot the tool. Instrument was tested by the project advisory committee and then piloted by 4 PHUs.
- **32/36 PHUs** agreed to complete the organizational Self-Assessment Evaluation Capacity Instrument.

WHAT WE FOUND

- **6** organizational **EC assessment instruments** were reviewed.
- Workgroup selected **the Bourgeois, Toews, Whynot, & Lamarche (2013) Organizational EC Assessment Instrument.**

WHAT WE DID

- **Assessed** 6 dimensions and 19 sub-dimensions divided into the **Capacity to DO** and the **Capacity to USE** evaluation categories:
 - Human resources
 - Organizational resources
 - Evaluation plan and activities
 - Evaluation literacy
 - Organizational decision-making
 - Learning benefits
- **Conducted** key informant interviews to assess overall staff capacity including evaluation staff, evaluation framework and processes, communication and use of findings, and constraints.

WHAT WE FOUND

QUANTITATIVE

- **Of 32** Public Health Units:
 - 1** is in the **LOW** category
 - 26** are in the **DEVELOPING** category
 - 5** are in the **INTERMEDIATE** category

QUALITATIVE

- **Evaluation frameworks** and clearly defined **evaluation processes** are important.
- **Management** is more aware of the importance of evaluation to the organization as a whole.
- PHUs with stronger evaluation capacity tend to **use their evaluation findings for decision-making.**
- The overall size of the PHU, the population density and the PHU structure **do not appear to affect EC.**

WHAT WE DID

- **A scoping review** was conducted to determine the breadth of the information on ECB.
- **2447 abstracts** and 257 full text articles from peer-reviewed journals were reviewed.

WHAT WE FOUND

6

6 THEMES THAT INFLUENCE ECB

LEADERSHIP

ORGANIZATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCES

SKILLS

COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK

SUPPORT

EC = Evaluation Capacity

ECB = Evaluation Capacity Building

PHU = Public Health Unit

The Building Evaluation Capacity in Ontario's Public Health Units workgroup would like to thank Public Health Ontario (PHO) for its support of this project. The workgroup gratefully acknowledges funding received from PHO through the Locally Driven Collaborative Projects program. The views expressed in this publication are the views of the workgroup, and do not necessarily reflect those of PHO. For more complete information, please consult the PHO website for full report.