



centre for research on
families and relationships

Indicators for research impact

		Evaluation Criteria	Typical indicators	Possible sources/methods
IMPACT	End Outcomes	Measures of impact on overall problem, ultimate goals, side effects, social and economic consequences	National or local level indications of change in issues addressed Changes in areas of policy or practice Contextual analysis	National or local level indicators Research-user views on policy or practice change Policy analysis Contextual analysis and relevance of research
USE	Policy or practice change	Measures of adoption of new practices and behaviour over time	Levels of research used by participants Levels of research cited in policy/practice documents	Content analysis Tracking activities Backward tracking techniques Internet-based searches
USE	Capacity, Knowledge, skill	Measures of individual and group changes in knowledge, abilities, skills	Levels of understanding of key concepts Levels of self-expressed commitment to specific related areas and related actions identified Levels of new knowledge about issues addressed	Review of target groups Tracking further use of research Press coverage
UPTAKE	Awareness, Reaction	What participants say about the research, fit with current thinking, timeliness, research valued	Reaction to research and KE from different stakeholder groups Comments about research Analysis of context for research use at practice and policy levels	Evaluation of user engagement activities Surveys Tracking participants over different time frames Contextual analysis
UPTAKE	Engagement, Participation	Who engaged with the research, numbers, nature of involvement, background	Level of engagement of research users from relevant sectors Analysis of gaps in participation Levels of retention of research users involved in longer term activities (e.g. advisory groups)	Web-use tracking Meeting attendance records Seminar/conference evaluations Observation and reflection of interactions with research users
	Activities and Outputs	Research and knowledge exchange activities	Standard of research conducted Extent to which knowledge exchange activities were delivered as per expectations	Project reports Peer or funders review Operating reviews and other internal documents
	Inputs	Resources expended, number and type of staff involved, time spent	Financial and human resources	Budget analysis Alignment of activities to resources



This document is licenced by a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Please credit Morton, S. (2015). "Creating research impact: the roles of research users in interactive research mobilisation." *Evidence & Policy: A Journal of Research, Debate and Practice* 11(1): 35-55.

Impact pathway

UPTAKE

Who are your stakeholders/

What KE activities will engage and involve them?

USE

How do stakeholders react? What changes in skills, knowledge and understanding are needed for practice or behaviour change to happen? What capacity do people have to do things differently? (Immediate Outcomes)

IMPACT

What are the changes in behaviours and practices? (Intermediate Outcomes)

What is the contribution to change? What difference does it make? (Final outcome)

