
YOUTH OUTCOMES AND EXPERIENCES DATA CHECKLIST

✓ **Individual-level indicators are asset-oriented**

One way to avoid stigmatizing children or groups of children is to actively seek out indicators that are positive or asset-oriented. Our [presentation on measuring youth skills and beliefs](#) describes a framework that is one example of an asset-oriented approach.

✓ **The voices of youth and families are actively sought**

In looking at your overall evaluation plan, think about whether it takes into account multiple perspectives. In particular, try to ensure that the impressions of participants and their families are solicited through interviews, surveys, or similar. See our [survey decision tree](#) for help on identifying appropriate methods.

✓ **Data collection methods are well suited to your evaluation purpose**

Consider the following when choosing a data collection method

- Reliability and validity of the instrument*
- Feasibility of the method in terms of cost and burden on staff and participants*
- Appropriateness of the method to the question being asked*

See our [validated surveys](#) and [psychometrics basics](#) tip sheets for information on reliability and validity. Compare various options using our [tip sheet on survey types](#) and [worksheet on choosing a survey tool](#) for more information..

✓ **Participants and families have been informed of:**

- The nature and purpose of data collection*
- Their right to opt out at any time*
- Any potential risks and benefits*

The principle of informed consent is critical to evaluation as well as research. Young people and their families should know what kind of data you are collecting, and how you are using that data. Full transparency with program stakeholders is essential; better yet, involve participants in data collection activities. See the [parent consent template](#) that is part of [YDEKC's Survey Toolkit](#) for an example.

✓ **Data collection methods are well suited to the population you serve**

Try to ensure that you are collecting data in ways that are responsive to age, race, language, culture, etc. Wherever possible, test out your data collection method with young people, or involve them in its design and deployment. Our [tip sheet on surveying children and youth](#) provides some considerations, while our [sample youth focus group protocol](#) and [focus group planning tool](#) describe alternatives to surveys.

✓ **Survey and interview questions avoid common pitfalls**

When crafting questions for surveys or interviews, strive for clarity. Work to avoid leading, ambiguous, double-barreled, or overly complex questions. Our [tip sheet on asking good questions](#) provides general guidance.