LIST OF EVALUATION TOPICS

Implementation of LEAD (process evaluation)

1. Core principles and goals of LEAD
2. Referral process/protocol
3. Target population for program
4. LEAD participant engagement with LEAD staff
5. Stakeholder buy-in
6. Changes to LEAD over time
7. Barriers and facilitators for implementation

Impact of LEAD (outcome evaluation)

1. Criminal justice involvement
2. Treatment and social service utilization
3. LEAD participants' and stakeholders' lives
4. Community
5. Cost
6. Factors that impact LEAD participant success (mediators)

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EVALUATION QUESTIONS BY TOPIC

Evaluation Topic	Evaluation Questions
Implementation of LEAD	
Core principles and goals of LEAD	To what extent do stakeholders believe their program embraces principles that are defined by the LEAD National Support Bureau? *List of principles are below
	To what extent do stakeholders believe their program embraces principles that are outlined in the program's policy and procedures? ** List of principles are below
Referral Process	To what extent does the referral process occur as it was intended when the program first started?
	How do the logistics of a referral inform future program engagement?
Target population for program	How does the intended target population of the LEAD program align with the actual population in the program?
	How does the intended target and actual population of the LEAD program align with the larger population of people who use drugs in the community?
LEAD participant engagement with LEAD staff	What type of engagement do LEAD participants have with LEAD staff? (level of engagement, connections to services etc.)
Stakeholder buy-in	How does law enforcement culture impact officer buy-in? What other factors impact officer buy-in?
	What does the LEAD program do to foster stakeholder (law enforcement and others) buy-in?
Changes to LEAD over time	What changes have been made to the LEAD program over time?
	What were the reasons for those changes?
	How did changes made to the LEAD program impact existing or future LEAD participants?
Barriers and facilitators for implementation	What were the barriers and facilitators at program start-up?
	What are the barriers and facilitators to continued successful program implementation?
	What changes have stakeholders and LEAD participants wanted to make to the LEAD program?
Impact of LEAD	
Criminal justice involvement	Do people who are referred to LEAD have fewer charges, arrests, or incarceration days, compared to the year before they were referred?
	Do people who are referred to LEAD have fewer charges, arrests, or incarceration days than similar people who are not referred to LEAD?
Treatment and social service utilization	Do people use more treatment and community services after they are referred to LEAD, compared to the year before they were referred?

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LEAD participants' and stakeholders' lives	To what extent do LEAD participants achieve the goals they had when they entered the LEAD program?
	How have LEAD participants' lives changed during involvement in the LEAD program?
	How does being a part of the LEAD program change stakeholders' attitudes about substance use and harm reduction?
Community	How does the LEAD program impact community partnerships?
	What impact does the LEAD program have on people who use drugs but are not in the LEAD program?
Cost	How do criminal justice costs change for LEAD participants post-LEAD referral compared to one-year pre-LEAD referral?
	How do criminal justice costs change for LEAD participants pre- and post-referral compared to the comparison group?
	How do service utilization costs change for LEAD participants post-LEAD referral compared to one-year pre-LEAD referral?
Factors that mediate the impact of LEAD	Some LEAD participants engage more with LEAD staff than others. Do those who engage with staff have different outcomes (i.e., use more treatment services, or have fewer charges)?
	Does the LEAD program appear to have a different impact depending on the race, gender, or age of the participant?

* Principles: police discretion to divert, commitment to racial equity, pre-booking diversion, long-term community care without endpoint, neighborhood public safety group, harm reduction framework, no treatment expectation, work of LEAD is not diversion itself, goal of LEAD is to reduce law violations

** Principles: Peer outreach and counseling, intensive case management, harm reduction philosophy, non-displacement principle, community transparency and accountability)

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