# NATIONAL COMPADRES NETWORK



Six Story Types for Evaluation and Sustainability: A Backgrounder for Community Safety and Violence Prevention Programs Prepared by the National Compadres Network, in coordination with Prevention Institute



# **OVERVIEW OF THE CATEGORIES OF EVIDENCE**

We lay out six story types ("categories of evidence") below. All six story types help you show evidence to potential funders and local city and state officials that your violence prevention work matters and, thus, is deserving of their support.

National Compadres Network (NCN), in coordination with the SYNC Learning Community, which is led by the Prevention Institute and the core partners, adapted them for community violence prevention. Together, the six story types pair Indigenous and Western ways of knowing in a complementary way.

- The first five story types in the following pages are from established evaluation research frameworks that evolved over decades of assessing public health and social welfare programs. They emerged from the evidence-based practice movement of the 1990s when governments and foundations sought standardized ways to evaluate program effectiveness. The CDC's Framework for Program Evaluation (1999), the RE-AIM framework by Glasgow et al. (1999), and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Logic Model Development Guide (2004) all contributed to establishing standard evidence categories that social programs collect.
- We add a sixth story type to represent participatory research methods, Indigenous evaluation frameworks (i.e., circulos) and their complementary value. conducted by Chen et al 2022 revealed that frontline healthcare workers during the pandemic reported significantly higher levels of psychological distress compared to their non-frontline counterparts. Taken as a whole, the research on preparing and supporting current frontline workers strongly indicates a need for "re-imagining social work" (Evans et al 2022) - for more comprehensive paradigms that include contextual factors such as community and organizational support, as well as more personal-subjective variables such as cultural and spiritual considerations.

### THE SIX STORY TYPES

We break down the story types into their "why, when, and how" to make it easier for you to apply them in your work. The basic competency and recommended readings on evaluation help you build your capacity to gather and analyze evidence required to tell these story types, independently.





Story Type #1: Health and Well-being Stories or Community Health Stories show how your pro- gram helps people feel safer, healthier, or less stressed.		
Why	Decision-makers at private foundations and contracting public agencies (e.g., health depart- ments) look for <b>Health and Social Impact Evidence</b> in the programs they fund.	
When	When you need to answer these questions: How has your work influenced the health and well-be- ing of people or the environment in your community? Are there cleaner, safer, or more sustain- able environments because of your work? What harmful health outcomes are being prevented because of your efforts?	
How	These stories use simple surveys or before-and-after examples to show how people's lives im- proved. This evidence can be gathered through simple pre-post questionnaires, incident tracking logs, or participant self-report forms. Experiential evidence - stories shared that relate to lived experience - are key, too, as discussed in this Prevention Institute paper developed for CDC: <u>https://preventioninstitute.org/sites/default/files/uploads/PI_UCEE_report_2024.pdf</u>	
Basic Competency	Understand simple outcome measurement, including how to use basic surveys and track changes over time using tools like short well-being questionnaires and safety perception scales.	
Further Reading	"Measuring Violence-Related Attitudes, Behaviors, and Influences Among Youths: A Compendium of Assessment Tools" published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2005). <u>Click here.</u>	





Story Type #2: Community Support Stories or Public Acceptability Stories show that people actually want and use your program.		
Why	Decision-makers at private foundations and contracting agencies look for <b>Public Acceptability</b> and Feasibility Evidence in what they fund.	
When	When you need to answer these questions: What strategies built public trust or shifted public opinion over time? Do community members actually participate in this program? Is this program culturally appropriate and acceptable to the community it aims to serve? Do community leaders and stakeholders support this approach to violence prevention?	
How	These stories track who comes to your events, what they think about them, and whether leaders in your neighborhood support what you're doing. This evidence can be gathered through sign-in sheets, simple feedback cards, or structured stakeholder interview guides.	
Basic Competency	Understand how to track attendance and gather basic feedback using consistent methods, such as program logs and standard feedback forms.	
Further Reading	"Community-Based Participatory Research for Health: Advancing Social and Health Equity" (3rd edition) by Wallerstein, Duran, Oetzel, and Minkler (2017). <u>Click here.</u>	





Story Type #3: Money-Saving Stories or Economic Impact Evidence Stories show how your program saves money in the long run.		
Why	Decision-makers at private foundations and contracting agencies look for <b>Economic Impact</b> <b>Evidence</b> in the programs that they fund.	
When	When you need to answer these questions: What new economic opportunities emerged because of your work? In what ways has your work created or protected economic opportunity for your community? Does your program lead to savings in tax-spending in the long run?	
How	These stories track how CVI and community safety/violence prevention programs save the community money, though these benefits may take time to become visible. This evidence can be gathered through basic expense tracking, stories from community members and/or current funders of the work, service usage counts, or simple before-after cost comparisons.	
Basic Competency	Understand basic program costs and ability to document resources using simple budget tracking forms and service utilization counts.	
Further Reading	"Cost-Benefit Analysis for Public Sector Decision Makers" by Diana Fuguitt and Shanton Wilcox (2011)	





#### Story Type #4: Policy and Legal Compliance Stories or Legal and Policy Alignment Evidence Stories show how your program meets required standards and aligns with official policies.

Why	Decision-makers at private foundations and contracting agencies look for <b>Legal and Policy Align-</b> <b>ment Evidence</b> in the programs that they fund.
When	When you need to answer these questions: Did your work challenge unjust laws, support new protections, or create pathways to justice and healing? Does your program contribute to health equity? Gender equity? Social Equity?
How	These stories document fair treatment practices and how your program satisfies funding require- ments and policy goals. This evidence can be gathered through demographic tracking forms, program records, key informant interviews, and simple compliance checklists (e.g., grant re- quirement tracking).
Basic Competency	Understand basic program requirements and have an ability to document compliance using participant demographic tracking forms, staff training logs, and standard operating procedures documentation.
Further Reading	"Violence Prevention: The Evidence" published by the World Health Organization (2010)





Story Type #5: Community Change Stories or System-Level Impact Evidence Stories show the bigger picture of how your program affects the whole neighborhood, recognizing these changes often emerge over longer timeframes.

Why	Decision-makers at private foundations and contracting agencies look for <b>System-Level Impact Evidence</b> in what they fund.
When	When you need to answer these questions: What knowledge, skills, or infrastructure are you building that will last beyond a program or project? How does your program correct access and service delivery issues in the broader social welfare systems? How does your CBO address root causes of violence? Partner across sectors for systems change?
How	These stories look at the system-level benefits or challenges that happen in community safety and general social welfare because of your work. This evidence can be gathered through commu- nity mapping activities, before-after neighborhood walks, or trend tracking of local incidents and experiential evidence to back this up. See story example on the first page of <u>this report.</u>
Basic Competency	Understand how to observe community patterns and document broader changes using simple mapping exercises, incident tracking logs, and before-after neighborhood assessments.
Further Reading	"Asset Based Community Development: When People Care Enough to Act" by Mike Green with Henry Moore and John O'Brien (2006)





Story Type #6: Stories of Healing or Stories of Hope show the bigger picture of how your program affects the whole community and the broader community safety ecosystem inside and outside it, recognizing these changes often emerge over longer timeframes.

Why	Decision-makers at private foundations and contracting agencies increasingly look <b>for documen-</b> <b>tation of how to build hope, relationships and cultural restoration that the previous five story</b> <b>types often miss,</b> especially in hard-to-reach or underserved cultural and racial groups.
When	This new story type extends traditional evaluation approaches by incorporating Indigenous and community-centered perspectives on healing and wellness. Use it when you need to answer these questions: How is your work helping build a sense of community? Did your work create culturally rooted pathways to diversity, equity, justice, inclusion and healing? Does your program contribute to relationship-building? Spiritual healing? Cultural restoration? Especially in groups facing intergenerational trauma?
How	This story type shows how your program strengthens relationships and supports emotional wellbeing through cultural connections. These stories highlight how caring for each other creates wellness that goes beyond physical health. This evidence can be gathered through the practice of healing circles, relationship mapping exercises, or community celebration documentation.
Basic Competency	Understand how to facilitate circulos that ensure inclusive group discussion; an ability to docu- ment how relationships, cultural rootedness, spiritual well-being, emotional health change using simple reflection guides, or photo-voice methods.
Further Reading	"Healing the Soul Wound: Counseling with American Indians and Other Native Peoples" by Eduardo Duran (2006); "Lifting Latinos Up By Their Rootstraps: Moving Beyond Trauma Through a Healing-Informed Model to Engage Latino Boys and Men" by NCN (2017). <u>Click here.</u> "Healing Together: Shifting Approaches to End Intimate Partner Violence" by Policy Link and Alliance for Boys and Men of Color. <u>Click here.</u>

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### **SUGGESTED CITATION**

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