

From Program Evaluation to Comprehensive, Community-Based Suicide Prevention Evaluation: Lessons Learned from the Field

Kristen Quinlan, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist
Education Development Center

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Guiding Frameworks to Approaching Community-Based Suicide Prevention in the VA



**National
Strategy for
Preventing
Veteran Suicide**
2018–2028



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

National Strategy *for*
Suicide Prevention

National Strategy *for*
Suicide Prevention

FEDERAL ACTION PLAN

What do they have in common?

- Commitment to a public health approach to suicide prevention – incorporating upstream and downstream efforts.
- A belief that to produce impact, we need to ensure that suicide prevention efforts are comprehensive and coordinated.

Program Evaluation

When we think about program evaluation, we often think about telling the story of our own program's success....



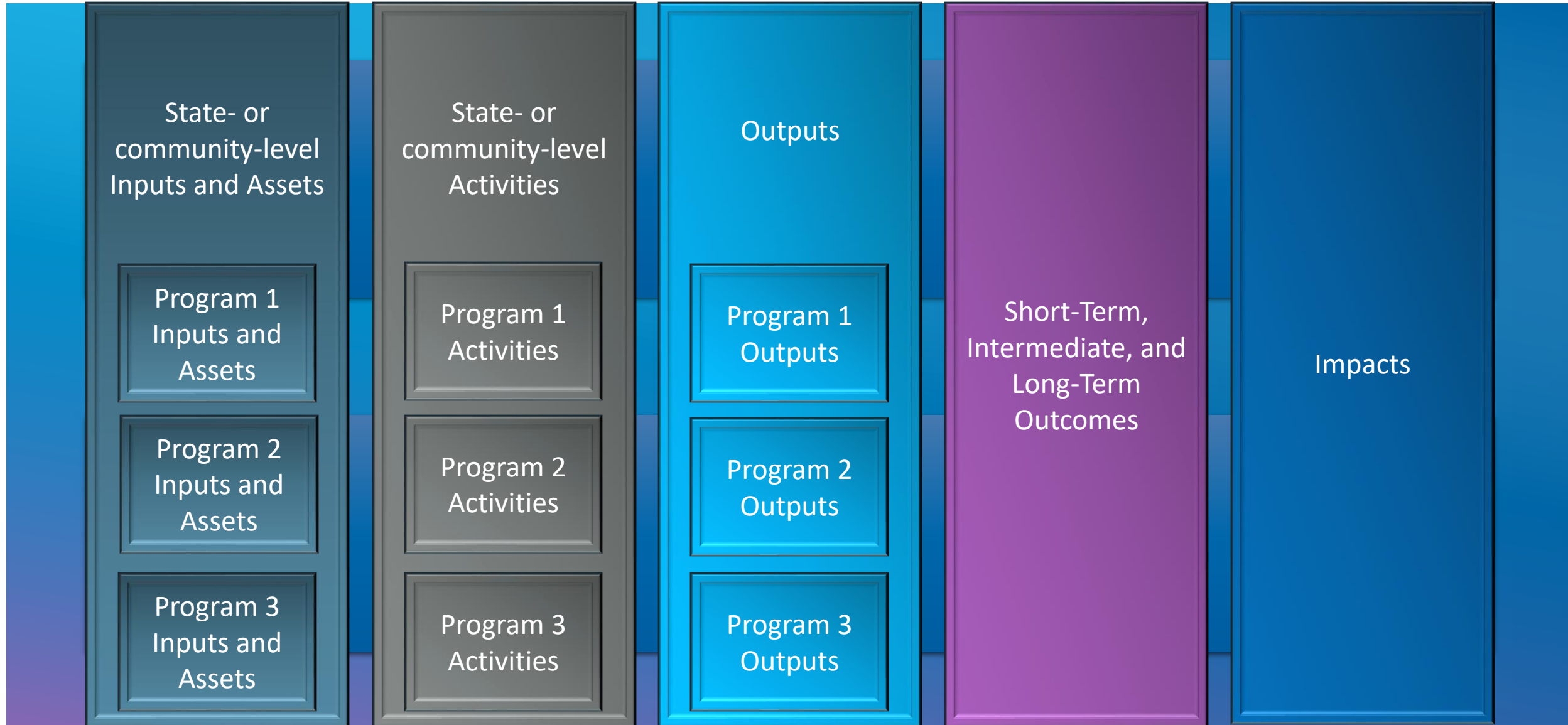
In community-based suicide prevention, your program took place in a larger context, where it may have acted synergistically with other state- and community-based assets, inputs, and activities.

Why would we want to move beyond program evaluation to engage in comprehensive evaluation? Don't we have enough on our plates?

1. Because we can't do everything. So when we tell our story of success, we want to articulate our PIECE of that success.
2. Because suicide is a complex problem requiring complex, multi-faceted solutions. No single solution is likely to bring us to impact. We need to understand the mechanisms that bring us to impact.
3. Because we tell a better story when we work together!



Comprehensive Suicide Prevention: A Nested Evaluation Model



CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention: An Example from the Field

The Colorado National Collaborative (CNC) is a partnership of local, state, and national scientists working with communities to identify, promote and implement successful strategies for suicide prevention in Colorado (led by the Office of Suicide Prevention).



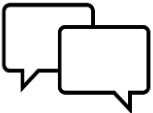
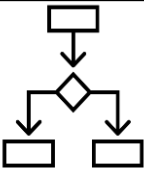
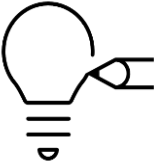
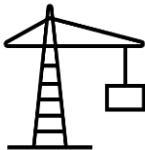
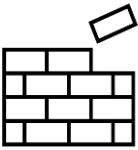
What we're working on at the national level...

- The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention is working with its public- and private-sector partners to discuss how we monitor and evaluate progress on national suicide prevention priorities (as highlighted in the *National Strategy*)
- States, Tribes, Jurisdictions and communities want to know how they can align their implementation and evaluation efforts to national efforts.



As we think about comprehensive evaluations, we need to think about engaging our communities in authentic ways.

A participatory evaluation fully incorporates invested parties as leaders in all aspects of the evaluation. What does this mean in practice?

				
Open communication & peer-sharing	Shared decision making.	Thinking critically about data provision/ ownership, decision-making, and influence.	Minimizing burden	Capacity building & creating common language

Thank you!

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Kquinlan@edc.org