

# Monitoring and evaluation – Research and evaluation toolbox

## Tool 22

The *Research and evaluation toolbox* was produced by the Health Education Board for Scotland (HEBS – [www.hebs.com/research/retool](http://www.hebs.com/research/retool)) to help practitioners in health and related fields think through how research can help them in planning and evaluating their work. It was developed in response to the clear need expressed by practitioners for advice in this area and builds on HEBS' experience of doing, commissioning and using research and evaluation across a range of settings, topics and population groups.

The Toolbox won't give ready-made answers to specific problems but it will offer helpful tips and general guidance on using research in project development and evaluation. These can easily be adapted to specific situations. It is also a gateway to useful resources produced by others in Scotland and beyond.

### Who is it for?

The Toolbox has been developed primarily to help professionals working to improve public health. It is in particular for those who have a basic understanding of research and evaluation but no specialist expertise. The resource is open to everyone following a brief registration process.

### What's in it?

MAIN SECTIONS	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
<b>Why research?</b>	The role of research and evaluation at different stages in the planning and development of health initiatives.
<b>Methods</b>	How research questions shape research design and what research methods might be used.
<b>Data sources</b>	Health and related information available from national surveys and other sources.
<b>Reviews</b>	Why and how to carry out reviews of published research and other literature.
<b>Needs assessment</b>	Why and how to assess health needs in a population when planning an initiative.
<b>Evaluation</b>	Forms of evaluation relevant at each stage in programme planning and development.
<b>Quality</b>	Different quality assurance systems concerned with improving performance and raising standards.
<b>Commissioning</b>	Procedures for buying in research and evaluation services and for managing commissioned research.
<b>Dissemination</b>	Strategies for communicating research findings and improving research impact.
<b>Funding</b>	Information and links regarding sources of funding for health and related research.
<b>Links and references</b>	Links to websites and key references from each toolbox section.

Source: Reproduced from [www.hebs.com/research/retool](http://www.hebs.com/research/retool)

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