Decision Tree for Selecting Instruments and Measures

**Evidence-Based or Other Existing Program**

*Does the program/curriculum come with its own evaluation tools?*

**YES**

Look at the tools to see if they are assessing your desired process and outcome objectives. *Do they address the type of outcomes you are targeting (awareness, knowledge, skill, etc.)*?

**YES**

Great. Use them! (If you need to shorten the instrument at all, be very cautious about breaking up scales or missing any key outcomes.)

**SOME DO, SOME DON’T**

Adapt the tool by deleting items that don’t fit with your objectives.

**NO**

This could be a sign that the program/curriculum you’ve selected is not a good fit with your goals. Or, it could simply mean that the evaluation tools were poorly designed.

**“Home-Grown” Program**

Search online to find existing instruments that will help to evaluate your objectives.

**Violence Prevention Compendia from CDC**

- Measuring Violence-Related Attitudes, Behaviors, and Influences Among Youths: A Compendium of Assessment Tools
- Surveys from existing curricula, such as Second Step, Safe Dates, MOST, and Choose Respect

**Links for General Youth/Family**

http://www.toolfind.org/
http://pridesurveys.com

If you cannot find any that fit, develop your own instrument or mix and match (hybrid approach). Be sure to avoid survey “pit-falls” and pilot-test your instrument before you use it.

**NOT SURE**

Contact the people who designed the program/curriculum and ask them if they have evaluation tools to share with you. *Do they have tools to send to you?*

**YES**

Search online for other existing measures and/or create your own.

**NO**

This could be a sign that the program/curriculum you’ve selected is not a good fit with your goals. Or, it could simply mean that the evaluation tools were poorly designed.