

Characteristics of Good Indicators

Good indicators are:

- **Meaningful:** Represent important information about the program for stakeholders.
- **Relevant:** Reflect the intervention's intended activities, outputs, and outcomes.
- **Direct:** Closely measure the intended change.
- **Objective:** Have a clear operational definition of what is being measured and what data need to be collected.
- **Reliable:** Consistently measured across time and different data collectors.
- **Useful:** Can be used for program improvement and to demonstrate program outcomes.
- **Adequate:** Can measure change over time and progress toward performance or outcomes.
- **Understandable:** Easy to comprehend and interpret.
- **Practical/feasible:** The data for the indicator should not be too burdensome to collect. The indicator should be reasonable in terms of the data collection cost, frequency, and timeliness for inclusion in the decision-making process.