

AIDS Education and Training Center National Evaluation Center (AETC NEC)

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Project Description: The AIDS Education and Training Center National Evaluation Center (AETC NEC) was funded in March 2004 to provide evaluation development and technical support to the AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC) program, a network of eleven regional centers that provide education and training to health care providers treating persons with HIV/AIDS. The AETC program is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau, staff of which also serve as key collaborators in all NEC activities. In collaboration with HRSA, the specific aims for the AETC NEC are:

Aim 1 (Synthesis): To document and synthesize current measurement activities throughout the network and to develop a typology of evaluation across the dimensions of reaction, learning, behavior change and results.

Aim 2: (Development): To collaboratively design and conduct rigorous evaluation research across multiple demonstration sites that will assess the effectiveness and outcomes of training and education on clinical practice and have maximum effect on evaluation practice and policy across the AETC network.

Aim 3 (Support): To develop evaluation research best practices, measurement tools and a technical support infrastructure in the interest of translating and sustaining use of state-of-the-art methods and systems from demonstration site projects.

Aim 4 (Capacity): To stimulate innovative evaluation projects and ensure scientific excellence across the AETC network, as well as the organizational capacity to ensure integrity of evaluation research.

Aim 5 (Dissemination): To disseminate findings from demonstration projects and other evaluation projects so that they have optimum impact on further HIV clinical education and training programs.

Significance: The AETC NEC's activities have the potential to influence the evaluation practices of the AETC other federally-funded training programs.

Interesting Findings: During the first year of funding, the AETC NEC completed an inventory of AETC outcome evaluation activities, and found that the AETC network values evaluation for planning and determining the effectiveness of trainings despite the challenges of implementation that can arise. During its second and third years, the NEC is conducting pilot studies of innovative evaluation techniques in collaboration with several AETC regions. These pilots will identify new approaches to evaluation that are easily replicable across the AETC network.

Project Web Site: www.ucsf.edu/aetcnec

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