

Impact evaluation of interventions addressing social determinants of health (SDH)”

‘Impact evaluation on SDH policy and research’: is an automated, self-directed 20-hr course developed under the leadership of LSHTM with input from all partners. This online course provides an introduction to the methods for evaluating the impact of policies or programs targeting SDH. The course covers both the quantitative and qualitative methods of attributing impact that are used to assess whether a policy or program was effective and how and why these effects were brought about.

The purpose is to provide an overview of the methods for evaluating the impact of interventions aimed to improve health through addressing social determinants. This course is designed to be used as an introduction to this area for self-directed learning for a student with a general understanding of research methodology. Links to advanced material are provided for students who wish to explore particular aspects of the course in more detail. Self-assessment exercises designed for students to test they have understood key concepts are provided throughout the course.

Course Contents

The course is divided into 6 sessions.

Session 1 : Introduction to the course This session will introduce you to some of the core concepts related to the course and introduce the sessions to follow.

Session 2 : Theories of Change This session will teach you how to develop a theoretical framework about how you expect your intervention to work and use this to design an impact evaluation.

Session 3 : Causality and Randomised designs This session will introduce the concepts of causality and the counterfactual and introduce some randomised designs that can be used in the evaluation of an intervention.

Session 4 : Quasi-experimental designs Where there are practical or ethical reasons that randomised designs cannot be used, other designs referred to as 'quasi-experimental' can be used to assess the impact of an intervention.

Session 5 : Process Evaluation This session which links closely to session 2 introduces the formal methods we can use to review the process by which the intervention was implemented and how contextual factors may have influenced the final outcome.

Session 6 : Case Study This final session presents a real-world example of an impact evaluation in practice.