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Weatherization Program Evaluation in Washington: Getting Started

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Why Do an Evaluation?


- Maintain and improve program service quality
- Respond to demands for government accountability
- Develop an ongoing evaluation process



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Context for Evaluation

- Last evaluation completed in 2001
- Limited centralized data collection
- 26 local agencies with their own data systems




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Evaluation Philosophy

Start where we are


- Build credibility for evaluation
- Learn by doing
- Use the best available data
- Continue to improve



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Steps in the Evaluation Process


- Background research
- Developed mock evaluation report
- Met with evaluation working group
- Developed evaluation plan
- Implemented evaluation plan
 - Collect data
 - Develop benefit estimates
 - Compile and analyze data
 - Draft report
 - Review process and identify next steps



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Background Research

- Other state weatherization evaluations
- ORNL meta-evaluations
- RFPs for weatherization evaluation



Mock Evaluation Report

Start with the end product

- Create hypothetical data
- Produce graphs and tables of results
- Compile the information in a mock report
- Use the mock report as a tool to define evaluation measures and approach



Evaluation Working Group

- Purpose of evaluation
- Other evaluation research
- Matrix of weatherization measures
- Mock evaluation report
- Working session



Evaluation Plan

Flexible, Living Document

- Overview
- Evaluation measures (table)
- Data collection
- Analysis
- Reporting
- Schedule



Local Agency Data Collection

- Recruited top 10 local agencies
- Developed a data request
- Conducted a conference call
- Asked agencies to submit readily available data



Local Agency Data Request

- Requested 18 pieces of data for each house/complex
- Requested 7 pieces of data for each wx measure
- Provided a spreadsheet template for data (optional)
- Received data from all 10 agencies, but some only were able to provide limited data
- Compiled data into an Access database



Housing Division Data Collection

- Number of units weatherized
- Types of units weatherized
- Program costs by funding source
- Agency workplans
- Agency monitoring reports

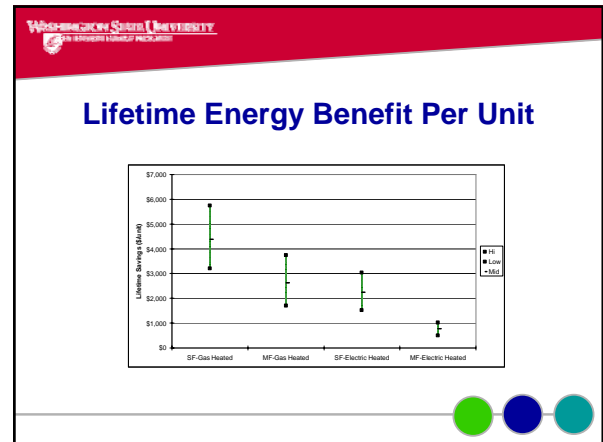


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Develop Benefit Estimates

Issue: Lack of measured data to estimate benefits

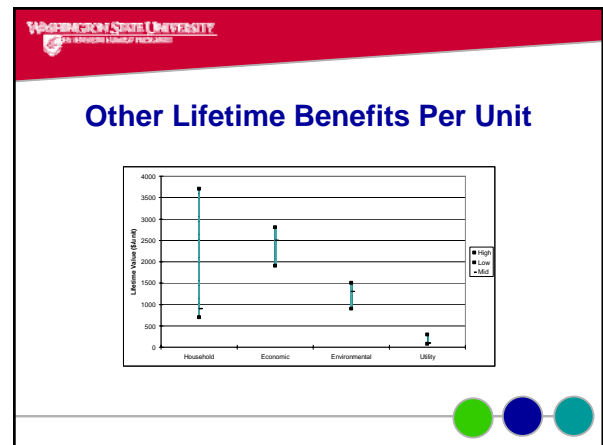
- Use existing evaluations and research
- Consider energy and other benefits
- Estimate lifetime benefit ranges per unit



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Other Benefits

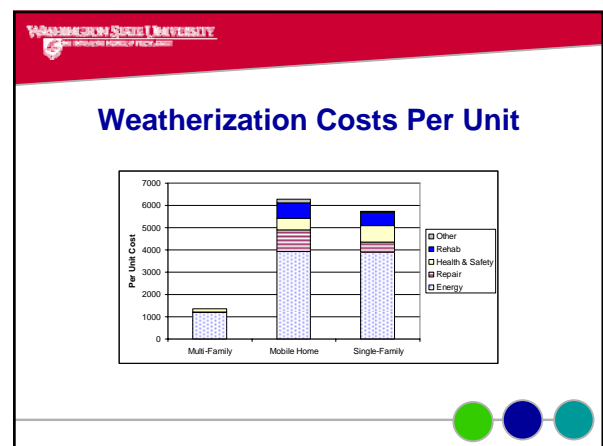
- Household
 - Property value, water, health, safety
- Economic
 - Job creation, program spending
- Environmental
 - Greenhouse gas and pollution emissions
- Utility
 - Delinquent bill payment, shut-offs, distribution losses

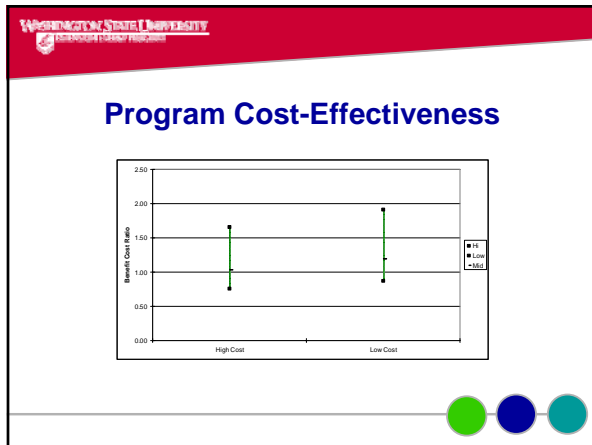
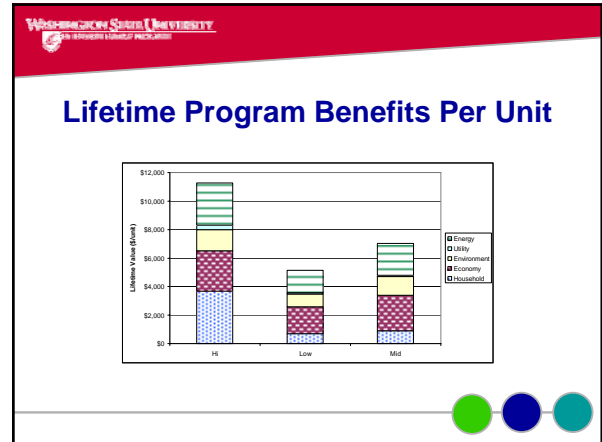
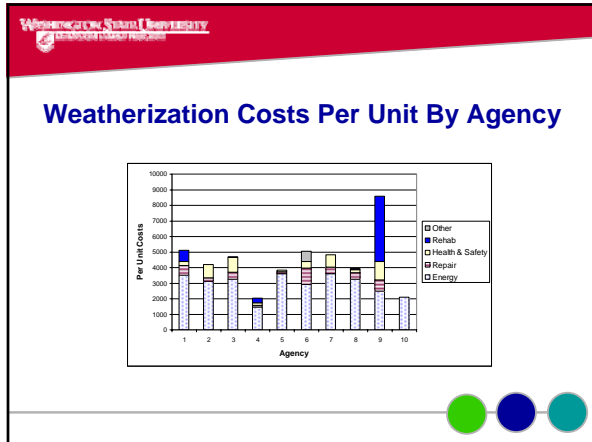


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Analyze Data

- Query database for program and unit characteristics
- Use cost data to develop per unit costs for weatherization
- Use program level data to estimate administration and program operation costs
- Estimate program cost-effectiveness





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- ### Recommendations
- **Estimating Benefits**
 - Benefits need to be based on WA data
 - **Allocating Costs**
 - Consistent tracking and allocation of costs
 - **Consistent Ongoing Data Collection**
 - Centralized data system
 - Agreement on data to be collected
 - Clear, consistent data definitions

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- ### Review Process and Next Steps
- Distribute report
 - Collect feedback
 - Meet with Evaluation Working Group
 - Propose activities for next fiscal year

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- ### Preliminary Follow-On Activities
- Implications summary from 2006 evaluation
 - Limited 2007 evaluation
 - Updated data collection table
 - Review existing reporting activities
 - Start developing data definitions
 - Identify key program benefits
 - Develop household surveys
 - Conduct program visioning exercise