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| **Title of Innovation in policy and practice presentation**  Using Developmental Evaluation to inform systems change for health |
| **Setting/problem**  Health promotion has long strived to develop programmes that are based on an understanding of local needs, utilising local strengths and assets. This presentation discusses health promotion practice informed by understanding communities as complex adaptive systems. From this view, the history, needs and strengths of communities are an integral part of community systems, as are regional and national organisations, policies and programmes. Designing and implementing a health promotion initiative within complex social systems requires methods of planning, monitoring and evaluation that support ongoing adaptions to initiatives, to adjust as the system reacts and adapts to our actions.  This presentation describes the use of developmental evaluation as one approach to identifying system changes and embedding cycles of learning to support ongoing adaptation.  **Intervention**  Developmental evaluation was included within Healthy Families NZ as a way to support cycles of evaluation, learning and adaptation in strengthening prevention systems across 10 communities in New Zealand.  **Outcomes**  Drawing on findings from a three year national evaluation of Healthy Families NZ, and the experience of evaluators in supporting Healthy Families NZ teams to use developmental evaluation, we reflect on the challenges to introducing developmental evaluation and supporting the use of evaluative practice to support systems change. We also identify successes and learnings in the use of developmental evaluation from within Health Families NZ.  **Implications**  Developmental evaluation holds promise in enabling more effective health promotion action on systems change towards more health promoting environments. To be effective, developmental evaluation should be embedded within day to day practice and leadership. Supporting health promotion workforce requires a mixture of training and capability building, as well as ongoing coaching and reflective practice.  **Preferred presentation format**  Oral |