

**Applied Evaluation  
in  
Office of Evaluation and  
Inspections**

Office of Evaluation and Inspections  
Office of Inspector General  
Department of Health and Human Services  
February 6, 2007

# Discussion Points

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- Role of OIG Evaluation in Federal Government
- Evaluation Approach
- Topic Areas Covered
- Impact of OIG Evaluations

What is the OIG  
and  
What does it do?

# Mission of the OIG

**To protect the integrity of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs, as well as the health and welfare of the beneficiaries of those programs.**

# Legislative History

- Inspector General Act of 1978
  - Independent and objective IG
  - Unrestricted access to records and subpoena power
  - OIG reports to Congress and the Secretary

# OEI Mission

To improve HHS programs by conducting evaluations that provide timely, useful, and reliable information and advice to decision makers.

# OEI Evaluation Approach

# Utilization-Focused Evaluation

- PURPOSE
  - Recommendations for improvement (Impact)
- MEASUREMENT
  - Appropriate, credible, useful
- DESIGN
  - Situationally responsive
- RESEARCH STANCE
  - Fairness and balance
- SAMPLING
  - Depends on needed info
- ANALYSIS
  - Focus on evidence needed by decision-makers
- STATEMENTS
  - Extrapolations



# Mixed Model Studies

Combine the qualitative and quantitative approaches within all phases of the research process.

## Evaluation Approach

### Mixed Model Approach

Pragmatic:

- Put research question first
- Deal with logistical constraints

Confidence in the accuracy of results

Confidence in the validity of results

## Evaluation Approach

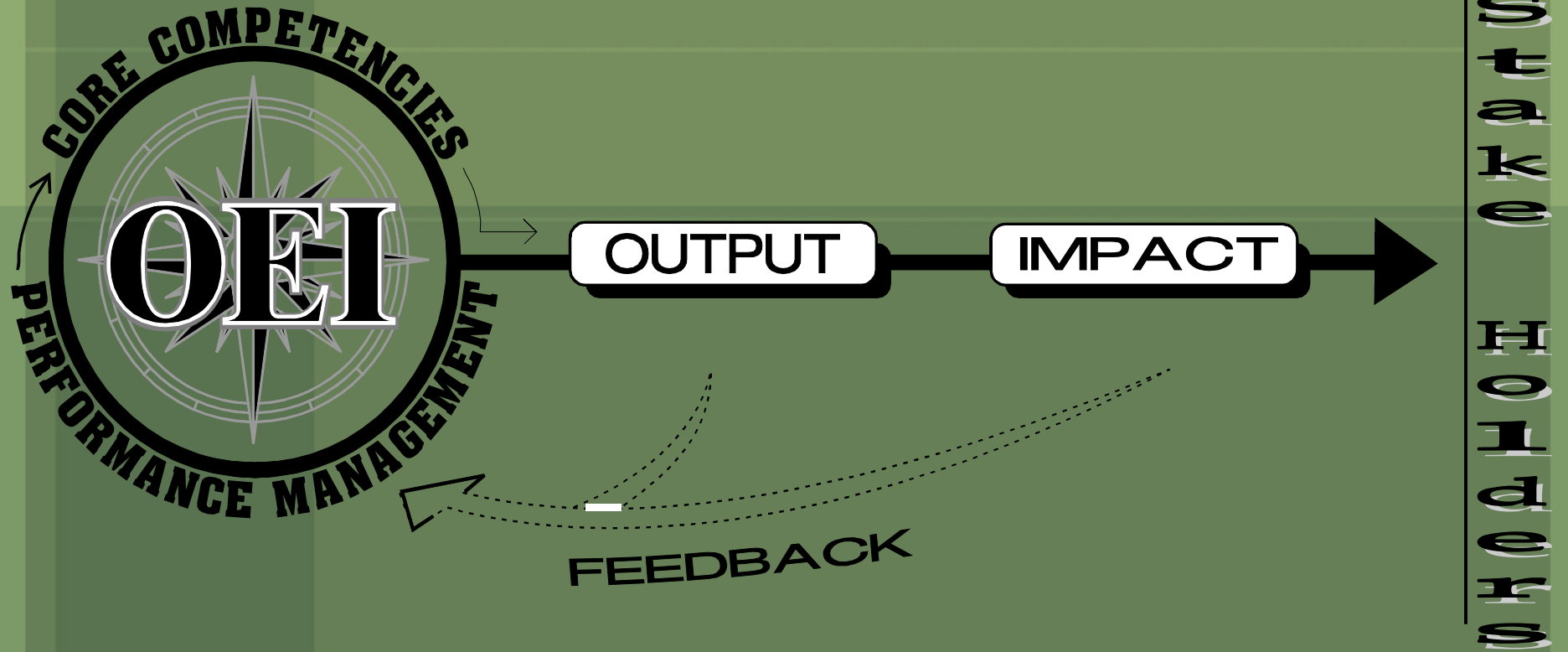
### Mixed Model Approach: Vectoring

- 77% use vector approach
- 54% mix survey research with other methods
- Typical methods – survey, database extraction, record review, group interview, focus group, observation, case study

# OEI Core Competencies

- Seven core skill areas:
  - Research
  - Analysis
  - Program Knowledge
  - Communication
  - Leadership & Support
  - Organizational Procedures
  - Computer Skills

# Evaluation Approach



Analyst

Team Leader

Manager

# TOPICS

# HHS Programs

- CMS
- 7 major public health agencies
  - AHRQ
  - CDC
  - FDA
  - HRSA
  - IHS
  - NIH
  - SAMHSA
- ACF and AOA

# Top Management Challenges

- Implementation of MMA
- Accountability of Medicaid Funds
- Integrity of Medicare Payments
- Payment for Medicaid Prescription Drugs
- Quality of Care in LTC Services
- Grants Management
- Ensuring the Integrity of Critical Support Systems and Infrastructure
- Public Health Readiness



# Recent Chicago Studies:

- Quality of Care in End-Stage Renal Facilities
- Under-enrollment in Head Start Programs
- Medicaid Payments made under Katrina Waivers
- Access to Rural Pharmacies in Part D
- Medicare Part B Payments for Nursing Home Residents

IMPACT

# Categories of Impact

- Protect Consumers
- Improve Program Operations
- Save Taxpayers Money
- Enforce Laws
- Provide Guidance

## Measuring Impact

Legislative Change

Practice Change

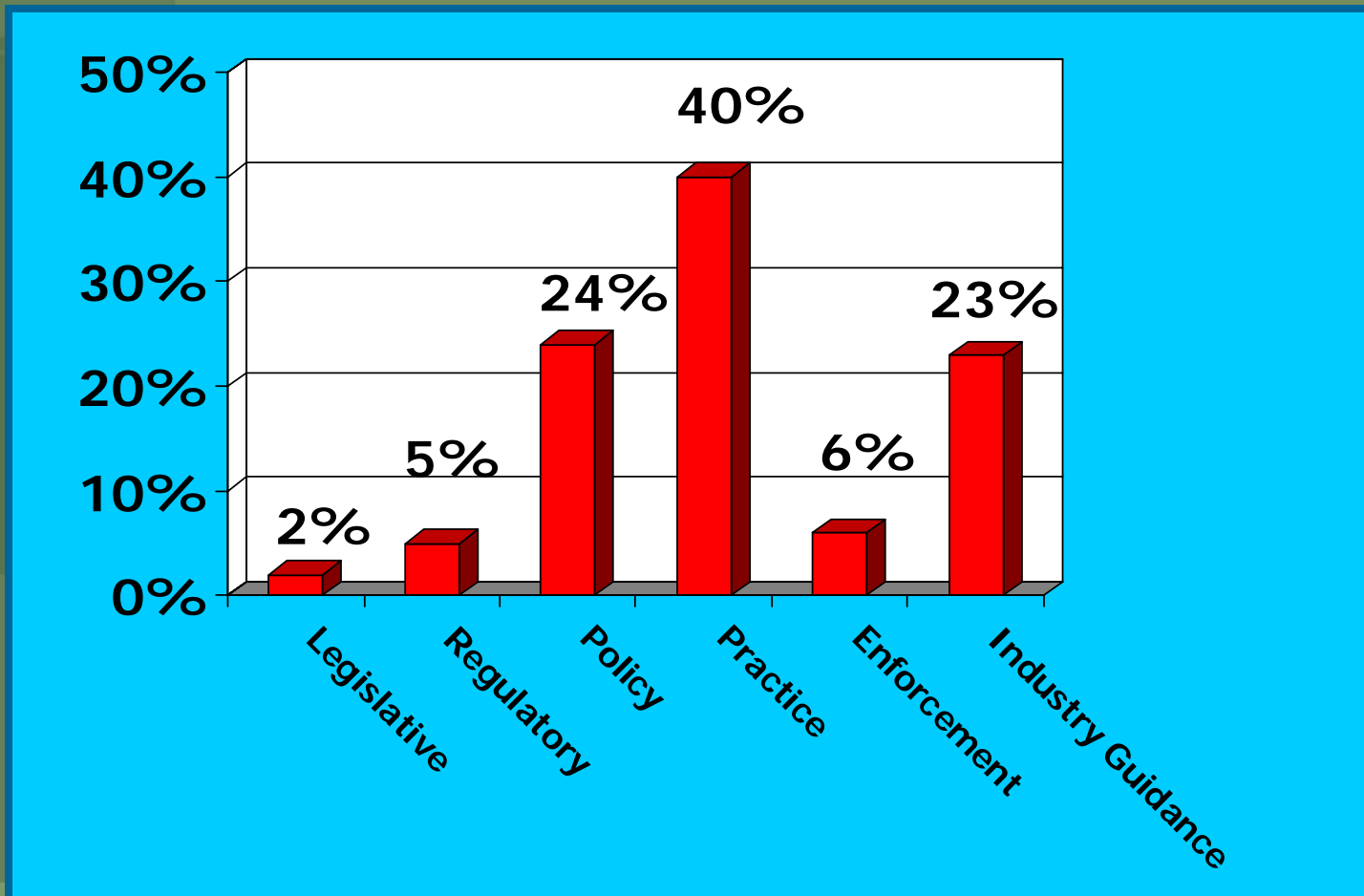
Regulatory Change

Enforcement Action

Policy Change

Industry Guidance  
and Monitoring

## Impact of OEI Inspections



# FY06 Impact

- HHS program savings of nearly \$38.2 billion
  - \$35.8 billion in implemented recommendations
  - \$789.4 million in audit receivables
  - \$1.6 billion in investigative receivables

# FYO6 Impact

- DRA changes to Medicaid drug pricing
- Strengthened Federal certification standards for nursing home emergency plans
- Improved State standards for frequency and content of case worker visits to foster children

Thank You...

Any Questions?

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