

Practical Tips for Conducting High-Quality Implementation Studies

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Participants will have...

- **Concrete tools, tips, and resources for designing and executing a high-quality implementation study that may be used to inform state/local policies and practices.**
- **Identified the existing resources available to conduct an implementation study, critical information gaps and needs, and action steps for addressing them.**

Identify one or two implementation-focused research questions you would like to answer about your program.

Research Design

- **Start with the end in mind**
 - What questions do you want answered
- **Clarify research purposes (e.g., test fidelity, describe an intervention)**
- **Anchor data collection and analysis in best available evidence**
- **Balance research purposes with level of effort and respondent burden**
- **Encourage collaboration (e.g., sites, I-team, within the project team)**
- **Think outside the box (e.g., permeable firewall)**
- **Allow for midcourse corrections**

What practical tips have you implemented? What tips would you like to use in your work?

Data Collection

- **Build in initial and ongoing training and project communication (e.g., content and methods)**
- **Implement strategies for improving data consistency and quality**
- **Develop simple, focused interview guides that support triangulation and analysis**
- **Create a targeted, systematic data collection process (e.g., stick to the protocol)**

What practical tips have you implemented? What tips would you like to use in your work?

Data Collection (con't)

- **Triangulate your data sources (e.g., Integrate multiple qualitative and quantitative data sources)**
- **Capitalize on researcher skills, abilities, and strengths (e.g., authenticity, trustworthiness)**
- **Share examples (prototypes) for data collection and summaries**

Data Analysis

- **Create an organized, accessible data repository**
- **Organize processing sessions for efficient and effective analysis**
- **Rely on qualitative and quantitative evidence to support study findings**
- **Implement an iterative analysis process at multiple levels**
 - Grapple with the data
 - Identifying defensible final themes/findings requires a process of expanding and retracting)
- **Use an analytic outline for capturing hierarchy, ideas (themes), and facts**

Reporting

- **Know your audience**
- **Tell a compelling story**
- **Write relevant and accessible reports/briefs (e.g., highlight and support main points, link section headers)**
- **Solicit feedback from site participants**
- **Use findings immediately to plan for change and subsequent rounds of data collection**

For Resources and Guidance

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