

Not your typical research project: Measuring implementation as programs and services develop in the real world

The use of data to drive implementation is widely regarded as a key component of successful implementation. Less common is the use of quantitative measures or tools to evaluate the progress or success of implementation efforts. While a number of effective programs and services have substantial implementation monitoring and evaluation strategies (including components assessing important concerns such as model fidelity, staff attitudes, administrative impediments such as wait-times, and outcomes), newly emerging services and programs have fewer options and, arguably, greater need since implementation feedback might actually be used to guide real-time changes as the program or service matures. This presentation will use service development and implementation work being undertaken in Australia to describe specific items, tools and strategies being deployed or considered for measuring implementation as programs are being developed. The session will include a facilitated discussion about how to use data to respond to select viable services and address implementation concerns.