

Implementation Models, Theories & Frameworks

Active Implementation Frameworks (AIF)

The Active Implementation Frameworks provide an evidence-based set of process-oriented guidelines for implementing evidence-based practice.

Type

Process model

Purpose

To guide and support the systematic uptake, high-fidelity implementation, and sustainability of evidence-based practice in real-world settings through structured stages, drivers, teams and processes.

Elements

- **Usable Innovation:** clearly defined, operationalised evidence-based practices.
- **Implementation Drivers:** Competency, Organization, Leadership.
- **Implementation Stages:** Exploration, Installation, Initial Implementation, Full Implementation.
- **Improvement Cycles:** iterative, data-driven, aligned with Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle.
- **Implementation Teams:** coordinate and drive implementation efforts

Use with

Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR): to assess barriers and facilitators.

Implementation Outcomes Taxonomy: to evaluate implementation outcomes (e.g. fidelity, adoption).

Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, Sustainment (EPIS) Framework

Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle: for iterative improvement

Strengths and Limitations

STRENGTHS

- Pragmatic, action-oriented structure with explicit stages, drivers, and teams.
- Emphasis on implementation stages and fidelity supports integration with process-focused models and determinants frameworks.
- Emphasis on feedback loops and improvement cycles supports adaptive management and continuous learning.
- Cross-disciplinary applicability.

LIMITATIONS

- It can be beneficial to integrate determinant analyses (e.g., CFIR) and evaluation taxonomies to capture context and outcomes comprehensively.
- Fidelity measurement can be challenging in practice.
- Resource intense – time, leadership, and data infrastructure are required to sustain AIF-drive implementation.

See it in practice



[Advancing implementation frameworks with a mixed methods case study in child behavioral health \(Barwick et al., 2019\).](#)



[Providers' experiences with delivering school-based targeted prevention for adolescents with anxiety symptoms: a qualitative study \(Husabo et al., 2020\).](#)



[The Active Implementation Frameworks: a roadmap for advancing implementation of Comprehensive Medication Management in Primary care \(Blanchard et al., 2017\).](#)

Find out more



[Active Implementation Frameworks™ \(Active Implementation Research Network\)](#)



[An overview of the Active Implementation Frameworks \(National Implementation Research Network\).](#)



[The value of implementation frameworks: using the active implementation frameworks to guide system-wide implementation of Collaborative Problem Solving \(Pollastri et al., 2020\).](#)

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