

Implementation Models, Theories & Frameworks

Practical, Robust Implementation and Sustainability Model (PRISM)

PRISM is an expanded implementation framework originally developed as an extension of RE-AIM to investigate how contextual factors influence implementation.

Type

Process model

Purpose

PRISM is designed to improve translation of evidence into practice by explicitly linking multilevel context to implementation outcomes. It can be used during various phases of the implementation project:

- **Planning:** to select implementation strategies that fit local context.
- **Implementation:** to guide implementation activities with attention to context, feasibility, and organisational readiness.
- **Evaluation:** to enable more informative interpretation of RE-AIM outcomes.
- **Sustainability:** to assess impact of sustainability infrastructure and external environment on long-term maintenance of interventions.

Elements

- **Recipient characteristics** (patients, staff, organisations).
- **Intervention characteristics** (fit, complexity, usability).
- **Implementation and sustainability infrastructure** (capacity, leadership, systems).
- **External environment** (policy, funding, regulatory context).

PRISM retains the RE-AIM outcomes (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance), with explicit attention to how context impacts each outcome.

Use with

- RE-AIM: PRISM complements RE-AIM to guide planning and evaluation.
- Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)
- Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, Sustainment (EPIS) framework
- Knowledge-to-Action (KTA) framework

Strengths and Limitations

STRENGTHS

- Explicitly captures internal and external contextual factors that influence implementation.
- Pragmatic and user-friendly for teams, providing concrete domains and links to RE-AIM outcomes.
- Multi-level synthesis of determinants across individual, organisational and environmental levels.
- Supports equity-oriented adaptation and co-design approaches.

LIMITATIONS

- Wide variation in how PRISM context domains and RE-AIM outcomes are connected and measured.
- Dependent on context quality – can be sensitive to local data quality and stakeholder engagement.

See it in practice



[Using the Practical, Robust Implementation and Sustainability Model \(PRISM\) to qualitatively assess multilevel contextual factors to help plan, implement, evaluate, and disseminate health services programs \(McCreight et al., 2019\).](#)



[Utilizing PRISM and RE-AIM to implement and evaluate the Rural Telementoring Training Center \(RTTC\) for health care workforce development in rural communities \(Melhado et al., 2023\).](#)



[Applying the practical, robust, implementation and sustainability model \(PRISM\) to a community-based youth participatory action research program \(Szoko et al., 2025\).](#)

Find out more



[Dissemination & Implementation Models in Health: PRISM](#)



[A practical, robust implementation and sustainability model \(PRISM\) for integrating research findings into practice \(Feldstein & Glasgow, 2008\).](#)



[The application and evolution of the Practical, Robust Implementation and Sustainability Model \(PRISM\): history and innovations \(Glasgow et al., 2024\).](#)



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