HIV implementation science metrics

Brian Mustanski
Northwestern University
“When efforts to transport new programs, or the information about them, from laboratory settings to community health and mental health venues fail—as they often do (2/3 of efforts fail)—we must be able to determine if failure occurred because the intervention was ineffective in the new setting (intervention failure), or if a good intervention was conveyed and deployed correctly (dissemination/implementation failure).”

(Lewis, Proctor, Brownson, 2018)
IS Metrics

• Key to differentiate IS metrics from measurement of program effectiveness.

• Measurement of implementation process: how an evidence-based practice, program, intervention, etc is implemented.
  • What are the barriers and facilitators of implementation?
  • Consideration of the stages of implementation (e.g., Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, Sustainability [EPIS; Aarons et al., 2012]).

• Measurement of implementation outcomes: was the implementation strategy effective at moving the evidence-based intervention into practice?

• Measurement can occur at the individual (e.g., healthcare worker) or organizational/system level (e.g., CBO, health department).
Implementation research outcomes

**Implementation Outcomes**
- Acceptability
- Adoption
- Appropriateness
- Costs
- Feasibility
- Fidelity
- Penetration
- Sustainability

**Service Outcomes**
- Efficiency
- Safety
- Effectiveness
- Equity
- Patient-centeredness
- Timeliness

**Client Outcomes**
- Satisfaction
- Function
- Symptomatology

*IOM Standards of Care*

Proctor et al., 2011
Challenges to IS metrics

• Many theories, models, and frameworks to inform metrics. Often they must be combined (e.g., RE-AIM plus EPIS).

• No strong consensus on critical metrics. Most measures have only been used in a single study (Lewis, Proctor, Brownson, 2018)

• Few psychometrically strong or validated measures. Surveys dominate. Use of the same words to mean different things. (Lewis, Proctor, Brownson, 2018).

• Little known about inter-relationships of outcomes and mediators