

# TRANSLATING EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE: LESSONS FROM IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

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**Preventing Violence in South Africa: From  
policy making to evidence-based  
implementation**

SaferSpaces Online Conference,

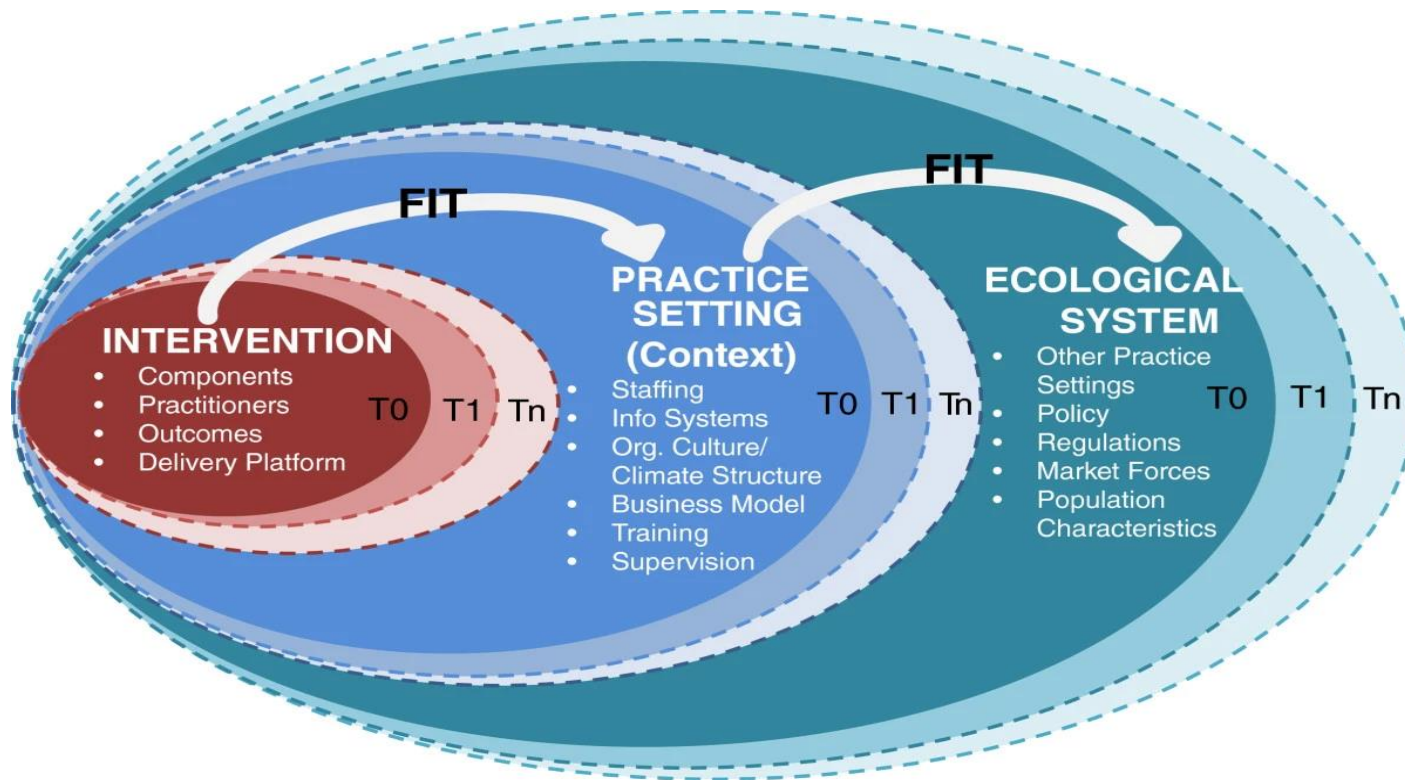
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The Royal's Institute of Mental Health Research, University of Ottawa



# Implementation Science recognizes that interventions depend on context and systems to work



Source: The Dynamic Sustainability Framework, Chambers, Glasgow, Stange (2013); Illustrates the goal of maximizing the fit between interventions, practice settings, and the broader ecological system over time (represented by T0, T1,...,Tn), each of which has constituent components that may vary.



“Evidence” on **effectiveness** helps you select what to implement for whom

“Evidence” on these outcomes does not help you implement the program or practice

Fixsen & Blase (2008)

## **Science to service gap**

Often, what is known to be effective is not what is adopted

## **Implementation gap**

There are no clear pathways to implementation.

Often, what is adopted is not used with fidelity and good effect.

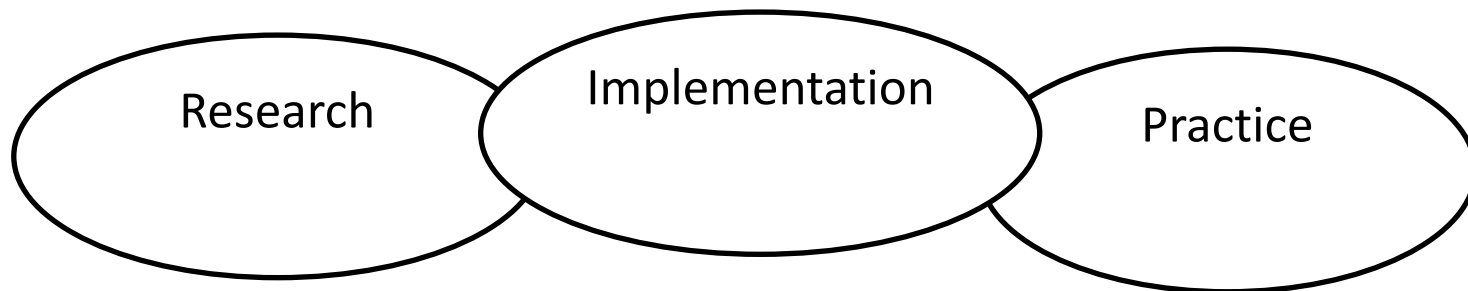
What is implemented often disappears with time and staff turnover.

(Fixsen et al, 2005)

# What is implementation?

Implementation is defined as a specified set of activities designed to put into practice an activity or program of known dimensions (Fixsen et al, 2005)

Implementation is a purposeful, active process with core components



# To implement evidence-based practices and programs we need...

## **The What:**

What is the program/practice

## **The How:**

Effective implementation frameworks (e.g. strategies to change and maintain behaviour of practitioners and create hospitable organisational systems)

## **The Who:**

well trained staff



# Evidence-based practice and programs

## **Evidence-based programs**

- Collections of practices that are done within known parameters (philosophy, values, service delivery structure, and treatment components)

## **Evidence-based practices**

- skills, techniques, and strategies that can be used by a practitioner.
- common elements (Chorpita et al)





# Implementation Matters

		Implementation: The How	
		Effective	Not Effective
Intervention – The What	Effective	Actual benefits	Inconsistent; not sustainable; poor outcomes
	Not Effective	Poor outcomes	Poor outcomes; sometimes harmful

(Institute of Medicine, 2000; 2001; 2009; 2015; New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, 2003; National Commission on Excellence in Education, 1983; Department of Health and Human Services, 1999)