New Directions in Assessing Program Quality and Implementation:
Updates from Two Measurement Development Projects

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Implementation Science: What is It?

• *Implementation science* is the study of how evidence-based or evidence-informed practices are translated, replicated, and scaled up in diverse settings in the “real world.”

• Common Research topics
  – Translation; diffusion of innovation
  – Adoption of evidence-based practices
  – Fidelity, dosage, and quality of service delivery
  – Replication in diverse contexts
  – Model adaptation and enhancement
  – Organizational readiness, climate, and leadership
  – Supports for implementation; capacity building
Implementation Science: Why Is It Important?

• Specifically, recent federal initiatives require the use of evidence-based programs, but the use of EBPs does not ensure positive outcomes.
  – Teen pregnancy prevention, home visiting, and education.

• More broadly, research is needed to understand the organizational and contextual factors that support high-quality implementation

Adapted from the National Implementation Research Network, FPG Child Development Institute, UNC, Chapel Hill. nirm.fpg.unc.edu
Using the Implementation Science Lens

Implementation factors
Implementation inputs and activities required to convert knowledge into practice

Implementation outputs
What the implementation factors produced

Intermediate outcomes
Interim changes that occur as direct result of outputs

Long-Term outcomes and impacts
Changes achieved over time

General organizational capacities and contextual factors
Selected Implementation Science Resources

• OPRE Implementation Work Group contacts
  – Ivelisse Martinez-Beck: ivelisse.martinezbeck@acf.hhs.gov
  – Tamara Halle: thalle@childtrends.org

• Seminal publications
  – Briefs
  – Parenting Implementation Guidebook