

Building a Research Agenda: Implementation Research & Wraparound Literature

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Study Purpose: Inform research agenda

What's well-examined ?

What's not ?

What assumptions have been made ?

What's been overlooked?

Implementation is a specified set of activities designed to put into practice a program of known dimensions.

Implementation processes are purposeful, described in sufficient detail so independent observers can detect presence & strength of a specific set of activities.

Implementation activities are described in sufficient detail so independent observers may detect their presence & strength.



Fixsen, D.L., Naoom, S.F., Blase, K.A., Friedman, R.M. & Wallace, F. (2005). Implementation research: A synthesis of the literature. Tampa, FL., University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, The National Implementation Research Network (FMHI Publication #231)

Meta-review of wraparound literature via NIRN implementation framework (2005)

Core intervention components

- Model definition
- Target population
- Alternative or typical models used
- Theory base
- Theory of change

Meta-review of wraparound literature via NIRN implementation framework (2005)

Core implementation components

- Organizational context
- Organizational readiness
- Facilitative administrative structures & practice
- Organizational level model fidelity assessment
- Systems level interventions (support direct service)
- Model fidelity assessment
- Supervision/coaching
- Staff selection
- Staff training
- Purveyor (consultant/trainer) selection

Meta-review of wraparound literature via NIRN implementation framework (2005)

Stages of implementation

- Socio-economic & political context
- Exploration & adoption
- Program installation
- Initial implementation
- Full operation
- Innovation
- Sustainability

Outcomes

- Intervention
- Implementation

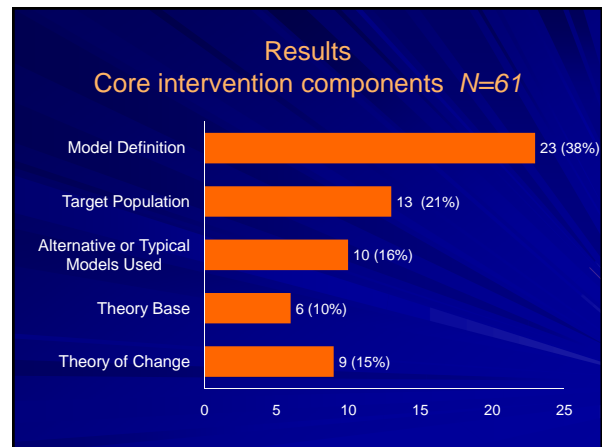
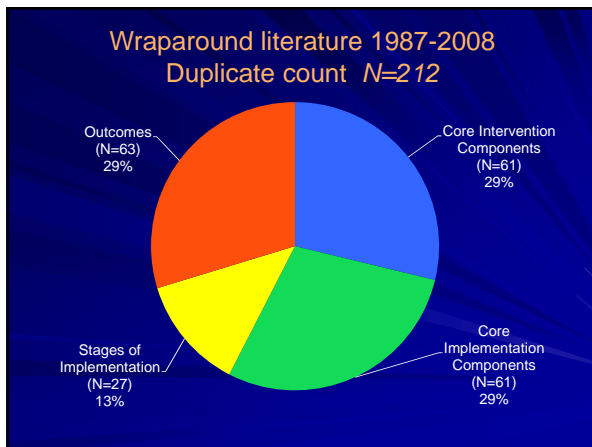
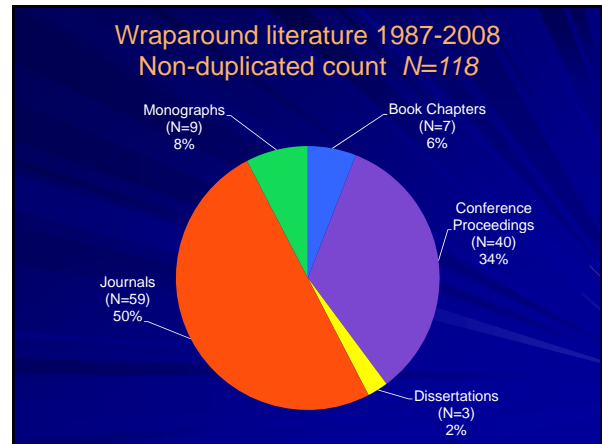
Method

More expansive review of literature than NIRN (any & all)

Organization of articles into NIRN core components

Process of analysis similar to NIRN

- Small group reads & analyzes independently
- Compare similarities & differences until consensus
- NWI research & evaluation group reviews, suggests changes until consensus
- Dissertations/proceedings that became articles excluded



Results

Components well examined or discussed

Initial model definition 1987-1998:
Presented primarily as value-based principles
Presented in program descriptions

Focus on model fidelity emerges 1996-2002
Wraparound observation form
Wraparound fidelity index
Few publications focused on organizational components

National Wraparound Initiative monographs 2004-2008
Clarification of model
Developed by consensus

Results

Components less well-examined

Target population

- Described not examined
- Primarily defined by pursuit of funding
- Focus upon "deep end" cases
- No examination of population characteristics
- No examination of characteristics with theory of change

Results

Less well-examined components

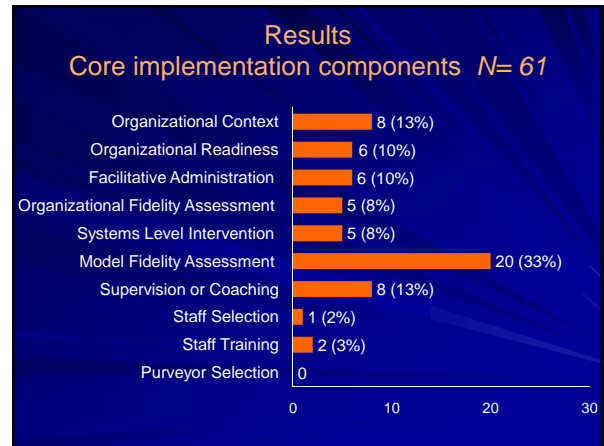
Theory base & Theory of change

- Few authors discuss theory base
- Model was defined through values
- Ecological approach vs. ecological systems theory
- Some comparison of MST & Wraparound
- Limited application of MST lessons learned

Theory of change is just emerging

- Early discussion with few tests

Resendez, 2002; Cox, 2005; Walker & Koroloff, 2007; Walker 2008



Results

Less well-examined components

Staff Selection

- No publications

Staff Training

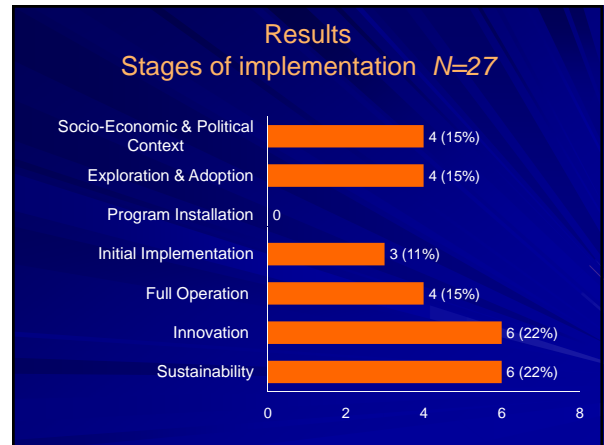
- Limited, descriptive, with no systematic review of results
- Individual purveyors apply different curricula

Purveyor Selection

- No publications

Supervision or Coaching

- Presented primarily as descriptions
- No clear model



Results

Less well-examined or overlooked

No examination of program installation

- Is this related to limited number of publications addressing staff selection, training, & purveyor selection?

Study Limitation

- With the exception of innovation and sustainability stages, most publications did not overtly focus on addressing a stage of implementation.

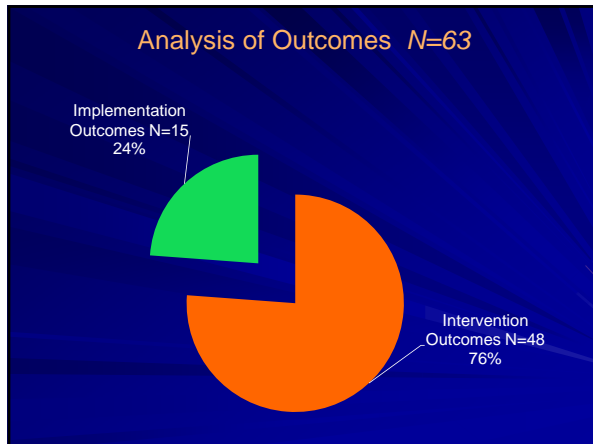
Results

Outcome publications *N=63*

Probably due to wraparound principle

- Most focus upon intervention outcomes (*N = 48*)
- Many of these were published pre-2000

Recent publications examine implementation outcomes & their relationship to intervention outcomes (*N=15*)



Implications for future research agenda

Model has been defined by values & consensus

We need systematic studies of greater complexity

Staff: selection, training, supervision/coaching
Who best implements this model?
Education? Experience?
What knowledge? What skills? In what settings?

What training curriculum enhances fidelity & outcomes?
In what settings?

What supervisory model produces best fidelity & outcomes?
In what settings?
Learn from established models (MST)

Implications for future research agenda

We need systematic studies of greater complexity

Target population

Has been "deep-end"
These cases have multiple system engagements & failures
This focus has complex implementation implications

What are the specific characteristics of youth, family and community and how do elements of wraparound theory of change address them?

Can this model work with an elderly clientele?
Who else?

Implications for future research agenda

Theory of change

Recent discussion is complex, requires testing

Examining application with different target populations may help refine & test theory of change

How do team composition & development influence assessment, focus of interventions, planning for transition and treatment generalization?

Theory base

Current model definition emphasizes meeting ecology of family needs. However, do patterns of interaction within the family or between family & others influence meeting these needs?

Implications for future research agenda

Examine organizational climate, culture & readiness
Don't re-invent the wheel (Glisson's studies & measures)

We can learn from descriptions of failures

Examine early stages of implementation

Exploration & adoption; Program installation
Requires consideration of staff selection, training, choice of supervision/coaching models, etc.

Purveyor Selection

Who does what well in what settings? How do we know?