

IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH

to Accelerate Progress in Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control

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Implementation Research: What is it?

Informs decisions about health policies, programmes, and practices*

‘...scientific inquiry into questions concerning implementation---the act of carrying an intention into effect, which in health research can be policies, programmes, or individual practices.’



*Peters DH et al: BMJ 2013:347 doi:
10.1136/bmj.f6733

Translating evidence into practice in NCD prevention and control

- **Complexity of interventions:** progress never due to a single intervention in NCDs
- **Diversity of settings, populations, & politics**
- **WHO definition:** ‘...and the *contextual* factors that affect these processes’

Key Principles

- **Real world** conditions
- **Working with populations** affected by intervention
- **Context:** Social, cultural, economic, political, legal, physical environment, institutional setting, demographics, disease burden
- **USAGE** of intervention, not just knowledge generation
- **Users involved** in design and conduct of research



Outcome variables

- Acceptability
- Adoption
- Appropriateness
- Feasibility
- Fidelity
- Cost
- Coverage
- Sustainability

- ***What is the research question?***
- ***What is the study design?***

Study designs

- Randomized practical trials (NOT an RCT)
- Effectiveness-implementation trials
- Quality improvement studies
- Participatory action research (CBR)
- Mixed methods



Example: Tobacco control in TB patients, Brazil

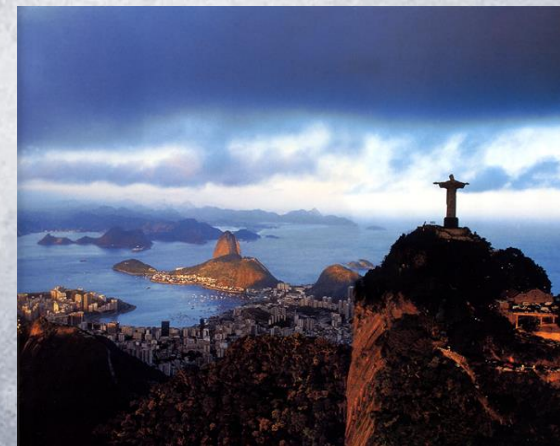
RQ: What is the feasibility of including smoking cessation in DOTS program for TB patients in Rio de Janeiro?

Method: Effectiveness-implementation hybrid, mixed methods

Results: Feasible but difficulties due to silo effect, human resource limitations, and lack of leadership prioritization



Smoking+TB



Example: Familias Sanas y Activas (FSA) Study

RQ: What is the community health impact of training physical activity *promotoras* in San Diego?

Method: Participatory Action Research

Results: significant improvements in community residents' health (decreases in BP and waist size, increases in flexibility and fitness, improved symptoms of depression)



Outcomes of Session

- Understand importance of implementation research in order to meet the targets of the WHO Global Action Plan (2013-2020) and target of SDG 3-4.
- Share experiences and best practices at global and national levels in implementation research for NCDs
- Discuss challenges and identify solutions in order to conduct NCD implementation research
- Identify means to support local capacity building and ensure sustainable financing of NCD implementation research
- **THANKS TO TEA COLLINS!!**