Implementation frameworks applied: the status quo in child, youth and family services

Results from a Scoping Review

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Our interest

- **Status quo**

  - Large number of implementation frameworks exist. However, the application of these frameworks in practice settings is still rare, and our knowledge about the evidence behind these frameworks is limited.

- **Goal of scoping review**

  - Identify studies related to the field of child and youth services that apply an implementation framework and summarise the evidence for implementation frameworks

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Search terms used

Search terms
1. ((implementation framework*) or (implementation model*) or (implementation plan*) or (implementation approach*) or (implementation stateg*) or (implementation protocol*) or (implementation guideline*) or (implementation manual*) or (implementation concept*)).mp.
2. (child* or early childhood or infant* or infancy or baby or babies or toddler* or preschool* or pre-school* or adolescen* or teen* or youth or young person or young people or famil* or mother* or father* or parent*).mp.
3. (Evaluation* or studies or study or research or investigation* or trial* or random* or controlled clinical trial* or control group* or evaluation stud* or study design or statistical* significan* or double-blind or placebo or meta-anal* or meta anal* or metaanal* or systematic review* or synthesis of studies or study synthesis).mp.
4. combined 1 to 3 with AND

Databases searched

Database	Database
PsycINFO	Embase & Embase Classic
MEDLINE	Social Work Abstracts
Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL)	Education Resources Information Center (ERIC)
Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA)	Sociological Abstracts

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Inclusion criteria

- English language

- Related to children, adolescents, parents or families (including services or practitioners who support these populations)

- Study / review papers

- Articles regarding an implementation framework

  - *= "a coherent set of interlinked concepts that – together – constitute a generic structure for describing, understanding or guiding implementation processes"*

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Results 1

- 831 studies identified through search terms

- 49 articles eligible according to inclusion criteria, based on screening of abstracts. They were retrieved for more detailed reading

- Of these, 39 articles were excluded because implementation strategies, practices or principles – and not frameworks – were the focus, or because the selected frameworks were presented and discussed but not applied in a practice setting

- 10 articles selected for full text analysis.

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Results 2

Framework	Studies included	Study designs used
Active Implementation Frameworks (AIF)	Bertram et al. (2014); Forgatch et al. (2013); Graff et al. (2010); Kimber et la. (2012); Metz et al. (2014)	1 evaluation; 1 case-based model overview; 3 case studies
ARC Organizational and Community Intervention Model	Glisson & Schoenwald 2005	Case-based model overview
CTD – The Community Development Team	Chamberlain et al. (2008); Saldana et al. (2014)	RCT; Cost evaluation study
EPIS implementation conceptual model	Aarons et al. (2012)	Study Protocol
Getting to Outcomes (GTO)	Pipkin et al. (2013)	Case Study

Conclusion

Despite a growing interest in the importance of implementation in the child and youth welfare sector, *the evidence-base for existing implementation frameworks, which were developed to describe, understand and guide implementation processes is still limited*.

Few studies document an application of the frameworks in real life settings, and these studies are primarily based on case study designs. There is a *significant lack of studies that are based on controlled designs*.

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