



Documentation of practices in the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy: Providing practice-based evidence to advance evidence-informed tobacco control practice



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Gap between Research and Practice

Traditional approach to intervention research:

- Evidence-informed interventions developed by scientists considering evidence about causes of public health problems
- Subsequently promoted to communities for practitioners to use.^{1,2}
- Approach has not led to the widespread adoption of such interventions.^{3,4}

➢ Gap between research and practice has become a major concern to scientists and practitioners

Relevance of Practice-based Evidence

Successful interventions must

- Rely on theory-based core elements
- Be feasible, adaptable and workable

Practitioners can provide

- **Detailed descriptions** of intervention planning, implementation and evaluation processes
- **Lessons learned**
- Insights in **key success factors** and **barriers** for successful implementation of interventions

Documenting practice-based knowledge and experiences allows:

- **Development of practice-based guidelines** for intervention programs
- **Building theories** about intervention contexts and mechanisms that affect the implementation and outcomes of the intervention

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Theoretical Background

Engaged scholarship⁵

- Collaborative, integrated interventionist approach
- Obtains recommendations and viewpoints from researchers, practitioners and decision makers

Realist approach⁶

- Combines theory based models with practice-based evidence to offer advice on the implementation of interventions
- Purpose is to understand the conditions of program impact: **why** does a program work for **whom** and under **what** circumstances

Methods

Case study methodology⁷:

- Semi-structured interviews
- Direct observations
- Reviews of documents, archival records, and physical artifacts

To capture public health staff knowledge and experiences with the adaptation, implementation and evaluation

- Quantitative intervention outcome measures

Data Analyses

Principles of grounded theory to derive concepts that will:

- Inform development of **practice guidelines**
 - Key success factors
 - Barriers for implementation
 - Lessons learned
- Help **build theories** about contexts and mechanisms that effect implementation and outcomes

Results

Practice-based intervention guidelines

- Theoretical core elements
- Detailed description of program adaptation, implementation and evaluation
- Lessons learned from the process
- Key success factors
- Program and evaluation materials

Made available to PH practitioners

- Enhance knowledge exchange among stakeholders
- Facilitate uptake and application of knowledge in practice settings
- Improve practitioners' ability to evaluate interventions

Revised and/or newly developed theories

- Social and cultural conditions that affect theory-based mechanisms of change within specific contexts and populations
- How changes in these conditions (different contexts and populations) affect intervention mechanisms
- Can help professionals to decide which intervention to implement
- Can help researchers to improve interventions and make them more relevant for practice

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