



SRAENE

Sexual Risk Avoidance Education
National Evaluation

Overview of High-quality Implementation Evaluations

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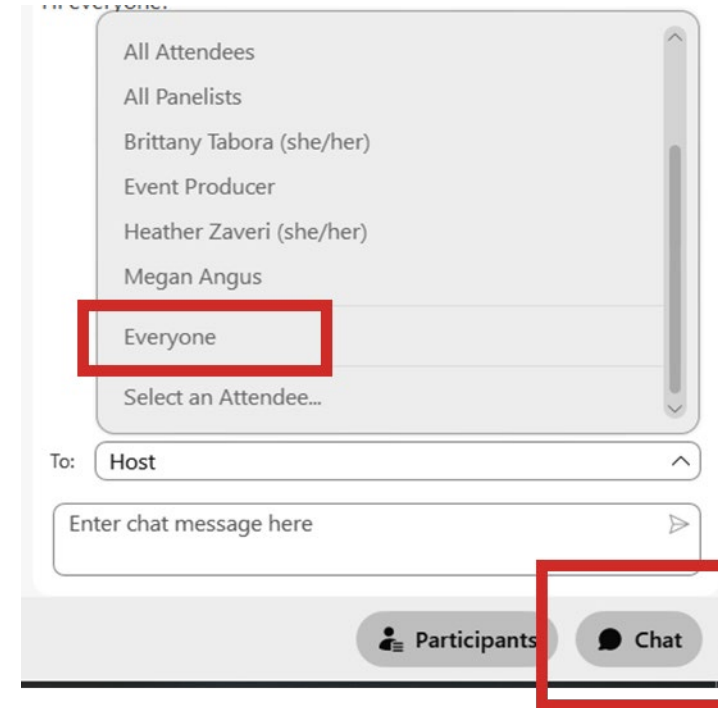
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Event materials and recording

- The event recording and other materials will be available in the coming days at <https://sraene.com/search-resources>

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Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of high-quality implementation evaluations
- Example of an implementation evaluation
- Implementation evaluation pilot
- Next steps

Note: Content provided during this webinar is not required for SRAE recipients.

Introductions



Today's speakers



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Overview of high-quality implementation evaluations



What is an implementation evaluation?

- Determines whether program activities have been implemented as intended
- Allows evaluators to:
 - Assess if program is operating as planned
 - Identify areas for improvement
 - Examine the connections between inputs, activities and outputs

What can you examine in an implementation evaluation?

Dosage	Amount of the program youth actually received
Fidelity	Degree to which program components delivered as intended
Quality	Level of quality in program delivery
Context	Other events, policies, programs that could affect implementation
Youth or staff reactions	Perceptions of the program and its delivery

When can you conduct an implementation evaluation?

- Can begin at any point of your implementation cycle
- Can be useful for a new or mature program
- Can be conducted as a standalone evaluation or alongside an outcome or impact evaluation

Comparing implementation evaluations to outcome and impact evaluations

Type of evaluation	Definition	Sample research question
Implementation evaluation	Determines whether program activities have been implemented as intended.	To what extent were the sessions delivered with high quality?
Outcome evaluation	Examines program and participant outcomes, oftentimes comparing data collected before and after the program is delivered.	Did youth's negotiation skills improve after participating in the program?
Impact evaluation	Examines participants' outcomes compared to a comparison group. Requires a random assignment or quasi-experimental design.	Did youth's risky sexual behaviors decrease after participating in the program, compared to a group of youth that did not receive the program?

What is a high-quality implementation evaluation?



Has a written plan



Asks answerable research questions



Uses appropriate data to address the research questions



Uses appropriate analysis methods

Element 1: Has a written plan

- The plan is a road map that outlines your intentions for the evaluation
- It may change over time in response to your evolving needs and priorities
- It should address the “what,” “how,” and “why it matters”:
 - “What”- Describes the program, logic model, research questions and planned evaluation activities.
 - “How”- Describes the process for collecting and analyzing data, including the staff that will be responsible for each step.
 - “Why it matters”- Identifies how the findings will be used for program improvement and decision making.

Element 2: Has answerable research questions

Focused

- Focused on a single topic or problem

Feasible

- Can be answered using data

Specific

- Focused on clearly defined outputs and time points

Complex

- Avoids simple yes/no questions
- Requires data collection

Relevant

- Addresses a topic of interest for your program

Element 2: Example research questions



- Over the course of the grant, what training did facilitators receive prior to beginning implementation?
- Over the course of the grant, what was partner organizations' level of investment and commitment to the project?
- What was the quality of interactions between facilitators and youth during programming in fall 2021?

Element 3: Uses appropriate data to answer the research questions

Sample data sources

Qualitative data

- Interviews with staff
- Focus groups with youth
- Facilitator fidelity logs
- Observations of program implementation

Quantitative data

- Student attendance records
- Surveys of staff or youth
- Facilitator fidelity logs
- Observations of program implementation

Time for a quick poll

What types of implementation data are you currently collecting?

- Focus Groups
- Interviews
- Surveys
- Attendance records
- Observations
- Fidelity logs
- We are planning our data collection approach

Element 4: Appropriate analysis methods

- Analysis methods will depend on the research questions and data sources
- Most implementation evaluations use a mixed-methods approach, meaning they have qualitative and quantitative data across multiple data sources
- Typically, the analysis examines the similarities or differences on a specific topic across different data sources
 - For example, an analysis may examine data on fidelity from several sources: facilitator fidelity logs, independent observations, and interviews with facilitators

Element 4: Appropriate analysis methods

- Need to be deliberate and systematic in analyzing all data
- Seek to understand patterns in the data to draw appropriate conclusions

Qualitative data:

You might develop and apply a coding scheme systematically to all transcripts from interviews and focus groups

Quantitative data:

You might calculate simple summary metrics (such as mean or range of responses) from survey data

Example of an implementation evaluation

Example study: Overview

An SRAE recipient is providing their program to middle school students in New Jersey. Students participated during their typical health class. This school year, the recipient is expanding to a new middle school. The local evaluation team is conducting an implementation evaluation to better understand program delivery at all schools, including the new middle school. They are also conducting an outcome evaluation, drawing on data from performance measures.

Example study: Research questions and data sources

- Research questions
 - To what extent was the program implemented with fidelity?
 - What were youth's reactions to the program?
 - What challenges and successes did the program staff face during implementation?
- Data sources
 - Observations of program implementation
 - Focus groups with youth
 - Interviews with program team (facilitators)

Example study: Data sources and analysis aligned with research questions

To what extent was the program implemented with fidelity?

Fidelity data from observations

Simple quantitative statistics of percentage of observed sessions that were fully implemented as intended

What were youth's reactions to the program?

Focus groups with youth

Qualitative analysis of focus group data to identify common themes

What challenges and successes did the program staff face during implementation?

Interviews with program team

Qualitative analysis of interviews to identify frequent challenges and successes

Example study: Findings

- In 65 percent of the observed sessions, the facilitator fully implemented the curriculum as intended
- Most youth (26 out of 40 respondents) reported that much of the curriculum was not relevant to their lived experiences and 35 percent of youth intend to abstain from sexual intercourse following the program
- Facilitators noted the lessons that included role plays were most challenging to implement, especially in a virtual setting. They also found youth were most engaged during the interactive game activities.

Discussion questions:

1. What stands out as most important in these findings?
2. What new questions do you identify based on the findings?

Implementation evaluation pilot



Overview of the pilot

- **Objective:** Support SRAE recipients who are or want to conduct scientific and systematic implementation evaluations
- **Process:** Individualized and group support around designing and conducting implementation evaluations
- **Timeline:** April to December 2022
- **Who:** A small number of SRAE recipients

Supports offered: Coaching and group support

- Individualized, tailored coaching
 - Regular one-on-one calls with SRAENE team
- Group support
 - Group calls
 - Peer learning opportunities

Supports offered: Access to toolkits

- Toolkits with written resources
 - Toolkit 1: Developing a plan for an implementation evaluation
 - Toolkit 2: Data collection
 - Toolkit 3: Analysis and reporting
- Pilot participants will provide valuable feedback on the toolkits, helping us refine them

Potential benefits

- Maximize the data you are collecting (or hope to collect) to tell the story of your program
- Use data to identify strengths and potential areas for improvement
- Learn to be intentional about evaluation design so that the lessons learned can then inform your decision making
- Learn from other SRAE recipients and share lessons learned
- Provide input on the toolkits, which will help us refine them before they are shared with all recipients

Next steps

Expressing interest in the pilot

- Forthcoming email invitation from SRAETA@mathematica-mpr.com
- You will be asked to provide a short response on why you are interested in the pilot
- Responses will be due by mid-March

Questions?

