

## The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) Implementation Science Model: A Tip Sheet

### What is implementation science?

Implementation science (IS) aims to bridge the gap between research and practice, helping to reduce the delay in adopting evidence-based, evidence-informed, and emerging interventions.

This resource will support Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipient staff in enhancing **Clinical Quality Management (CQM)** projects by integrating implementation science to generate initiatives that are systematic, replicable, and impactful.

### How does implementation science complement process evaluations and CQM?

Implementation science, process evaluations, and CQM all work to understand the contextual factors that influence outcomes related to the delivery of an intervention and to identify strategies to improve outcomes. The concepts are very closely related; however, they differ in focus:

Process evaluation	Quality improvement	Implementation science
Explains variations in implementation effectiveness and can be used to inform future work.	Uses process evaluation data to bring about immediate improvements in a local practice.	Produces generalizable knowledge about integrating interventions into practice.

### Why use implementation science in CQM?

IS offers both implementers and evaluators a practical, flexible approach to understanding not just whether an intervention worked, but how and why it worked in real-world settings.

Implementation science enhances CQM by:

- Bridging the gap between evidence and practice.
- Ensuring interventions are tailored to real-world settings.
- Identifying core elements to promote adoption and replication.
- Valuing local knowledge and community context, ensuring findings and recommendations are practical, applicable, and scalable.
- Standardizing and enhancing the rigor of the design, implementation, evaluation, and scale-up of QI initiatives.
- Exploring domains like uptake, barriers and facilitators, implementation strategies, and client outcomes to understand not just *what* happened, but *how and why*.

### What is the HRSA HAB IS framework?

The HAB IS Framework was developed by HRSA HAB to accelerate the translation of effective HIV intervention strategies into real-world settings, particularly through the RWHAP. The [HAB IS framework](#) can be used to assess interventions using multiple constructs including:

- Client outcomes—e.g., improved health status along the HIV care continuum.
- Implementation outcomes—e.g., how widely and effectively the intervention is adopted (i.e., penetration).
- Implementation strategies—their utility in promoting uptake and integration.
- Contextual factors—external and internal barriers or facilitators affecting success

Its structured evaluation framework ensures that data informs implementation efforts and is responsive to outcomes, context, and strategy effectiveness.

HAB IS is:

- **Efficient:** HAB IS uplifts proven strategies, increasing the reach and impact of interventions.
- **Rigorous:** HAB IS assesses outcomes and implementation to guide continuous quality improvement.
- **Collaborative:** HAB IS encourages engagement from clients, providers, researchers, and communities to ensure that it is responsive to real-world needs.

This framework can be used alongside other implementation science models, such as:

- o [RE-AIM Model](#) – Focuses on five areas: how many people are reached, the effectiveness of the program, how it's adopted and used, how it's carried out, and whether it lasts over time—both for individuals and organizations.
- o [Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research \(CFIR\)](#) – Explores what helps or blocks a program's success at different levels, including the people involved and the setting where the program happens.
- o [Proctor Model for Implementation Science](#) – Separates measures of how well an intervention is implemented from its actual health or service impact, emphasizing the importance of clearly defining and measuring these proximal indicators.

### **How to use the HRSA HAB IS model in your IS and CQM efforts**

If you have ever asked, “how can I improve client recruitment?” or “how can I make my program more accessible to clients?” or “what parts of my program are no longer working?” an implementation science evaluation can give you the data you need to make decisions and accelerate the implementation of effective strategies in your setting.