

## Implementation Stages Flowchart

### Introduction

Implementation happens in four discernible stages:

- **Exploration** involves an assessment of need and assets of the focus population, fit of the program or practice with those needs and assets and feasibility of implementation.
- **Installation** involves building the infrastructure necessary to implement the program or practice, which includes building practitioner and organizational capacity.
- **Initial implementation** includes the initial efforts of staff to use the program or practice, with attention to using data for continuous improvement.
- **Full implementation** occurs as staff use the program or practice successfully, and population-level results are achieved.

Identifying the current stage of implementation for a program, practice or initiative can help stakeholders to better understand implementation progress, ensure the use of appropriate implementation strategies for that stage and plan for data collection. The **Implementation Stages Flowchart** can be used to determine what stage of implementation a program or practice is in currently by following the arrows and answering simple yes or no questions. This information can then be used for planning and communication purposes.

It is important to note that implementation stages do not always end cleanly as the next begins; stages often overlap, and activities can cross stages. The **Implementation Stages Flowchart** provides a basic stage determination that does not reflect these nuances. The flowchart can identify the furthest stage of implementation that your program or practice has reached, based on completed activities. When using the flowchart, consider what aspects of your current implementation may not fit neatly into this stage and use the Implementation Stages Planning Tool to assess whether important stage-based activities have not yet been completed for prior stages.

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Follow the flow chart to identify the organization’s Implementation Stage for a specific program or practice.

