

CLAJ Semi-annual Meeting

October 28, 2024

National Academy of Sciences Building
Room NAS 125
2101 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20418

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024

PUBLIC SEMINAR: Advancing the Science of Implementation Science for Law and Justice

Description: Implementation science is a multidisciplinary field that studies how to increase evidence use in real-world settings. The most widely accepted definition of implementation science is, “[The] scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice, and, hence, to improve the quality and effectiveness of (...) services.” It seeks to uncover factors influencing the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of evidence-based innovations in various fields, such as health care, education, social services, and public policy. Implementation science attempts to increase practitioners’ use of research findings by identifying implementation barriers and facilitators, developing effective implementation strategies, and evaluating the impact of implementation strategy use on outcomes. It involves collaboration among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of implementing evidence-based practices to address complex social challenges.

The justice field, generally, falls behind other disciplines in leveraging implementation science to bring awareness to and facilitate the implementation of a large and growing body of evidence-based policies and practices. This seminar aims to explore the state of implementation science within the justice field, including current efforts to advance scientific knowledge, opportunities to expand and strengthen research efforts, observations and progress made by justice decision-makers, and new possibilities for implementation science use among justice stakeholders.

12:00pm

Registration Opens (NAS 125)

12:30pm – 12:45pm

Welcome, Introduction, and Context Setting

Robert Crutchfield, chair, Committee on Law and Justice

Tamara Herold, National Institute of Justice

12:45pm – 2:15pm

Panel 1: Implementation Science and Research Translation for Law and Justice

Moderator: Cynthia Lum, member, Committee on Law and Justice

Allison Metz, University of North Carolina (*virtual*)

Tom Simon and Lianne Estefan, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (*virtual*)

Kim DuMont, William T. Grant Foundation

Laurie Garduque, MacArthur Foundation

2:15pm – 2:30pm

BREAK

2:30pm – 4:00pm **Panel 2: Implementation Challenges and Strategies for Reaching Decisionmakers**

Moderator: Emily Wang, member, Committee on Law and Justice (virtual)

Dorothy Espelage, University of North Carolina
Rachel Goldstein, Justice System Partners
Carmen Albizu García, University of Puerto Rico
Lauren Brinkley-Rubinstein, Duke University
Anise Vance, City of Durham, NC
Brandon del Pozo, Brown University

4:00pm – 4:15pm **BREAK**

4:15pm – 5:00pm **Discussion: Next Steps for Implementation Science in the Justice Sector**

Facilitator: Nancy La Vigne, Director, NIJ

Guiding Questions for Discussion:

- What is the current state of implementation science in the justice field, and how has it evolved over recent years?
- What funding opportunities and resources are available for conducting implementation science research in the justice field? What areas and questions have not yet been fully explored?
- What are the largest challenges to advancing our knowledge and use of implementation science?
- What are some examples of evidence-based practices that have been successfully implemented in justice settings using implementation science principles?
- What theories, models, and frameworks have been used to measure the success of implementation efforts in justice settings, which have not, and why?
- What role do organizational factors such as culture, leadership, and readiness play in the successful implementation of evidence-based practices?
- What training and educational resources are available for justice professionals to learn about implementation science, and how can these be improved?
- How are the principles of equity and fairness most directly impacted by implementation science? How has past research shaped our current understanding of equity and evidence-based policy/program implementation?
- What are the future directions for justice-focused implementation science, and what are the next steps for advancing this work?

Acknowledgment: The National Academies and the Committee on Law and Justice expresses its utmost thanks to the National Institute of Justice, Arnold Ventures, the William T. Grant Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation for their critical support of the leadership activities of the Committee on Law and Justice, including this meeting. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed during this meeting or in meeting materials provided to participants do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Academies or the sponsors.