DATA STRATEGY FOR ROBUST CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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If We Use Evidence-Based Programs, Why Test Improvements?

Because of:
- Cultural Adaptation
- Modify for Local Constraints
- Alter Program Based on Participant Response

Continuous Improvement

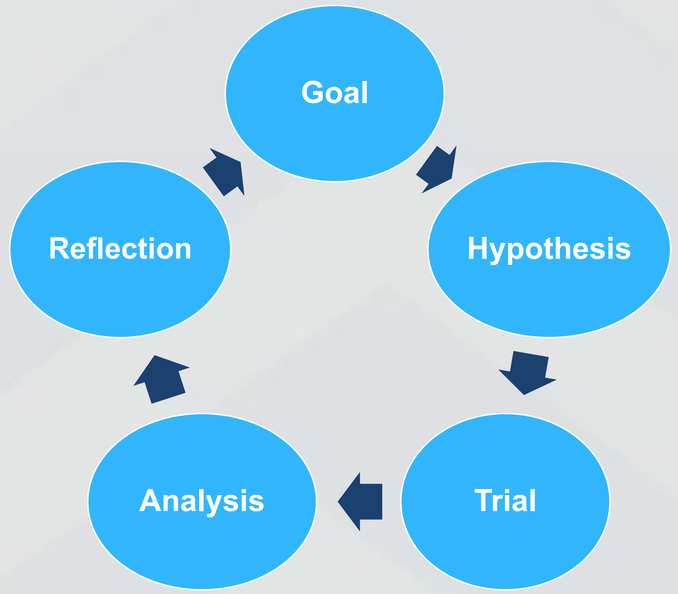
- Tests Portions of Program
- Makes Use of All Available Data
- Considers Cost/Benefit
- Hypotheses are Decision Rules

Strategy is Theory

We Do *Something* (make a change) Because It *Works* (has a desirable outcome)

- Define the goal for the change you want to make
- Define the change in the program
- Define the data required and collect as you go or use data you already collect

Continuous Improvement Process is Continuous!



Testing for Continuous Improvement

Map Expected Relationships Before Testing – *Entering Cycle in "Reflection"*
Future Orientation → Risk Avoidance
Early Mortality Expectations* → Present (not Future) Orientation
* Identified in prior focus groups

Map Observed Relationships For Further Testing – *Entering Cycle in "Analysis"*
- Observed significantly fewer Entry than Exit surveys
- Analyzed attendance data
- Late entrants to the class returned and did not skip

Quality → Student Engagement

Goal: Modify Mortality Expectations (especially among Black males) and Develop Future Orientation
Hypothesis: Future Orientation can be Developed & Mortality Expectations Modified Through Ice-Breakers (Defined as free-form discussions following a prompt)
Example: *What would you do if you won a million dollars?*
Testing Ice-Breakers:
- Direct Questions in Pre- and Post-Test Focus Groups on Mortality Beliefs, Future Orientation, and Aspirations
- School Data on Attendance, Fights, etc. Pre to Post
- Improvement in Exit Survey Measures

Goal: Improve Student Engagement
- Gather student satisfaction measures following random sample of classes
- Analyze scores and identify sources of difference
- Add, remove, or modify material based on findings

Testing Changes
- Track student satisfaction, attendance, and Entry/Exit results

What's Next?

Communicate Results to Stakeholders!
- Demonstrates Importance of Entry/Exit Surveys to Program Partners
- Use when Applying for Additional Funding
- Continue to Improve

Literature Cited
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