Supplemental material

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Supplementary File 3: Process evaluation definitions

Study included	Process evaluation definition
No explicit description of process evaluation within manuscript	
(26,29,37,39,51,55,56,62,69,77)	Does not provide any explicit description of process evaluation in the manuscript.
(31,33,36,38,44,45,49,52,63,80)	Does not provide any explicit description of process evaluation in the manuscript but references existing process evaluation studies to identify evaluation components.
Explicit description within manuscript referencing existing process evaluation framework or evaluation study	
(35,79)	Cite Green and Kauter et al (15), process evaluation gives "a clear, descriptive picture of the quality of the program elements being put into place and what is taking place as the program proceeds". Tolma et al. emphasises process evaluation "must evaluate all program inputs (e.g., program goals and objectives, resources allocated), implementation activities (e.g., staff performance, events sponsored), and stakeholder reaction (e.g., level of participation among intended recipients to the program and reactions of the intended recipients to the program".
(32,46,47,59,75,83)	Cite Moore et al., describing process evaluation as the examination of "the implementation, mechanisms of impact and the context". Igel et al. suggest, "process evaluations are important in examining the nature of what was implemented in practice, helping interpret context around intervention outcomes, and therefore informing future programs". For Anselma et al. process evaluation should "help to gain a deeper understanding of the more and less effective elements of actions, as well as facilitators and barriers for sustainable implementation". By referring Moore et al., Fusari et al. believe process evaluation at the feasibility stage can help "to understand how the trial design and intervention could be optimised ahead of an RCT. They also conduct in parallel an independent process evaluation to learn about usage and engagement mechanisms of participants and stakeholders to provide information for implementation fidelity and impact mechanisms necessary for scale-up".
(70)	Cite Glasgow et al. and describe process evaluation's main as the "capturing of information about emerging barriers and facilitators to change implementation and to identify contextual (organisational and environmental) factors that affect the intervention".

(64)	Reference Saunders et al. and describe process evaluation as the procedure which "will monitor the processes in terms of reaching the intended outcome".
(57,81)	Both cite Linnan and Steckler and report that process evaluation can shed light on why some interventions produced the intended results, and why others did not, and provide valuable insights. They state that a comprehensive process evaluation ensures that the program's operations, implementation, and service delivery are thoroughly documented. Process data may also be used to help interpret study findings and identify program elements that were more or less effective.
(40)	Cite Valente (16) say process evaluation offers insight into whether the program is successful within the community and allows for program planners to make post implementation modifications before larger effectiveness studies.
(71)	CiteIsrael et al. (17) describe process evaluation's aim as to determine the extent, fidelity, and quality of intervention implementation. Process evaluation focuses on examining how an outcome is achieved, e.g., the internal dynamics of program operations.
(51)	Cite Greer et al. describe process evaluation's aim to analyse the intentions, strategies employed, and outcomes of the process utilised in the project and discuss the implications for capacity building and empowerment among the peer researchers.
(54)	Emphasise the importance of the means rather than the results and looks at aspects such as fairness, information exchange, group process, and procedures (Chess and Purcell, 1999).
(60)	Citeboth Butterfoss et al. (18) process evaluation was used to examine the stakeholders' perceptions of their level of involvement by exploring their expectations from the project, commitment to project and its activities, and perspectives on the role of stakeholders in the project. Process evaluation was seen as a way to establish whether the partnership and project activities have been as intended and resulted in the expected outputs.
(78)	Process evaluation addresses both the structure and activities of the program or intervention, concerning the physical setting or procedure, as well as the behavior of the participants. Process evaluation is important step in validating the study between the intervention and the outcomes (Bliss and Emshoff, 2002), and avoiding Type III error (Linnan and Steckler, 2002; Lohrmann, 2006).
(53)	By citing Linney and Wendersman (19) authors express that process evaluation helps inform ways in which programs can be modified and better implemented in order to allocate an agency's resources more efficiently and ensure that the specific needs of the target population are truly met. In addition, process evaluations clarify anticipated outcome goals and criteria used in outcome evaluations that measure a program's relevance and accomplishments.
(97)	By citing Oakley et al. (20) they state that process evaluation helps interpret the intervention's outcomes, while also shedding light on successes and failures of an intervention and highlighting parts of the intervention that should be improved in replication study. It allows to draw inferences about future applicability in the current setting and about generalizability and transferability to other settings.

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Own explicit description provided by authors, with no referencing to existing framework or study	
(48)	"The process evaluation's aim is identifying potential causal mechanisms and detail the intervention context to understand how and why occupational rehabilitation programs work, and under what conditions".
(74)	"Process evaluation strategies gather information from the community to provide solid evidence for how to modify the campaign to best meet audience expectations".
(73)	"Describe what was delivered, how and why; in order to support the interpretation of emerging outcome data".
(68)	"A process evaluation was conducted to determine the extent to which the project plan was developed and executed according to intervention's guidelines".
(67)	"To inform the development and implementation of a rural PHC intervention, and identify barriers and facilitators to developing, implementing, and sustaining the intervention in a rural PHC team".
(72)	"To assess the research partnerships as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the grant program. Specific areas of investigation included the roles of the research partners, the nature of their involvement in the study, suggestions for improving the funding mechanism, and lessons learned to ensure strong community and academic researcher collaborations in the future".
(65)	The process evaluation aims to provide project partners and the funder with information on the development and implementation of interventions at different stages and the functioning of the partnership".
(66)	Process evaluation highlights community members' experiences.
(61)	Process evaluation is a type of evaluation which focuses on operations and implementation and which presents an opportunity for reflection and learning about participatory processes and to help to clarify the roles and expectations of collaborators.
(49)	A process evaluation was conducted to understand the attitudes, perceptions, beliefs, impact of and satisfaction with the engagement process used to conduct the work.
(30)	Process evaluation aimed to explore the impact of the intervention's produced products.
(41)	Process evaluation focuses on assessing community engagement and giving context to outcome-based evaluation.