

Implementation and Fidelity

Criminal Justice

Why a programme that worked in a trial often does nothing when rolled out.

Five questions to ask of any disappointing evaluation.

1

Model

What the programme is, and the mechanism it relies on.

2

Fidelity

Whether it was delivered as designed or quietly adapted.

3

Dosage

Whether participants received enough of it to matter.

4

Reach

Whether it reached the group it was validated on.

5

Context

Whether local conditions support the mechanism at all.

Educational reference. Many null findings in criminal justice trials are implementation failures rather than theory failures.