Qualitative Implementation Evaluation of Housing First for People with Mental Illness: The Canadian At Home/Chez Soi Project

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Introduction

- <u>Context</u>: *At Home/Chez Soi project*: federally funded by the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC); mixed methods RCT evaluating *Housing First* in five Canadian cities

- <u>Aim</u>: To better understand the reasons for implementation fidelity challenges and strengths in the At Home/Chez Soi project

- <u>Questions</u>:

1. What are the reasons for issues that continue/have emerged as implementation fidelity strengths?

2. What are the reasons for issues that (a) continue or (b) have emerged as implementation fidelity challenges?

3. What are the other emerging implementation fidelity issues?

Methods

- **Sampling and sample**
  - Purposeful sampling
  - 192 participants total (36 key informant interviews, 17 staff focus groups with 99 participants, and 57 interviews with landlords and caretakers)

- **Data collection**
  - Interviews in English or French
  - At participants' workplaces or site offices
  - Interviews audio recorded and transcribed verbatim

- **Data analysis**
  - Thematic Analysis for site reports and cross-site report

Results

Question 1 – Maintained/Emerging Implementation Strengths	Question 2a – Maintained Implementation Challenges/Trouble Spots	Question 2b – Emerging Implementation Challenges/Trouble Spots	Question 3 – Other Emerging Implementation Issues
(a) Partnerships and collaboration (b) Housing and re-housing (c) Presence of dedicated specialists and professionals on housing and service teams	(a) Staffing (b) Scattered-site model of housing (c) Participant feelings of isolation and loneliness (d) Peer support (e) Documentation	(a) Housing (b) Vocational and educational goal supports	(a) Service Array (Harm-reduction strategies) (b) Service Delivery (Frequency of staff visits)

Conclusions

- Findings provide information about identifying and maintaining strengths, as well as identifying and potentially preventing challenges or trouble spots when implementing complex community-based housing interventions.