

Monitoring Programs Using Fidelity Logs

A program implemented with fidelity is delivered how the program developers intended. Consistently implementing with fidelity increases the likelihood the program will achieve its goals and objectives. Implementing with fidelity can apply to a full program comprising a standard curriculum as well as supplemental services, or to a specific component of a program. Organizations can monitor fidelity by collecting data in a log and using those data to identify areas of improvement. The accompanying video introduced several steps for using fidelity logs, which are described below. Table 1 lists key terms and their definitions, and Table 2 lists common program elements to monitor and data to collect about those elements.



Decide which program elements to monitor and the data you will collect about each element. Common program elements assessed in fidelity monitoring include lesson information, adherence to planned activities, and implementation challenges.



Identify or create a fidelity log to collect data on program elements consistently across facilitators. Your organization or program developer might already have such a log. If not, you can create one using a combination of closed- and open-ended questions. Logs can be on paper or online.



Determine the frequency of fidelity monitoring based on facilitator experience, availability, program structure, and what you want to learn. Regardless of how often facilitators complete the log, they should complete it as soon as possible after the relevant lesson so they do not forget information.



Determine who will analyze the data and how to use the data. Identify someone with the skills to analyze the data you collected from your organization or an external evaluator. If you choose a staff member, avoid selecting facilitators to reduce sources of bias. You can analyze the data by looking at descriptive results from closed-ended questions or summarizing key themes or takeaways from open-ended questions.



Share findings with facilitators at regular intervals. If your goal is program improvement, share the information with the entire team of facilitators to keep everyone informed. If you are interested in individual facilitator improvement, have facilitators include their names on the fidelity logs and share feedback with facilitators individually. This can help them identify their strengths and potential areas of improvement.

Table 1. Key terms

Term	Definition
Closed-ended questions	Multiple-choice and yes-or-no questions that allow you to easily compare data between facilitators, between sites, or over time.
Open-ended questions	Free-form questions that allow facilitators to respond in their own words and can capture more in-depth information.

Table 2. Common program elements and data to monitor

Program element	Example data
Lesson information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesson date• Start and end times of lessons• Name of site or school• Log completion date• Youth attendance
Adherence to planned activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether the intended content was covered in the specified order• Whether each activity was completed, partially completed, or not completed• Whether there were additions or changes to the lesson
Implementation challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenges facilitators faced during the lesson• How prepared facilitators felt to deliver the lesson• Youth engagement

For more background on fidelity monitoring:

This tip sheet outlines key steps for monitoring fidelity: https://teenpregnancy.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/SRAETTA_2020-TipSheet-FidelityMonitoring_508.pdf

This tip sheet provides an overview of fidelity monitoring and why it is important: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/prep-fidelity-monitoring-ts_0.pdf

This online course serves as an introduction to fidelity monitoring and identifies fidelity data collection methods: <https://rhntc.org/resources/introduction-fidelity-elearning>

For more on data to collect for fidelity monitoring:

This tip sheet provides information on identifying data to collect on fidelity logs: <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/fidelity-monitoring-tip-sheet-2020.pdf>

This brief describes the importance of fidelity and offers tips for creating fidelity logs: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/measuring_implementation_fidelity.pdf

About this series

This video series, and the accompanying tip sheets on understanding and collecting high-quality data, were created as part of the [Sexual Risk Avoidance Education National Evaluation \(SRAENE\)](#). The series covers a range of data-related topics to help grantees understand the importance of high-quality data and provide guidance on how they can collect them in their program. Although some of the resources are drawn from topic areas that are not related to SRAE, the content on data is still relevant.

FYSB does not recommend any particular survey platform or data system that may be referenced in tip sheets.

For more information or questions, contact the SRAENE team at SRAETA@mathematica-mpr.com.

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