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This Month’s HEADLINES

This Month’s DEEP DIVE: Funding Opportunities from the William T. Grant Foundation

This Month’s HOMEWORK
This Month’s Headlines

CONGRESS

• Infrastructure Bill Complete; Funding Bills Remain
  • More: cossa.org/tag/fy-2022

• ARPA-H Authorization Bills Introduced

• David Price, Longtime Social Science Champion, Announces Retirement

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

• Evidence Advisory Committee Recommends Establishment of a National Data Service
  • More: https://www.bea.gov/evidence

• Robert Santos Confirmed as Census Director

COMMITTEE

• National Academies Convenes First Meeting of Strategic Council for Research Excellence, Integrity, and Trust
  • More: https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/10-25-2021/the-strategic-council-for-research-excellence-integrity-and-trust-meeting-1

• New Academies Panel on Assessing the Impact of Federal Policies on Health Equity Seeking Nominations
  • More: https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/review-of-federal-policies-that-contribute-to-racial-and-ethnic-health-inequities

COssa

• “Why Social Science” Matters for AI Research
  • More: www.whysocialscience.com

Subscribe for more news: www.cossa.org/washington-update
Deep Dive Discussion

Funding Opportunities from the William T. Grant Foundation

Dr. Lauren H. Supplee
Senior Program Officer
William T. Grant Foundation
Turning the lens on ourselves: Researching how to make science more useful and used in policy and practice

Lauren H. Supplee
Senior Program Officer
November 18, 2021
to inform policy and practice
Supporting Research to Improve the Lives of Young People
MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Russell T. Vought  
Acting Director  

SUBJECT: Phase 1 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning Guidance

July 10, 2019

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

EVIDENCE AND EVALUATION

The Administration is committed to building and using evidence to improve policy, program, budget, operational, and management decision-making. Our vision for effective and efficient government includes ensuring accountability for results, having the necessary analytical tools to measure outcomes and impacts, identifying and investing in effective practices, and transforming data into evidence that informs action. With stronger evidence, we can learn from and improve programs to better serve the American people.
Bridging the gap between health policy and practice: a continuing challenge

More commitment to deal with this problem is needed.

Why don't we get more research into this area?

By Paul MacLellan | 9 August 2016

The answer is 17 years, what is the question: understanding time lags in translational research

Zoë Slote Morris1 • Steven Wooding2 • Jonathan Grant2

1Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 0SR, UK
2RAND Europe, Cambridge CB4 1YG, UK
Correspondence to: Jonathan Grant. Email: jgrant@rand.org

Summary
This study aimed to review the literature describing and quantifying time lags in the health research translation process. Papers were included in the review if they quantified time lags in the development of health interventions. The study identified 23 papers. Few were comparable as different studies use different measures, of different things, at different time points. We concluded that the current state of knowledge of time lags is of limited use to those responsible for R&D and knowledge transfer who face difficulties in knowing what they should or can do to reduce time lags. This effectively ‘blindfolds’ investment decisions and risks wasting effort. The study concludes that understanding lags first requires agreeing models, definitions and measures, which can be applied in practice. A second task would be to develop a process by which to gather these data.
Federal Research and Development Funding, FY2019-FY2021

In billions of dollars

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TREND ARTICLE

Why We Must Rebuild Trust in Science

A scientific endeavor that is not trusted by the public cannot adequately contribute to society

February 9, 2021  By: Sudip Parikh  Read time: 6 min

REBUILD TRUST IN SCIENCE

Pew Research Center

Trust in Medical Scientists Has Grown in U.S., but Mainly Among Democrats

About six-in-ten believe social distancing measures are helping a lot to slow the spread of coronavirus in the nation

BY CARY FUNK, BRIAN KENNEDY AND COURTNEY JOHNSON
We are scientists....

We can study this question!
Improving the Use of Research Evidence:

What have we learned?
Early findings

➢ Theory
  • Explanatory frameworks
  • Testable propositions
What have we learned about when research is used?

- Responsive
- Routinized
- Relational

Yanovitzky, 2020; Best & Holmes, 2010; Bogenschneider et al., 2019; Brown et al., 2016; Oliver et al., 2014
What does it mean to *use* research evidence?
Can we create the conditions to increase research use?

Boundary spanning at the science–policy interface: the practitioners’ perspectives

A. T. Bednarek¹ · C. Wyborn²,³ · C. Cvitanovic⁴ · R. Meyer⁵ · R. M. Colvin⁶ · P. F. E. Addison⁷ · S. L. Close¹ · K. Curran¹ · M. Farooque⁶ · E. Goldman⁶ · D. Hart¹⁰ · H. Mannix⁹ · B. McGeavy¹¹ · A. Parris¹² · S. Posner⁸,¹³ · C. Robinson¹⁴ · M. Ryan⁸,¹⁵ · P. Leith¹⁶

Received: 14 November 2017 / Accepted: 8 March 2018 / Published online: 27 March 2018
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What are we doing now?
Improving the Use of Research Evidence

1) Strategies to foster more routine and constructive use of research
2) Strategies to improve production of useful research
3) Whether and under what conditions using research improves outcomes
Types of Studies

- Descriptive studies that clarify the mechanisms for improving research use.
- Intervention studies that examine attempts to improve research use.
- Measurement studies of the use of research evidence that will enhance the work of researchers or decision makers.
Measuring the Effectiveness of Research-Practice Partnerships in Education

Caitlin Farrell, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Study is developing measures & protocols to assess when and how research-practice partnerships are effective and can improve the use of research evidence in policy and practice building from the constructs in Henrick et al (2017) framework related to effective partnering.
- Measure will also allow future research to identify & test mechanisms and conditions under which RPPs improve research use to improve student outcomes.
A Southern California Regional RPP Network for the Comparative Study of Research Use in Anti-Racist Partnerships

June Ahn, University of California, Irvine

- How do different types of partnerships foster research use in anti-racist work? How do intentional dialogue and relationship processes in partnerships facilitate improvements in anti-racist outcomes?
- Comparative case study to develop deeper theory on using research towards racial justice

Examples of Recent Grants
This project investigates when policymakers wish to connect with researchers, as well as what impact their relationships can have on policymakers' use of research evidence. Using two randomized field experiments the team will be testing light touch methods of conducting outreach to a relatively-understudied population: county legislators.
New Layers

❖ Critical race lens

▪ *Panel: Critical Race Perspectives on URE*

▪ *Centering the Margins: Redefining useful Research Evidence*

▪ *Identifying & Testing Strategies to Improve the Use of Antiracist Research Evidence*
Welcome

The Use of Research Evidence (URE) Repository of Methods is an open resource for the URE community to share and learn about research methods used to understand and improve the use of evidence in policy and practice. It strives to be a site of collaboration where researchers can share and build upon the work of others in the community, and is being developed at the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education, generously supported by the William T. Grant Foundation.

This companion site serves as a comprehensive guide and a resource hub for URE researchers interested in participating in this collaborative initiative. We welcome you to explore it as well as the actual repository itself, which is housed in the URE Collection on the Open Science Framework (OSF). You can also search and preview its most recent entries at the bottom of this page.
New Layers

❖ Robust methods and measures
  ▪ *Studying the Use of Research Evidence: A Review of Methods*
  ▪ *Uremethods.org Methods repository*
Panel Discussion: Power, Possibility, and Equity in Research Practice Partnerships

This June 2021 panel discussion highlighted two RPPs, one in the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco and one in Seattle Public Schools, that center equity in the design and implementation of the partnership. Panelists discussed strategies to develop equitable partnerships including the necessary relational conditions, reconfiguration of power and hierarchy, the role of the community, institutional dynamics, and sustainability. The discussion attended not only to these existing partnerships, but what they suggest about what is possible for creating truly equitable partnerships moving forward.

Centering the Margins: (Re)defining Useful Research Evidence Through Critical Perspectives

FABIENNE DOUCET, 2019

This essay offers an introduction to critical research perspectives, particularly critical race theory, as they apply to the conceptualization and study of the use of research evidence. Doucet outlines three specific strategies for using critical race theory to inform a conceptual framework for studies focused on improving the usefulness of research evidence, wherein useful is considered from the perspective of the communities most affected by policy or practice.

Identifying and Testing Strategies to Improve the Use of Antiracist Research Evidence through Critical Race Lenses

FABIENNE DOUCET, 2021

This essay offers guidance for studying strategies to improve the use of antiracist research evidence in ways that benefit youth of color. Doucet outlines the ways that critical race perspectives can shape all aspects of research on research use, offers insight into how studies to improve the use of antiracist research evidence can be designed, and offers key considerations to improve the usefulness and use of antiracist research.

No Small Matters: Reimagining the Use of Research Evidence from a Racial Justice Perspective

DAVID E. KIRKLAND, 2019
Research Grants on Improving the Use of Research Evidence

The online application is now closed. The next deadline for letters of inquiry is May 5, 2021, 3:00pm EST.

Funding Opportunities

Download the 2021 Application Guidelines for Research Grants on Improving the Use of Research Evidence (Updated November 2020)
Questions?
Homework Assignment

- **Action Alert Coming Soon!** Tell Congress to finish their work on FY 2022 spending THIS YEAR!
  [https://cossa.org/action-center/alerts/](https://cossa.org/action-center/alerts/)

- Submit nominations for NASEM Review of Federal Policies that Contribute to Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities – **Due tomorrow, Nov. 19!**
Recordings of Past Headlines Available @
cossa.org/events

PAST DEEP DIVE TOPICS:

• October 2021: Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences at the NIH
• September 2021: Updates from the Institute of Education Sciences
• July 2021: Pending NSF Legislation
• June 2021: A National Secure Data Service
• May 2021: Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in STEM
• April 2021: Updates from NSF’s SBE Directorate
• March 2021: COVID-19 Relief for Researchers
• February 2021: Biden’s First Weeks
• January 2021: COVID-19 Vaccination Communication
• December 2020: 2021 Policy Landscape
• November 2020: 2020 Election
Wendy Naus
Executive Director
Email: wnaus@cossa.org

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