

Understanding the implementation of integrated behavioral health services in primary care
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Integrated behavioral health care, the delivery of physical and behavioral health services in a single setting, is associated with improved quality of care and reduced health care costs. Health systems are increasingly seeking to integrate behavioral health services with primary care services and funders, including NIMH, SAMHSA, and PCORI have emphasized the importance of integrated care. While integrated behavioral health care is often promoted, little is known about how contextual factors and individual biases impact use of behavioral health services in primary care and how to most effectively apply behavioral insights in implementation strategy development. This project will focus on a critical but understudied area: understanding the context of integrated behavioral health services from the primary care provider, behavioral health provider, and patient perspectives. Informed by the EAST framework, we will conduct qualitative interviews in clinics integrating behavioral health services. We also will develop a quantitative survey to query about provider intentions, attitudes and norms as well as information about referral and treatment practices relevant to integrated behavioral health services. Finally, we will quantitatively track stages of implementation completion at the clinic level and conduct mixed methods analyses to better understand how contextual factors impact the implementation process. Participants will be drawn from primary care clinics in the University of Pennsylvania Health System, which is undergoing a major integration of behavioral health services into primary care.