IMMIGRATION RESEARCH IN ACTION

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Uses of Research in Practice

• To inform the delivery of effective and relevant services
  • Evidence Based Practice (EBP)

Uses of Research in Practice

• To facilitate team discussions and continuous learning.
  • Grand Rounds

Image source: http://www.bu.edu/lesotho/gallery/grand-rounds/
Uses of Research in Program Development

• Catholic Relief Services
  • Food for Education

• South Africa
  • JRS:
    Intake, database
    and the ability to target the greatest need.
Use of Research for Evaluation and Identification of Promising Practices

- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
  - Central American Youth in Long Term Foster Care:
  - Documentation of Best Practices

http://lirs.org/
Partner to Find Facts

• Alejandro Olayo-Mendez:
  • 2015-16
    • 4 Trans-Mexico Journeys along the migrant route
      • 14 shelter stays
      • 7 Humanitarian agencies off the trail
      • 3 additional visits to shelters to document migrant experiences of 200 people per day passing through
      • Detailing the violence, robberies, rapes, beatings

• Facts to undergird decisions of pastoral care, services needed, volume of demand, outcomes of policy and recommended advocacy.
Uses of Research in Practice

- To develop trainings for service providers
  - Training new team members
  - Consulting for other agencies
Uses of Research in Practice

• To influence policies that affect service providers
  • Research informed advocacy

Image source: https://open-stand.org/how-to-become-an-openstand-advocate/
Partners in Knowledge

• BORDER STUDIES

• Jeremy Slack, UT, El Paso
• Gabriella Sanchez, UT, El Paso

• Smuggling, security, drugs, undocumented migrant risks

• And
  • Deportation Nation, Dan Kanstroom
  • Border Patrol Nation, Todd Miller
Using Research for Accuracy

• DACA:
  • Brookings published [Local Insights from DACA for Implementing Future Programs for Unauthorized Immigrants](#) Nicole Svajlenka and Jill Wilson.
  • Hard data about the use and delay of enrollment used by AIC, FIRM to advocate for outreach and extension.
Research for Inclusion

SUID* Mortality Rates, by Maternal Race/Ethnicity, 2009

*Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) includes SIDS (R95), Unknown Cause (R99), and Accidental Suffocation or Strangulation in Bed (W75). **Includes Hispanics. N/R: Fewer than 20 deaths; data did not meet the standard of reliability or precision.


4000 SUID annually
Barriers to Using Research

Types of barriers:
- Inadequate agency resources for EBP
- Agency culture
- Practitioner skills and knowledge
- Practitioner attitudes
- Nature of social work

Bringing service providers and researchers together

- Conferences
  - Forum that brings service providers and researchers together
Partner for Professional Development

• BCSSW
  • Latino Leadership Institute, Spanish Language MSW
  • Immigrant and Refugee Certificate

Example:
Florence Project, expanding from legal assistance to social work participation in case management and individual care.

Continuing Education
In Service Training
Field Education interns
Bringing service providers and researchers together

- **Action Research**
  - Service providers track data from assessments and evaluations of their programs

- Service providers determine needed areas for future research

- **Share what you are learning, document your work.**
Research Sources

• Center for Migration Studies
  • An educational institution and think tank
  • Publishes the *International Migration Review (IMR)*

• Migration Policy Group
  • European nonprofit that promotes strategic thinking on mobility, equality, and diversity

• Colegio de la Frontera Norte
  • Observatorio de Legislación y Política Migratoria

• UNU-Merit
  • Global lessons on impact of migration
Research Sources

- ISMU Foundation
  - Promotes and conducts studies and research projects
  - Focuses on Italy and international migration

- Metropolis Canada
  - Network for comparative research on immigration, diversity, and immigrant integration

- Google Scholar
  - scholar.google.com
Research Sources

• Migration Policy Institute
  • Nonprofit think tank
  • Publishes reports about migration

• COMPAS of University of Oxford
  • Produces research about immigration

• Immigration Integration Lab
  • of Boston College
  • Publishes monthly newsletters
Research Sources

• Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
  • https://doaj.org/

• Pew Foundation and Pew Research Center

• Urban Institute

• American Immigration Council
Take Away

• Create a value in evaluation
• Discover options
• Explore evidence through research

• What does it require to be evidence based?
• TIME
• RESOURCES
• ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE