

## RESEARCH BRIEF

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# A typology of power in implementation: Building on the exploration, preparation, implementation, sustainment (EPIS) framework to advance mental health and HIV health equity

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*This expanded framework offers a shared conceptual language for implementation stakeholders to identify and address the ways in which discursive, epistemic, and material power are generated by and influence implementation processes.*

### Why is this research important?

- Power is generated and distributed by implementation processes, and these forms of power can dismantle and/or reproduce health inequity via intervention implementation.

### Key Points

- The expanded framework was developed through analyzing implementation coaching field notes, grant reporting, and evaluation documents, training feedback, partner evaluation interviews, and existing implementation literature.
- Implementation Science (IS) scholars should explicitly access the influence of power on implementation processes and the forms of power generated through implementation.

### What did we find?

- There are three distinct yet interrelated forms of power that are generated through intervention implementation, discursive power, epistemic power, and material power.
- Decisions across all phases and factors of EPIS influence how these forms of power striate through intervention implementation and ultimately affect health equity outcomes.
- If power is not addressed in implementation, HIV-related mental health interventions will fail for marginalized groups, preventing access to potentially lifesaving care.

### Critical Questions

- The authors provide critical questions to assess and address power in implementation (read the rest in the article, table 2):
  - Who holds decision-making power/leadership for the initiative?
  - Does your intervention of choice require adaptation?
  - What new barriers may emerge?
  - Do you keep vigilant in measuring health equity outcomes?

[Read The Article Here](#)

## ABOUT THE RESEARCHERS

This paper was authored by Dr. Megan C. Staton, Assistant Professor of Social Work at Eastern Connecticut State University (Evaluator for SUSTAIN CENTER), and co-authored by Dr. Samira B. Ali, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Houston, and Director of SUSTAIN Center, and the SUSTAIN Center Team. The SUSTAIN Center Team addresses HIV/AIDS in the South by focusing on mental health, trauma-informed care, substance use, and wellness.

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