

Implementing evidence for real world impact requires practical guidance informed by end-users

Gabrielle Zimmermann PhD, Laura McAlpine MSc, and Candace Ramjohn BA
Learning Health System Team, Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta

The Issue:

Challenges applying implementation science in the real world

Too many models

Too many frameworks

Lots of complex theories

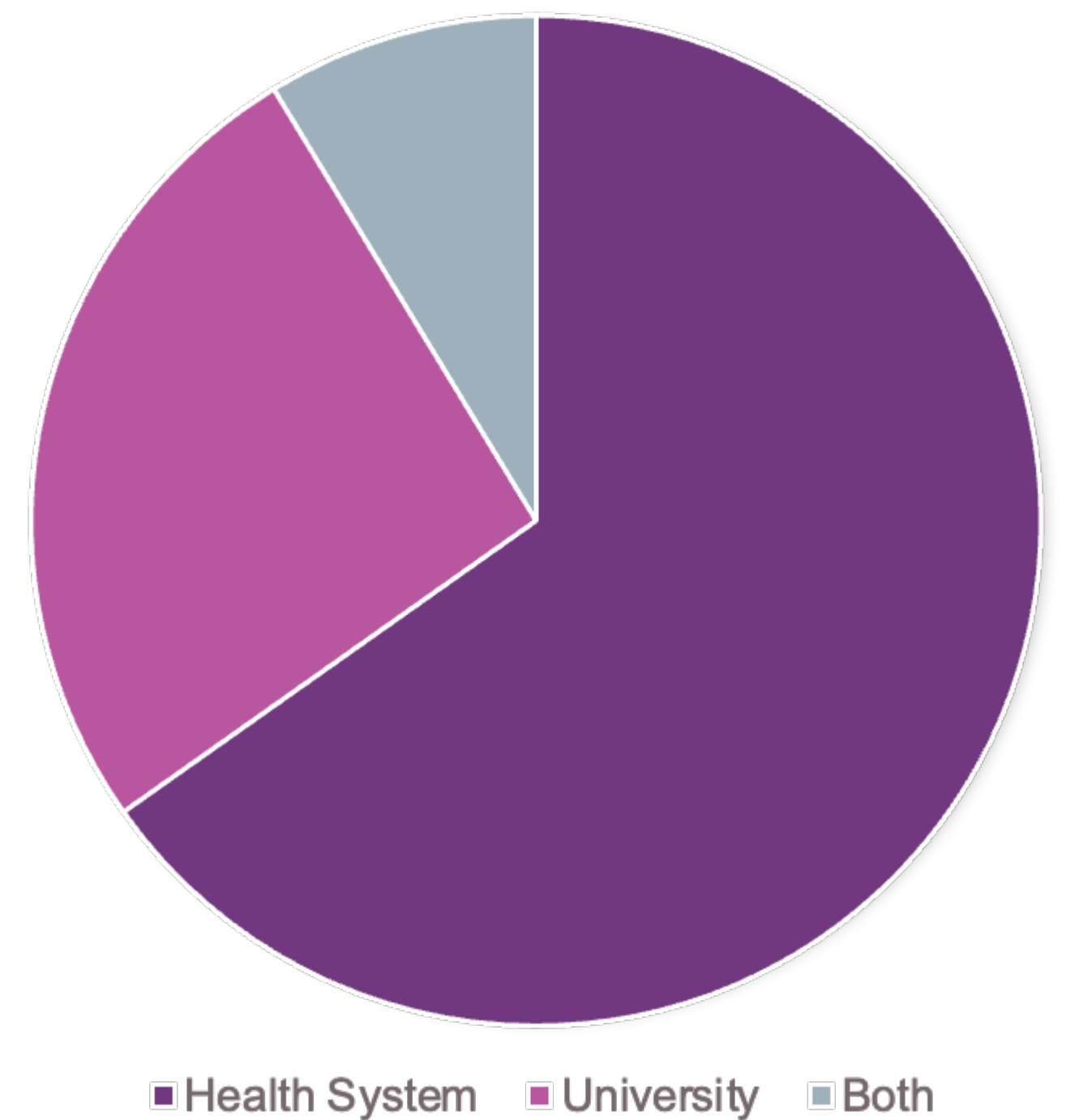
Limited capacity

Time pressures

What We Did:

- 1 Search for existing guidance**
 - 12 guidance documents identified
- 2 Draft an outline and guidebook**
 - 15 elements with 'how-to' instructions
- 3 Conduct Focus groups**
 - 6 focus groups of 4 people each

24 Participants



How might we create user-focused practical guidance to help busy healthcare teams effectively put evidence into practice to create lasting impact?

Users' Feedback:

Main Themes

Working well

- Layout (EPIS phases, check-boxes for activities, tables)
- Being action-oriented

Format

Room for improvement

- Order and flow
- More emphasis on certain pieces
- Tables

Audiences' needs

- Clarify who the audience is (Support teams? Clinical teams?)
- Tailor to their needs

Design features

- More visuals, icons and colour
- Be interactive (hyperlinks, call out boxes)
- Multiple layers with different levels of detail

Language

- More plain language
- Language/terminology familiar to intended audience
- No acronyms!

Content

- Not missing anything major
- More tools and resources
- Connect to familiar concepts
- Include examples

Conclusion:

Adopting a user-focused approach has been instrumental in shaping the Guidebook for practical implementation support in Alberta. Additional feedback from people doing the work will add to its value/utility in practice.