



K Scholar Design Clinic: Implementing screening and brief intervention for substance use in primary care in rural Georgia

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Implementation gap:

Implementation of Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) for substance use (an evidence-based approach) in primary care in Georgia remains insufficient, resulting in avoidable morbidity and mortality.

Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT) is an evidence-based public health intervention designed to identify individuals at risk of substance use disorders early, provide a brief intervention to reduce harm, and, when necessary, refer individuals for further treatment.

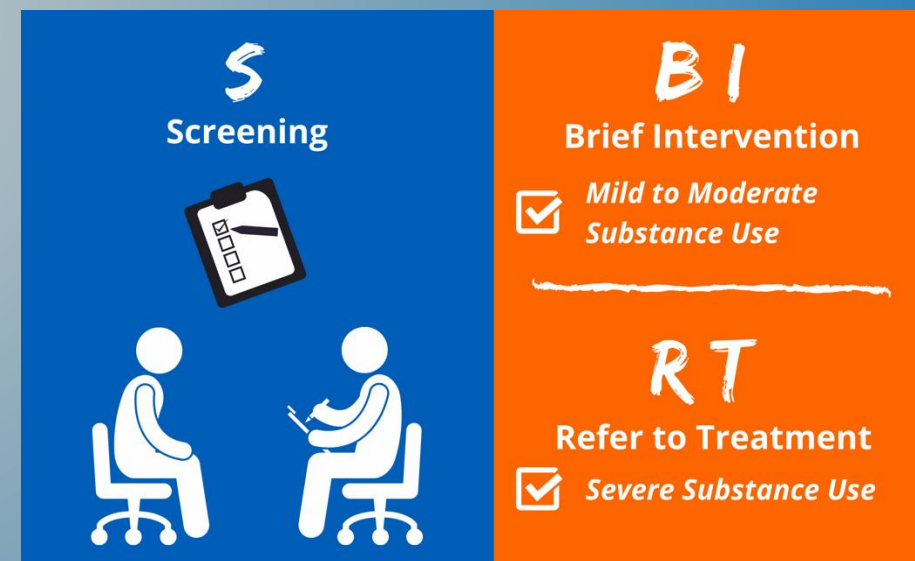


Image:
<https://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/>

Key determinants:

Critical public health / medical / medical education / systemic / social challenge with:

- ▶ High alcohol and other substance use rates,
- ▶ Stigma, cultural determinants,
- ▶ Fragmented health system,
- ▶ Weak Continuing Medical Education (CME)/ Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system,
- ▶ Ageing health workforce and poor infrastructure in rural primary care,
- ▶ Health workforce recruitment and retention challenges,
- ▶ Demographic transformation

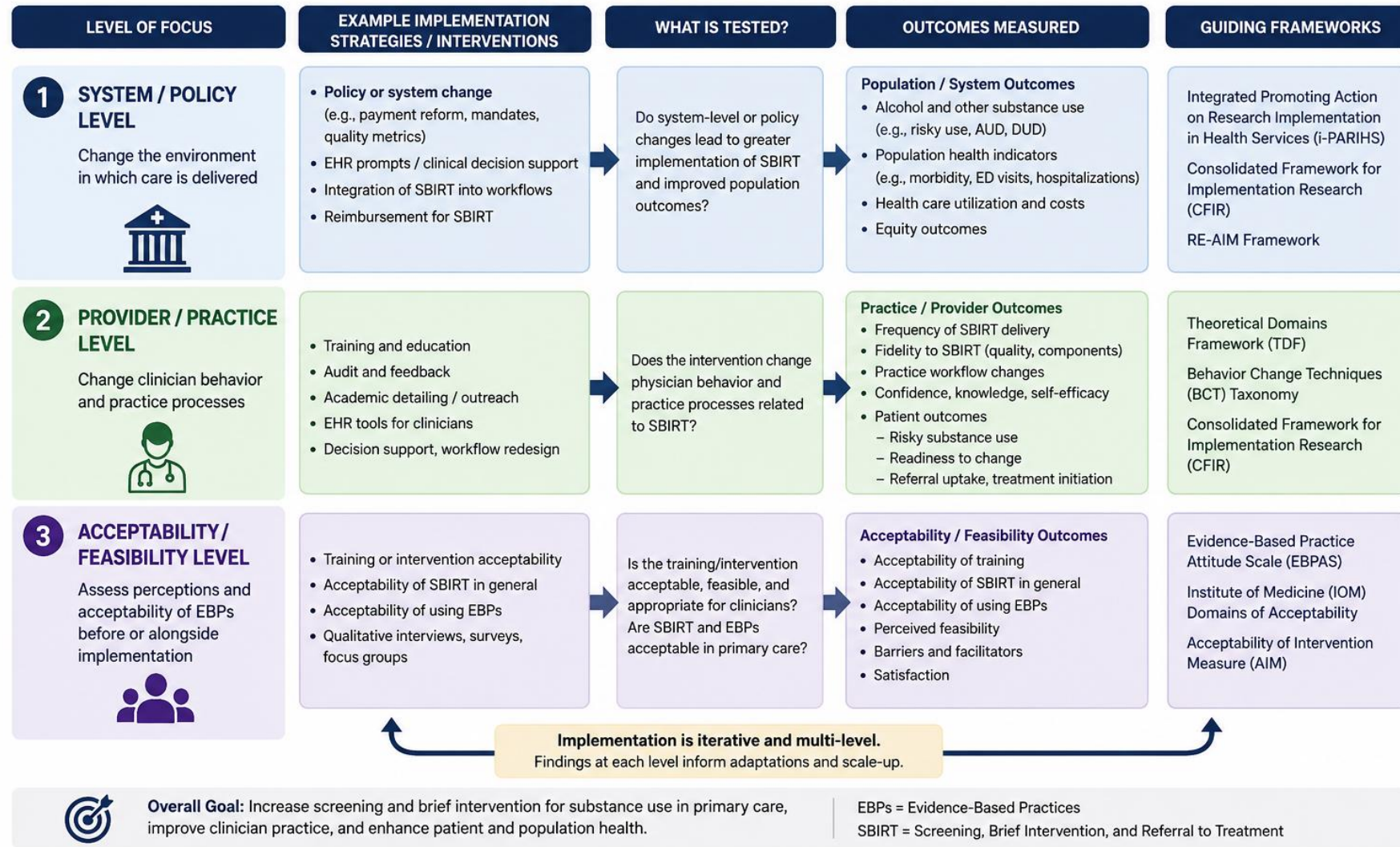




What can be done?

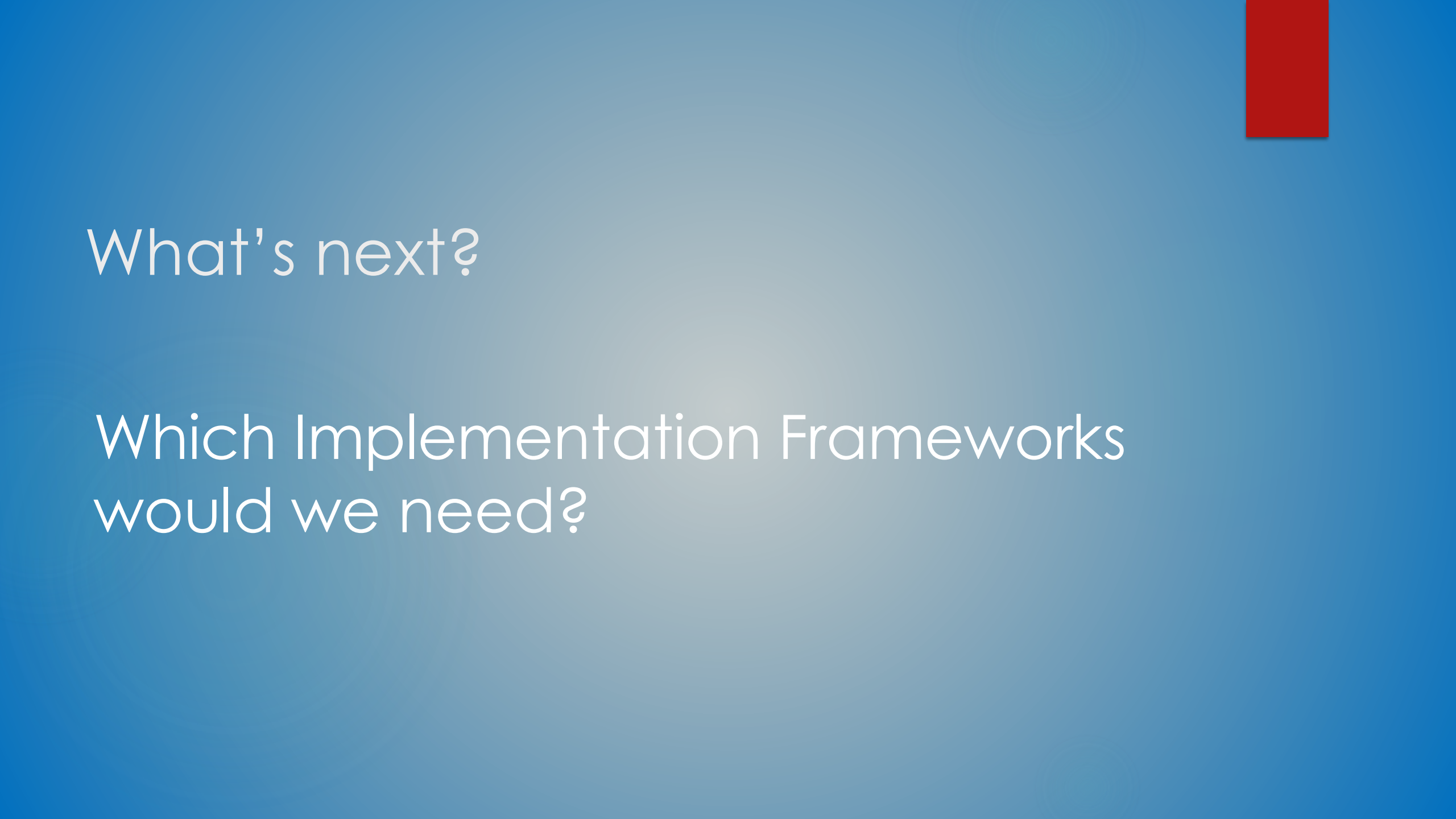
Several levels to act:

Implementation Science Framework for Increasing Screening and Brief Intervention for Substance Use in Primary Care



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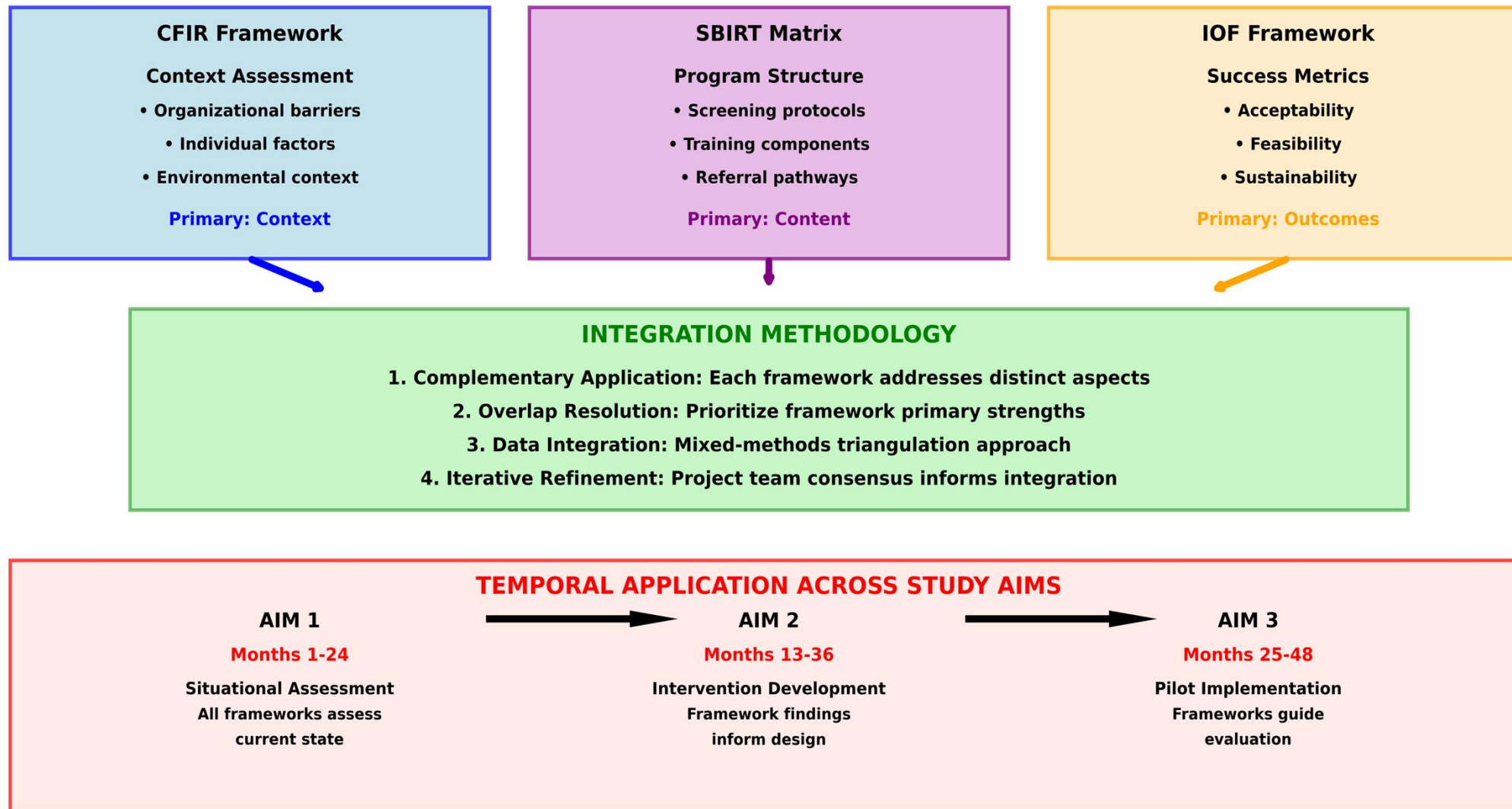




What's next?

Which Implementation Frameworks
would we need?

Scientific Framework Integration for Rural SBI Implementation



Integration Approach: Complementary framework strengths, project team consensus informs integration



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What are the anticipated challenges to the project?



Thank you!

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▶ Extra slides for discussion:

Example goal and specific aims:

Goal:

To identify the individual, environmental, and systemic barriers and facilitators affecting the implementation of SBI in primary care in Georgia's rural communities, and to develop and pilot test an online educational intervention that addresses the identified barriers.

Specific aims:

1. To assess contextual and environmental factors, both barriers and facilitators, to effective SBI implementation in rural primary care in Georgia.
2. To develop an adapted educational intervention.
3. To pilot and assess feasibility of the future SBI intervention implementation trial

Example data collection instrument validation

Translate and validate Georgian versions of several measures, such as:

- ▶ Evidence-Based Practice Attitude Scale (EBPAS-36)
- Acceptability of Intervention Measure (AIM)
- Intervention Appropriateness Measure (IAM)
- Feasibility of Intervention Measure (FIM)

Alignment with national priorities

Primary Health Care Workforce Development Action Plan (2025–2027)

- Strengthens postgraduate medical education and cont. professional development systems
- Supports mechanisms for **recruitment and retention** of primary health care workforce

National Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2023–2030)

- Promotes healthy behaviors and reduces modifiable risk factors for NCDs
- Supports mental health promotion and prevention

National Health Care Strategy of Georgia (2022–2030)

- Strengthening professional qualifications of the health workforce
- Strengthening health services and improving quality
- Strengthening primary health care through high-quality, person-centered, integrated services
- Reducing morbidity, disability, and premature mortality from NCDs

