Knowledge Translation: Where Should the Field Go Next? StatsRRTC Reflections

KTER Center's State of the Science Conference on Employment Research
September 6, 2019

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Knowledge Translation for Employment Research

Knowledge Translation: Where Should the Field Go Next?
StatsRRTC Reflections

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September 6, 2019

Acknowledgments

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC) is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Administration for Community Living; National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), grant number 90RT5022-02-01. The contents do not necessarily represent the policy of HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government (EDGAR, 75.620 (b)).

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Overview

- About the StatsRRTC

- Discussion and example of Knowledge Translation (KT)

- Reflecting on StatsRRTC's KT future

- Reflections on the direction of the field of KT

About the StatsRRTC

- An overarching goal of the StatsRRTC is to be a dependable, "go-to" place to access the latest disability statistics and related research findings, learn about and how to use disability data, and ask questions about disability data and statistics.

- The StatsRRTC has an integrated approach to research and KT.

- The RRTC program has always required money and time to be invested in research dissemination and KT.

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Knowledge-to-Action Framework

Technical Assistance (TA)

- Identify problem
  - Normally problem has been identified by requestor
- Adapt knowledge to local context and tailor interventions
  - Often TA requestor already has deep local understanding
- Barriers to knowledge use
  - Background on statistics, how estimates are generated, why different agencies report different estimates
- Monitor knowledge use
- Evaluate outcomes and follow up with requestor
- Sustain knowledge use, which is contingent on continued contact

(Graham et al., 2006)

Knowledge Creation

- Technical Assistance
  - Strengths of TA: It can be a more relationship based, informal, collaborative, explanation/conversation tailored to exact needs and context.
  - Weakness: Communication is normally initiated by the requestor (need to find us and take the time and energy to reach out).
- Tailoring knowledge
  - Most often in the vocational rehabilitation context, TA requests involve providing statistics about a local population of interest (such as the number of people with disabilities in a particular county).
- Knowledge tools/products
  - Products TA requestor creates: an article, report, presentation
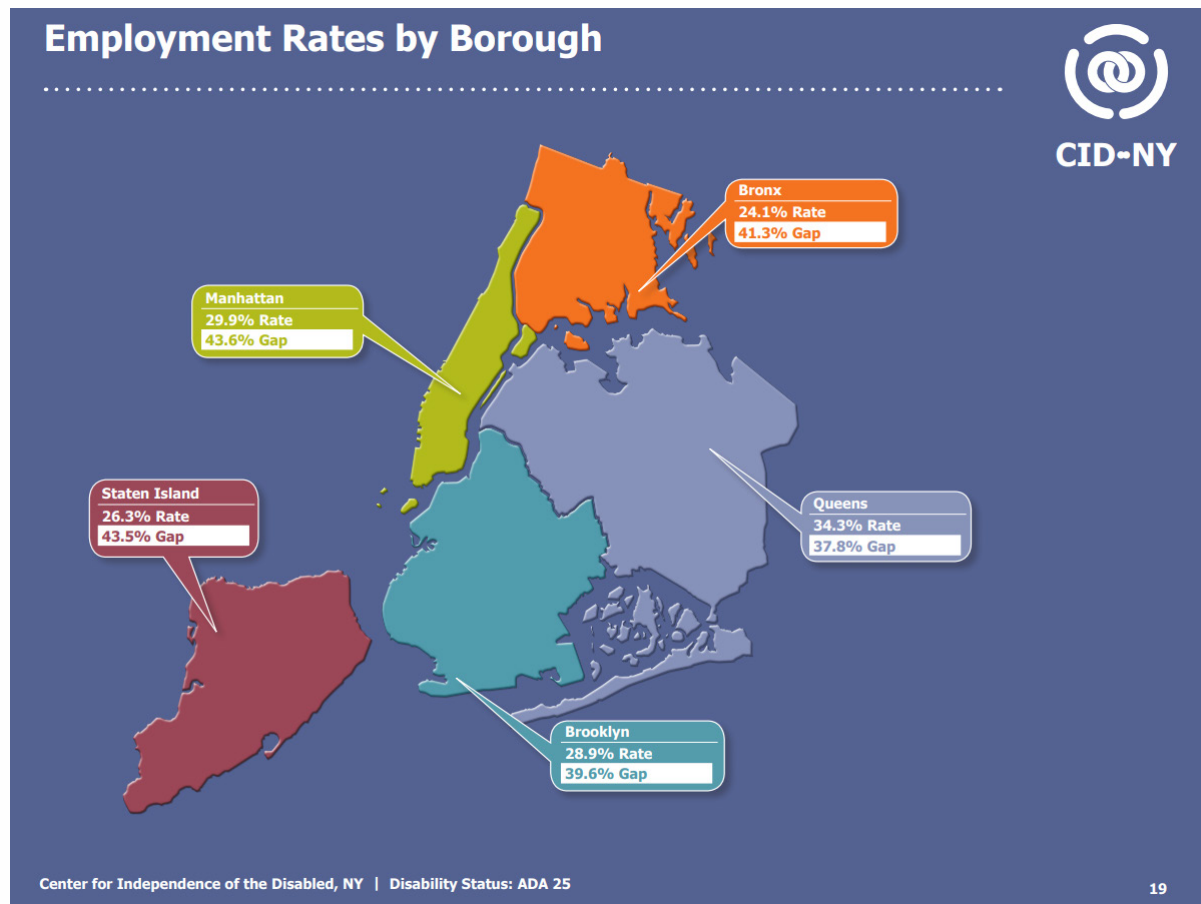 - Products we create: State Report With County-Level Data series

(Graham et al., 2006)

Center for Independence of the Disabled (CIDNY), New York

- The information we provide is used with other local-level data.
  - **Subway Accessibility Maps:** Show the poverty rate by local geographic area for people with disabilities layered with a map of New York City subway stops that are lacking in accessibility.
  - **Comprehensive Report:** *ADA at 25: Many Bridges to Cross.*
- Findings are used in reports, congressional testimony, policy recommendations, and legal cases.
- Better able to plan outreach and engagement, focus resources, and grow to better mirror the communities they serve.

Center for Independence of the Disabled

A page from CIDNY's *ADA at 25: Many Bridges to Cross* report with a map of the five boroughs of New York City showing the employment rates for people with disabilities by borough as well as the gap between people with and without disabilities.

Employment Rates by Borough

CID-NY

Bronx
24.1% Rate
41.3% Gap

Manhattan
29.9% Rate
43.6% Gap

Staten Island
26.3% Rate
43.5% Gap

Queens
34.3% Rate
37.8% Gap

Brooklyn
28.9% Rate
39.6% Gap

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The Future of KT at the StatsRRTC

- Local and specific statistics
- Importance of assessing barriers to knowledge use, explaining statistics
- Leveraging connections, networks
  - Reaching out to other Centers for Independent Living to provide local data on populations of interest
- Development of new KT plan is in process

Where Should the Field of KT Go Next?

- Co-creation, co-production
- Beyond cycles
  - Systems thinking, networks
  - Dynamic, interactive
  - Knowledge Translation Complexity Network (KTCN) Model (Kitson et al., 2018)
  - "The whole is greater than the sum of the parts."
- More informal ways to connect, activate networks

KTCN Model

What do others think of the KTCN Model?

- Based on network theory and shows the main sectors (community, health, government, education, and research) as overlapping spheres amid the five amorphous process areas (problem identification, implementation, knowledge creation, evaluation, and knowledge synthesis), which are all interconnected.

(Kitson et al., 2018)

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Where Should the Field of KT Go Next?

"**Implications for the public:** By thinking about knowledge translation (KT) using complexity and network concepts, the public has more opportunity to be involved in and shape the way new knowledge is created, mobilized[,] and put into everyday practice to help solve challenging and complex problems. Instead of seeing new knowledge as something generated by 'outside experts,' individuals and communities can be part of the teams that create and implement solutions to complex problems" (Kitson et al., 2018, p. 231).

References

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Thank you!

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