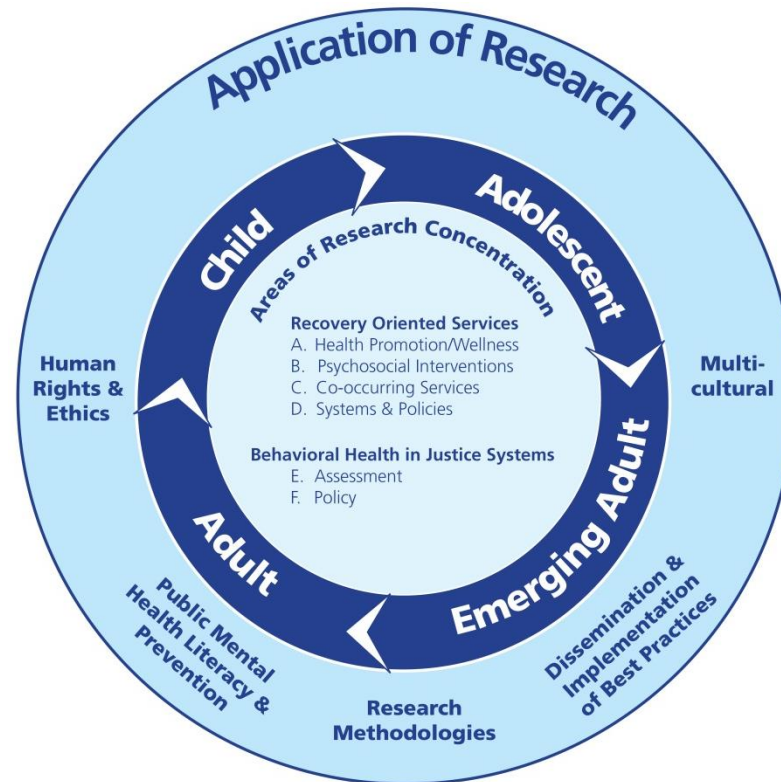


The Systems & Psychosocial Advances Research Center - SPARC



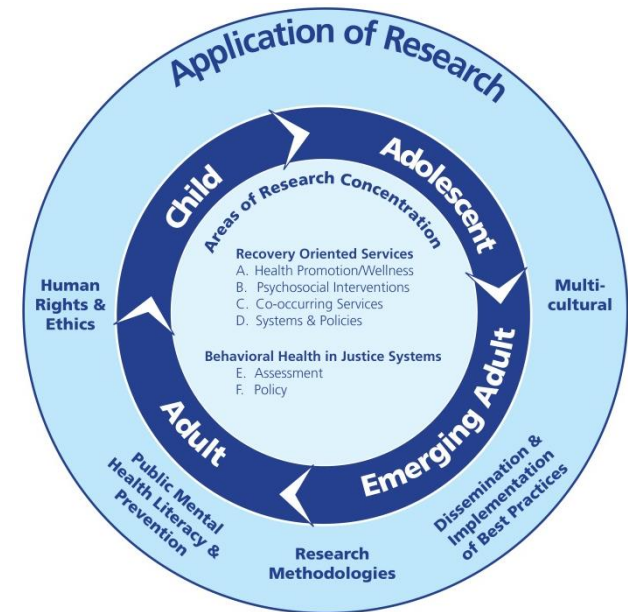
Internally, the SPARC has been re-organized into Areas of Research Concentration (ARC's) based on the current research activities of the center and the potential for each of them to relate to external partners. These areas include research on services as well as the Application of Research (AOR) across the life span from child to adult.

The Systems & Psychosocial Advances Research Center - SPARC

The outer ring of the SPARC conceptual model consists of activities associated with the Application of Research (AOR) across the life span from child to adult.

The AOR's include:

- Human Rights & Ethics
- Public Mental Health Literacy & Prevention
- Research Methodologies
- Dissemination & Implementation of Best Practices
- Multi-cultural

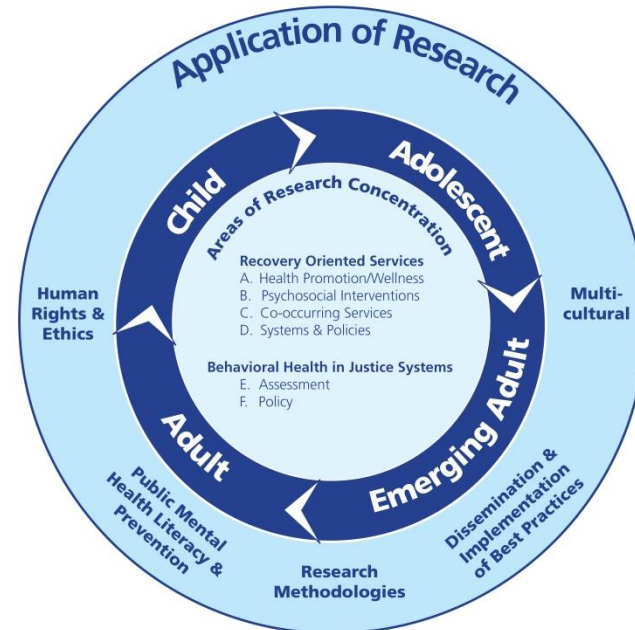


The Systems & Psychosocial Advances Research Center - SPARC

The center ring of the SPARC conceptual model consists of activities associated with the Areas of Research Concentration (ARC's) across the life span from child to adult.

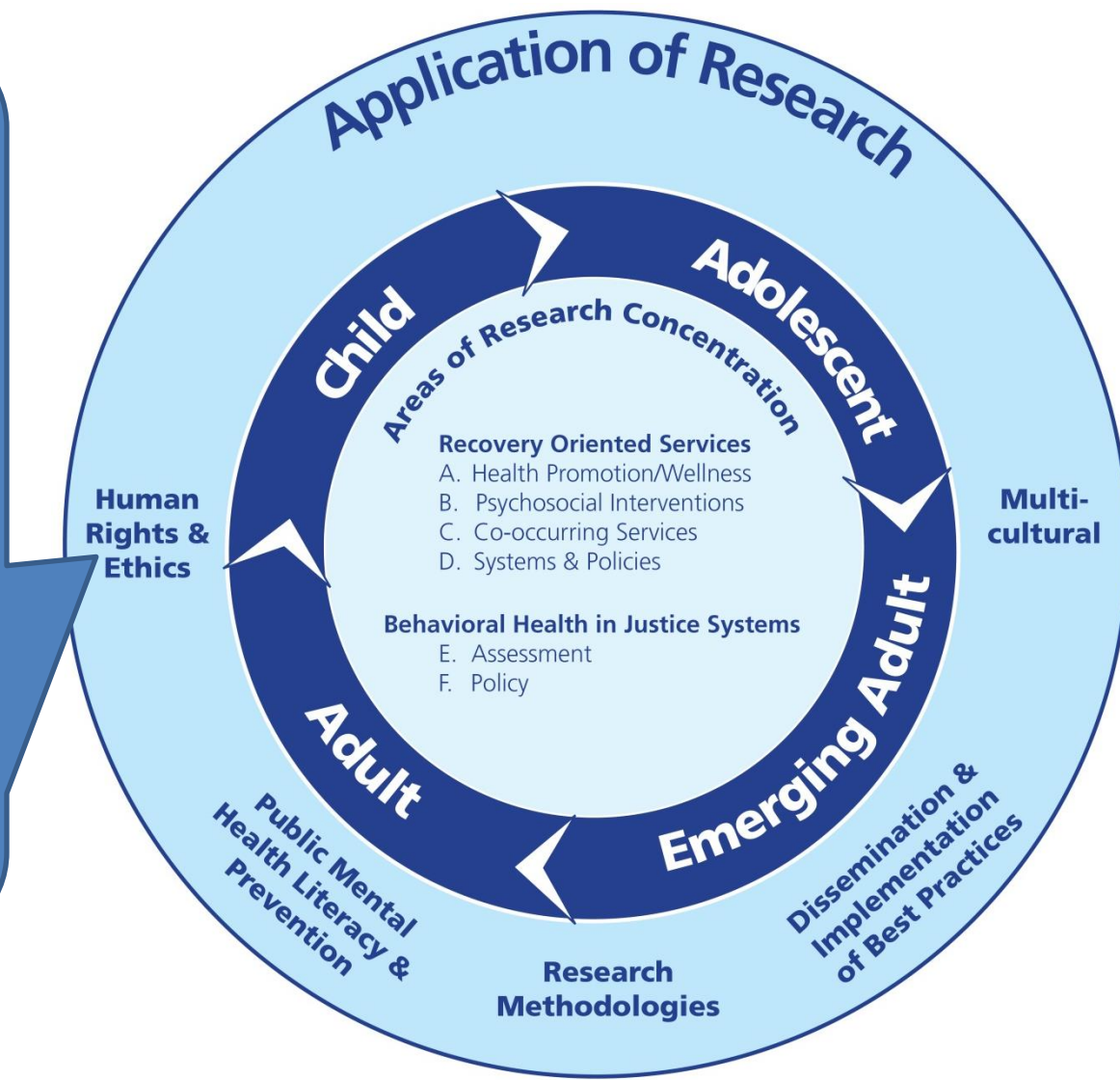
The ARC's are grouped into two clusters and include research activities related to:

- Recovery Oriented Services & Supports
 - Health Promotion /Wellness
 - Psychosocial Interventions
 - Co-Occurring Services
 - Systems and Policies
- Behavioral Health in Justice Systems
 - Assessment
 - Policy



Human Rights & Ethics:

This Application of Research (AOR) is represented primarily by the Center's ethics-in-research projects. It is evolving as a foundation for the development of guidance across the Center, Department, University, and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) regarding ethical issues in clinical and research practice.



Human Rights & Ethics

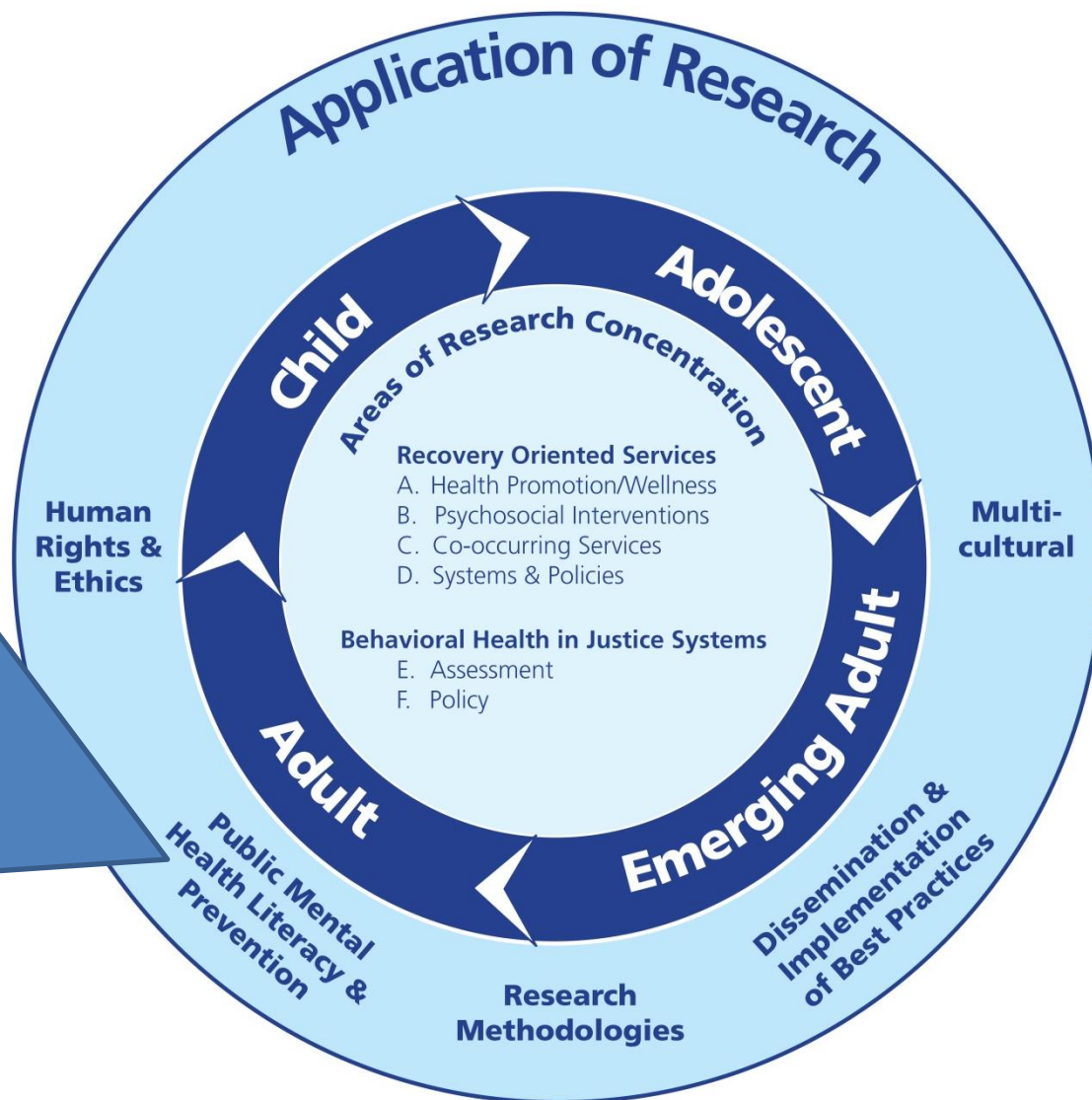
Systems and Psychosocial
Advances Research Center

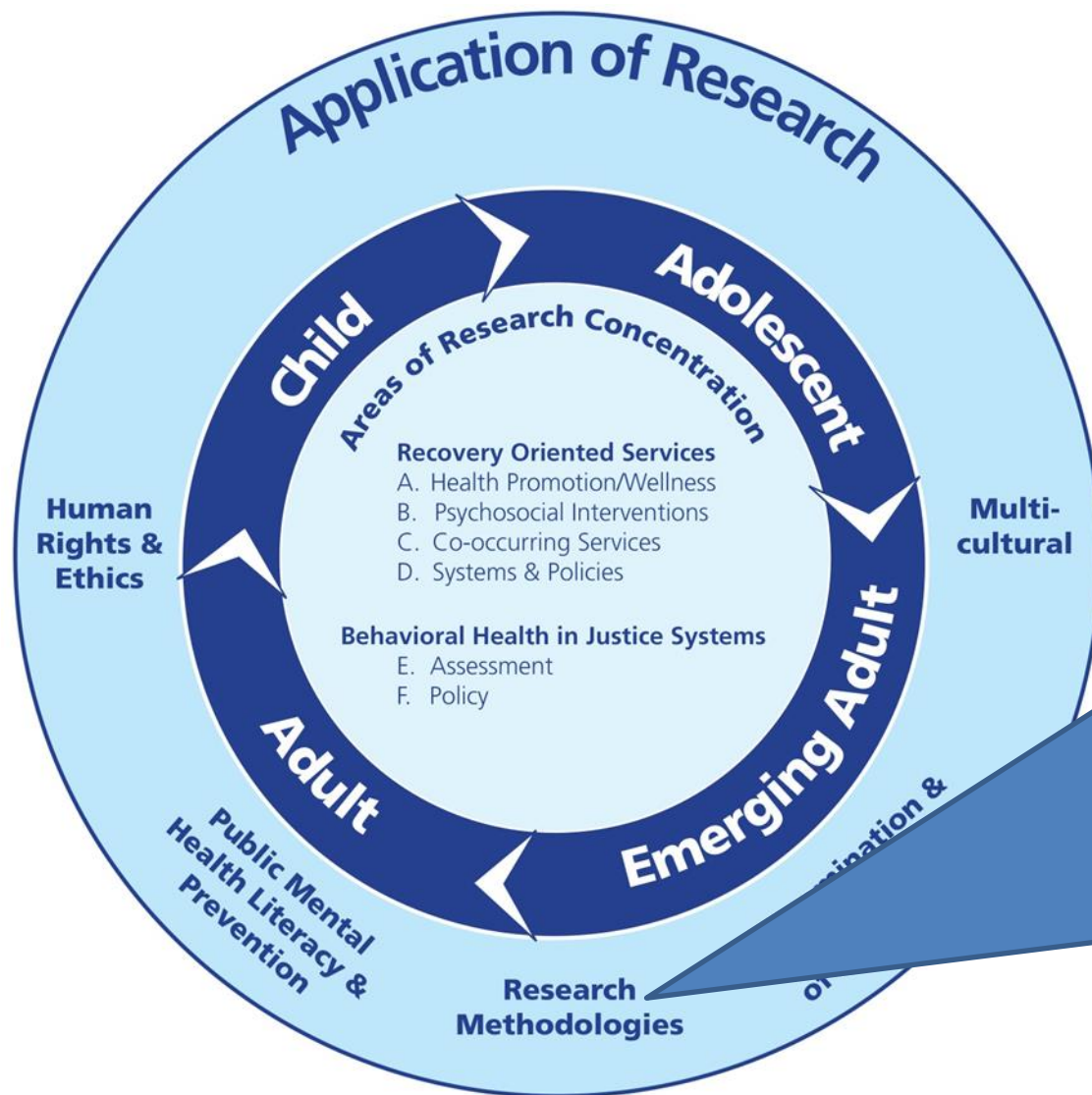
SPARC

Improving Mental and Behavioral Health Services for
Better Lives and Stronger Communities

Public Mental Health Literacy and Prevention:

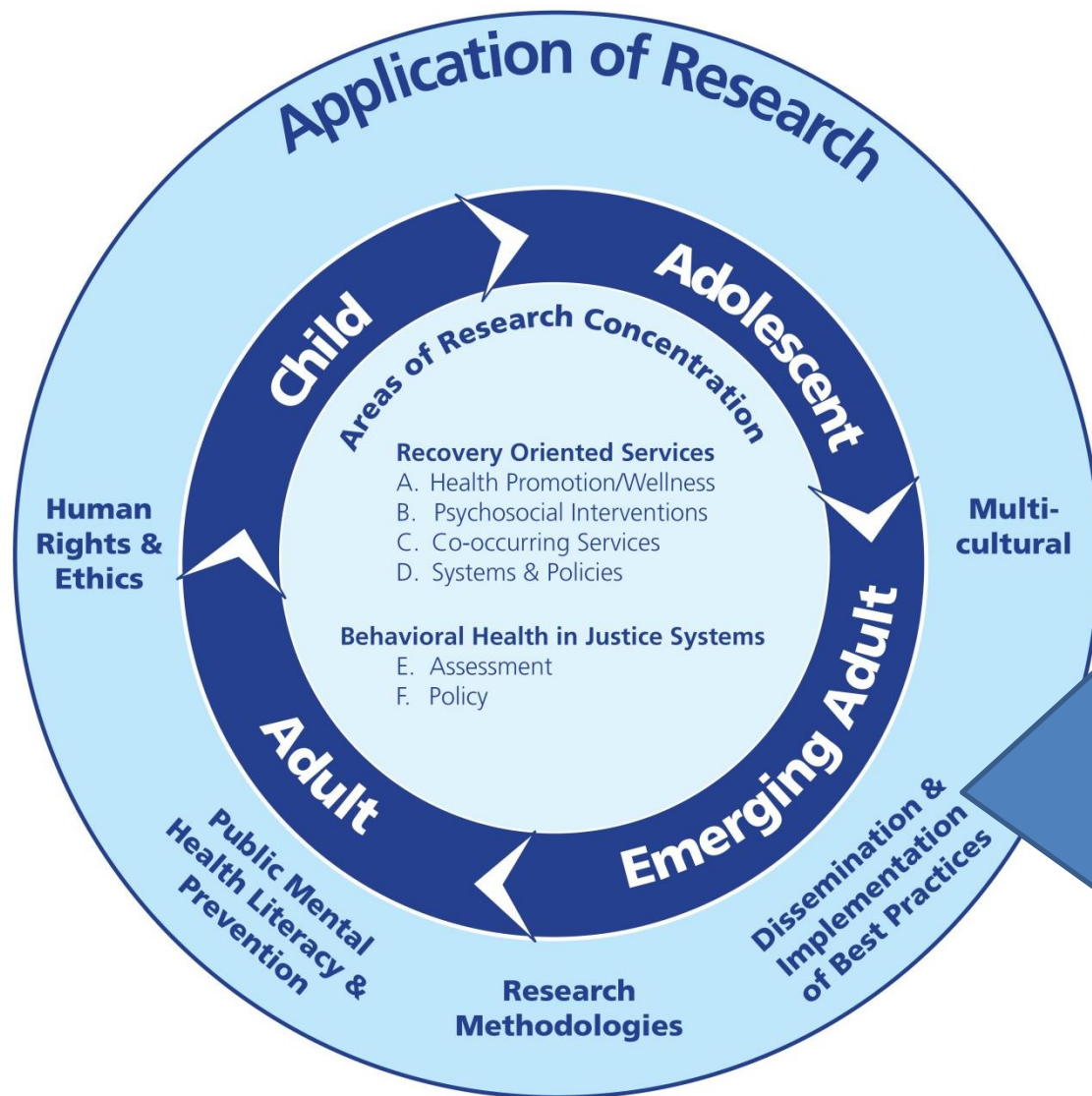
This AOR is represented by faculty members whose projects focus primarily on translating mental health information for public use, especially by non-mental-health professionals. Examples include translation of mental health research and clinical knowledge for use by judges, lawyers, law enforcement officers, probation officers, and public school officials. It has strong connections with the Behavioral Health in Justice Systems ARCs.





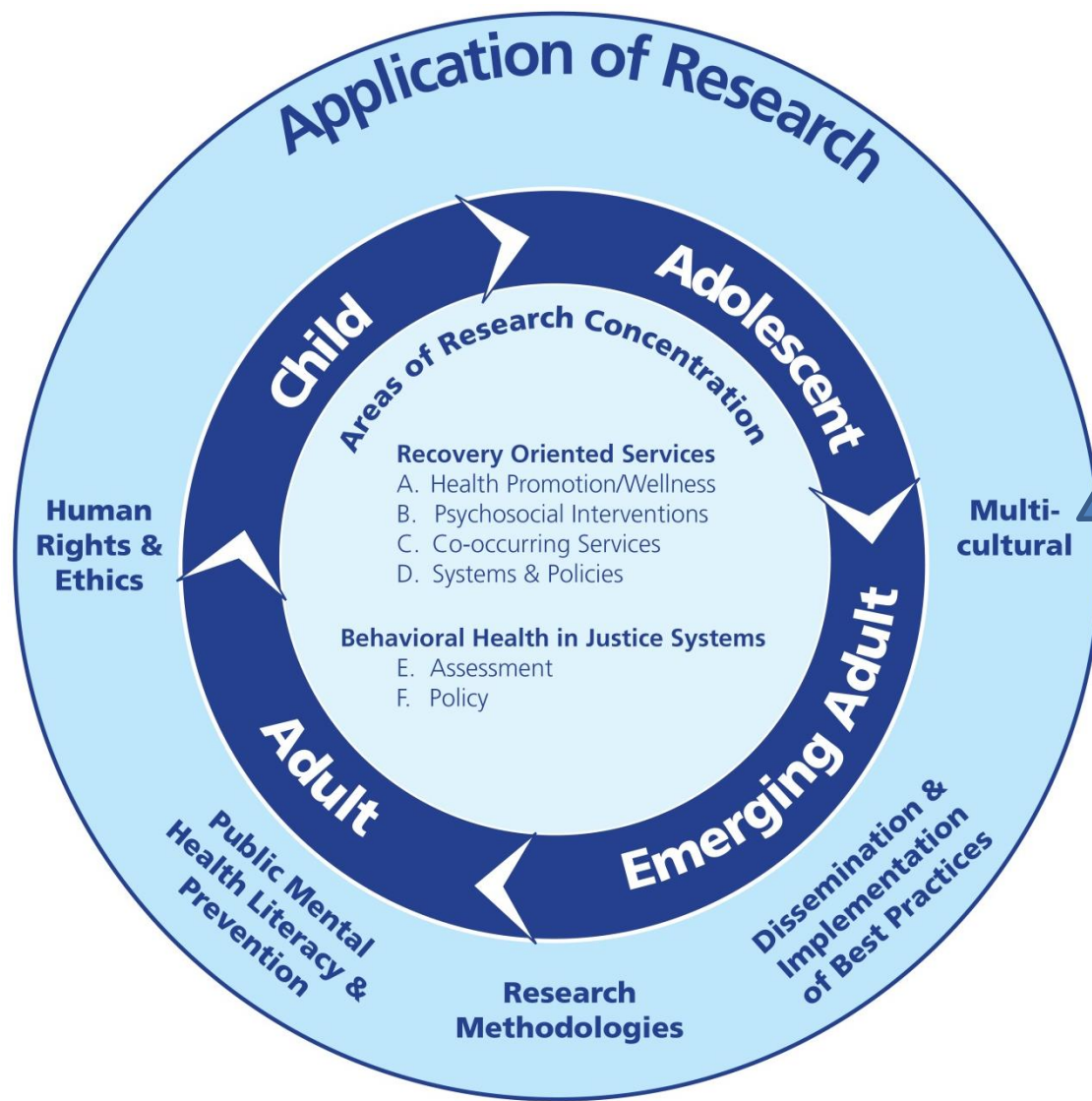
Research Methodologies:

The SPARC utilizes state-of-the-art and recovery-informed research methodologies to enhance the mental and behavioral health of all citizens in Massachusetts and beyond. Examples include participatory action research. This group also has strong linkages with the Quantitative Health Sciences (QHS) Department at UMMS.



Dissemination & Implementation of Best Practices:

This AOR includes the Mental Health Agency Research Network (MHARN), training programs, and technical assistance initiatives as mechanisms for disseminating research from all of the ARCs to influence the use of trauma informed, recovery focused, research-validated best practices in DMH and other clinical settings through evaluation, training, and technical assistance.

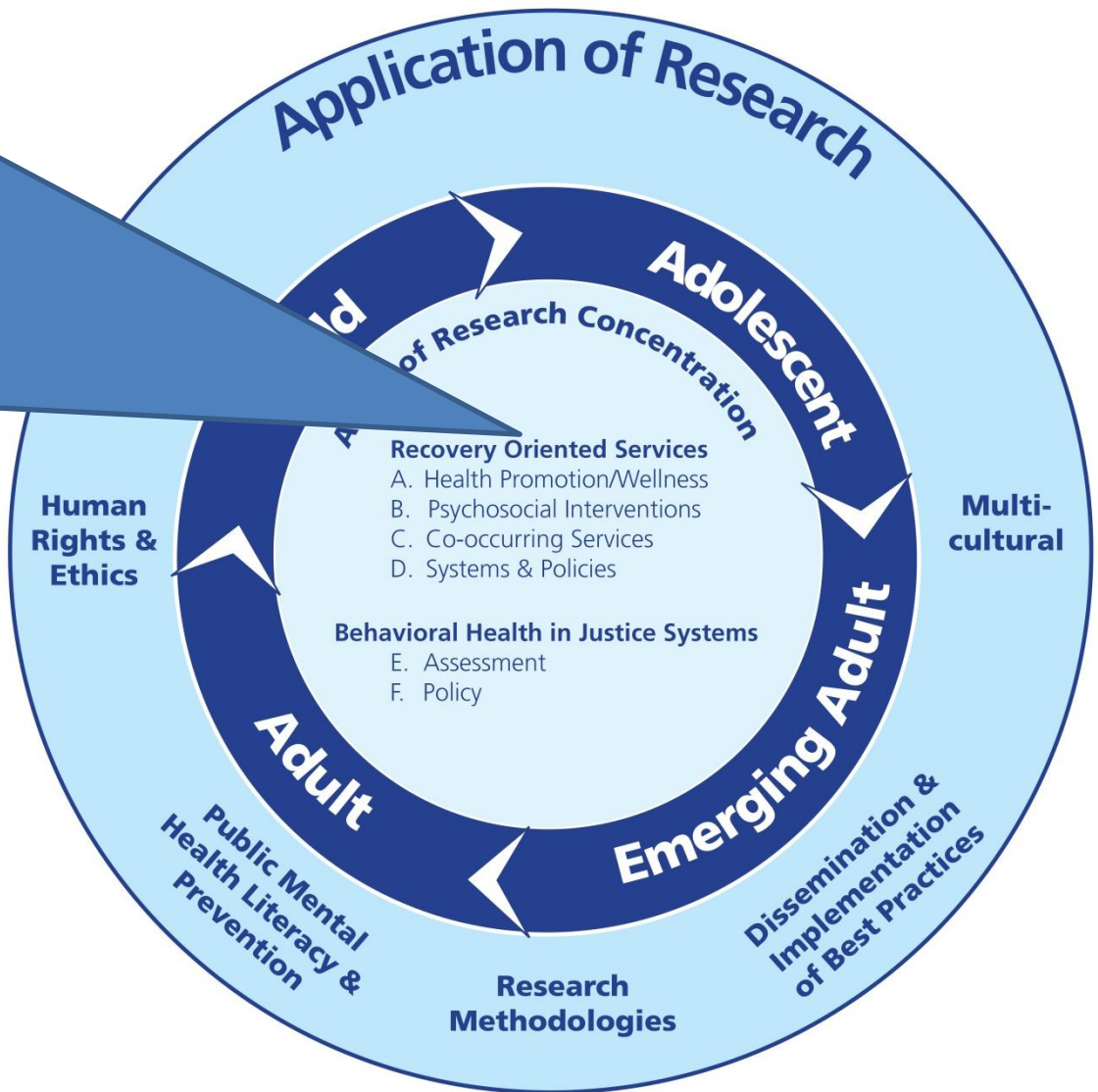


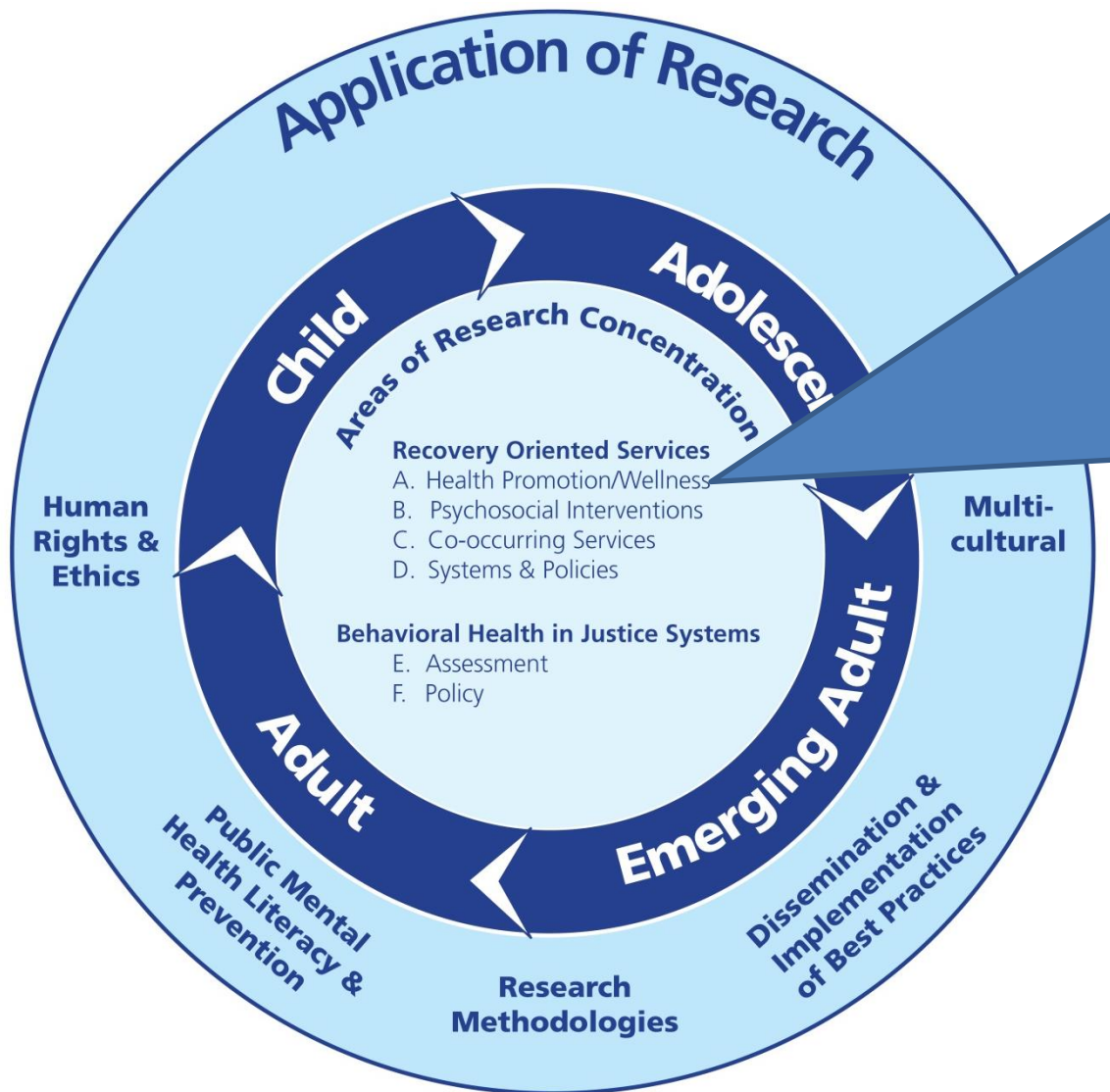
Multi-cultural Factors in Mental Health Care:

This AOR is represented by faculty members whose primary research focuses on mental health needs and services for DMH's culturally diverse population. The application of research serves as a resource to all of the SPARC on multi-cultural issues.

Recovery Oriented Services & Supports:

The SPARC conducts a range of research on services designed to help individuals living with mental illness improve their health and wellness, and reach their full potential. We recognize that for mental health services to be truly patient-centered and focused on recovery, more research is urgently needed about identifying patient-centered outcomes, measuring recovery, improving quality of care, workforce training, and the development of policies on this new model.

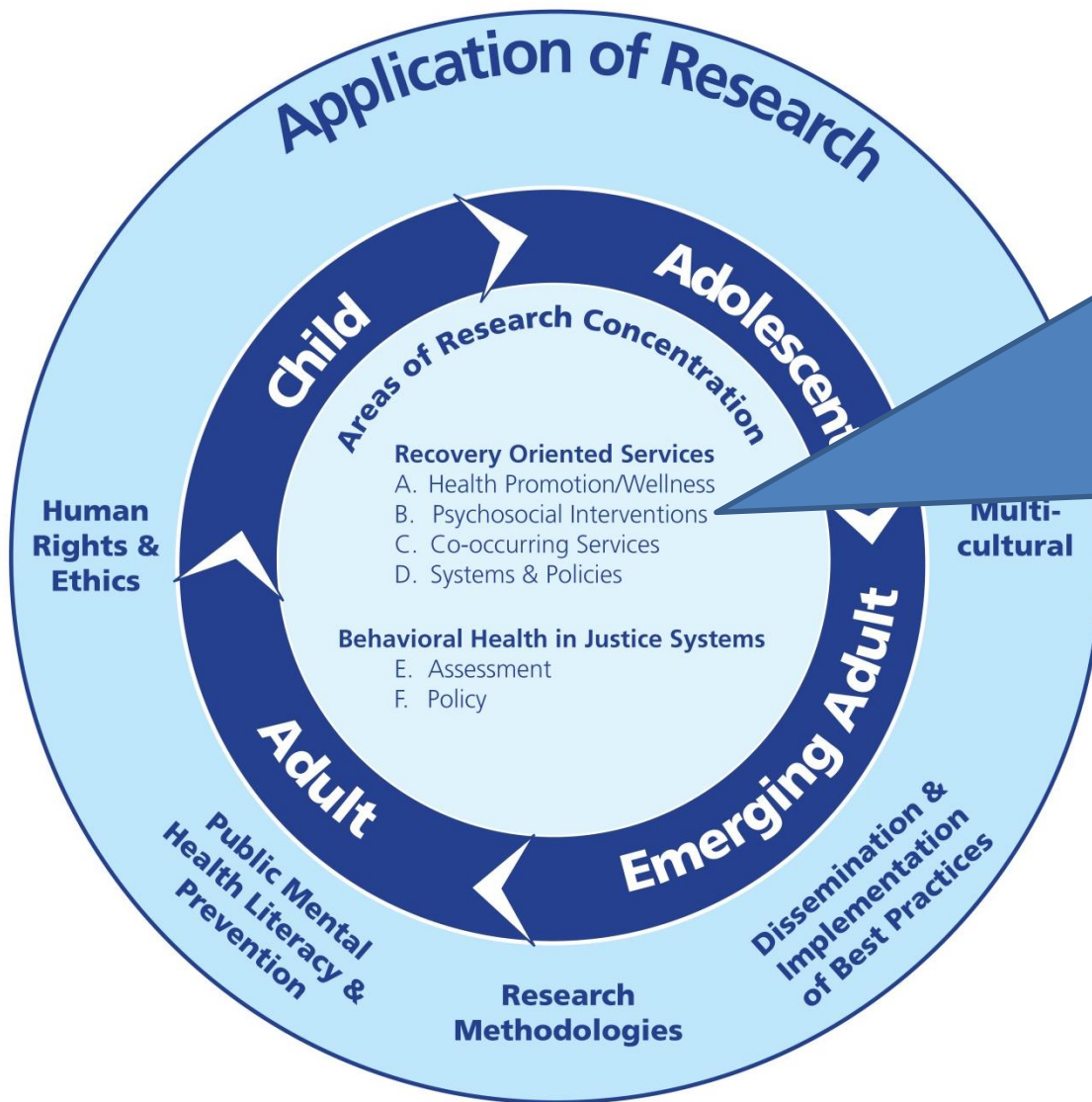




Recovery Oriented Services & Supports

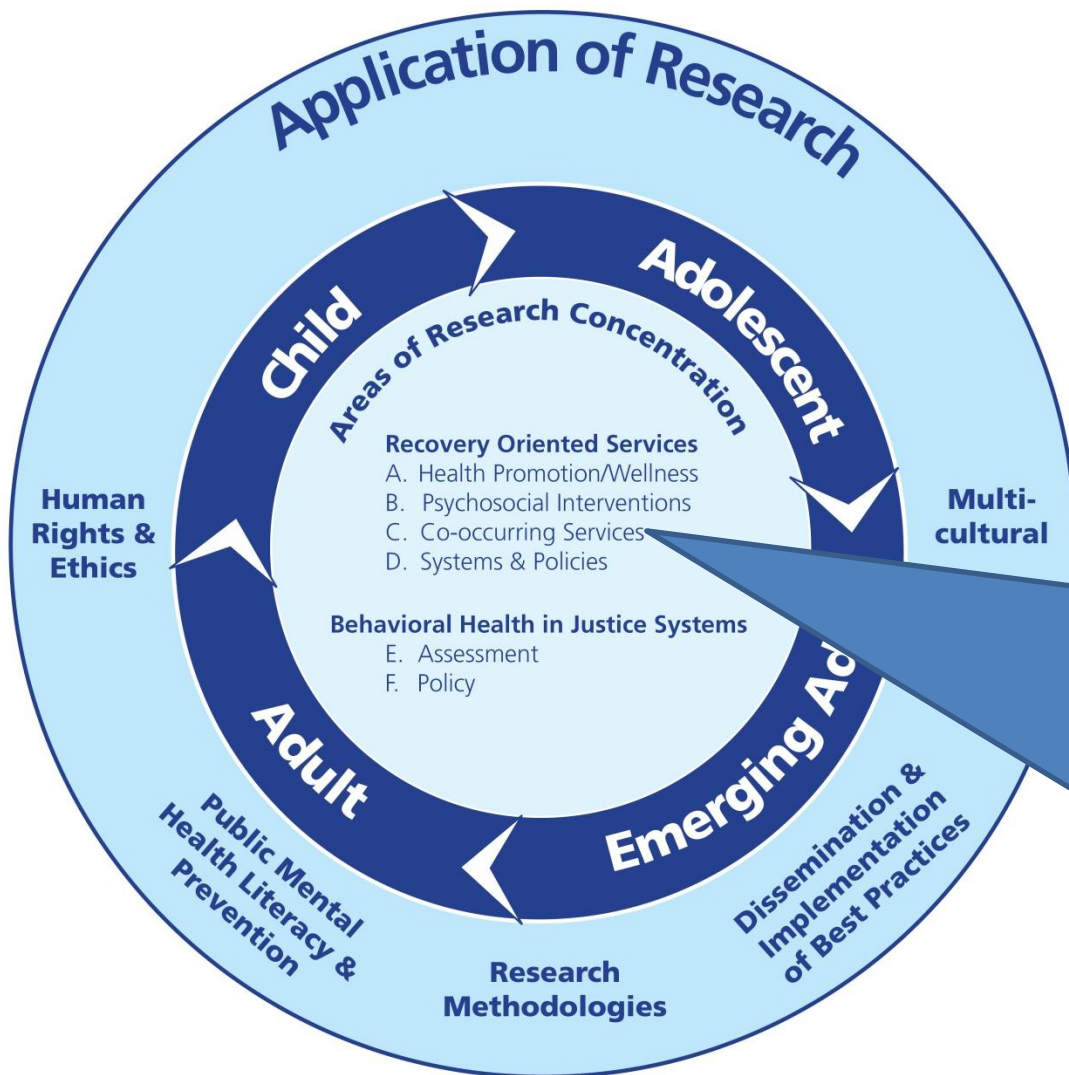
Health Promotion & Wellness Interventions:

This ARC is represented primarily by the work of several faculty and staff on mindfulness, tobacco cessation, integrated care, substance abuse treatment, and suicide prevention initiatives. These are all key DMH concerns. Departmentally, it has current or potential networking collaborations with wellness, addictions and community mental health programs.



Recovery Oriented Services & Supports

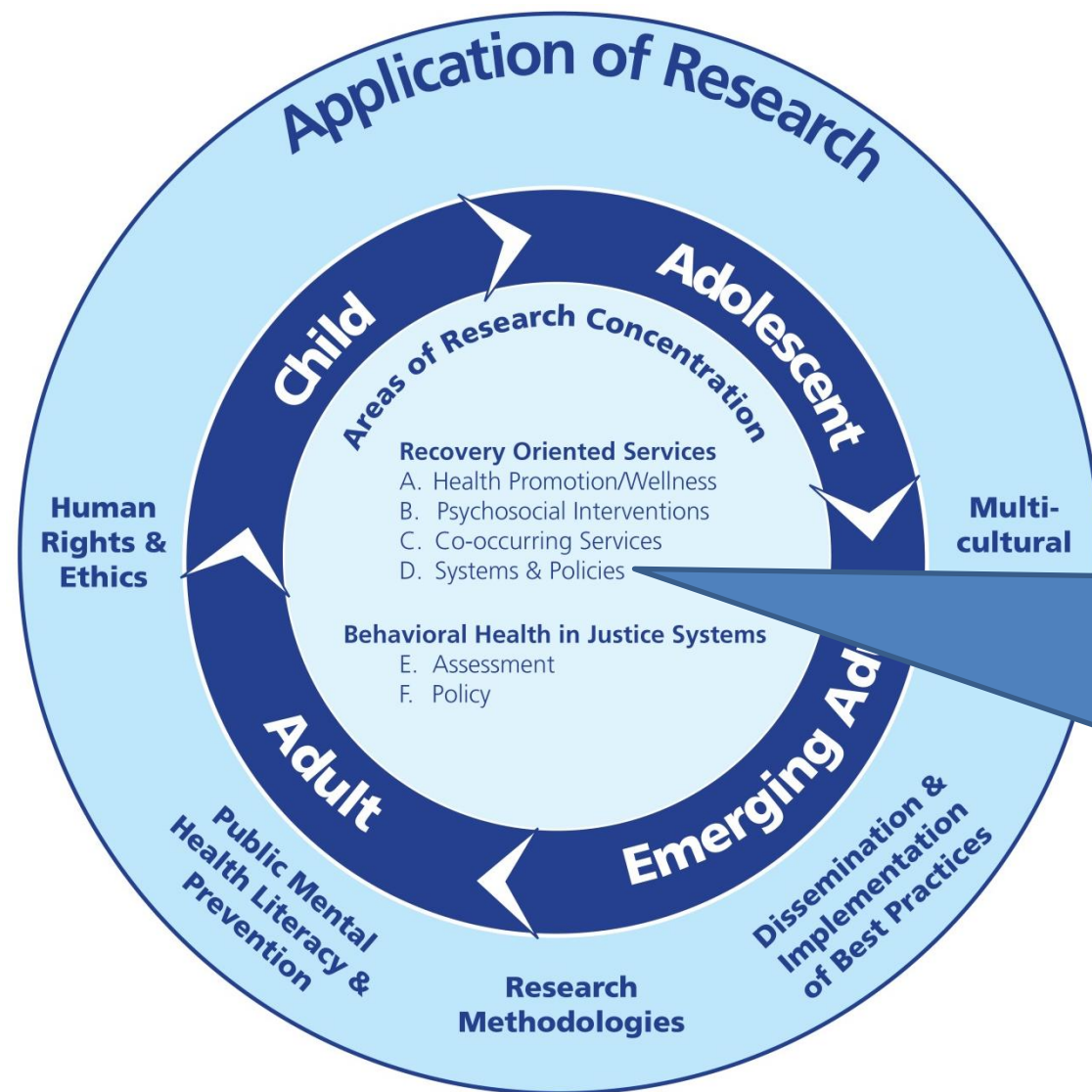
Psychosocial Interventions:
This ARC is represented primarily by the work of several faculty and staff on clubhouse research, trauma informed practices, rehabilitation and recovery research, and wellness research initiatives. These are all key DMH concerns. Departmentally, it has current or potential networking collaborations with wellness, addictions and community mental health programs.



Recovery Oriented Services & Supports

Co-Occurring Services:

This ARC is represented primarily by the “Transitions” RTC. The Transitions RTC initiative is robust and serves DMH concerns for older adolescent and young adult populations. Departmentally, this ARC has current or potential networking collaborations with Addictions, Child Division, and community mental health programs, and the Behavioral Health in Justice Systems ARCs.



Recovery Oriented Services & Supports

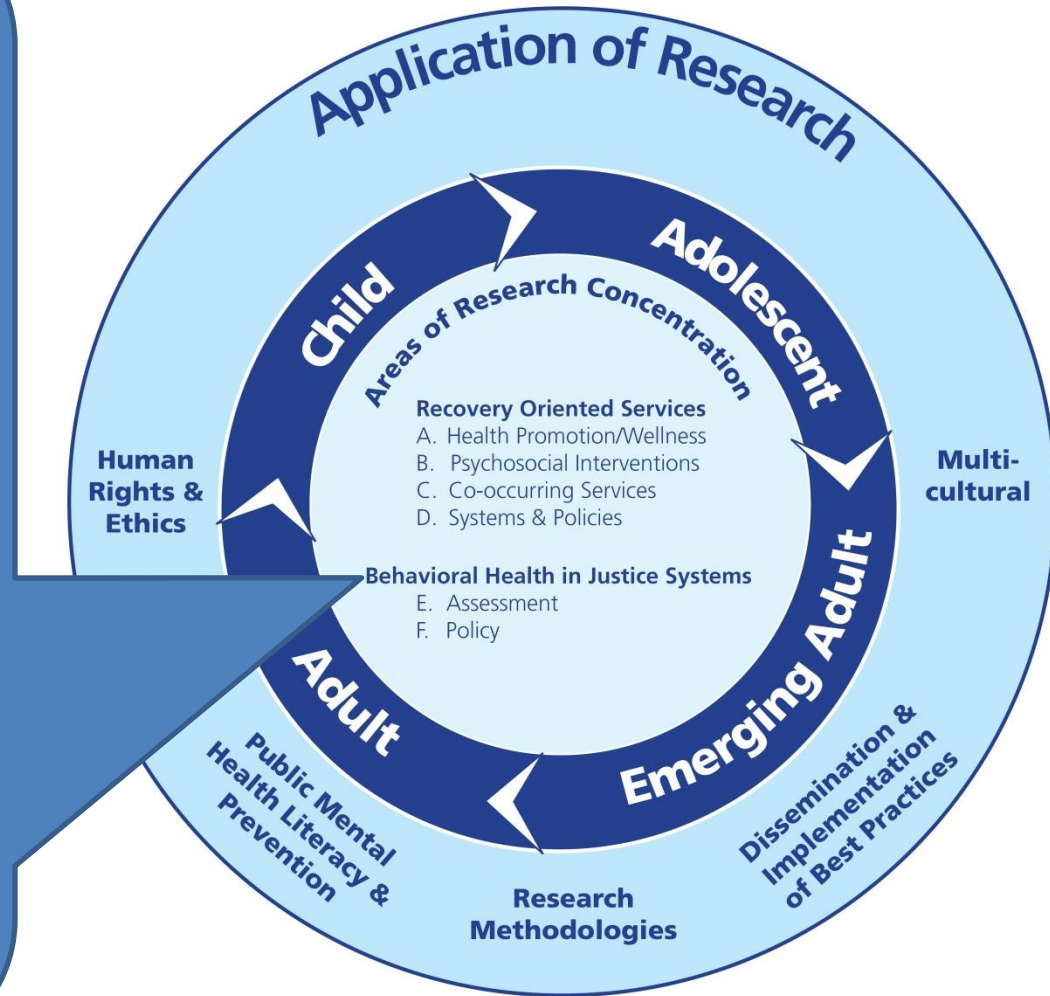
Systems and Policies:

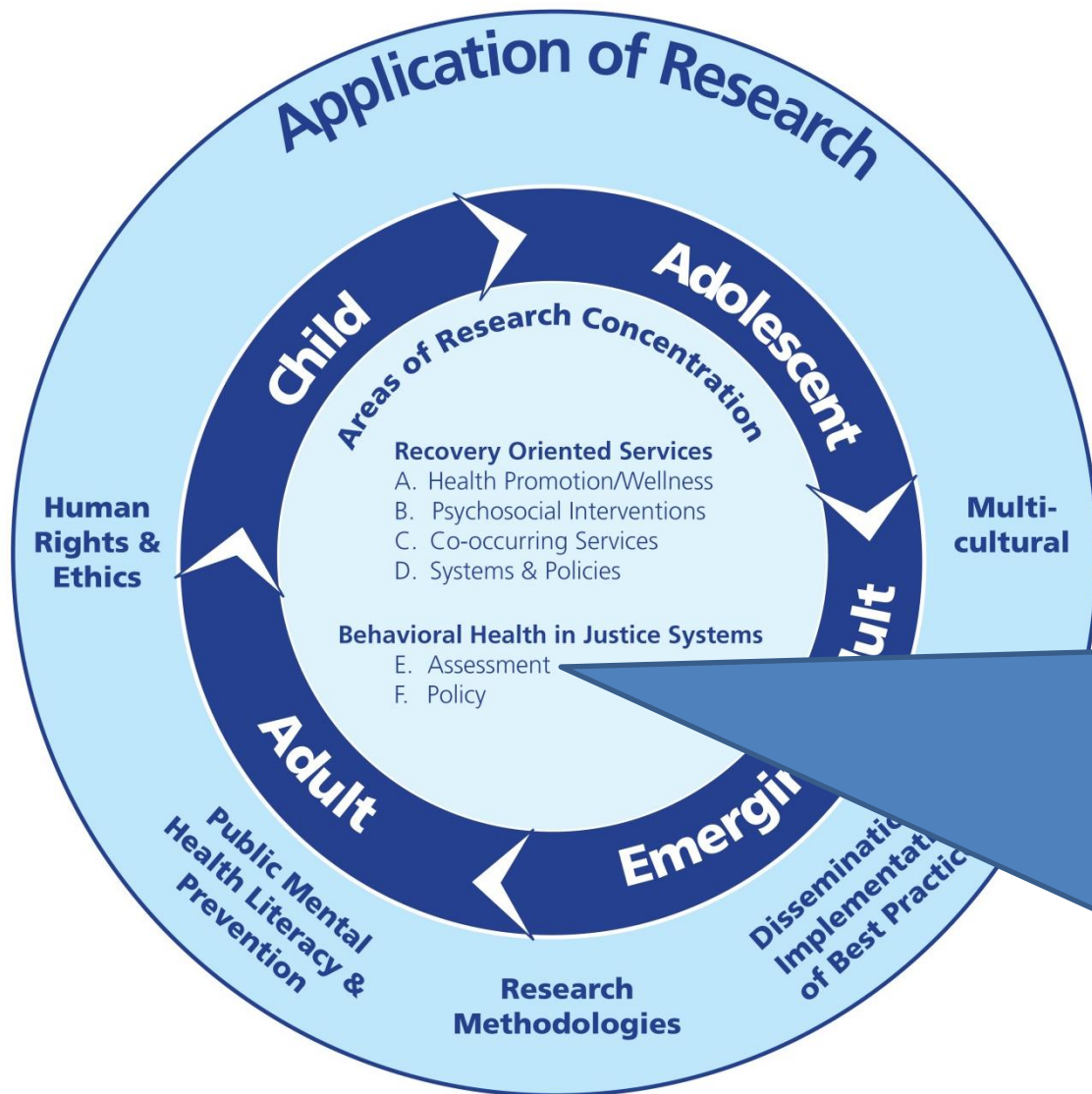
The SPARC conducts cutting-edge research to test and inform interventions, while developing and translating this knowledge to inform individuals, service systems, service providers, policies, and policy-makers.

Behavioral Health in Justice Systems:

The SPARC conducts a range of research activities associated with forensic mental health services. Areas for potential collaboration with DMH include expanding capacity to provide diversionary services for DMH clients and crisis intervention training for law enforcement and other community-based first responders.

This ARC is represented primarily by faculty and staff members in the Law & Psychiatry juvenile justice research program. The Law & Psychiatry program has a history of conducting research that serves both DMH and the Department of Youth Services (DYS) joint interests. Departmentally, this ARC has current or potential networking collaborations with the Child Division and/or Addictions.

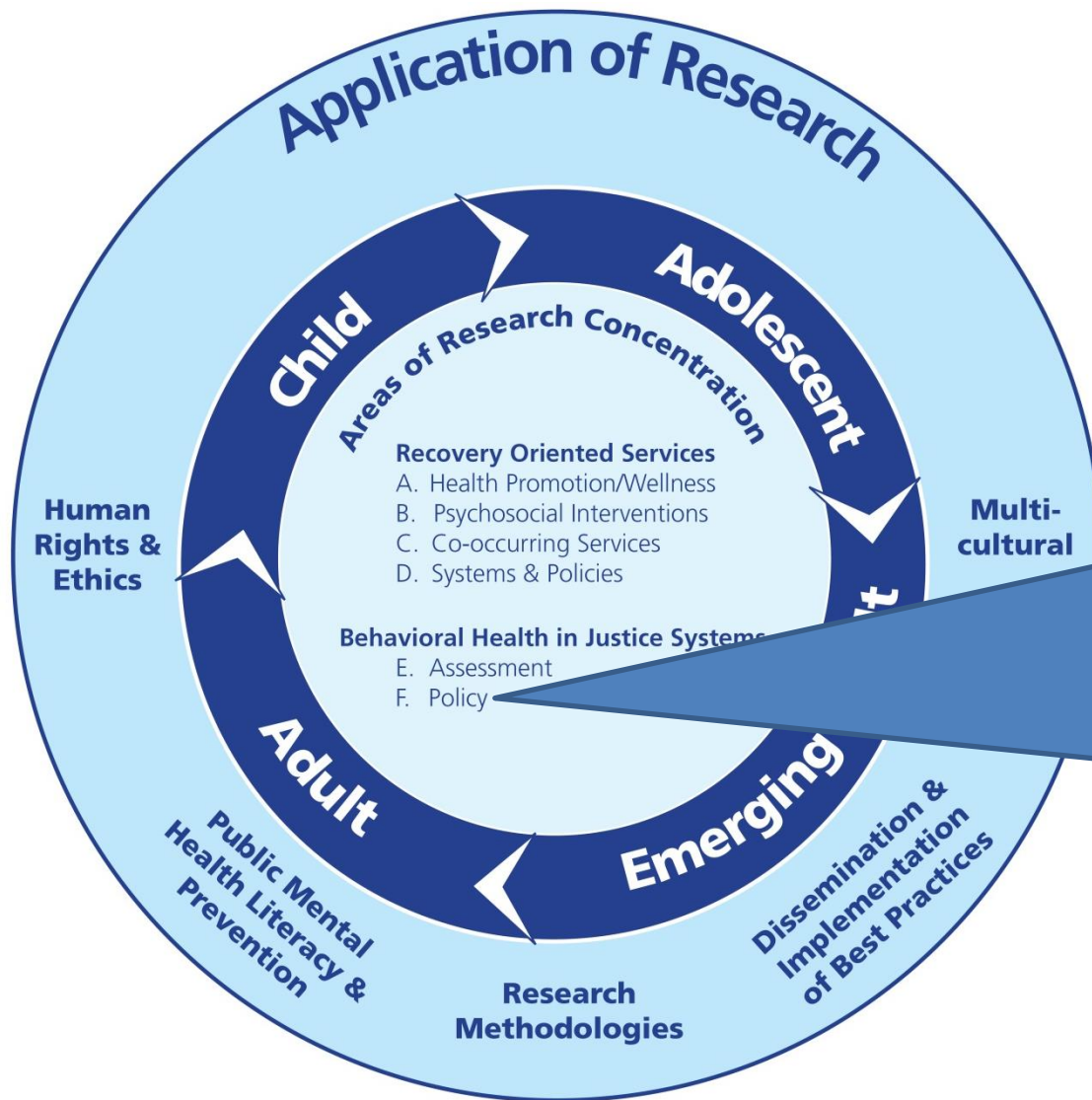




Behavioral Health in Justice Systems

Assessment:

This ARC includes two types of research related to measurement to improve justice for persons with behavioral health problems and for children and adolescents. The SPARC performs research on screening and assessment methods used by mental health professionals to address forensic questions raised for defendants with behavioral health problems. In addition, we develop screening and assessment tools for use in juvenile justice settings, then validate them and do research on their real-world effectiveness.



Behavioral Health in Justice Systems

Policy:

This ARC performs epidemiologic, translational, and evaluation research aimed at informing law, the legal process, and legal institutions about appropriate policies for adults and adolescents with disabilities who come before the Commonwealth's and the nation's courts.

The Systems & Psychosocial Advances Research Center - SPARC

For more information visit:

<http://www.umassmed.edu/sparc/>

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