

Community Engaged Research: Shifting interest and participation is a reality.

Community and Academic Partnership for Health Sciences Research
(CAPSHR)

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Jeannie B. Concha

Department of Public Health Sciences



Public Health

Definition

The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities, and individuals. *CDC, CEA Winslow*

Population Health: approach to health that aim to improve the health of an entire population.

Ten Essential Public Health Services (CDC 2020)

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Community and Public Health Research

Community Engagement: *“process of working collaboratively with groups of people who are affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being”*

- An approach that has been effective in public health interventions for disadvantaged groups who experience health inequities. *O’Mara et al., 2015*

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Models of Community Engagement

- ***Community organizing***: process by which community groups are helped to identify common problems or change targets, mobilize resources and develop and implement strategies to reach their collective goals. Also includes addressing conflict and confrontation strategies.
- ***Community building***: approach that builds capacity the process of collaboration.

Community and Public Health Research

Models of Community Engagement

- ***Community coalitions and partnerships:*** formed as people and organizations work together to solve problems.
- ***Community-based participatory research (CBPR)/community engaged research:*** grounding in partner relationship among community, academic and or agency stakeholders that characterizes the entire research process.

Community-based participatory research (CBPR)

1. Acknowledging the community as a unit of identity.
2. Building on the strengths and resources of the community.
3. Facilitating a collaborative, equitable partnership in all phases of research. Involving an empowering and power-sharing process that attends to social inequalities.
4. Fostering co-learning (exchanging information and skills) and capacity building among all partners.
5. Achieving a balance between generating new knowledge and development of an intervention, such as pesticide-safety education classes. Both the new knowledge and the intervention should be for the mutual benefit of all partners.
6. Focusing the local relevance of public health problems and ecological perspectives[1] on multiple determinants of health.
7. Involving systems development using a cyclical and iterative process, whereby the system, such as a health education program, is continuously developed in a repetitive manner so as to reach the desired goal or outcome of the system
8. Disseminating results to all partners and involving them in the wider dissemination of results
9. Involving a long-term process and commitment to sustainable research projects.

Considerations in CBPR or CER

- ***Knowledge interest:*** *Participation and control are never static and expectation is that the level of participation and ownership varies across time*
 - Document the agreements and process across time, even the changes
- ***Shifting Involvement:*** Research may start at the academic level but shift to community. Are community members involved minimally to satisfy a grant mandate or are they involved through the extended and compressive process of designing the research questions, seeking funding, designing methodology, conducting the data collection.

Considerations in CBPR or CER

- **Community Consent:** *Who represents the community always remains a challenge, as no community is homogeneous and community organizations or leaders who invite universities into their community still may not represent the range of community interest.*
- **Culturally Bound Knowledge:** Unpacking the role of power and privilege in the research relationship.
 - Researchers have scientific knowledge
 - Community has local knowledge
 - El Paso researchers may have both but recognizing their power in the relationship is important, can be both good and bad.

Evidence Based Support for Community Engaged Research

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Considerations

1. Do you have consent at all levels of all organizations involved?
2. Is there a sustainability plan and where are funds coming from?
 1. If federal funds --- consider that program may fall under public domain
 2. If seed funds --- more likelihood of local ownership

