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# CBPR: State of the Art and Science

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# Definition of CBPR

**“A Partnership approach to research that equitably involves community members, organizational representatives and researchers in all aspects of the research process”**

Israel, BA et al. (2001)

# Overview of CBPR

- Conventional research *in* communities vs. CBPR research *with* communities
- Core Tenets of CBPR
  - a. “Shared ownership of research projects”
  - b. Community-based analysis of public health issues
  - c. An orientation toward community action

# Background

- **Roots in Two Historical Traditions**
  - **Northern or Traditional roots (Kurt Lewin)**
  - **Southern or Radical action research**

# Background

- **Common thread between PAR & CBPR**
  - Participation by those affected by results or research
  - The equitable distribution of power among participants
  - Solution-oriented outcome(s)



# Background: Growth of CBPR

- The Environmental justice movement in US 1983  
*Citing of Hazardous Waste Landfills: their Correlation with Racial and Economic Status of Surrounding Communities*
- 1987 The United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice published *Toxic Waste and Race in the US*
- 1987 East St Louis Revitalization Project community Ministers approached the University of Illinois School of Architecture
- 1993 NIEHS Environmental Justice/Partnerships for Communications

# Background: The Agency for HealthCare Research and Quality-1

- **2001 AHRQ funded a systematic review of the peer review literature on CBPR and its role in improving community health**
  - **Definitions**
  - **Intervention Studies**
  - **Funding**

Adapted from the AHRQ website at <http://www.ahrq.gov/about/whatis.htm>



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# Background: The Agency for HealthCare Research and Quality-2

- Specifically, the commissioned investigators were asked to consider 4 Key Questions (KQs):
  - KQ 1: What defines community-based participatory research?
  - KQ 2: How has CBPR been implemented to date, with regard to the quality of research methodology and community involvement?
  - KQ 3: What is the evidence that CBPR efforts have resulted in the intended outcomes?
  - KQ 4: What criteria and processes should be used for review of CBPR in grant proposals?

Adapted from the AHRQ website at <http://www.ahrq.gov/about/whatis.ht>



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# Major Findings from the AHRQ Report: Research Implementation

- **Few studies representing complete and fully evaluated interventions published to date**
  - 12 of 60 CBPR studies examined had evaluated interventions
  - 4 of the 12 were randomized controlled trials
  - 5 of the 12 were quasi-experimental
- **Barriers to publication : categorical funding, length of funding period, journal page limitations**



# Major Findings from the AHRQ Report: Funding\*

## Type of funding sources (of all identifiable funding sources)

### Percent

**Federal agencies 57%**

*National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences 15%*

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 13%*

*National Cancer Institute 4%*

*US Environment Protection Agency 4%*

*National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism 3%*

*Other agencies 19%*

**Foundations or private sources 20%**

*W.J. Kellogg Foundation 4%*

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 3%*

*Other foundations or private sources 13%*

**State funding 15%**

**Universities 8%**

\*Viswanathan M, Ammerman A, Eng E, Gartlehner G, Lohr KN, Griffith D, Rhodes S, Webb L, Sutton SF, Swinson T, Jackman A, & Whitener L. (January 16, 2004). Community-Based Participatory Research. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Final Evidence Report).



# Major Findings from the AHRQ Report: Outcomes

- Improvements in intervention quality, recruitment efforts, research methods and dissemination noted by some studies
- Improved community involvement, additional grant funding, job creation reported by nearly 80% of studies
- Little evidence of diminished research quality resulting from CBPR

# Major Recommendations from AHRQ Report 2003

- Review panels should include CBPR experts as well as experts in translational research
- Guidelines for CBPR proposal reviewers and applicants are needed
- Proposals should address the potential CBPR benefits for research quality and community
- Guidelines are needed to improve rigor and quality of CBPR study reports

# Updates on AHRQ Report Recommendations

- **Review panels need to include CBPR experts and experts in translational research**
  - Concerted steps have been taken across NIH Institutes
- **Need guidelines for CBPR proposal reviewers and applicants**
  - Reviewer training has been conducted for specific grant initiatives. More is needed.
- **Proposals should also describe potential CBPR benefits for research quality and community**
  - Some proposal guidelines now require descriptions of potential CBPR benefits
- **Results should include discussion of capacity-building among researchers**
  - More is needed
- **Need guidelines to improve rigor and quality of CBPR study reports**
  - More is needed



# What is the current status of CBPR

- **University driven partnerships**
- **Increased Funding for partnership development**
- **Increased funding for partnered public health research and interventions**
- **Increase in the number of peer reviewed articles and journals**
- **Graduate Courses in CBPR**
- **Post doctoral training in CBPR**



# Challenges for future research-1

- **Gaps in the literature**
  - **The literature on CBPR is growing but much of the work is in progress and therefore typically does not provide information on changes in health outcomes and therefore are less likely to be published**
  - **Lack of evidence on impact of CBPR**
  - **Lack of consistent approach to assessing impact**

# Challenges for future research-2

- **Studies which examine theory and method**
- **Impact studies**
- **Practical tools**
- **Community perspectives**



# COMMUNITY AS PARTNERS



# Challenges to Successful Partnerships

- **Developing Partnerships**  
*Determining who should be at the table*
- **Establishing Respect and Trust**  
*Bases for respect and trust*
- **Negotiating Goals and Objectives**  
*Common language---an even playing field for negotiations*
- **Effective Communication**  
*Shared vocabulary, learning to listen, collective terminology*
- **Shared Decision-Making Strategies**  
*Mutual sharing of decisions on strategies*



# Key Point

*There are emerging practices but no single “best “ way to conduct CBPR*

**Thank You!**



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