Community-Based Participatory Research and Community Health Centers

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National Association of Community Health Centers
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Session Objectives

• Gain a greater understanding of community-based participatory research (CBPR)

• Learn how community health centers (CHCs) can engage in CBPR

• Hear specific examples how CHCs have integrated CBPR into their work

• Learn about NACHC activities around establishing a research agenda for CHCs
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health

Mission

To promote health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions
Major Strategies

- Create and expand opportunities for collaboration and information sharing
- Promote awareness about the benefits of community-campus partnerships
- Advocate for policies that facilitate and support community-campus partnerships
- Support service-learning and community-based participatory research in higher education
Initiatives & Programs

Training Institutes

Community Partner Mobilization

Community Engaged Scholarship for Health Collaborative

Consultancy Network

Annual CCPH Conference
April 11 – 14, 2007
Toronto, ON, Canada

www.ccph.info
Community-Based Participatory Research

A collaborative *approach* to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community and has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change...

-Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program
CBPR is - CBPR is not:

- An approach to research - not a methodology
- Community-based - not community placed
- Driven by community needs - not driven by money or publication potential
- Bottom up - not top down
- Knowledge and skills exchange - not knowledge and skills transfer
The CBPR approach to research represents a continuum of promising practices...
Rationale: Why CBPR?

• Traditional research has failed to solve complex health problems

• Levels playing field

• Significant community involvement increases scientific rigor: community are the experts
Rationale: Why CBPR?

• Research findings can be applied to interventions

• Approach builds greater trust & respect between researchers and communities
Why do CBPR at CHCs?

• Identifies emerging issues among patients and larger community
• Greater understanding of communities served → improves delivery, quality of care
• Provides insight into health outcomes/trends
• Improves health outcomes
Why do CBPR at CHCs?

• Expands scope of services beyond medical model to public health preventive model

• Builds community capacity

• Brings in money & jobs to the community
Is CBPR for you?

• Is opportunism and self-interest driving the agenda?

• Do you and your team have the necessary skills?

• Are you as a researcher comfortable with CBPR core values and principles? Moreover, do you agree with them?
Is CBPR for you?

• Are you a community member who wants an intervention or community service, but no interest in research questions?

• Do the ethical considerations related to burden and benefits to the community outweigh traditional research benefits?

• Are you interested in developing authentic partnerships, or just journal articles [and grant money]?

-Examing Community-Institutional Partnerships for Prevention Research Group CBPR curriculum
The most serious mistakes are not being made as a result of wrong answers. The truly dangerous thing is asking the wrong question.

-Peter F. Drucker
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