

**Context:** Community-based participatory research (CBPR) partnerships between communities and academic institutions have become central to the prevention research agenda in the United States. The aim of this project was to understand the infrastructure required to develop and sustain community-university partnerships for health research.



## Outcomes

### Definition

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a "collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities (W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Health Scholars Program)."

### Objectives

To describe the critical issues that affect CBPR partnerships at the local level and nationally as a field. To describe the elements required to develop and sustain CBPR partnerships. To disseminate a set of recommended strategies for building the capacity of communities and academic institutions to engage in CBPR partnerships.

### Methods & Sampling

- ✓ Literature review
- ✓ Web-based search
- ✓ Snowball sampling
- ✓ 30 study participants including:
  - 9 Principal investigators
  - 9 Program managers
  - 6 Community partners
  - 6 Federal funding agency

### 9 Key Issues

- ✓ CBPR is often viewed by the academic community as inferior or not research at all
- ✓ The time needed to develop & sustain partnerships is often not valued by funding agencies and academic communities as essential for CBPR
- ✓ Funding mechanisms, policies and procedures are often biased against CBPR
- ✓ Limited numbers and types of academic institutions are pursuing CBPR partnerships
- ✓ More barriers than incentives exist for community-based organizations to engage in CBPR
- ✓ Conducting CBPR requires a knowledgeable team with unique attitudes, values and competencies that need to be cultivated & supported
- ✓ CBPR partnerships do not consistently disseminate their findings for practical application
- ✓ There is no coordinated education and advocacy effort for CBPR

### Factors of Successful Partnerships

- ✓ Pre-existing relationships
- ✓ Balance between process & outcomes
- ✓ Cultural awareness & competency
- ✓ Alignment of mission & vision with CBPR principles
- ✓ Involvement of leadership
- ✓ Commitment to authentic partnership processes
- ✓ Active community board
- ✓ Financial support
- ✓ Project liaison position
- ✓ Technical assistance
- ✓ Collaborative development of CBPR principles

### Conclusion:

Recommended strategies include: 1) Support planning, relationship-building and partnership development as an essential part of the methodology of CBPR; 2) Invest in ongoing training and professional development for all partners; and 3) Facilitate the ability of community-based organizations and coalitions to be the lead applicant and fiscal agent for CBPR grants.

