What Defines Community-Based Participatory Research?

Eugenia Eng, DrPH
Derek Griffith, PhD
Scott Rhodes, PhD
Alice Ammerman, DrPH
Meera Viswanathan, PhD
Lucille Webb, MA
Kathleen Lohr, PhD
Objectives and Criteria for Review

- Peer-reviewed how to, literature review, synthesis, conceptual, & definitional publications
- All disciplines & professional fields
- English language
Data Sources

- Search MEDLINE, PsychInfo, & Sociofile
- Search terms:
  - Action research
  - Collaborative community action research
  - Community-based participatory research
  - Community centered praxis
  - Participatory action research
  - Participatory evaluation
  - Participatory research
Data Sources

- 162 publications identified
- 58 met inclusion criteria
- 55 retrieved from:
  - Anthropology
  - Community development
  - Community psychology
  - Disability research
  - Environmental health
  - Health education
  - Health sociology
  - Injuries
  - Mental health
  - Nursing
  - Organizational development
  - Patient care
  - Reproductive health
Abstraction Matrix

- 7 Column Headings:
  - Establishment of partnership structure
  - Identification of issues and concerns
  - Study design and funding
  - Participant recruitment and retention
  - Measurement and data collection
  - Intervention design and implementation
  - Data analysis, interpretation, and dissemination
Abstraction Matrix

- Five Row Headings
  - Essential elements of community participation
  - Essential elements of research
  - Characteristics of successful practices
  - Communities’ expected outcomes
  - Researchers’ expected outcomes
Analysis

- Three reviewers read full text of the 55 publications

- Independently extracted and entered verbatim text into one or more of the 35 cells of the matrix

- Senior reviewer verified entries in each cell and then identified patterns of meaning across all cells
Limitations

- Databases searched may not include full body of CBPR literature
- Unable to retrieve 3 publications through interlibrary loan or websites
- Hence, cannot claim that this review is exhaustive
Definition of CBPR

- A collaborative research approach that is designed to ensure and establish structures for participation by communities affected by the issue being studied, representatives of organizations, and researchers in all aspects of the research process to improve health and well-being through taking action, including social change.
Essential Elements of CBPR

- Community, as a collaborator, is a social and cultural entity that can actively engage and influence its members in all aspects of the research process.
  - professional staff at a workplace
  - representatives of local organizations or agencies
  - citizens, residents of a neighborhood or hamlet, and members of community-based organizations
Essential Elements of CBPR

- Participation by people who experience the issue being studied is justified on the basis of
  - democratic values that espouse tolerance of different points of view and the importance of learning from one another.
  - enhancing the scientific quality of the processes and products of developing new knowledge.
Essential Elements of CBPR

- Community participation in research is a planned and directed process for shifting power in decision making from researchers to all collaborators equitably.

  Contractual  $\rightarrow$  Consultative  $\rightarrow$

  Collaborative  $\rightarrow$  Collegiate
Characteristics of Successful CBPR Partnerships

- CBPR establishes a reciprocal co-learner relationship by creating structures, such as steering committees and feedback loops, for collaborative decision making during each stage of research.
  - Offer workshops to transfer new skills
  - Hold regular meetings to discuss concerns and methodological options
Characteristics of Successful CBPR Partnerships

- Hire local people as research coordinators
- Make written plans detailing the types of expertise required at each stage of research
- Create ad hoc groups or mechanisms for internal review of issues that arise about operations and measures of accountability
- Appoint researchers as guardians of the data during the study, and return guardianship at the end of the study to a community-controlled decision making body
- Evaluate co-learning effects
Characteristics of Successful CBPR Partnerships

• CBPR processes and products have the immediate and direct benefit of using the research for
  – Conceptual purposes to change the way people think
  – Instrumental purposes to change existing programs
  – Persuasive purposes to influence policy
Major Expected Outcomes from CBPR

- Findings are expected to be used to:
  - Address the original health concern
  - Be applied to a health-related intervention or policy change
  - Be interpreted and disseminated with participants
Major Expected Outcomes from CBPR

- Additional expected outcomes include:
  - community capacity building to integrate questioning with reflection, i.e., the power of research
  - reform of underlying political structures, i.e., social change
Next Steps

• Our systematic review of CBPR studies was guided by this definition, essential elements, and expected outcomes

  – Abstraction forms
  – Evidence tables
  – Quality rating scores
Questions?
Eugenia Eng DrPH
Health Behavior and Health Education,
SPH, University of North Carolina

eugenia_eng@unc.edu