Participants. This lack of involvement of involved in such research. In addition, pre-
in distrust of and reluctance to becoming in-
benefit (and sometimes there has been detri-
search, in which there has been no direct
members, organizational representatives, and
aspects of the research process. In CBPR, all partners contribute
their expertise and share responsibilities and
of projects designed to enhance
as well as integrate the knowledge gained with
improve the health and well-being
of community members.

CBPR is a valuable research strategy for the following reasons:

There are gaps related to sociodemographic
and economic characteristics between the public
and public health "experts;"

It is important that academic, public health
practice, and community partnerships work
together to engage in solving problems related
to public health issues;

Research methods that only emphasize the
of individual risk factors obscure
the importance of a community’s social and
environmental conditions to health and disease;

Ecological approaches that collect and ana-
lyze information on community-level factors
are important to understand how social, political
and economic systems help shape behaviors
and access to health care resources;

Qualitative approaches, commonly used in
CBPR, play an important role in expanding
our understanding of and insight into health
status and health behaviors;

The active engagement by the community
as a social, cultural, and historical entity in
all aspects of the research process — can add
significantly to understanding phenomena
being investigated as well as to integrating the
knowledge gained to improve health and
well-being of community members, particu-
larly as these steps relate to the development
and implementation of policy.

Including community members as equal
partners has the potential
to bridge the cultural gaps that exist between
partners involved.

Inclusion of community members as partners
can provide continuity to overcome the frag-
mentation and separation of individuals from
culture and context that often appear in more
narrowly defined, categorical ap-
proaches;

One avenue for traditionally marginalized
groups to gain power is through gaining
knowledge.

Research can be improved through engag-
ing local knowledge and local theory based
on the experiences of the people in-
volved;

There is now recognition of the need to in-
clude community voices that will bridge the
gap between the professional, "expert" views
and community views relative to the role that
racism continues to play in maintaining health
disparities.

A recent Institute of Medicine report has
recommended that public health professionals
be taught how to conduct community-based
participatory research so as reflect the ecolog-
ical view of health and disease in their re-
search and teaching.

It is also important to maintain the confi-
dentiality of study participants.

For the reasons given above, the American
Public Health Association therefore urges:

• Public and private support for commu-
ity-based participatory research that in-
cludes planning grants, and resources for doc-
umentation and evaluation of community
participation;

• Public and private support for train-
ing in community-based participatory re-
search;

• A fair distribution of research re-
sources (including monetary) among the aca-
demic and community partners involved;

• Policymakers to engage commu-
nity-research partnerships in the process of
cmynaking and evaluation by including
community members in deciding what issues
should be evaluated and the methodology to
be used.

References

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4. 2004-12 Support for Community-Based Participatory Research in Public Health

Introduction/Problem Statement

There is increasing research evidence that
stressors in the social and physical environment
(e.g., poverty, inadequate housing, air pollution,
income inequalities, racism, lack of employ-
ment opportunities, and powerlessness) are as-
associated with poor health outcomes. At the same
time, in those communities where the environ-
ment may exert a strong negative influence on
health status, have an extensive set of skills,
strengths, and resources among community
members (e.g., supportive relationships, com-
munity capacity, committed leaders, religious
and community-based organizations) to address
problems and maintain a positive level of
health and well-being.

Much of the research that has focused on
gaining a better understanding of these social
and physical determinants of health has con-
sidered individuals and communities as pas-

sive “subjects” in the research process, with
little attention paid to the generation of re-
search ideas and the design, dissemination,
translation, and integration of research in
ways that actively involve and benefit the par-
ticipants. This lack of involvement of
community members in the conduct of re-
search, in which there has been no direct
benefit (and sometimes there has been detri-
mental effects to the community), has resulted
in distrust of and reluctance to becoming in-
volved in such research. In addition, pre-
vention research often has not been as effec-
tive as it could be because: it has not been
tailored to the concerns and cultures of the
participants involved; it has not included par-
ticipants in all aspects of the intervention de-

gin, implementation, and evaluation; and
successful strategies have not been dissemi-
nated to multiple audiences — for example,
the academic and practice communities as
well as the general public.

Given the complex determinants of health
status, the disproportionate burden of disease
and the limited effectiveness of traditional re-
search — methods particularly within commu-
nities of color — more comprehensive and
participatory approaches to public health re-
search and practice are essential.

Community-Based Participatory Research
in public health is a partnership approach to
research that equitably involves community
members, organizational representatives, and
researchers in all aspects of the research
process. In CBPR, all partners contribute	heir expertise and share responsibilities and
ownership of projects designed to enhance
understanding of a given phenomenon as
well as integrate the knowledge gained with
action to improve the health and well-being
of community members.

CBPR is a valuable research strategy for the following reasons:

There are gaps related to sociodemographic
and economic characteristics between the pub-
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