

CCN Fact Sheet: Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) is a kind of research in which communities and researchers work together to create a research project. CBPR gives community members the opportunity to work side-by-side with researchers to create a research project that helps both groups. This approach helps the community by ensuring the research project helps people in the community and addresses a topic that is important to them. CBPR helps researchers by giving them better access to community members, which creates improved research.

The *participatory* aspect of CBPR is what sets it apart from other types of community research. Many CBPR projects begin by asking community members to be a part of the research team. These community members help to decide what kind of research project, the topic area and research questions for the project. In many communities, a Community Advisory Board is established to help with this process for many projects over several years. In the best situations, the cooperation between community and researchers begins a long-term relationship that benefits both groups for many years.

There are many different ways to use CBPR. The table below lists different ways to use the CBPR process.

Critical elements in community-based participatory research

Research Element	CBPR Application
Research design	Researchers communicate the need for specific study design approaches and work with community to design more acceptable approaches
Participant recruitment and retention	Community representatives guide researchers to the most effective way to reach the intended study participants and to keep them involved in the study
Formative data collection	Community members provide input to intervention design, barriers to recruitment and retention, etc. via focus groups, structured interviews, narratives, or other qualitative method
Measures, instrument design and data collection	Community representatives involved in extensive cognitive response and pilot testing of measurement instruments before beginning formal research
Intervention design and implementation	Community representatives involved with selecting the most appropriate intervention approach, given cultural and social factors and strengths of the community
Data analysis and interpretation	Community members involved regarding their interpretation of the findings within the local social and cultural context
Manuscript preparation and research translation	Community members are included as coauthors of the manuscripts, presentations, newspaper articles, etc., following previously agreed-upon guidelines