

## Assessing Process and Outcomes: Evaluating Community-Based Participatory Research

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### What Is the Purpose of this Study?

- To determine the relationship, if any, between the collaborative process of conducting the community research collaboration projects and the reported outcomes.

### What Is the Problem?

- Although the application of community-based participatory research (CBPR) is advancing, accomplishing collaborative research has been challenging. Until recently, there has been relatively little research on the process or outcomes of CBPR. A better understanding of the process and outcomes of CBPR, and their possible relationship, could lead to improvements in the field.

### What Are the Findings?

- Although the projects varied in the measures of the partnership process, the three teams that had the highest outcome scores also had the highest scores for the partnership process.
- In the area of process, teams had the most difficulty conducting the data analysis collaboratively, sharing power, and managing the impact of turnover.
- In the area of outcomes, teams were most effective at improving the quality of research methodology, providing benefits to the participating community agency, and answering questions important to the communities involved.

### Who Should Care Most?

- CBPR team members.
- Community-based organizations that participate in or sponsor CBPR projects.
- Funders of CBPR.

### Recommendations for Action

- The finding that teams that collaborate more fully also produced more robust research outcomes suggests that interventions aimed at enhancing partnerships could lead to increased outcomes.
- Concrete recommendations to funders and research teams can be made.
  - Signed agreements should be expected among all parties that incorporate elements such as data ownership, turnover, and conflict resolution plans.
  - Agreements should address whether the community organization is responsible for ensuring a competent replacement, if the community's lead investigator leaves the project, so that the project stays with the community organization.

- By encouraging broader involvement of the lay community, and members of the board and staff, funders can help to ensure that projects are truly CBPR as evidenced by a deep sense of ownership of the project by the broader community and community organization.

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