

Cultivating an Ecosystem: A Qualitative Exploration of Sustainability in Long-Standing Community-Based Participatory Research Partnerships

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What Is the Purpose of this Study/Review?

- To explore the definition of sustainability from the viewpoints of academic and community experts of long-standing community-based participatory research (CBPR) partnerships.
- To identify practices that promote sustainability from the viewpoints of academic and community experts of long-standing CBPR partnerships.

What Is the Problem?

- Sustainability is important to the long-standing success of CBPR partnerships.
- The definition of sustainability and the practices that promote sustainability in long-standing (6 years or longer) CBPR partnerships are unclear.

What Are the Findings?

- The key defining aspects of sustainability include distinguishing between sustaining the work of the partnership and ongoing relationships among partners, working towards a common goal over time, and enduring changes that impact the partnership.
- Several strengthening and capacity building practices at multiple levels of the partnership could promote the sustainability of partnership's work and of ongoing relationships among partners.

Who Should Care Most?

- Academic and community members who seek to promote the sustainability and long-standing success of CBPR partnerships.

Recommendations for Action

- Partners should discuss and agree upon what sustainability means to them and what practices help promote sustainability throughout different stages of each partnership.
- Evaluating and applying practices that help sustain the partnership's activities and relationships could promote the long-standing success of CBPR partnerships.