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Prospectus

Community-Based Participatory Research

◆ MISSION OF THE TEXT

Research-based health care innovations make their way slowly, if at all, into community practice. It is the goal of community-based participatory research (CBPR) to create an effective translational process that will improve population health and increase connections with members of underserved communities.

Historically, research translation communities has not included community partners in a participatory manner. As a result, members of underserved communities often feel that research has been conducted upon them rather than with them. As a result, despite potential community benefits from health care research in their communities, community members may feel exploited by researchers. The worst-case scenario, such as the Tuskegee experiment, drove all many communities, particularly those of color, feeling discriminated, not resident to participate. Consequently, research that has the potential to improve health may not result in action or sustainable change at the community level.

The CBPR approach seeks to improve the visibility and acceptability of research and break down traditional barriers. Members of underserved communities increasingly demand a new approach in which they are equal participants in the development and conduct of the research and by which the research has clear benefits for the people involved. CBPR aims to achieve these goals. In addition to health care, the CBPR approach is being used in education, psychology, and social work. In these various disciplines, community members are partnering with investigators who possess a variety of skills that will help improve the health and/or well-being of community members.

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a research approach that involves community members in all phases of the research process, from identifying the research question to disseminating the results.