

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a collaborative process of research between trained researchers and community representatives to solve problems relevant to human health in communities. Members of the community may be involved in all aspects of the research including design, conduct, analysis, and dissemination of results.

KUMC supports a number of resources available for investigators who plan to conduct CBPR that discuss basic principles of CBPR, ethical issues, and training for academic and community partners. Investigators who conduct community-based participatory research are encouraged to review the optional [training course](#) developed by our local Community Partnerships for Health (CPH) and to use the self-assessment and consultation services offered by CPH. The CPH also provides their expertise as consultants to the IRB when CBPR projects are reviewed.

Principles of Community-Based Participatory Research

- Topics and research questions are defined in collaboration with community partners
- Community members are seen as participants or partners (focus/unit of analysis)
- Researchers and communities work together to improve study design and data collection instruments, increase participation, and interpret results
- Researchers and communities collaboratively obtain new knowledge and skills
- Data are shared; community and researchers agree on dissemination plans (return of results)

*Considerations when reviewing CBPR Projects**

- The research should aim to facilitate collaborative, equitable partnerships with the community at all stages of the research process. This includes planning and implementing the research and disseminating research results.
- If possible, community members should be involved with identifying issues of concern and the need for research, emphasizing local relevance for study topics. In addition, community members should help design, plan and implement the research, to build on community strength and resources and promote co-learning and capacity-building among all partners.
- The risks and benefits to individuals and the community must be considered. The community needs to be recognized as a unit of identity. The project should minimize risks and maximize benefits by:
 - Using community collaborators to identify culturally-appropriate perspectives
 - Capacity building within the community to empower
- Investigators need to ensure the methods used are sensitive and appropriate to the various communities (i.e., literacy, language barriers, cultural sensitivities)
- When possible the research should include capacity-building opportunities

*Source: [Partners/Harvard Catalyst Human Research Committee Guidance Document](#)

Differences between Traditional & Community-Based Participatory Research

Attribute	Traditional Research	CBPR
Topic/research question	Defined by researcher	Defined in collaboration with community partners
Focus/unit of analysis	Human subject in community	Community members are seen as participants or partners
Study design and execution	Researcher controls all aspects of the project	Researchers and communities work together to improve instruments, increase participation, and interpret results.
Knowledge acquisition	Researcher obtains new knowledge	Researchers and communities collaboratively obtain new knowledge and skills
Data and disseminations	Owned and controlled by researcher	Data is shared; community and researchers agree on dissemination plans

Additional Resources at KUMC

When the IRB reviews community-based participatory research, additional expertise and guidance is available from [Frontiers: KU CTSI Community and Collaboration Core](#).

[Community Engagement Training](#)