Community Voices In Research
Using Research To Improve Health in Springfield

Sponsored by

[Logos and images of Springfield Partners for Community Action, Baystate Health, and Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc.]
Introductions and Welcome

Why are you here?

What are your experiences with research?
About Project ACCCES

• Funding to promote community engaged research in Springfield (PCORI)
What is Research?
Understanding Research

• What is research?
• What can we better understand through health research?
  – How a health problem is impacting patients or a community
  – Whether a new intervention or program works
  – How to better implement “evidence-based” programs
Understanding Research

- Different approaches to conducting research
  - Traditional approach
  - “Middle of the road” Approach
  - Community-Based Participatory Approach
Levels of Community Involvement in Research

**Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)**
- Community defines study questions in partnership with researchers
- Write the funding proposal together
- Design and carry out the study together
- Analyze data and share results together
- Make changes based on what is learned

**Middle of the Road**
- Help with carrying out a researcher-designed study
- Have responsibilities defined by the researchers
- May serve on an advisory board

**Traditional**
- Researchers come up with study questions
- Researchers come up with ideas for solutions
- Community acts as research “subjects”
A Sample Community Health Goal

• Smoking in Springfield
  – 21% of adults
  – 11% during pregnancy

• We would like to help people to quit smoking
Discussion Question

What could be done to achieve this goal?
How could research help to achieve this goal?

1) “Traditional” Approach

2) “Middle of the Road” Approach

3) Community Participatory Approach
### Research Objective (Identifying the Question)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Model</th>
<th>Community-Engaged Model</th>
<th>CBPR Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Lead researcher has an interest in smoking cessation</td>
<td>• Community input that smoking cessation is a research priority in this community</td>
<td>• The community was fully involved in identifying smoking cessation as a key priority</td>
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## Designing a Smoking Cessation Intervention

### Smoking Cessation Example:

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<tr>
<td>• Research team review published literature to design an intervention</td>
<td>• Researchers consult with community to ensure that their intervention is culturally acceptable</td>
<td>• Researchers and community work together to design an intervention</td>
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## Smoking Cessation Example:

Disseminating (sharing) results

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<td>• Research results are published in a peer-reviewed academic journal</td>
<td>• Research results are published in a peer-reviewed academic journal • Research results are shared in a community venue</td>
<td>• Research results are published in a peer-reviewed academic journal • Researchers and community work together to identify appropriate community venues to disseminate results • Results are shared in a timely manner • Community members help to disseminate information</td>
</tr>
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Community Engaged Research

What are the benefits or positives?

- Acknowledges community as partners in research process
- Starts with community insights
- Enables culturally appropriate design
- Results translate more easily to real world settings, having a greater impact on health
- Community empowerment and ownership
- Acknowledges and builds off of assets and good work in the community
Discussion Question

How do you think this research can be used to benefit the community?
Examples of Different Types of Community Involvement in Research
Asthma Community Engaged Research Examples
Spectrum of Community Involvement – Boston Studies

Boston Chinatown
Asthma Studies

- Small-scale studies of asthma among recent Chinese immigrants in Boston Chinatown
- Community Partners
  - Professionals: community-based clinics, schools, organizations
  - Partners involved in aspects of project – not deep involvement
Boston Chinatown Asthma Studies

- Studies looked at
  - Percent of Chinese children in Chinatown school with asthma
  - Asthma symptoms & care in clinical setting
- 1st studies in this population (4 total published)
- Findings contributed to funding and development of education project
Asthma Community Engaged Research Examples
Spectrum of Community Involvement – Boston Studies

Healthy Public Housing Initiative

• Large scale initiative with 10 partnership organizations, including
  – 3 community groups
  – 3 universities
  – 2 city agencies plus consultants

• Pilot studies led to 1\textsuperscript{st} large scale IPM intervention in public housing to address asthma

• Trained 11 tenant community health advocates that gathered data and educated tenants
Healthy Public Housing Initiative

• Findings showed IPM effective (several publications)
  – Limitations in research design because community partners did not want control group

• Community Impacts
  – Based on findings, received funding to develop & implement IPM in Boston Public Housing using community health advocate model
Asthma Community Engaged Research Examples
Spectrum of Community Involvement – Boston Studies

Fig. 1. Schematic of relationship of type of participants representing the community to level of participation for the 3 case examples examined.

Dorchester Study

- Goal: Identify environmental factors contributing to asthma in Dorchester
- Community involvement
  - Community Partners: Boston Urban Asthma Coalition, parents of children with asthma
  - BUAC initiated study with Tufts University faculty and students
  - BUAC designed survey question and methods with input from parents of children with asthma
Dorchester Study

• 1st study finding African-Americans born in U.S. had higher rates of asthma than African-American immigrants

• Findings led to community plan to address asthma
  – Community education at health centers
  – Asthma legislation for insurers to cover asthma education, home visits and home env. remediation
  – Parent support groups
  – Raising awareness
  – Connecting community to existing resources
Asthma Community Engaged Research Examples
Spectrum of Community Involvement – Boston Studies

Fig. 1. Schematic of relationship of type of participants representing the community to level of participation for the 3 case examples examined.

Springfield CEnR Example

Shared Decision Making – Renal Supportive Care

• An intervention in Springfield to improve patient-physician communication about end of life care for renal dialysis patients

• Team includes two patient advisory boards and one stakeholder board

• Boards give investigators input on decisions during the course of the study
Discussion Question

How does community (you!) want to be involved in research?

What skills does the community need to be able to be actively engaged participants in research?

What challenges do you see with implementing community engaged research in Springfield?
Next Steps and Follow-Up

• Information from today’s forum will be used to inform Project ACCCES

• Add your name to Project ACCCES contact list
  – Information will go out to list as project moves forward

• Reach out if you have thoughts or questions!
Thank You!

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