

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Policies & Procedures Manual



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Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

Purpose

The policy enumerates the additional considerations and resources needed for planning and executing community-based participatory research (CBPR).

Policy

When the IRB reviews CBPR, they will consider, in addition to the criteria for IRB approval as outlined in the federal regulations, any appropriate factors related to the community setting.

IRB considerations:

- Whether community members will be both in the role of “investigator” and “subject” and if so, whether the community participant is engaged in human subject research.
- Should the research team include members of the community as members of the research team in order to assist in the identification and recruitment of potential participants.
- The need to maintain trust with the community if one of its members participates in conducting the research
- Creating and using advisory panels which are comprised of in whole or in part prospective participants or parents of prospective participants representing the population that will be the subject of research (e.g., a rare disease, HIV/AIDS, disenfranchised communities, etc.)
- Members of the community involved in screening and/or recruitment procedures receive adequate training to perform research-related functions.

Procedure

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a collaborative approach to research that combines methods of inquiry with community capacity building strategies to bridge the gap between knowledge produced through research and what is practices in communities to improve their health and well-being.

CBPR is research that is conducted as an equal partnership between traditionally trained “experts” and members of a community. CBPR encourages collaboration of “formally trained research” partners from any area of expertise, provided that the researcher provide expertise that is seen as useful to the investigation by the community, and be fully committed to a partnership of equals and producing outcomes usable to the community.

Community members should be involved with the identifying the issues of concern and need for research. The research should facilitate collaborative equitable partnerships with the community at all stages: planning, implementing, and the dissemination of results. CBPR permits building on the community resources and strengths while promotes co-learning and capacity building among all partners. This also helps emphasize the local relevance of the issues to be studied.

As appropriate, investigators should consider the following principles and integrate them into their protocol development:

- Identify the additional considerations that would assist in the IRB review.
- Identify the risks and benefits to individuals in the community.
- Recognize the community as a unit of identity.
- Indicate whether community members will be both in the role of “investigator” and “subject.” If they are “subjects”, investigators should demonstrate how risks will be minimized.
- Investigators need to consider the methods used to ensure they are sensitive and appropriate to the various communities (i.e. literacy, language barriers, cultural sensitivities).
- The researchers and community need to consider long term commitments to the community form which the subjects are drawn.

Related Content

IRB Policy

International and Cross-Cultural Research

Document Attributes

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