Defining and Measuring Success in Long-Standing Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Partnerships: A Scoping Literature Review

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INTRODUCTION

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a widely used approach by community and academic partners to address health disparities and promote health equity in communities. While numerous factors have been identified as essential in developing and maintaining such partnerships, there is little empirical evidence, and few psychometrically valid and reliable tools, to define and measure indicators of their success over time in long-standing partnerships. Prior work has identified existing measures of CBPR partnerships and the impact of CBPR processes on systems change and health outcomes. The majority of these measures focus on the development of new CBPR partnerships, few have been validated and none specifically address success in long-standing CBPR partnerships (in existence ≥ 6 years).

METHODS

The aim of this scoping literature review, as part of the Measurement Approaches to Partnership Success (MAPS) project, was:

- To identify the existence of currently published indicators and measures of success in long-standing CBPR partnerships.
- To make recommendations regarding these identified indicators and measures for use in developing the MAPS instrument measuring long-standing CBPR partnership success.

**PURPOSE**

Included search terms focused on variations of MeSH or key terms related to the concepts CBPR partnerships, success/evaluation, and measures/definitions.

- Final search terms included “community based participatory research” OR “CBPR” AND “community institutional relations” OR “cooperative behavior” OR “program evaluation.”
- Inclusion Criteria:
  - Long-standing CBPR partnerships (≥6 years)
  - Published between 2011-2017
  - Focus on evaluation of CBPR partnership(s)
  - Addressed concepts/measures of success
  - Quantitative, qualitative, and/or review articles
- Exclusion Criteria:
  - Focus on interventions rather than partnership evaluation
  - Focus on CBPR partnership development

**SEARCH RESULTS**

- 70 articles identified from databases:
  - CINAHL
  - PubMed
  - Scopus
- 125 articles identified from combinations of keywords:
  - “Partnership Success” OR “Partnership Evaluation”
  - “Partnership Assessment” OR “Partnership Outcomes”
  - “Process and Outcome Constructs”
- 53 articles identified from combinatorial search:
  - “Process and Outcome Constructs” AND “Partnership Success”
  - “Process and Outcome Constructs” AND “Partnership Evaluation”
  - “Process and Outcome Constructs” AND “Partnership Assessment”
- 50 articles included

**KEY AREAS OF EMPHASIS**

- Long-standing partnerships (≥6 years, n=17 articles)
- Mid-range partnerships (6-5 years, n=8 articles)

**DIAGRAM OF IDENTIFIED AREAS & INDICATORS OF LONG-STANDING CBPR PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS**

**PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

- 17 articles met our initial inclusion criteria and reflected partnerships of long-standing (≥6 years); another 8 were included with mid-range partnership length (4-5 years) due to strong convergence with overall inclusion criteria.
- 7 key areas and 24 concepts related to CBPR partnership success were identified (see diagram).
- Areas and indicators were differently emphasized across mid- and long-standing CBPR partnerships (see graph).
- Foundational principles for CBPR partnership development are critical throughout the life of successful long-standing CBPR partnerships.
- No validated tools or measures were found of success as framed in this scoping review.

**RESULTS**

**CONCLUSION**

Data from this review, as part of a larger study, and combined with data from earlier literature and qualitative findings from CBPR expert key informant interviews, will form a basis for more clearly defined indicators of success and ways to measure them in long-standing CBPR partnerships.

By better understanding and measuring components of success in long-standing CBPR partnerships across various contexts and communities, other CBPR partnerships can map their paths forward, ultimately increasing their partnership goals and outcomes related to health equity.

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**REFERENCES**


*Scoping review articles available upon request. For additional information, please contact MAPS Project Manager, Megan Jensen, by email at mlaver@umich.edu or phone at (734) 764-0603.