

CBPR- YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR VOICE

The Case of Community Based Participatory Research

Research in the medical community, has been dominated by methods that do not include community members as active participants throughout the research process. The community was often viewed as the 'object' of research efforts, and on occasion, an unwilling 'entity' being studied, or the 'beneficiary' of research efforts but seldom a full partner in the process.

Over the past decades, there has been a growing critique of traditional research methods as it pertains to community health care, particularly minority health care. As gaps in health equality continue to persist, the spotlight has been turned on **fully** engaging community members in health research.

Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) represents a shift in the perspective of how research should be conducted and the role that research should play in the community at large. This particular type of research is based on the principle of full community engagement; that is academic researchers and community workers equally determining the need for and issue to be researched, fully informing research efforts and equally benefitting from them.

Brooklyn Health Disparities Center - A CBPR Model

In 2004, the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, SUNY Downstate Medical Center and the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President formed the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center (BHDC) with the mission of reducing health disparities among minorities and new immigrants in Brooklyn. The Center attempts to fulfill this mission through clinical research, community based research, education, outreach and training.

The Brooklyn Health Disparities Center is a manifestation of the type of partnership fundamental to effective CBPR. The Center draws into equal partnership members of academia, medical researchers, community workers and their constituents, health advocates, activists for social justice and government officials.

The Center's advisory groups such as the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) are integral to the creation of the Center's research agenda, developing its research tools and practices, implementing its programs, sharing results and developing policy.



OVER

CBPR WORKSHOPS 2010

In 2010, the BHDC collaborated with members of the academic and medical community at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, the AAIUH and community based organizations (CBOs) in Brooklyn, to implement workshops aimed at developing the skills of community leaders in CBPR and in developing and sustaining community-academic partnerships.

These workshops brought together thirty-six (36) individuals representing nineteen (19) CBOs in the Brooklyn community and provided them with an opportunity to increase their knowledge of health disparities and enhance their capacity in:

- Project Planning & Program Evaluation (CBPR Model).
- Building Strategic Partnerships Utilizing CBPR.
- Advocacy Using Evidence Based Research.
- CBPR: Building trust and bridging the gap.
- Fostering collaborations with other CBOs and academic institutions.

HERE'S WHAT OUR CBPR WORKSHOP

ATTENDEES HAD TO SAY

After both workshops, over **90% of attendees** surveyed indicated that they better understood the goals and mission of the BHDC.

93% and 100% of respondents (workshops 1 & 2 respectively) indicated that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the workshops on either day.

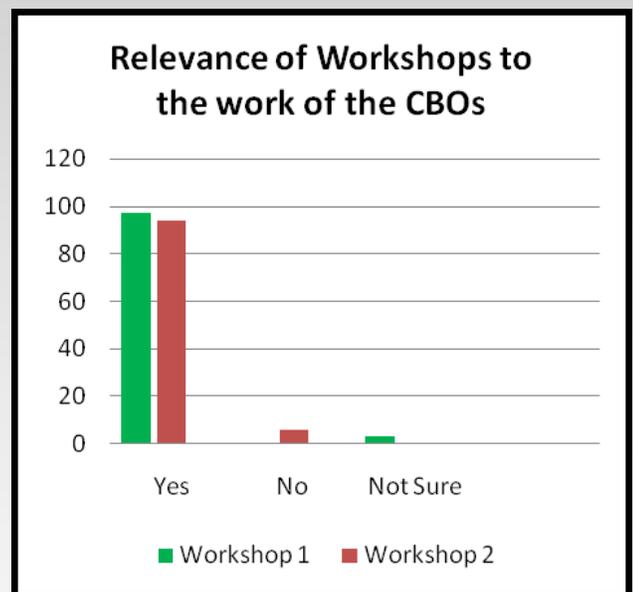
Here is what a few participants had to say:

"This workshop was excellent! I learned more about the BHDC. I was connected to other groups & individuals and I learned something new, especially in advocacy using evidence-based research!"

"As a student attending, hearing these conversations from a different perspective was very interesting and very useful."

"The Workshop on planning & grant writing was well presented. It would be a good idea to present something like this at least once a year."

Over **90%** of those attending the workshops found the sessions useful and relevant!



Upcoming Events

CBPR Workshop I - March 16th
CBPR Workshop II - May (TBD)

For additional information on attending the
CBPR Workshops contact:
Nicole Primus-Education Coordinator
Tel: 718 221 6196
nprimus@arthurasheinstitute.org