

## Evidence-based Advocacy

**Citizens with disabilities use Photovoice to effect policy change**

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CENTER FOR COMMUNITY  
COMP. HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS



## Presenter Disclosures

Susan D. Newman

**(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:**

“No relationships to disclose.”

## Learning objectives

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- Evaluate Photovoice as a participatory research method to support evidence-based advocacy efforts of individuals with disabilities.
- Identify the relationship between a participatory approach to disability research and the philosophy of Independent Living.

## “Doing Disability Research”

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- Disability scholars call for disability research to follow critically oriented or emancipatory research paradigms (Oliver, 1992)
- Independent Living
  - PWD are the best experts on their needs
  - Self-determination



## Community-Based Participatory Research

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- Brings people with disabilities to the research table as partners in the research process
- Promotes local capacity building and empowerment of people with disabilities

- Photovoice is a qualitative participatory research method (Wang & Burris, 1997; Wang, 2005; www.photovoice.com)
- Goals of photovoice
  - Enable people to document the community from their perspective
  - Promote knowledge through discussion of photographs
  - Reach “policy makers”

## Partnership

- disAbility Resource Center
  - Center for Independent Living
    - North Charleston, SC
  - Mission:
    - *Advocate, Educate, Empower for a fully inclusive community*




## Research Aim & Design

- **Aim:** to identify barriers and facilitators to community participation experienced by people with SCI in the community served by the dRC.
- Non-experimental qualitative study
  - CBPR approach
  - Photovoice method
    - Applied as a participatory assessment and issue selection tool

## Sample (n=10)

Gender:	60% male
Age:	21-64 yrs (mean 42.1 yrs)
Race:	50% African American, 50% White
Time since injury:	2-36 years (mean 24yrs)
Level of Injury:	30% Cervical, 70% Non-cervical
Mobility:	Wheelchair users

- **Data Collection**
  - Photovoice training
  - Photo Assignments
  - Individual Interviews
  - Group discussions
- **Data Management**
  - Digital photographs
  - Digital audio recordings & verbatim transcription
  - NVivo 8 software



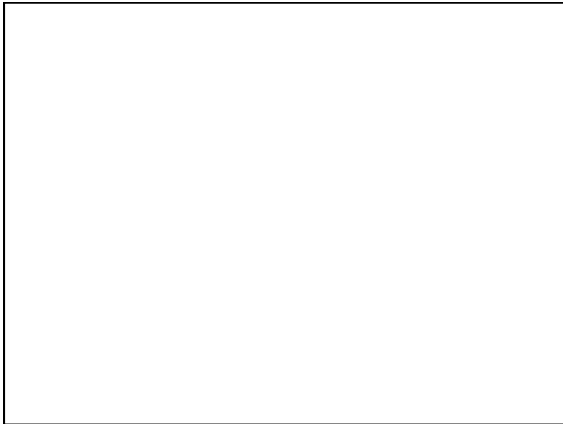

## Data Analysis

- Content analysis of interviews
- **Analytic Framework:**  
*ICF – Taxonomy of Environmental Factors*
  - Chapter 1: Products and Technology
  - Chapter 2: Natural Environment
  - Chapter 3: Support and Relationships
  - Chapter 4: Attitudes
  - Chapter 5: Services, Systems, & Policies

(WHO, 2001)



The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The video title is "Photovoice- Community Participation after Spinal Cord Injury" by Zuzupetunia. The video has 7 videos in the playlist and 8,056 views. The video content shows the text "Photovoice Advocacy through Photography" on a black background.



**Moving to Action...**

- **Advocacy**
  - **Education – Sharing results with the public, other disability advocates, & policymakers**

★ **Accessible Parking**

WATCHDOG PARKING CHEATERS

### CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Disabled people use Photovoice project to show how violators' abuse disrupts their lives, mobility

BY RON MENCHACA  
The Post and Courier

WINDOOL for your auto, it's a common sight in parking lots. But when it's parked in a handicapped space, it's a problem. A group of people who use wheelchairs, crutches and walkers are using a project called Photovoice to show how violators' abuse disrupts their lives, mobility.

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## Evidence-based Advocacy

- **Campaigns for change require compelling arguments that are based upon reliable and verifiable evidence**



**Parking advocate presses case in Columbia: Goose Creek woman lobbies senators on new bill**

BY RON MENCHACA *The Post and Courier*  
Thursday, January 29, 2009

**Parking measure clears Senate Bill aims to stop misuse of handicapped placards**

BY TONY BARTELME *The Post and Courier*  
Thursday, February 19, 2009

**Parking cheats, beware**

BY TONY BARTELME *The Post and Courier*  
Wednesday, December 16, 2008

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COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Gathering the Evidence: Photovoice as a Tool for Disability Advocacy

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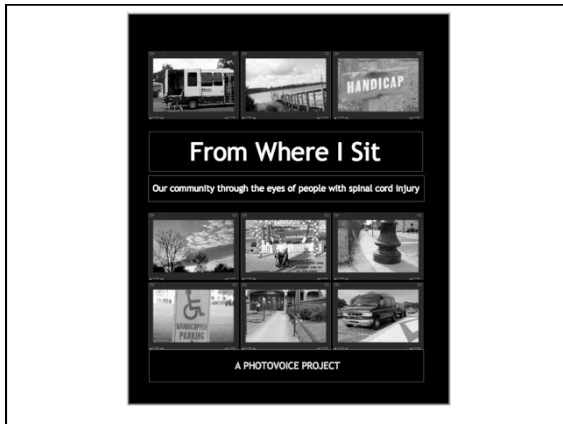
**Abstract**

The participatory research met the spirit of the old adage: "In words." We, a group of 10 ind (SCI) and our project facilitator to advocate for equal access to people with disabilities across able-bodied population to us by persons who use wheelchairs. Our photographs project to identify and address issues.

**Rehabilitation NURSING**

**Evidence-Based Advocacy: Using Photovoice to Identify Barriers and Facilitators to Community Participation After Spinal Cord Injury**

*Susan D. Newman, PhD RN CRRN • SCI Photovoice Participants*



## Conclusion

- Participatory research complements the philosophy of independent living
- Photovoice is effective in providing the evidence for evidence-based advocacy.

## References

- Wang, C. (2005) *Photovoice: Method*. Retrieved July 20, 2008 from <http://www.Photovoice.com>
- Wang, C. & Burris, M. (1997). Photovoice: Concept, methodology and use for participatory needs assessment. *Health Education and Behavior*, 24(3), 369-387.

## Thank you!

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