

# Evidence- based Advocacy

Citizens with  
disabilities use  
Photovoice  
to effect policy  
change

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# **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

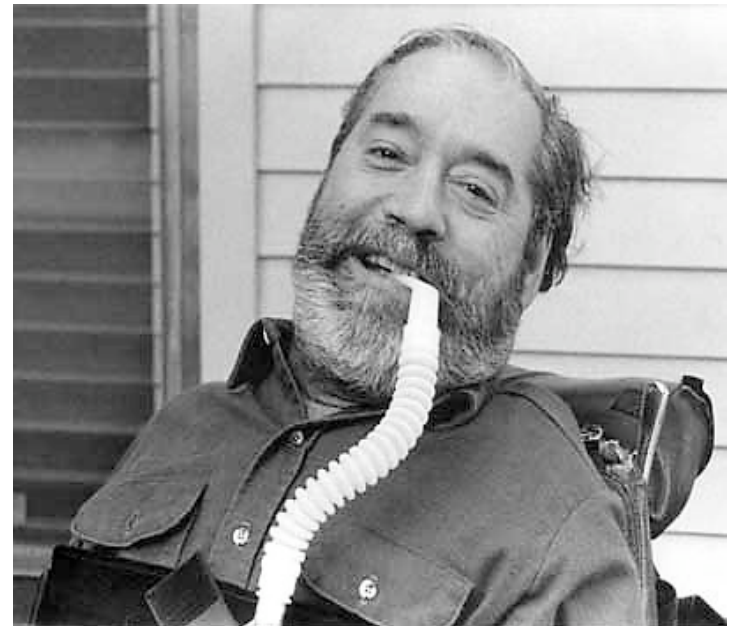
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- Evaluate Photovoice as a participatory research method to support evidence-based advocacy efforts of individuals with disabilities.
- Identify the relationship between a participatory approach to disability research and the philosophy of Independent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



- **Photovoice is a qualitative participatory research method** (Wang & Burris, 1997; Wang, 2005; [www.photovoice.com](http://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

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



# Research Aim & Design

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- 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)

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

- **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)



photovoice

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## Photovoice- Community Participation after Spinal Cord Injury

Zuzupetunia

7 videos

Subscribe



0:02 / 3:28 360p   

Zuzupetunia | July 28, 2008

This Photovoice project is the result of 10 people with spinal cord injury ph...



8,056

views






# 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*

WATCHDOG: For past stories, photos and video from the series, go to [Charleston.net/watchdog](http://Charleston.net/watchdog).

They don't wear badges or carry ticket books, but their tactics might be just as effective when it comes to identifying parking cheaters.

Susan Newman, a nursing student at the Medical University of South Carolina who created the project as part of her doctoral dissertation.

For the past year a group of area residents with spinal cord injuries has canvassed sidewalks, streets and parking lots across the Lowcountry to photograph the

For the project, called Photovoice, Newman teamed with the Disability Resource Center in North Charleston and distrib-

# Evidence-based Advocacy

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- **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 RON MENCHACA *The Post and Courier*  
*Thursday, February 19, 2009*

## Parking cheats, beware

BY TONY BARTELME *The Post and Courier*  
*Wednesday, December 16, 2009*



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## COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

# Gathering the Evidence: Photovoice as a Tool for Disability Advocacy

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(1) Medical University of South Carolina, College of Nursing; (2) disAbility Resource Center

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### Abstract

The participatory research method captures the spirit of the old adage “a picture is worth a thousand words.” We, a group of 10 individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) and our project facilitator, used photovoice to advocate for equal access to community resources for people with disabilities. Our photographs encourage the able-bodied population to understand the barriers faced by persons who use wheelchairs. Our photographs provide a visual narrative of the community. Our photographs provide a visual narrative of the community. Our photographs provide a visual narrative of the community. Our photographs provide a visual narrative of the community.

## 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*



# From Where I Sit

Our community through the eyes of people with spinal cord injury



A PHOTOVOICE PROJECT

# Conclusion

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

# References

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- 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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