



# **Guidelines for Successful Partnerships with Native American Communities**

Deb LaVeaux  
Montana State University  
Health and Human Development  
APHA National Conference  
November 5, 2007  
Washington, D.C.

# Messengers for Health on the Apsáalooke Reservation

## Current project staff:

**Alma Knows His Gun McCormick, Suzanne Christopher, Vanessa Watts, Shaleen Old Coyote, Bethany Letiecq, Deb LaVeaux, Neela Bearcomesout, Alacea Head, Rochelle LodgePole, Emmaline Jackson**

## Past student workers:

**Jewel Deschamps-Gopher, Jana Smith, Victoria LaFromboise, Alisara Bulltail, Samantha Allen, Emily Barnes, LaShanda Hargrove, Allison Gidley, Renee Littlelight, Jaimey Tanner, Sharana Gonzales, Jessyca Small, Lisa Sun Rhodes, Shawnta Flatness, Jo Dean Rooney, Cassie Bird, Kris Brownlee, LaDawn Plainfeather, Annie Takes Gun Leider, Shane Doyle**

The support of the American Cancer Society is acknowledged with gratitude.

# Community-based participatory research CBPR

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**“Collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community with the aim of combining knowledge and action for social change to improve community health and eliminate health disparities.”**

-W.K. Kellogg Scholars 2001

# Rationale for CBPR

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- ✎ **Complex health and social problems ill-suited to “outside expert” research**
- ✎ **Increasing interest in health disparities**
- ✎ **Increasing community demands for collaborative efforts**
- ✎ **Increasing funder interest in community-driven versus community-placed research**

✎ **Nina Wallerstein, University of New Mexico**

# Why a CBPR approach is appropriate in Native communities

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## History

 Community members don't want to be guinea pigs

 Promised study benefits rarely reach communities

 Study results/data not given to community

 Researchers disrespectful of cultural practices

 Studies have harmed communities

# Development of guidelines for research among Native American communities

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 **Two sets of principles**

 **No one has compared CBPR principles and recommended practices of research among Native American communities**

# Methods

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**Conducted literature search**

**Began with articles our research team used in our current project**

**Expanded search using referenced articles**

# Methods

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**Compiled list of general recommendations for using the CBPR approach**



**Compiled list of recommended practices and common challenges in conducting research among AI/AN/NH groups**



**Compared similarities and differences in recommendations**



# Results

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**Many principles are common between the CBPR approach and Native research guidelines**



**Most differences deal with unique tribal issues of history, sovereignty, and tribal diversity**

# Similarities





- 1. Collaboration and participation at all phases**
- 2. Seek balance between research and action**
- 3. Enlist assistance of key community members**
- 4. Show up, be who you are**
- 5. Embrace co-learning**
- 6. Negotiate research principles and use of data**
- 7. Recognize continual need for trust building**
- 8. Address socio-ecological issues**
- 9. Disseminate results to all**
- 10. Make research beneficial and appropriate for community**
- 11. Build on community strengths/skills**
- 12. Empower community**

# Differences

1. **Gaining access to communities**
2. **Defining who represents community**
3. **Learning about and being immersed in culture**
4. **Overcoming negative images of researchers (Trust)**
5. **Planning for extended timelines**
6. **Ensuring methodologies are culturally appropriate**
7. **Understanding tribal diversity and implications**
8. **Being prepared for leadership turnover**
9. **Interpreting data within cultural context**
10. **Relinquishing some control---tribe has major veto power**
11. **May need to work with I.H.S**

# Discussion

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-  **Why is CBPR important for tribes?**
-  **Why differences in approach?**
-  **No one set of guidelines will ensure success**
-  **Need to tailor approach to specific group**

# Next steps

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**Seek input from experts in Native American research and CBPR to refine guidelines**

# Acknowledgments

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**Suzanne Christopher, PhD, mentor and co-author**



**Messengers for Health Program**



**American Cancer Society**



**American Indian Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Caucus**