

Community Based Participatory Research CBPR

A TOOL FOR
COMMUNITY DRIVEN
RESEARCH AND ACTION

WHAT IS CBPR?

- Collaborative approach to research and problem solving
- Involves equitable partnerships between researchers, governmental agencies or other stake holders, and impacted communities
- Initiated and directed by the community members

CBPR

- Engages community members
- Employs local knowledge in the understanding of environmental and health problems and the design of interventions
- Employs local participation in the documentation of near residents observations of events of concern (e.g. increased night emissions, noise and truck traffic)
- Employs the historical knowledge of workers and former workers in the documentation of practices of concern
- Invests community members in the processes and products of research
- Involves community members in the dissemination and use of research findings and corresponding interventions

CBPR AND PROBLEM SOLVING

- Provides a process to develop an action strategy that evolves from a strong community foundation to involve many parties and stakeholders
- Creates an avenue to ensure an understanding on the part of all parties of community concerns
- Ensures the involvement of impacted community groups in decision-making in an equitable, multi-disciplinary and collaborative framework
- Employs both applied science and community documentation, e.g.

Applied Science Examples

- Compare air releases to asthma hospital emergency visits
- Identify special education students/geographical mapping where they attend school and live, overlay sources of pollution
- Conduct health effects survey
- Identify subsistence fishermen and hunters and percentage of these food sources in family diet
- Develop a Cumulative Risks and Impacts Analysis using all relevant data, e.g., emissions to air, water, contaminated water bodies, accidents, superfund, state superfund and Brownfield's, social and economic data, along with other applied and community data collected

Community Investigations

- Establish Chronology of Significant Events and Occurrences
- Dates and times of burns
- Dates and times of high emissions
- Dates when particulate matter was observable in the air and on surfaces
- Dates when oily film covered surfaces
- Dates and times of accidents
- Dates and times of transportation violations
- Dates and times of known operation infractions
- Documentation of observances of long-time residents
- Video of Incidents

Worker Observations

- Confidentiality May Be Required
- Worker Safety Concerns
- Accident Information
- Facility Practices of Concern
- Worker observations related to Inspections
 - Did the facility prepare, decrease, increase or change any normal practices?

Cumulative Risks and Impacts

- Complex web of combined exposures
- Collection of individual stressors that occur simultaneously and multiply over time
- Stressors are all of the things that can adversely affect a community's health, and are both environmental and socio-economic in nature.¹

¹Obtained from the U.S. EPA

Environmental Stressors

- Environmental stressors may be multiple and occur over-time
- Environmental stressors include chemicals and other toxins

Socio-Economic Stressors

- Cumulative Risks and Impacts considers other biological, physical, social and cultural factors that affect human health,” such as **vulnerability**.
- **Vulnerability** “Vulnerability recognizes that disadvantage, underserved and overburdened communities come to the table with pre-existing deficits of both a physical and social nature that make the effects of environmental pollution more, and in some cases unacceptably burdensome. “²

*ENSURING RISK REDUCTION IN COMMUNITIES WITH MULTIPLE STRESSORS:
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CUMULATIVE RISKS/IMPACTS, 2004 NEJAC Report*

Examples of Vulnerability

- Poverty
- Health Disparities
- Lack of Access to Healthcare
- Poor or No Social Services and Institutions

Conclusion

- When Cumulative Risks and Impacts are not considered in Risk Analysis
- Marginalized communities may face greater impacts from pollution than the general population
