Evaluation of Community-Based Participatory Research and Community Mobilization: Formative Research Results from the National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

Nancy Stroupe, Corinne David-Ferdon, and Michele Hoover
Youth Violence in the U.S.: A Significant Public Health Issue

- Homicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds.
- More than 721,000 youth are treated in emergency rooms for injuries due to violence.
- Yearly direct and indirect costs exceed $158 billion.
- Communities experience increases in health care costs and decreases in property values and educational and employment opportunities.
Little to no involvement of those affected (local residents, grass roots orgs, businesses)

Traditionally, universities developed programs based on their assessment of need.

University-only led programs place limits on a community’s ability to:
- Translate research into culturally and locally relevant programs
- Sustain programs after external funding ends
- Continue program evaluation
Community Engagement in Youth Violence Prevention

- Benefits of community engagement:
  - Community cohesion
  - Program cultural sensitivity
  - Reductions in program barriers
  - Greater likelihood of sustainability
  - Commitment to action and social change

- Community engagement linked to positive effects for complex health outcomes.
  - However, its benefits for preventing youth violence are unknown.
Evaluation

- Short-term goal:
  - Shared and unique frameworks
  - Strategies
  - Expected benefits
  - Baseline of outcomes

- Long-term goal: assess the effect of community engagement approaches to prevent youth violence
  - Reductions in risk and increases in protective factors.
  - Declines in community-level youth homicide.
  - Improvements in youth violence prevention policy and programs.
  - Increases in community partnerships and action.
  - Strengthening of community capacity.
Data Collection

- 3 methods/sources
  - Document review
  - Structured interviews with ACE key informants
  - Information System data
Document Review and Structured Interviews

- Review of grant applications and 1st year status report.

- Structured phone interview.

  - PI’s and Co-PI’s were interviewed (n=13)
  - CBPR Coordinator interviewed (n=8)
  - Community partner interviewed-identified by Center PI/CBPR Coordinator (n=5)
**Information System (IS)**

Sample University
Sample ACE

### General Information

- **Office mailing address**:
- **Shipping mailing address**:
- **Telephone**:
- **Fax**:
- **Website**:
- **Evidence to justify defined community**:
- **Mission**:
- **Attachments**:

### Defined Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of community</th>
<th>115,000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>African American or Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>No focus on sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting or Site</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage below poverty</td>
<td>25%-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage speaks a language other than English as the primary language</td>
<td>0%-24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage immigrated in the last 10 years</td>
<td>0%-24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data sources**
- Injury FASTATSS
- National Injury Survey
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)
Benefits and Challenges of Evaluation Methods

- Document Review:
  - Benefits: Easily accessible

- Challenges:
  - Actual community engagement activities unclear
  - Activities are ever evolving
Structured Interviews

■ Benefits:
  ◆ Rich, detailed data
  ◆ Baseline data on many key variables
  ◆ Multi-informant

■ Challenges/Limitations:
  ◆ Limited number of sites (10) and informants
  ◆ Difficult to get community partners for interviews
  ◆ Incomplete interviews
Information System

Benefits:

- Real time data
- System features speed coding and analysis
- Efficiency in monitoring trends
- Systematic data collection from diverse programs helps to:
  - Quickly evaluate data of already identified variables and questions
  - Identify other important evaluation opportunities
Information System

- Challenges
  - Initially, time consuming to develop and input data
  - Time intensive to code qualitative data from open-ended questions
Next Steps

- Complete coding and analysis of data.
- Evaluate impact of community engagement on youth violence.
- Evaluate other components of the ACEs.
- Examine the feasibility and benefit of the Information System to evaluate other projects.
- Examine feasibility and benefit of continuing to collect qualitative data.
- Consider modification to the Information System to allow multi-informant reports.
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