



Using document review and data abstraction to inform management of a federal research program: Lessons, benefits, and challenges found by CDC's Prevention Research Centers Program

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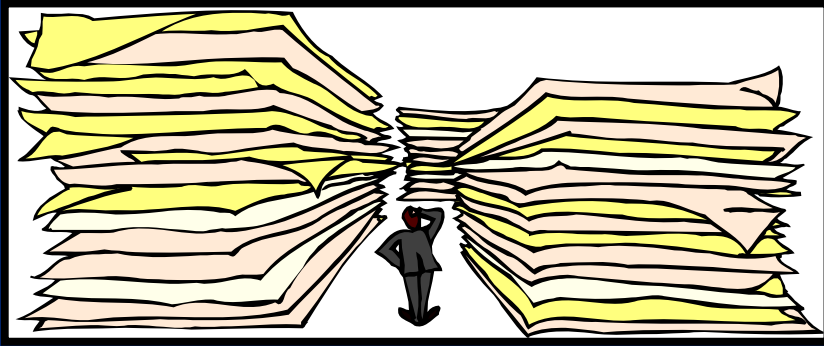
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Outline of Presentation

- National evaluation overview
- Methods for document review & data abstraction
- Lessons Learned
- Summary

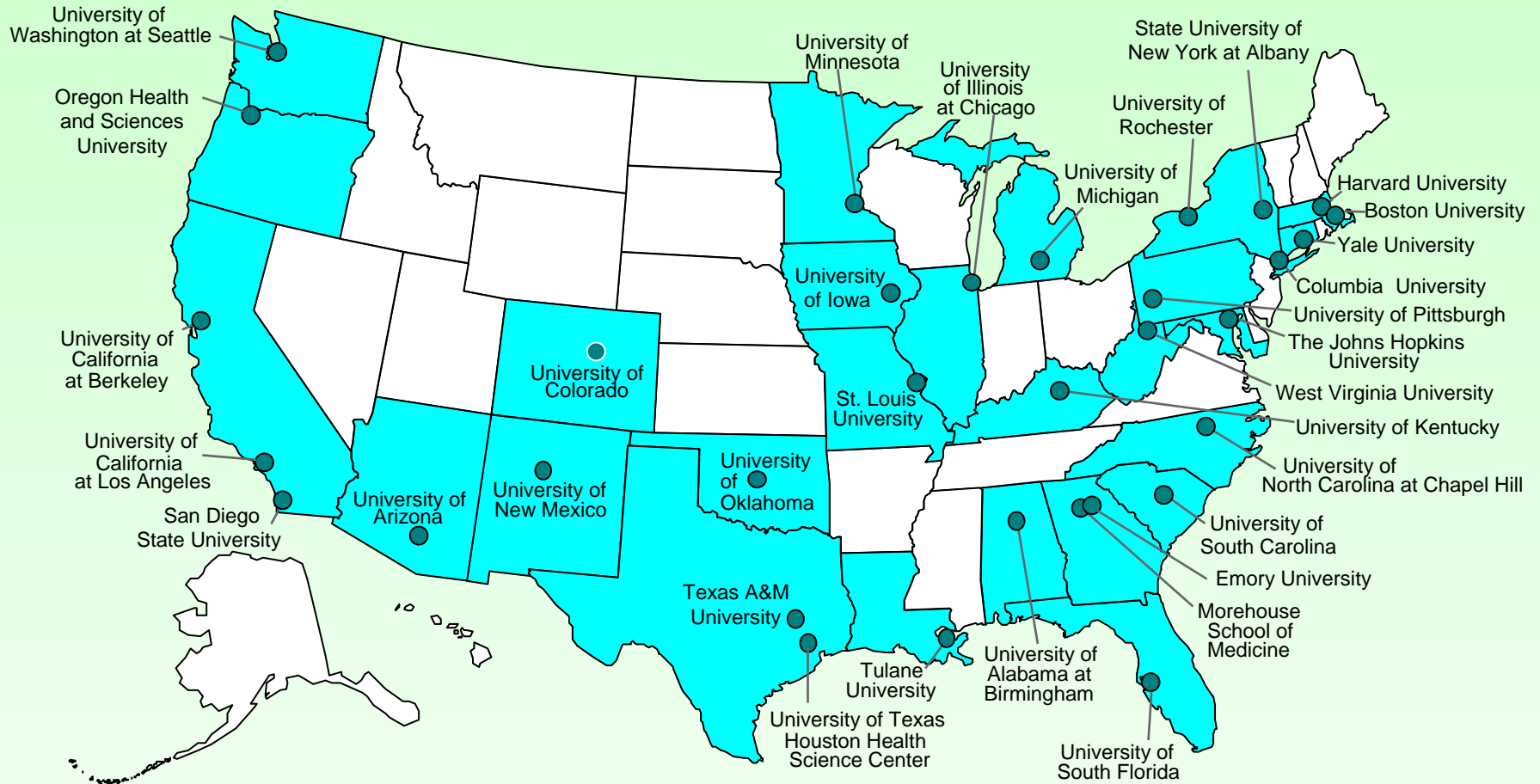
National evaluation overview

PRC Program Overview

- A network of academic researchers, public health agencies, and community members that conducts applied research in disease prevention and control.
- PRCs
 - Conduct research in a variety of health topics, with a variety of communities
 - Use community-based participatory research (CBPR) methods



Prevention Research Centers Funded in FY 2005



Evaluation Approach

NATIONAL EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

Quantitative Indicators

33 PRCs

Qualitative Studies

Document Review – 33 PRCs

Interviews – Sample of PRCs

- First priority on national accountability
- Second priority on program improvement
- Participatory approach

***Methods for document review
and data abstraction***

Method Selection

- Chose document review to:
 - Reduce burden on PRCs
 - Take advantage of written documents and public data
 - Understand data (not) provided from required reports

- Uses
 - Systematically describe baseline variables
 - Assess breadth and commonalities
 - Use with indicator data in the future
 - Clarify future reporting & grant requirements

- Users
 - PRC Program office, PRCs, decision-makers

Topical Areas

- PRC Characteristics Study (Macro)
 - Characteristics of organization & infrastructure
 - Characteristics of PRC partner communities
- PRC Researcher and Community Interaction Study (Macro)
 - Types and structure of PRC community committees
- PRC Core Research Study (CDC)
 - Research project selection, design and methods
 - Current stage of implementation
 - Adoption and sustainability

Documents and Data Sources

■ Documents submitted by PRCs

- Examples: Application; annual workplans, budgets, and progress reports; organizational model(s); community committee guidelines

■ Documents from PRC Project Officers

- Examples: Conference call notes; site visit summary letters and presentations

■ National Data Sets

- Examples: U.S. Census 2000; National Center for Education Statistics

■ Web searches

- Examples: PRC websites; CDC PRC Program website; University/school websites

Procedures

■ Data collection

- Collect and inventory documents
- Store and code documents and data sources
 - ATLAS.ti software, hard copy, or internet bookmarks
- Determine each PRC's communities
- Use documents to answer evaluation questions
 - MS Access or Word



■ Data validation

- Develop PRC-specific draft reports
- Report review by project officers
- Report review by PRCs



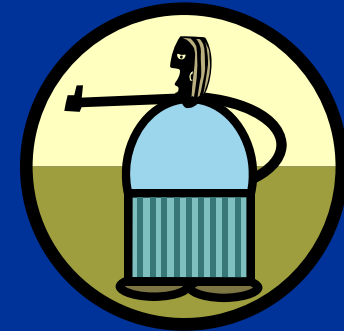
■ Data aggregation across PRCs

Lessons Learned

What Worked

■ Potentially most straightforward for data interpretation

- University-related characteristics
- Community descriptions
- Research methods & design



■ Most informative documents

- Those capturing most recent glimpse of moving target
 - E.g. recent workplans/progress reports, site visit documents, PRC Information System data
- Standardized data sources
 - Census, BLS, NCES
- Documents rich in detail
 - Applications (sometimes)

What Didn't Work as Well

- Potentially most difficult to interpret on its own
 - Organizational structure
 - Staffing
 - Community committee structure
 - Current implementation of research
- Least informative documents: Those easily outdated or not well conceptualized
 - Applications
 - Organizational charts
 - Logic models & narrative



Important Steps in the Method

- Organization and documentation of data sources
- Validation with POs and PRCs
 - Critical to have:
 - Involvement and support from them
 - Conversations that supplement documents
- Advisory group input

Summary

Challenges

- Inconsistency within & across data sources
- Defining each grantee's "community"
 - No standardized data for some definitions of community
- Characterizing data as point in time
 - When constant change is reality
- Characterizing aspects of CBPR through written materials

Benefits

- Developed systematic description of program characteristics
- Was a lower burden on grantees
- Provided lessons learned on what methods to repeat and not repeat
- Will provide useful data to PRC Program office, PRCs, and decision-makers
 - For program improvement and accountability
 - Enhanced with interview and indicator data

PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTERS



www.cdc.gov/prc

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