

Welcome to Community-Based Participatory Research

Keshet Ronen, Lisa Vaughn, & Angela Spencer

I am Keshet Ronen, I am Lisa Vaughn, and I'm Angela Spencer, and we would like to welcome you to Community-Based Participatory Research.

In simple terms, CBPR is a collaborative and democratic approach to research—one where trained researchers and community members come together as equal partners. Instead of research being driven solely by academic institutions, decision-making is shared, and power is intentionally balanced. The work focuses on what matters to community members, grounding research in their lived experiences and priorities.

CBPR emphasizes participatory processes and action-oriented research to improve health, strengthen well-being, and address real-world challenges. CBPR is about working respectfully and collaboratively with communities to achieve lasting, positive impacts.

In this course you will learn how CBPR is different from the traditional research paradigm and why it's an effective approach for improving the quality of research. We will explore the steps of CBPR, the logistics and supports necessary for community-academic partnerships, ethics and guiding principles, and tailoring the research process to different cultural contexts. We'll take a look at how CBPR is similar and different to other research approaches. We'll cover some skills that are useful in partnering with communities and talk about how to share decision making with partners throughout the entire research process including data collection, analysis, dissemination, and taking action. We'll also discuss how to evaluate and sustain a CBPR approach. We include several examples of how researchers have used CBPR in their projects to help you identify ways to incorporate it in your own work.

Welcome to the course.