

TITLE: Building capacity for community-engaged research in five rural Oregon regions

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: All public health professionals and researchers interested in conducting community-engaged research and using evidence-based approaches.

ABSTRACT: Background:

Benefits of engaging communities in research are well documented, as are health disparities faced by rural populations, yet rural participation in research is low. In addition, rural community-based organizations (CBOs) experience disparities, often having less access to expertise and resources.

Purpose:

To grow and strengthen OHSU's community-academic partnerships, build capacity for community-engaged research, and increase the use of evidence-based approaches in rural regions.

Methods:

We built a team of Community Research Liaisons (CRLs) across Oregon. Through Community Research Coalitions (CRCs) and a Project Assistance Program, CRLs identify opportunities for community-academic partnerships, strengthen research reflecting local health priorities, and support CBOs in building skills for data-driven decision making and implementing evidence-based approaches.

Results:

We established five CRL regions. Four CRLs coordinate CRCs. CRCs are led by 52 community leaders and have 356 general members. Each CRC works on a regional health priority. Since 2016, we have provided 330 project assistance services, which have led to 15 longer-term community academic collaborations.

Conclusion:

Our results indicate there is desire in rural communities to engage in research. The CRL model is a promising strategy for strengthening community-academic partnerships while also building capacity for community-engaged research and implementing evidence-based approaches in rural regions.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe strategies to build capacity for community-engaged research and strengthen community-academic partnerships with a focus on rural regions.
