

The continuum of research Below is a comparison table of Traditional, Community-Engaged and Community-based Participatory Research. The table is for comparison purposes only; most projects will involve a variety of techniques that blur the boundaries between “types” of research.

	Traditional Research	Community Engaged Research	Community-Based Participatory Research
Research Objective	Based on epidemiologic data & funding priorities	Community input in identifying locally relevant issues	Full participation of community in identifying issues of greatest importance
Study Design	Design based entirely on scientific rigor and feasibility	Researchers work with community to ensure study design is culturally acceptable	Community intimately involved with study design
Recruitment & Retention	Based on scientific issues & “best guesses” regarding how to best reach community members	Researchers consult with community representatives on recruitment & retention strategies	Community representatives provide guidance on recruitment & retention strategies and aid in recruitment
Instrument Design	Instruments adopted/adapted from other studies. Tested chiefly w/psychometric analytic methods.	Instruments adopted from other studies & tested/adapted to fit local populations	Instruments developed with community input and tested in similar populations
Data Collection	Conducted by academic researchers or individuals w/no connection to the community	Community members involved in some aspects of data collection	Conducted by members of the community, to the extent possible based on available skill sets. Focus on capacity building.
Analysis & Interpretation	Academic researchers own the data, conduct analysis & interpret the findings	Academic researchers share results of analysis with community members for comments & interpretation	Data is shared; community members & academic researchers work together to interpret results
Dissemination	Results published in peer-reviewed academic journals	Results disseminated in community venues as well as peer-reviewed journals	Community members assist academic researchers to identify appropriate venues to disseminate results (public mtgs, radio, etc.) in a timely manner & community members involved in dissemination. Results also published in peer-reviewed journals.

Adapted from University of Southern California Frequently Asked Questions about Community-Engaged Research