

Community Based Research from Coast to Coast? CHIWOS and the Food Security Study: Lessons Learned to Improve Further Collaborations

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- We have no conflict of interest to declare.



Objectives

- To elicit a critical reflection of Community Based Research (**CBR**) practices to improve further collaborations when working across French and English realities
- Our presentation draws upon our experience as research coordinators in Quebec working on two ongoing CBR projects:
 - Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS) and the Food Security Study
 - Both conducted in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia



Guiding Questions

What challenges arise when implementing CBR methodologies across multiple provinces, institutions, and communities?

- What challenges arise?
- Why are we facing them?
- How can we overcome them?
- What strategies may be helpful?

Canadian CBR Context

- Community-Based Research (CBR) methodologies are now well-established in the Canadian HIV research response
 - CBR has now been Nationalized
 - CBR has now been Institutionalized



Canadian CBR Context

CBR Guiding Frameworks

- MIPA - (GIPA)
- Anti-Oppression (minority/majority, heterosexism, racism, sexism, postcolonial theories)
- Intersectionality of Oppression
- OCAP principles

Process is key to CBR

- Ongoing communication, consultation and exchange
- Mutual capacity building (research, field work)
- Research team are diverse
- Unpack power relations / positionality



What challenges arise?

When putting in practice CBR methodologies across multiple provinces, institutions, and communities, challenges get lived out in very concrete ways.

- Disparities in human and financial resources
- Centralization of funds and power
- A tendency towards uniformity of methods and materials
- Insufficient anticipation of cultural and linguistic differences
- Insufficient resources and time dedicated to cultural adaptation and translation

What challenges arise?

Challenges of successfully navigating French and English realities exist both across and within provinces

- **We created a four step process to help improve French and English collaborations**

Step 1- Critical reflection tools

Familiar CBR Theoretical Frameworks and Concepts:

- Power relations
- Inequity and inequality
- Anti-Oppression
- Minority and majority
- Heterosexism, racism, sexism
- Postcolonial theories

CBR may face important challenges but may also already be equipped with helpful pathways to overcome them.



Step 2- Understand the history and context

- Cultural diversity
- Canadian and Quebec historical context and recent immigration
- Changing individual and community values
- Institutional bureaucracy
- Economic context
- Neoliberal context



Step 3- Remember your motivations

Goals of the project:

- Access to care
- Challenge stigma
- Address social determinants of health...

Fundamental principles:

- Social Change
- Social Justice
- Social Inclusion
- Collaborations



Step 4- Develop concrete strategies

- Establish protocols for translation from project inception
- Build translation time into overall study timelines
- Allot sufficient funds for translation
- Allot sufficient human resources for translation
- Share the translation burden and related human resources across provinces
- Promote local autonomy and leadership
- Organize sensitization workshop

Step 4- Develop concrete strategies

- Most documents and powerpoint presentations need to be available in both languages.
- Bilingual for short oral presentations
- Choose one preferred language for longer presentation and then do side translations and pause for translations
- Provide written information (power points, handout)
- Instruct meetings and workshops about translation protocols
- Allow all members to express themselves in their preferred language. Stop and translate wherever required
- Processes need the support and collaboration of unilingual French, unilingual English and bilingual members of the team

Key messages

- Communication strategies need to allow the integration of unilingual English and unilingual French team members
- Recognize the ways in which history and context shape individuals and communities
- Ensure that you have the adequate human, financial, and time resources
- Acknowledge that successfully navigating French and English realities is crucial to Canadian Community Based Research projects

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