Participatory research in health promotion: An appraisal tool


Categories: Tool, Appraise, Knowledge exchange

Relevance For Public Health

The potential applications of participatory research in health promotion were provided by the authors and include areas such as youth empowerment, children's services, injury deaths, AIDS, families and children with social and economic disadvantages, and diabetes and arthritis in Aboriginal populations. The multi-item checklist has been used as the basis of discussions with stakeholders.

Description

The aims of this article are, first, to provide a summary of the field of participatory research; second, to offer an appraisal tool for users to determine the extent to which projects and research proposals align with the principles of participatory research; and, third, to link participatory research to research in the health promotion (application) field. The article uses systematic review methods and expert consultation to create a summary and definition of participatory research. It also includes a multi-item checklist meant for appraising the extent to which projects and research proposals align with the principles of participatory research.

The checklist is divided into the following six domains:

1. Participants and the nature of their involvement (6 questions)
2. Origin of the research question (2 questions)
3. Purpose of the research (4 questions)
4. Process and context: Methodological implications (6 questions)
5. Opportunities to address the issue of interest (3 questions)
6. Nature of the research outcomes (4 questions)

Each question has a multiple choice answer format, with answer options addressing the question topic's relevance to participatory research (on an increasing scale).

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?

This tool involves practitioners, health educators, health promoters, researchers, community members and funding agencies.

Steps for Using Tool

The tool is a multi-item checklist that is divided into six domains. Each item on the list is a question that assesses a particular part of the research and qualifies the level of appropriateness for participatory research. For example, question (a) in the first domain asks, “Is the community of interest clearly described or defined?” The best answer will vary depending on the question and the project being evaluated. The tool’s instructions indicate that there should only be one answer for each question, and that if a question is...
not applicable, users can simply skip the question. (There is a suggestion that “Not Applicable” options be added to each question.) Otherwise, there is no threshold, scoring system or other algorithm to apply to the checklist.

Conditions for Use

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Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation
Information not available

Validity
Information not available

Reliability
Information not available

Methodological Rating

N/A Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

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Method of Development

The multi-item checklist was created through a systematic review of the literature and expert consultation, which involved two national meetings of experts and practitioners. Revisions were made to the checklist throughout the process.

Release Date

Contact Person

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These summaries are written by the NCCMT to condense and to provide an overview of the resources listed in the Registry of Methods and Tools and to give suggestions for their use in a public health context. For more information on individual methods and tools included in the review, please consult the authors/developers of the original resources.

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools | www.nccmt.ca
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