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**Building Your Capacity: Advancing Research Through Community Engagement:
An assessment of process and impact of a community research training program**

Jocelyn Chu, Carolyn Leung, Beverley Russell, Linda Sprague Martinez

The over arching goal of BYC is to equip participants with the tools necessary to effectively engage in community research partnerships for health. The training aims specifically to provide participants with a basic understanding of the academic research process, familiarize them with research terminology and concepts, and increase their overall level of confidence engaging with academic researchers. This paper describes the formative evaluation methodology employed to capture the BYC process and to determine outcomes. Additionally, outcomes to date associated with the initial cohort (n=14 fellows from 10 organizations) are described.

The process was documented using transcribed session notes, program manager field logs, and individual session evaluations. This allowed program's progress to be tracked, offering a feedback loop to inform the planning of subsequent sessions. Outcome measures included structured interviews with fellows at baseline, as well as at one and three months after the final session. Interviews examined participant experience with conducting and collaborating in research, perceptions of research to address community issues, expectations as well as skills and knowledge they wished to gain from the program, and comfort in approaching and being approached by academic researchers.

The fellows ranged in their experience with and readiness to engage in research and expressed a general desire to understand the utility of research to address issues/problems in their respective communities. Comfort in engaging with researchers depended on past collaborations. Unanticipated outcomes ensued which included a sense of empowerment as a result of the co-learning process.