

How CBPR Violates the IRB's Medical Model: Let me count the many ways

- Community-based research differs from biomedical research in following ways: the purpose of the research, its methodology and the roles of the researcher and participants.
- Main challenges with the IRB process:
 1. IRB committees are composed of biomedical researchers who are unfamiliar with non-clinical research concepts.
 2. Reliance on the medical model for the assessment of risks associated with the research leads to an inaccurate perception of risk.
 3. The lack of understanding of social science research causes the IRB process to be time consuming and its approval to be delayed. As the resubmitted proposal can be directed to other committees for final review, new reviewers can have additional questions.
- Recommendations to improve the IRB process:
 1. Develop opportunities for a dialogue with IRB members where mutual learning and understanding can occur (IRB members, researchers, community partners).
 2. Explore opportunities for including CBPR researchers in the IRB process.
 3. CBPR researchers develop guidelines that address the core elements of CBPR research which can guide the IRB process.
 4. CBPR researchers can make themselves available as consultants when related protocols are being reviewed by an IRB.