

**Jerusha Nelson Peterman summary points for
“Using Results to Improve Community Health” Panel**

**National Committee on Vital & Health Statistics
Subcommittee on Privacy, Confidentiality & Security
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- Introduction
 - There is a need for strong academic-community partnerships to provide meaningful research for communities. Such partnerships both address real community needs and provide solid research methods, evaluation, and dissemination, which makes the work more likely to improve community health.
 - There is a potential tension between academic and community partners because of different goals and the balance of power in the partnerships, with academics often holding more power in research settings.
 - There is potential for strengthening partnerships by building research capacity in community organizations while maintaining partnerships with academic institutions.
 - This can help meet community goals by ensuring that research focuses on urgent community issues, providing a strong research structure and methods that can show impact and get appropriate recognition (such as meetings and publications), which strengthen the chances of getting future funding.
 - This can help meet academic goals by providing populations for research, publications and presentations, and establishing and maintaining partnerships for continued work. It can also help academic institutions realize goals around community capacity building.
- Things to acknowledge
 - Community partners are often not treated as equal to academic partners by funding sources such as NIH (usually cannot be Co-PI); CDC has a stronger record of treating community partners as equal.
 - Funding is limited, particularly for community-based research, which is often more expensive than lab-based research. This makes it essential to show outcomes of projects and programs.
- Embedded researchers in the community as a way to improve community health: examples and outcomes.
 - Example 1: time-limited funding and temporary partnerships (programs and research in Lowell, MA)
 - Example 2: sustained funding and long-term partnerships (programs and research in Springfield, MA)
- Suggestion: provide long-term funding opportunities for community agencies to support embedded researchers who work with academic institutions. This will lead to stronger research methods, analysis, results, and dissemination, and strengthen community agency ability to apply results to improve community health.