

2025 Learning Series: Key Topics in Participatory Research and Evaluation (R&E)¹

The mission of the CHW Center for Research and Evaluation (CHW-CRE) is to conduct and promote CHW-led research and evaluation (R&E) that uses common indicators and participatory practices. Key to that mission is building capacity among CHWs to lead R&E about their own profession and building capacity among non-CHW researchers/evaluators to work in effective and empowering ways with CHWs.

During 2025, CHW-CRE will dedicate approximately 30 minutes in each of our bi-monthly Advisory Group meetings to key topics in participatory R&E. The series will engage CHWs, non-CHW researchers/evaluators, and CHW program staff in thinking and learning together about these topics. While the time frame will not allow us to delve deeply into any topic, we will highlight some crucial concepts that can be explored in more depth through courses offered by CHW-CRE. Please join us on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 12-1:30 PST/3-4:30 EST for these participatory mini-workshops. (Note: We may need to shift the date in certain months.)

1. **January 2025: Conducting research that helps, not harms.** Participatory R&E is partly a response to forms of R&E that harmed communities rather than benefiting them. In Session 1, we will discuss how to conduct R&E in ways that protect and promote community members' rights and follow high ethical standards.
2. **March 2025: Asking the right questions in the right way.** In participatory R&E, we think in advance about the changes that communities want to make and the information they need to make those changes. Session 2 will focus on how we can identify and explore R&E questions in thoughtful ways to produce that information.
3. **May 2025: Finding out what we already know.** To use our time (and R&E funding) wisely, it's important to find out what is already known about the topics we want to study. In Session 3, we will discuss how to review the academic (peer-reviewed) and non-academic (grey) literature.
4. **July 2025: Analyzing and interpreting data in participatory ways.** We may be able to collect great data, but unless we have community members – in this case, CHWs -- involved in making sense of the data, we may misinterpret what the data are telling us. Session 4 will cover ways to actively involve those most affected in making sense of the data.
5. **September 2025: Sharing results with the community and the world.** The results of our R&E can and should be shared with many groups using many different methods. Session 5 will explore the range of methods for sharing what we learned, from community presentations using popular education to publications in academic journals.
6. **November 2025: Pulling It All Together!** This final meeting will bring together lessons learned from the entire series and focus on how participants in the series can apply what they have learned in their own settings.

¹ Many thanks to our colleagues at [envision](#) and to Dr. James O'Donovan at the [Community Health Impact Coalition](#) for the inspiration for this series!