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Community-based participatory research is a "collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings." As a result, participatory models of research, in which communities are actively engaged in the research process through partnerships with academic institutions, have become central to the national prevention research agenda as articulated by the Institute of Medicine, the Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Research!America, Partnership for Prevention, the Public Health Foundation and others. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a partnership approach to research that equitably involves community members, organizational representatives, researchers, and others in all aspects of the research process, with all partners in the process contributing expertise and sharing in the decision-making and ownership. The aim of CBPR is to increase knowledge and understanding of a given phenomenon and to integrate the knowledge gained with interventions for policy or social change benefiting