



National Institutes of Health

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# Transdisciplinary community engaged environment and health research in Low and Middle Income Countries

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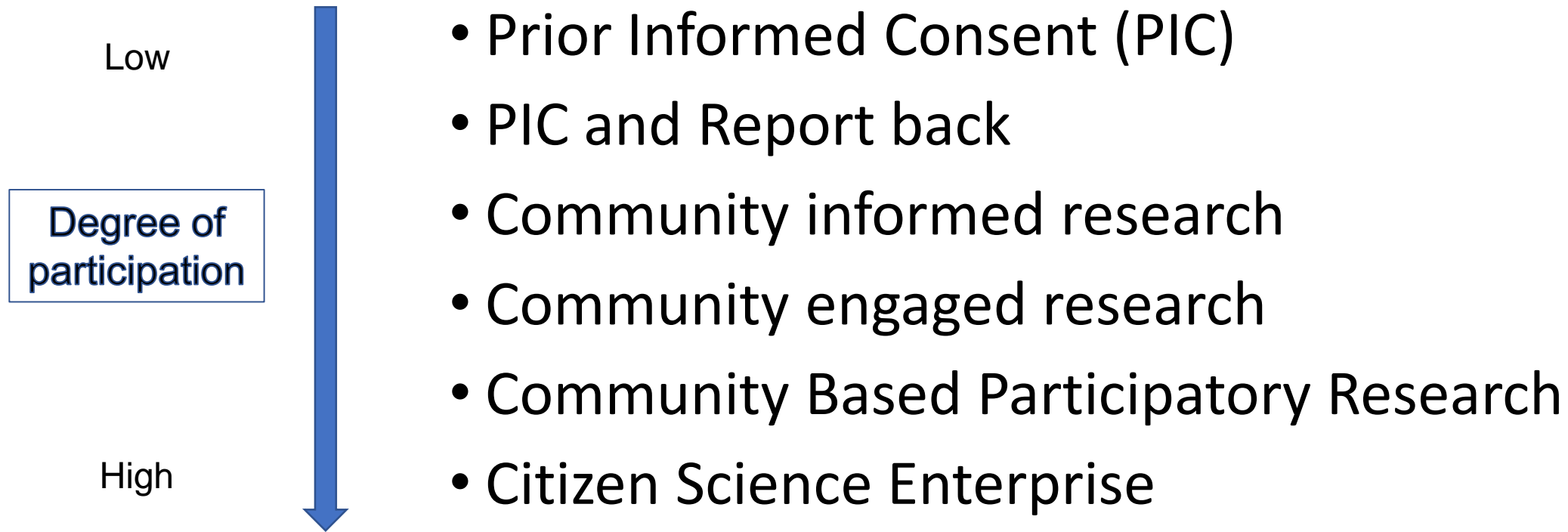
National Academies  
Integrating Public and Ecosystem Health Systems  
to Foster Resilience: Identifying Research to  
Bridge the Knowledge to Action Gap  
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## Why engage with local communities?

- My funders want me to
- Permission to do work
- ‘It’s the right thing to do’
- Improve research quality (e.g., recruitment, appropriate means and measures)
- Identify local priorities – relevance of question and results for program or policy
- Maximize motivation and likelihood of maintenance over time
- Understand behavior of citizens with their environment and health



# Forms of community involvement in public health research



## Three examples

- 1) Prior Informed Consent at the community scale
  - International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups – (1999-2006)
- 2) Community Informed Research – adapting a defined intervention
  - Household Air Pollution Intervention Network – (2017-2022)
- 3) Community Based Participatory Research – co production?
  - Climate Change and Health Strategic Framework – (2022 - 2032)



# Prior Informed Consent at community/regional level

## International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups (“Biodiversity Prospecting” Controversies)

### Peru 1996



- Relatively naïve US investigator
- Strong university partner
- Conflict zone
- Superficial community engagement in PIC
- Credible preexisting indigenous organization



### Mexico 2000

- U.S. investigator with extensive local knowledge
- Strong university partner
- Conflict zone
- Extensive community engagement in PIC
- No credible preexisting indigenous organization





# Community Informed Research

## Household Air Pollution Intervention Network (adapting the same intervention in 4 countries)

Requirement: an LPG stove that would enable complete replacement of biomass cooking

### India



### Guatemala





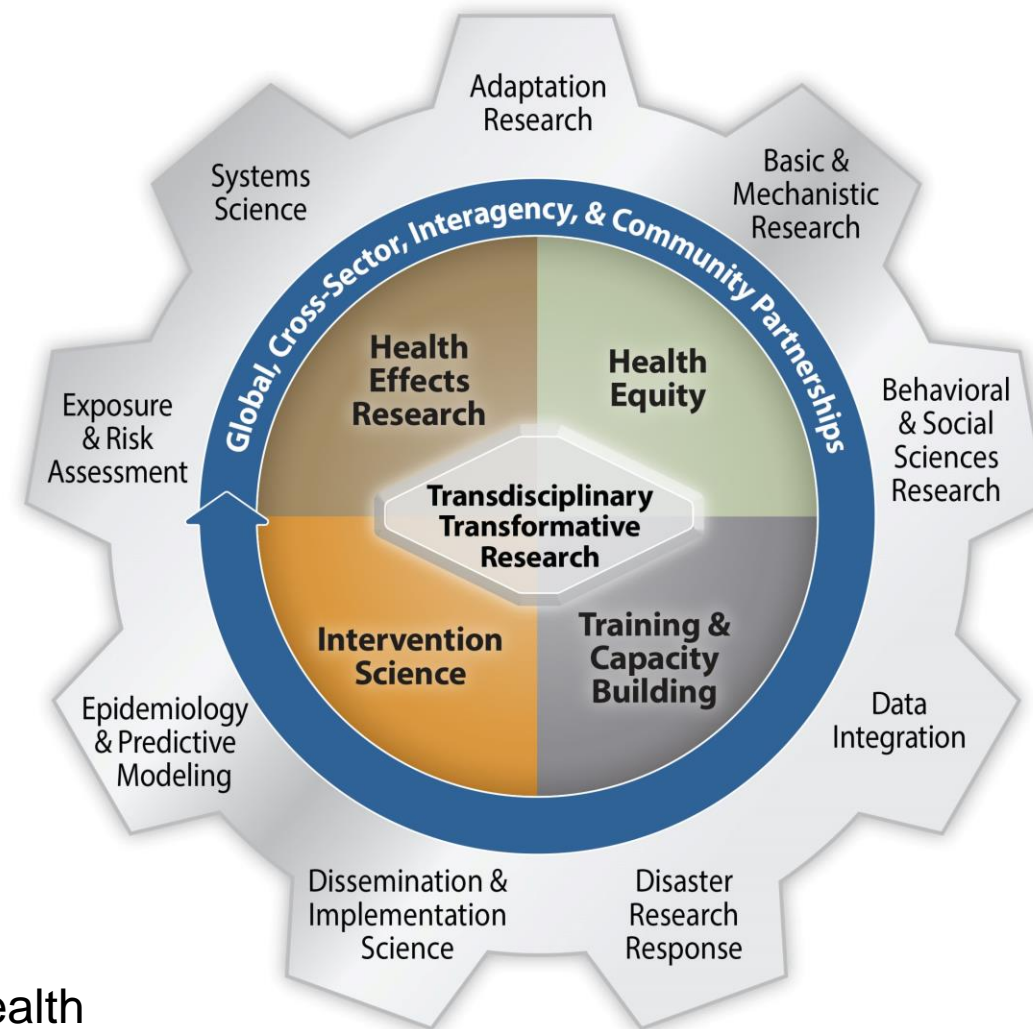


## NIH Wide Plan to conduct community engaged, globally informed research to protect health

Multiple coordinated programs toward a Global Community of Practice

- Research Coordinating Center
- Alliance for Community Engagement (U.S.)
- Regional Centers for Transdisciplinary Research and Training (U.S. and global)
  - Clear expectations for community prioritization of questions and policy relevant outcomes
  - Ongoing sharing across global network and adaptation of lessons to local context
  - Ethical framework for EJ and decolonization

[www.nih.gov/climateandhealth](http://www.nih.gov/climateandhealth)



## Community Engagement: Basic Considerations to Support Planning

- What do you want or need from the engagement?
- Do you already have an intervention(s) or plan to design one with community?
- Who is appropriate and authorized to engage with you?
- What is their motivation to participate and can they follow through?
- Can the investigators find the time, the budget and the local expertise to do it well?
- How will you manage local expectations for outcomes and follow-up