JESSICA G. BURKE
STEVEN M. ALBERT
EDITORS

METHODS FOR COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

INTEGRATED AND ENGAGED APPROACHES

SPRINGER PUBLISHING COMPANY

Methods for Community Public Health Research

Integrated and Engaged Approaches

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藏书章

Jessica G. Burke, PhD, MHS
Steven M. Albert, PhD, MSPH

Editors

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Methods for Community Public Health Research

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To our communities

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Preface

What can and should be done to improve the health of community members? The goal of this book is to introduce emerging research methods that will assist community health researchers interested in effectively addressing the complex health issues faced by communities today. The book introduces readers to several research methods particularly appropriate for addressing the context of health issues, translating research into action, and engaging community and relevant stakeholders. Use of these methods will lead to advancements in the field of community health and ultimately to improvements in community health.

Written for graduate students of public health and practicing researchers alike, the methods described here point to a new integrated paradigm for community health research. The content illustrates how community health researchers must move beyond the rigid distinction between qualitative and quantitative methods to adopt new integrated research methods to understand health as a community system. Part II, on inferring meaning from numbers, includes spatial analysis, agent-based models, community-network analysis, and realist reviews. Part III, about inferring meaning from words, addresses system dynamics, concept mapping, visual voices, and media analysis. The two parts stress "inferring meaning." We make a strong case for crossing the divide between numbers and words to infer meanings relevant to community health assessment, planning, and change. In this way, community perceptions, networks, and spaces can be brought together as we "rethink" public health to make it community health.

Each chapter in the book describes the steps involved in using a particular method as well as the challenges and benefits of doing so. In addition, the chapter authors offer examples from their current research to highlight key methodological points.

We specifically designed the text to be a user-friendly introduction to the methods presented. Each chapter provides information about the preparation and process of using the particular method and advice about particular challenges. The methods chapters serve as a platform for community health researchers to rethink their own research.

Jessica G. Burke, PhD, MHS
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The idea for this book has been percolating in my head for a very long time. I'd like to thank Steve Albert and the contributing authors for working with me to finally make it a reality.

Jessica G. Burke

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Steven M. Albert

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Introduction

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Community Health Research in the 21st Century

Jessica G. Burke, Jeanette Trauth, and Steven M. Albert

The overall purpose of this book is to introduce readers to several emerging research methods particularly appropriate for community health research and to encourage the application of these methods to advance this field. Each chapter in the book describes the steps involved in using a particular method as well as the challenges and benefits of doing so. In addition, authors offer examples from their current research to illustrate and highlight key methodological points. The goal of this chapter is to stress the need for a new research paradigm that will more fully address the community context of health and health behavior—one that will focus on the integration of quantitative and qualitative methods—and to introduce the reader to a set of emerging research methods in community health that exemplify this integrative approach. This chapter provides a definition of community health that speaks to the need for action-oriented and engaged community health research. The chapter underscores the value of each method and offers insights into why each method was selected for inclusion. The content of this and the following chapters in this book was developed to complement existing valuable resources already available for community health researchers and to challenge those working in the field to adopt new research methods.

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