

Participatory Research

a training by Picture the Homeless

Brainstorm: What are the features of a research project?

- A subject—person or persons being researched
- A researcher—the person or persons who shapes and carries out the research
- A goal—an answer to a question or a solution to a problem
- A budget or resources allocated

Open Discussion: Tuskegee Syphilis Study

What was the Tuskegee Syphilis Study? What do people know about it? What do people think about it? What does it teach us about conventional research projects?

Handouts:

- Centers for Disease Control: “Tuskegee Timeline;”
- Final Report of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study Legacy Committee (1996)
(http://www.hsl.virginia.edu/historical/medical_history/bad_blood/report.cfm);
- “Black Experience Fuels Suspicion About AIDS - Remember Tuskegee” (*New York Times*)

Learning from Tuskegee: What are the problems with conventional, top-down research projects?

- They don't take into account the impact their research will have
- Research is expensive; money comes from big institutions; big institutions have agendas
- It's used to reinforce and perpetuate the status quo—which means it replicates racist and misogynist assumptions, and serves to further disempower the disempowered.

What is Participatory Research?