



# Tool 1.1: Participatory Action Research Terms and Definitions

**Terms (Underlined> and Definitions (Italicized) (terms are in chronological order)**

1. **Organizing Goal:** the overall change that you seek through your organizing work.
2. **Research Questions:** A set of broad, overarching, questions that you seek to answer through your research.
3. **Sample:** The specific set of people that you will talk to in order to answer your research questions.
4. **Quantitative Data:** Data that can be measured and is presented in numbers. Usually collected through surveys.
5. **Qualitative Data:** Data that can be observed but not measured and is presented as stories or descriptions. Usually collected through interviews or focus groups.
6. **Secondary Data:** Data that has already been collected and analyzed by somebody for some other reason other than your current study.
7. **Data Collection:** process of gathering information (through surveys, focus groups, etc) in order to answer your research questions.
8. **Data Entry:** process of entering data that is collected by researchers.
9. **Data Analysis:** The process of systematically reviewing the data you collect through surveys, interviews, focus groups, etc. in order to develop research findings and recommendations for your report.
10. **Data Report Back:** Process of presenting data you collected and analyzed back to the community or people you surveyed, interviewed, etc. to get their feedback.
11. **Research Findings:** The conclusions you draw from your data collection and analysis.
12. **Policy Recommendations:** The suggestions you make to elected officials, or people in power to fix the problems that you uncover with your research.
13. **Report:** A written document that summarizes your research findings and policy recommendations.
14. **Report Release:** The way in which you make your research public. This could be a policy briefing, a press conference or by circulating your report online.