

Statement of Relevance

- Coalitions are a popular vehicle for addressing community issues but have been defined in many ways.
- Generating a consistent, shared definition supports our ability to evaluate and disseminate best practices for coalition work.
- In this paper we begin this conversation by evaluating the way coalitions have been defined and described in the community psychology literature.
- We conclude the paper with a proposed definition for assessment and refinement.

Practical Indications

Using the definition of coalitions outlined in the paper, we begin a conversation that can include researchers, evaluators, and coalition stakeholders to generate a more concrete view of coalition work.

Practical Indications

- Coalition evaluators may use the major components of the definition as evaluation domains, exploring knowledge, negotiation, and action coordination within coalitions.
- Researchers may use this definition to guide questions about how its components are represented empirically and the implications they have for success.
- Coalition stakeholders may use this definition to organize their work and to set up infrastructure that supports each type of coordination. They may also assess how these components fit with their unique context and community needs.