Why inclusion matters

Understanding the burden of cancer

Did you know?

Individuals identifying as Black or African American represent 13.6% of the U.S. population,[1] but represented only 5% of the participants in oncology studies in 2020.[2] Overall, Black men have 6% higher cancer incidence but 19% higher cancer mortality than White men, reflecting lower survival rates. Even more striking, Black women have 8% lower cancer incidence than White women, but 12% higher cancer mortality.[3]

Hispanic participants represented only 11% of the total clinical research population in the U.S.[2] compared to 19.1% of the U.S. Hispanic population.[1] Cancer is the leading cause of death in U.S. Hispanics. Hispanic men and women in the U.S. and Hawaii have lower rates of breast, colorectal, lung and prostate cancer, but higher rates of stomach, liver, cervical and gallbladder cancer.[4]

Minority populations in the U.S. are greatly underrepresented in clinical studies yet tend to have higher cancer rates when compared to the general U.S. population. There are many different barriers to diversity in cancer clinical studies, including healthcare access, cost of care, vigorous eligibility criteria (factors more prevalent in U.S. minority populations) and patient mistrust. Diversifying clinical study participation improves the overall conduct of clinical studies and helps reduce disparities in cancer care. Ultimately, diversity among study participants is important for understanding factors that may affect response to cancer treatments.

Learn more about clinical study diversity

If you think a clinical study may be right for you, talk to your healthcare provider.

You can also search for clinical studies in your area at **clinicaltrials.gov**

To watch videos and view a list of questions to ask researchers, visit **hhs.gov/about-research-participation**

To learn what Labcorp is doing, scan the QR code

1. U.S. Census Bureau. QuickFacts. July 2023 https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221

2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. 2020 drug trials snapshots summary report. https://www.fda.gov/media/145718/download

3. Cancer Facts & Figures for African American/Black People 2022-2024 https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/cancer-facts-figures-for-african-americans.html

4. ACS Cancer Facts & Figures for Hispanic/Latino People 2021-2023 https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/hispanics-latinos-facts-figures.html

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Importance of diversity in clinical studies amongst Black and Hispanic people

Research brings new possibilities

People of all backgrounds, who are either healthy or have preexisting conditions, participate in clinical study research all over the world. You can too. Clinical studies bring the hope of new medicines and medical devices to reality for many of today's challenging conditions.

Explore whether a clinical study might be right for you.

The impact of diversity in studies

Because people of different backgrounds may react differently to certain medical products (medicines and medical devices), diversity in clinical study participation is key to advancing health equity. Diversity provides a more completed picture of a product's efficacy and potential side effects. Thus, when participants of varying demographics join a clinical study, such engagement drives deeper clinical insights that more accurately represent the full spectrum of patients who will use the medical product.

Common myths

Myth #1: Clinical studies are experiments and people are treated as guinea pigs.

We are committed to the safety of each and every participant who enters a clinical study. Participants are watched very closely by their healthcare team to ensure best patient outcomes.

Myth #2: Clinical studies are not safe because they use medicine never used before.

Before any investigational drug can be given to humans, it goes through thorough testing, screening and regulatory review to make sure there is maximum possible safety and a likelihood that the medicine will be effective.

Myth #3: Participants are not informed during the clinical study.

Before every clinical study, participants review a detailed protocol that discloses the known risks and benefits associated with the study. Each participant is treated with respect and dignity throughout the entire process and can withdraw consent from participation in the study at any time, for whatever reason.