

# Clinical Trials Participation: Why Diversity Is Important

Clinical trials are studies that test new ways to prevent, find, and treat disease. They also help to make sure that new medicines and treatments are safe and effective.



## Minority Participation in Clinical Trials Is Low

Fewer than 1 in 20 adults with cancer enroll in clinical trials. Minorities are even less likely to participate in clinical trials, and their enrollment has been dropping since 2011.<sup>1</sup>

|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| ● Non-Hispanic White            | <b>83%</b>    |
| ● African American              | <b>6%</b>     |
| ● Asian/Pacific Islander        | <b>5%</b>     |
| ● Hispanic/Latino               | <b>3%</b>     |
| ● Other                         | <b>2%</b>     |
| ● American Indian/Alaska Native | <b>&lt;1%</b> |

**66%**

**OF CANCER DRUG TRIALS**

**REPORTED ZERO AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE PARTICIPANTS<sup>3</sup>**

**PARTICIPANTS<sup>3</sup>**

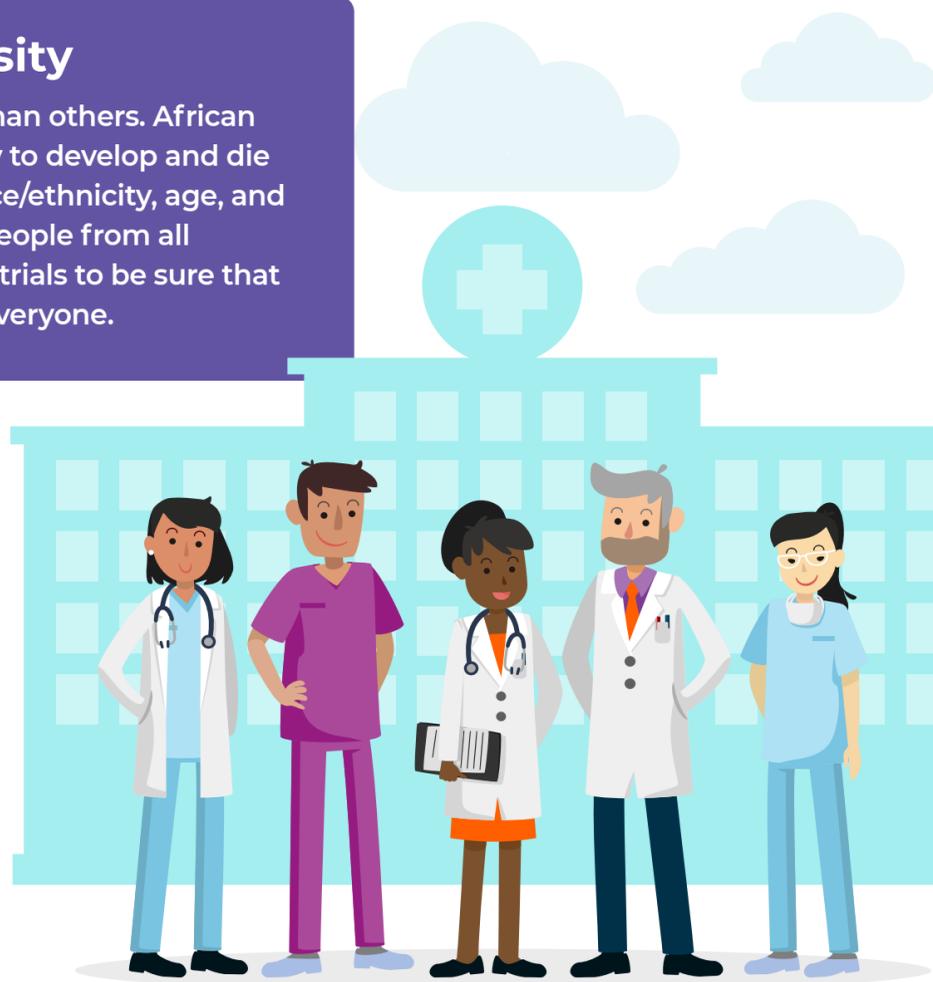
## Why We Need More Diversity

Some groups have higher rates of cancer than others. African American men, for example, are more likely to develop and die from cancer than any other group. Plus, race/ethnicity, age, and sex can affect the response to treatment. People from all backgrounds need to participate in clinical trials to be sure that new treatments are safe and effective for everyone.

- Clinical trials have rules to protect the rights, health, and safety of participants.
- If the treatment being studied is better than the standard treatment, participants may be among the first to benefit.
- Clinical trials may help scientists learn more about cancer and help people in the future.

## Did you know?

All FDA drug approvals are based on clinical trial results.



## How to Take Action



Talk to a health care provider about clinical trials participation



Call 1-800-4-CANCER to speak to a cancer information specialist



Find NCI-supported clinical trials at [cancer.gov](https://www.cancer.gov)

1. Unger JM et al (2016). DOI: 10.14694/EDBK\_156686

2. Duma N et al (2018). DOI: 10.1200/JOP.2017.025288

3. Chen C & Wong R: Black patients miss out on promising cancer drugs. ProPublica, 2018.