

# Underrepresentation of Black Americans in Clinical Trials

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Black Americans are one of the minorities that are underrepresented in clinical trials. This is problematic, because the results from these trials may not be properly applicable to them due to potential differences in response to treatment. This leads to inequalities in health outcomes, reduction in medical advances, increased mistrust & weaker/ incorrect generalizations.

References:



## What are the causes?

### Lack of Trust

Due to the **scientific history of abuse** of Black Americans - like the Tuskegee syphilis study - mistrust creates a barrier to participate in clinical trials



### Lack of Access

**Research sites** aren't located in or close to Black American communities

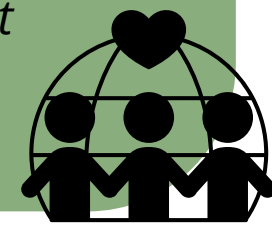
**Lack of transportation** to research sites

**Financial constraints**



### Lack of Workforce Diversity

Due to underrepresentation in **research teams**, questions that meet the needs of Black Americans might not be asked



### Lack of Awareness

**Health & research literacy** is lower in Black populations, making it harder for people to join these studies or understand the importance of participating



Black Americans aren't to blame for this! It's the responsibility of researchers & society to overcome these barriers.

## How can we solve this?

Researchers should **engage** with Black Americans

Understanding their **needs** so they can be addressed in clinical trials

**Involving** them from the beginning and all through the research process



Communication should be **culturally-tailored**

For example, recruitment materials must be relevant & accessible to Black Americans



### Solutions

There should be more **funding** for trials about diseases that disproportionately affect Black Americans



Creating more **diverse research teams** results in more inclusivity in clinical trials

Especially research coordinators, because they are the primary recruiters



Proactive efforts in recruitment

Not only looking at who signs up, but actively searching & recruiting for Black Americans who might want to participate



Doing more research on which **clinical practices** promote trust

These practices can then be applied, while contradicting practices can be ceased



## What will we achieve?

### Trust

Breaking the vicious circle of mistrust will increase willingness to participate



### Fairness

Removing barriers that excessively affect Black Americans



### Biomedical Knowledge

Overcoming gaps in knowledge

