

# Why inclusion matters

Understanding the burden of cancer



## Did you know?

Asian Americans are the only racial/ethnic group in the U.S. for whom cancer is the leading cause of death in men and women, unlike heart disease for all other groups.<sup>1</sup> According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Asian Americans were consistently underrepresented in clinical trials for all types of therapeutics (2.08%) compared with their representation in the 2015 Census (5.53%).<sup>2</sup> Among never-smoking women in California and Hawaii, lung cancer was higher in Asian American/Pacific Islander women than in White women and highest in Chinese American women.<sup>3</sup> Asian Americans generally have higher rates of cancers related to infectious agents (e.g., stomach).<sup>3</sup>

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](https://clinicaltrials.gov)

To watch videos and view a list of questions to ask researchers, visit [hhs.gov/about-research-participation](https://hhs.gov/about-research-participation)

**To learn what Labcorp is doing, scan the QR Code**



1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8176990/>

2. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9194616/>

3. <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2023/2023-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf>

4. <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/aanhpi-cancer-facts-and-figures/aanhpi-cff.pdf>



# Importance of diversity in clinical studies amongst Asian Americans



# 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

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

## Common Myths

**Myth #1:** A clinical study is the last hope for treatment.

Being offered a clinical study does not mean there are no options for treatment, in fact by participating, patients may have access to new treatment options before it is widely available. Talk to your family and ask your healthcare provider if a clinical study is right for you.

**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 any reason.