

DISPARITIES IN CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION

If we are to ensure that candidate anticancer therapeutics are safe and effective for everyone who will use them if they are approved, it is vital that the participants in the clinical trials testing the agents represent the diversity of the patient population. Despite this knowledge, several segments of the population have been found to be underrepresented in clinical trials. Examples of these disparities include the following:

Non-Hispanic black men account for about 17 percent of new prostate cancer cases, but only constituted 6 percent of the participants in the clinical trials that led to the approval of apalutamide (Erleada), a relatively new treatment for prostate cancer (2)(175)(176).



Adults age 65 or older account for about two-thirds of patients with breast, lung, colorectal, and prostate cancer, but account for only one-third of participants in clinical trials testing treatments for these four types of cancer (170).



Hispanic children with cancer are more than 50 percent less likely to enroll in clinical trials testing treatments for childhood cancer compared with non-Hispanic white children (171).

