

Cancer Clinical Trial Representation: Help Us Drive Change

Patient Advocacy Groups

Despite ongoing progress, communities of color may remain significantly underrepresented in clinical trials. This gap can limit how well we understand the safety and effectiveness of treatments for the diverse populations affected by a disease.

Clinical trial representation is especially important for cancer research and treatment, where there remains an urgent need for tailored treatments and interventions. For example, although Black Americans bear a substantial cancer burden, they only represent about 5% to 7% of clinical trial participants.¹

Your organization and the people you serve can help shape how clinical trials are designed and who is able to participate. As a patient advocate, you amplify patient voices and can help drive meaningful change in research practices and policies.



Create content about cancer clinical trials and the importance of participation for your website, newsletter, social channels, etc. As possible, feature perspectives from people in the community who have participated in cancer clinical trials.



Host conversations about clinical trials with your community or virtually. Invite local healthcare providers, researchers, and people impacted by cancer to share their perspectives. Incorporate conversations around clinical trials in other planned events, as appropriate.



Advocate for greater representation and inclusion in clinical trials by partnering with drug manufacturers, research institutions, and regulators to set explicit enrollment targets for underrepresented populations.



Partner with research institutions to provide feedback on protocols and recruitment materials to ensure patient input in trial design and implementation.



Represent patient interests in conversations with policymakers and industry leaders by testifying at legislative hearings and attending conferences.



Highlight barriers to trial access and champion solutions like transportation subsidies, virtual participation where possible, more local community-based sites, and childcare resources.

For more information, visit

<https://www.astrazeneca-us.com/content/az-us/Building-Better-Representation-in-Cancer-Research.html>

1. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures for African American/Black People 2022-2024. Accessed June 11, 2026.
<https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/cancer-facts-and-figures-for-african-americans/2022-2024-cff-aa.pdf>