



Knowledge and Access to Information on Recruitment of Underrepresented Populations to Cancer Clinical Trials: Evidence Report/Technology Assessment Number 122

By U S Department of Health Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

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The burden of cancer falls disproportionately upon the medically underserved, and research studies are essential to improving health care in general, including for medically underserved populations. Clinical trials are used to evaluate efficacious prevention and treatment interventions; however, studies often fail to recruit the planned number of participants. Trials often do not include an adequately diverse population to ensure broad generalizability of results. Recent studies of patients enrolled in cancer treatment trials sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) have demonstrated that the following populations are underrepresented in terms of their participation in cancer treatment trials: the elderly, those of low socio-economic status, those living in rural areas and Latino/Hispanic, Asian /Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska native men and women, as well as African-American men. Since the 1980s cancer prevention trials have been conducted with participants at highest risk for disease to reduce the cancer burden, and as in treatment trials, adequate representation of underserved populations in prevention trials is desirable. Questions remain regarding the appropriate level of inclusion. i.e., whether it

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