

Diversity in COVID-19 Vaccine Studies



How vaccines are tested

All vaccines, including the new COVID-19 vaccines, go through a series of studies and checks (called clinical trials) to make sure they are safe, and that they work, before they are given to the public.

It is important that the clinical trials include a diverse group of people. Researchers need enough information to be sure the vaccine is safe and works for all groups. It's especially important for COVID-19 because communities of color have been severely affected by the disease and vaccination could help communities move forward.

Rebuilding Trust

You might feel concerned about whether COVID-19 vaccines were tested on people with your same racial or ethnic background or your same health concerns.

If you are a person of color, you might feel especially worried about taking these vaccines. Medical racism in the past and present is real. You may be wondering if you can trust these vaccines and the systems that developed them that have broken trust with your community before.

Are they tested in people like me?

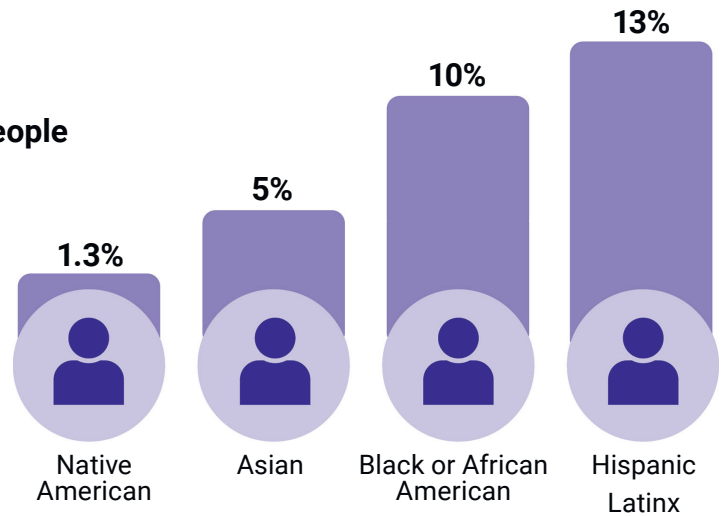
Two vaccines have received Emergency Use Approval (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use here in the U.S. – Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. More than a hundred additional vaccines are in different stages of development all over the world. More will likely be approved in the future.

For COVID-19 vaccines, researchers worked hard to rebuild trust with communities and recruit diverse volunteers for their studies. They included diversity in race, ethnicity and age, as well as in health conditions. The studies ended up being more diverse than other vaccine studies have been in the past. The mix of people participating in the studies looks more like the overall population of the U.S.

Pfizer vaccine studies

Total people in Phase 3 studies - about 45,000 people

About 30% of U.S. participants identify as people of color (44% worldwide).



(Racial and ethnic categories as reported in the studies.)

About 46% had at least one health condition that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 disease, including: obesity, diabetes, and ongoing lung disease.

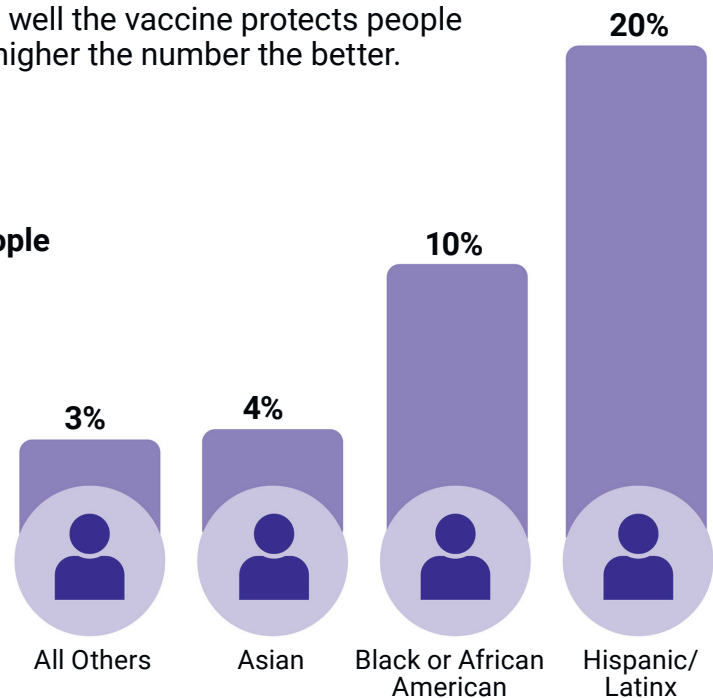
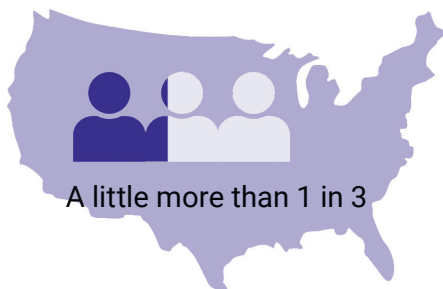
Study participants were aged 12 to 56+.

Vaccine efficacy 95%: Efficacy is a measure of how well the vaccine protects people compared to those who don't get the vaccine. The higher the number the better.

Moderna vaccine studies

Total people in Phase 3 studies - about 30,000 people

37% of participants identify as people of color



(Racial and ethnic categories as reported in the studies.)

About 22% of participants had at least one health condition that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 disease, including diabetes, obesity, heart disease, ongoing lung disease, and liver disease.

Study participants were aged 18 to 65+.

Vaccine efficacy 94%: Efficacy is a measure of how well the vaccine protects people compared to those who don't get the vaccine. The higher the number the better.

Local, regional and national health experts recommend taking a vaccine against COVID-19 when it is available to you.