Underserved Community Considerations in Clinical Trial Participation

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Purpose

- Lacking diverse population representation can result in limited findings on the efficacy of treatments, and safety particularly for Black/African Americans in clinical trials participation.
- Lack of trust in the U.S. healthcare system and research remains a serious public health issue, as it is one of the barriers to Black/African American participation in COVID-19 clinical trials.
- This report examines selected aspects of “COMmunity Mistrust and Institutional Trustworthiness to advance health EQuity research (COMMIT-EQ),” a project designed to identify facilitators, barriers, ethical considerations and possible solutions related to Black/African American participation in COVID-19 clinical trials and trials in general.

Methods

- Qualitative methods elicit data collection for analysis. Community input, from established partners, was received at each stage of the project development.
- The research team organized four virtual Town Hall meetings to assess existing barriers and emerging barriers to COVID-19 trials, vaccine trials included, and other research gather participants’ views on motivators and barriers to Black/African American participation in COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials.
- Data on which our analysis is based were collected during recorded discussion, transcribed discussions and note-taking from Town Hall meetings conducted virtually using Zoom. The transcribed data were integrated into the NVIVO Data Analysis Software.
- Two members of the research team coded the four transcriptions of the four Town Hall meetings. From this coding work, they worked together to extrapolate themes and sub-themes that were used to illustrate the findings of our project.

Results

- Participants identified barriers as well as facilitators and motivators for clinical trial participation.
- They also suggested strategies to increase Black/African American participation in clinical trials.

Conclusions

- Findings could inform incorporation of community ethical considerations and guidelines from a community lens to improve trustworthiness to develop and implement mechanisms to promote trust in science and promote Black/African American participation in clinical trials.
- Future research could focus on the collaborative development of community-based frameworks to help trialists and researchers better address the needs and concerns of Black/African American communities regarding their participation in clinical trials.

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