

Assessing the Effectiveness and Acceptability of Peer-to-Peer Support to Increase Cancer Clinical Trial Enrollment Among Hispanic/Latino Patients

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Background

- Cancer clinical trials are critical for advancing treatment and improving patient outcomes.
- Hispanic/Latino (H/L)¹ individuals remain underrepresented, despite comprising nearly 19% of the U.S. population.³
- This disparity limits the generalizability of clinical trial findings and misses critical cultural and socioeconomic factors that influence treatment outcomes.^{2,3}
- Barriers to participating in clinical trials include language discordance, limited health literacy, financial constraints, and medical mistrust.^{1,2}
- Culturally tailored education, including peer support, has increased awareness and willingness to participate in clinical trials.²
- Innovative and culturally responsive interventions are needed to promote equitable participation among H/L populations.³

Aims

- The *Pilot of the Peer Clinical Trials Support Program* launched in September 2025.
- The program aims to support 100 mentees and train at least 4 mentors.
- This program aims to assess the acceptability and effectiveness of the *Peer Clinical Trials Support Program* in increasing:

- ✓ clinical trial knowledge,
- ✓ patient-provider communication about clinical trials
- ✓ self-efficacy in care decision-making
- ✓ the likelihood of enrolling in a clinical trial.

Methods

- This innovative program offers free support to cancer patients, survivors, and previvors who want support from a peer mentor - **a cancer patient or survivor who has participated in a cancer clinical trial.**
- Prospective peer mentors completed a short application and interview, with options for completing either in English or Spanish.
- Peer participants complete a pre-survey before matching with a peer mentor and a post-survey after graduating from the program. Surveys include **assessments of self-efficacy, language preferences, and knowledge of clinical trials at baseline** and after completing the program.
- Through a minimum of three phone calls over three months, participants receive one-on-one practical and emotional support from their peer mentor.

Peer Mentor Training

Peer Mentor Training Manual

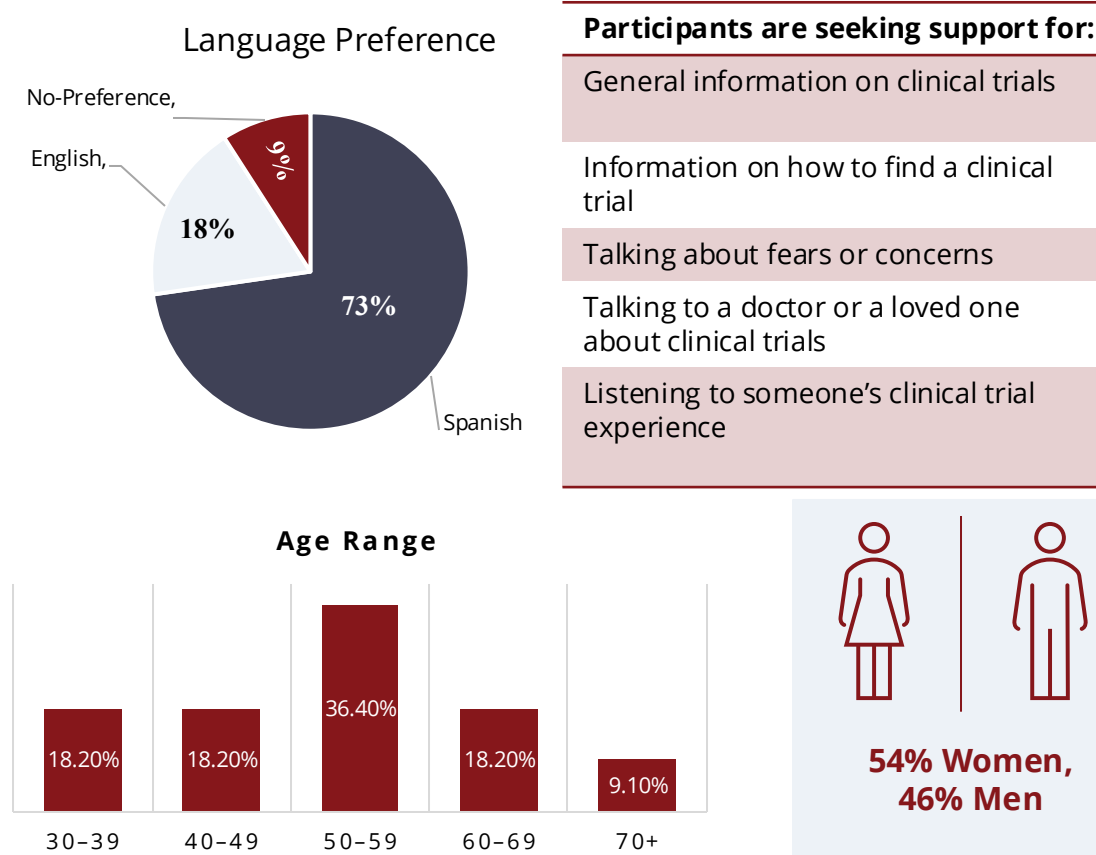
- Comprehensive, culturally adapted guide designed to strengthen Peer Mentors' knowledge of clinical trials.
- Developed with the program Advisory Board to ensure cultural relevance and usability.
- Organized into six sections plus a resource library and available in both English and Spanish.

Training Sessions

- Five virtual sessions.
- 5 mentors were trained.
- Training materials available in English or Spanish.
- Each speaker was a member of the Hispanic/Latinx community and completed the training in Spanish.
- Topics include communication skills, barriers and myths, and understanding clinical trials.

Participant Results

Participant Background

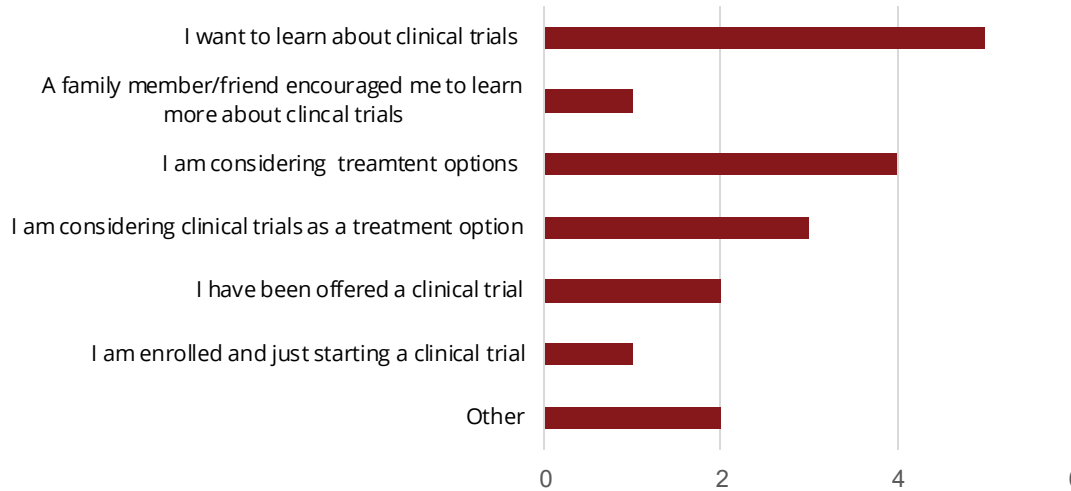


- Participants are seeking support for:**
- General information on clinical trials
 - Information on how to find a clinical trial
 - Talking about fears or concerns
 - Talking to a doctor or a loved one about clinical trials
 - Listening to someone's clinical trial experience

Pre-Survey

<p>EXPERIENCE WITH CLINICAL TRIALS</p> <p>80% Have <i>never been offered</i> a clinical trial</p> <p>60% Are <i>somewhat likely</i> to enroll in a trial if offered one</p>	<p>CONFIDENCE REPORTING</p> <p>Very Confident/Confident</p> <p>Knowing what questions to ask: 40%</p> <p>Asking doctors questions: 80%</p> <p>Deciding whether to participate: 60%</p> <p>Understanding trial information: 60%</p> <p>Knowing where to find information: 0%</p>
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What do participants want to know about clinical trials?



BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Most Common Concerns

- Fear of side effects
- Worry about placebo
- Cost of care
- Fear of being treated like a "guinea pig"
- Transportation & time off work
- Trust & privacy
- Immigration & cultural barriers
- Managing treatment

Mentor-Participant Conversations

<p>Conversation Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear after cancer diagnosis What are clinical trials How to know if they are being offered to participate in a clinical trial Medication Management Educational resources to read at home Tips on how to communicate with medical care team 	<p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred to have conversations in Spanish. Report feeling relieved when they could speak with someone in their native language. Expressed the need for having language-concordant conversations with their care team.
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Post-Survey

★ **100%**

Of the participants who have graduated so far, report feeling they **have a better understanding of clinical trials**

Phone call is the **most used form of communication**

Initial conversations suggest increased confidence in:

Conclusion and Implications

- Hispanic/Latino cancer patients and survivors have a high interest in clinical trials and demonstrate a clear need for tailored support.
- When information is language-concordant, self-efficacy in care and understanding of clinical information increases.
- Receiving support from a peer with shared lived experience can reduce anxiety, increase confidence in decision-making, and foster greater engagement in clinical trials.
- Launched six months ago, this pilot is ongoing, with preliminary data available and a full evaluation planned at the end of the 12-month pilot.

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 Support for this project was provided by AstraZeneca, BMS, Daiichi Sankyo, Eisai, Genentech and J&J.

References:

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