Listening to the Community: Barriers and Beliefs About Clinical Trials Among African American Women with Breast Cancer

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BACKGROUND

African American breast cancer patients remain significantly underrepresented in clinical trials, despite experiencing more aggressive disease and disproportionately worse outcomes.

While awareness of clinical trials has increased, there is still a gap between awareness and participation, especially due to limited access to personalized support and actionable next steps.

BCT and SNI collaborated to learn what's needed.

- BreastCancerTrials.org (BCT), a program of Quantum Leap Healthcare Collaborative, is a free national non-profit breast cancer clinical trial matching platform.
- As the largest national African American breast cancer survivorship organization in the U.S., Sisters Network® Inc (SNI) utilized its extensive network to reach a broad and diverse community of survivors.

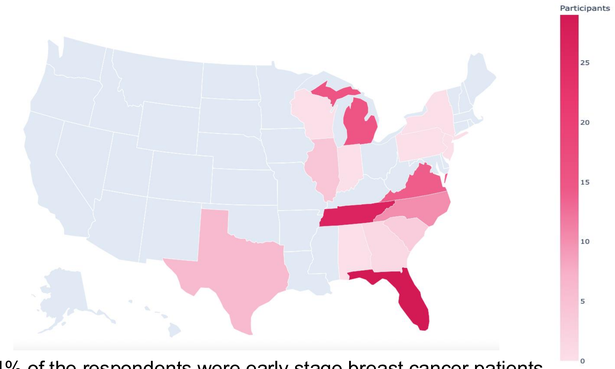
METHODS

BreastCancerTrials.org and Sisters Network® Inc. partnered to assess attitudes, knowledge, beliefs, and experiences related to clinical trials as part of a larger initiative to improve trial awareness and enrollment in African American women.

- The survey asked about participant's demographics, breast cancer details, and familiarity with clinical trials.
- Topics covered included communication with healthcare providers, trial eligibility and experience, barriers to participation, challenges finding trial information, and interest in using clinical trial navigation for support.

RECRUITMENT

A survey was distributed to over 100 African American breast cancer survivors in Sisters Network® State Chapters.



84% of the respondents were early stage breast cancer patients.
14 State Chapters were represented

RESULTS

This chart illustrates the primary motivations driving participants to join clinical trials, highlighting both altruistic and personal benefits

Top Reasons for Joining a Trial	%
To help researchers learn new things that could help people in the future	75%
To have a clinical trial team watch my health closely	50%
To try a new medical approach that may be better that what I have today	49%
To be compensated (gift card, money) for taking part	22%

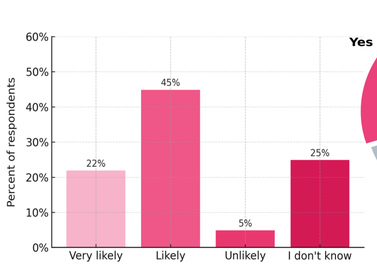
RESULTS (continued)

Self-reported barriers and knowledge gaps are summarized below showing that while nearly half had no concerns, many lacked information or clarity about clinical trials and eligibility.

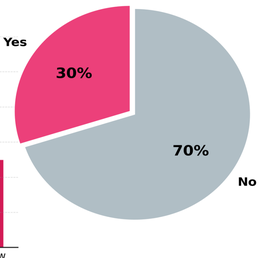
Reported Barriers to Clinical Trial Participation	%
I have no concerns or barriers to participation.	47%
I am uncertain about my eligibility for participation in a clinical trial.	29%
I have limited knowledge regarding clinical trials.	24%
I have not received information about clinical trials.	12%

As shown below, over 70% of those respondents never discussed clinical trial as an option with their healthcare team while 67% would be likely or very likely to participate, if asked.

How likely would you be to join a clinical trial if your doctor asked you?



Have you ever talked with your healthcare team about joining a clinical trial?



CONCLUSIONS

- This survey was the first step in a broader effort to build trust and increase clinical trial knowledge, awareness, and participation among African American breast cancer patients.
- Results from the survey further demonstrate the barriers African American breast cancer patients experience, and highlight their need for culturally responsive education and personalized navigation.
- Next steps to improve access and diversity in clinical trials include upcoming focus groups to inform the development of customized clinical trial education and outreach materials.
- Insights from this study will also help refine the enrollment strategy for QLHC's I-SPY clinical trials, which is strongly committed to diverse enrollment.

