

LATINAS + BREAST CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS



WHAT IS DEI IN CLINICAL TRIALS?

Clinical trials have been performed in healthcare since before the beginning of modern medicine and have been critical in advancing global healthcare. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) refers to the practices of intentionally diversifying various domains of medicine with the hope of creating equitable environments.



1 in 8 Women will develop Breast Cancer in their lifetime

WHAT IS BREAST CANCER?

Breast cancer is a disease in which abnormal breast cells grow in an uncontrollable manner and form tumors

WHAT ARE MAMMOGRAMS + MBD?

They are low-dose x-rays of the breast tissue and are used identify early signs of breast cancer before various symptoms arise

Mammographic breast density (MBD) is the proportion of fibroglandular tissue relative to fat on a mammogram

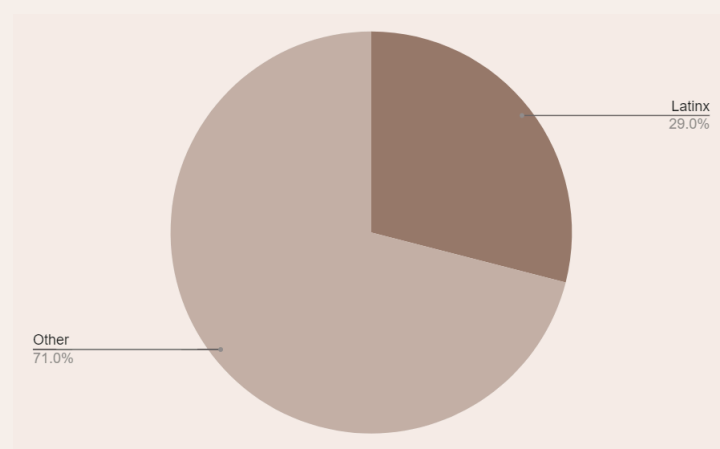
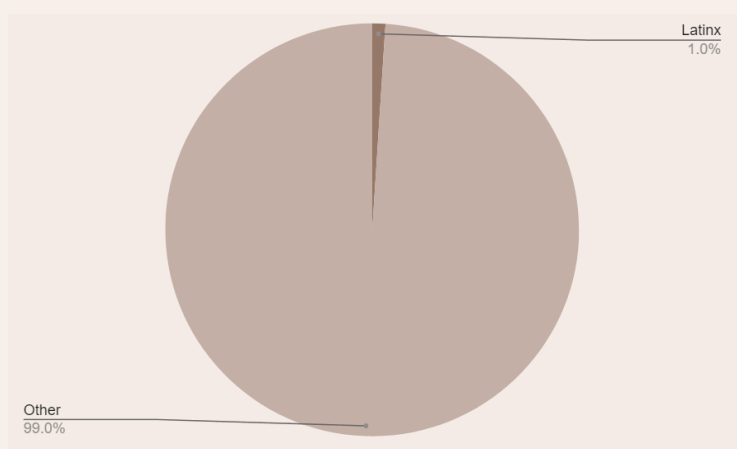
This is important because (1) dense tissue limits early detection of breast cancer during screenings and (2) dense tissue increases the risk of developing breast cancer

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES WITH DEI?

Statistically, Hispanic women/Latinas have more dense breast tissue than other women meaning that they are already at a higher risk to develop breast cancer and for it to go undetected by a mammogram

Furthermore, because of this dense breast tissue there is more of a likelihood of missing breast cancer using mammograms (since we are still using the same methodologies)

1st cause of death among latinas



While Latinx patients represent about 1.02% of cancer clinical trial participants (oral oncolytic), Latinas make up 29% of breast cancer patients

There is unequal representation in clinical trials, thus, something must be changed to ensure equitable results

NEXT STEPS?

- 1) Direct recruitment interventions: Directly go into communities where Latinas are concentrated in order to reduce cost/childcare barriers
- 2) Cultural targeting: Educate Latina women about the benefits of enrolling in clinical trials to the importance of their enrollment to public health; also includes using education materials in other languages to reduce the language barrier and connect with more potential patients

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