

Determining community experiences with and interest in oncology clinical trials through surveys with John Theurer Cancer Center patient populations and non-patient populations in northern New Jersey.

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Background

Cancer treatment trials enrollment is estimated at 7.1%; historically below 5% (Unger et al., 2024). Patients face multifaceted and interrelated barriers to enrollment, including patient trust, eligibility criteria, institutional policy, and limited logistical support (Kumar et al., 2022). The Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH) John Theurer Cancer Center (JTCC) aims to overcome barriers through the Oncology Clinical Research Patient Navigator (CRPN) Program.

Goals

- Implement a CRPN Program that determines patient and non-patient populations' experiences with and interests in clinical research.
- Quantify percentage of JTCC patients approached regarding clinical trials during their care.
- Inform next steps in community outreach, education, recruitment, and retention efforts.

Methods

- The Oncology CRPNs developed a survey with a combination of closed/open-ended questions.
- Two trained Oncology CRPNs performed clinical trial education followed by surveys on demographics and clinical research related questions with 1186 participants over 8 months.
- Survey success rates indicate the number of completed surveys over the number of participants given clinical trial education only.
- Data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel.

Encouraging conversations around clinical trials empowers community members and patients to voice their multifaceted and interrelated barriers to enrollment leading to the development of better resources in the recruitment and retainment of clinical trial participants.

Results/Graphs/Data

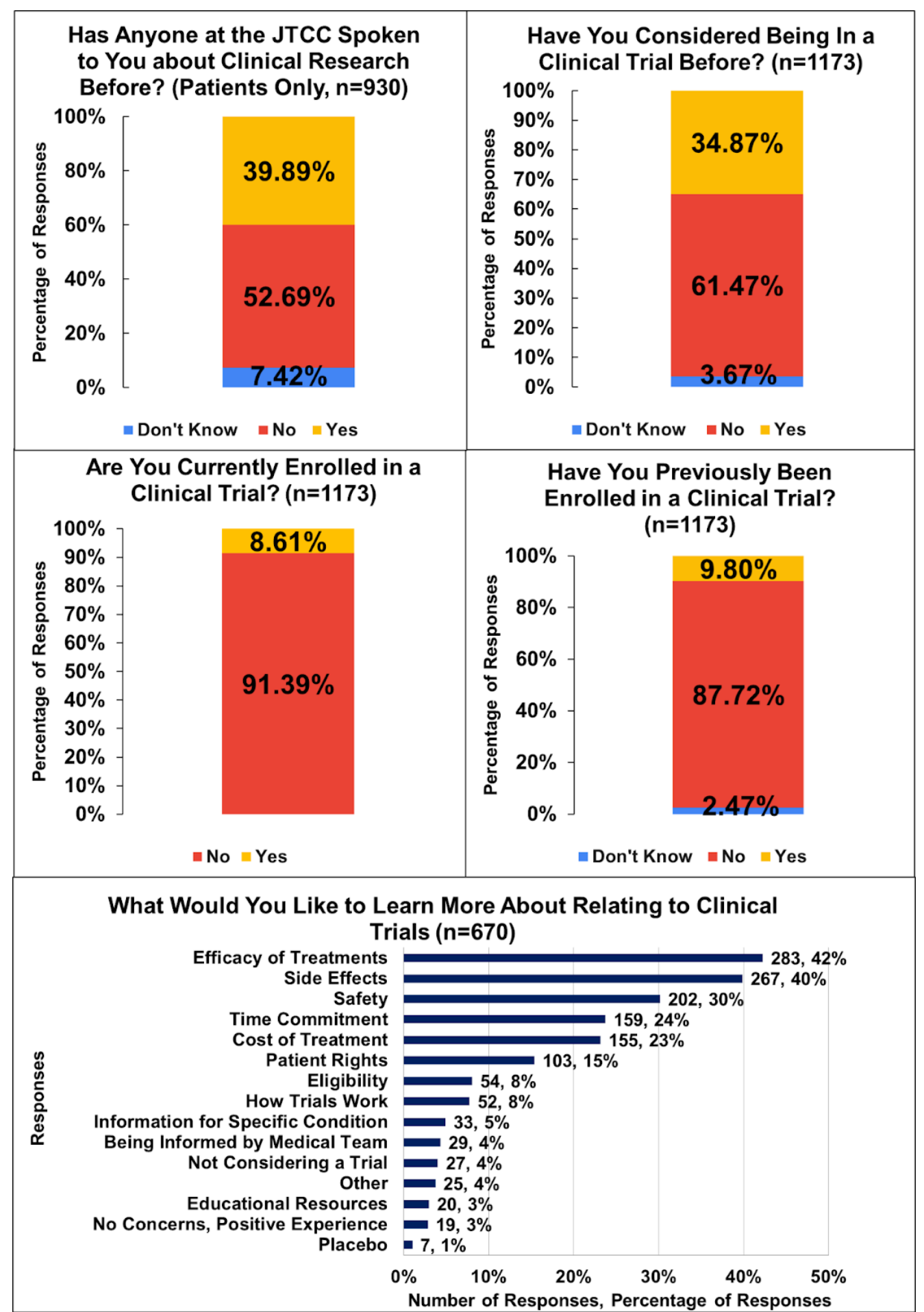


Figure 1: Survey results for clinical research related questions.

age. Clinical research related question results are reflected in Figure 1.

Of the 2102 total people educated, 1186 (56%) participated in the survey (66% survey success rate in JTCC, 20% at Community Outreach Events).

Participants include 971 JTCC Patients (273 new patients as of 2024), 106 Family Members or Caregivers, 82 Community Members, 18 HMH Faculty or Staff, and 9 Non-Identified.

Demographic data was collected and quantified from survey participants, including race or ethnicity, gender, and

Conclusion

- Clinical trial education at JTCC had a higher survey success rate than that of Community Outreach Events.
- Data collected supports prior literature regarding barriers to clinical trial enrollment.
- Efforts will focus on expanding community outreach to local clinics that may refer patients.
- The Oncology CRPN program will also extend into JTCC clinical operations, including screening patients for clinical trials.

References

1. Kumar, G., Chaudhary, P., Quinn, A., & Su, D. (2022). Barriers for cancer clinical trial enrollment: A qualitative study of the perspectives of healthcare providers. Contemporary Clinical Trials Communications. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2451865422000564>
2. Unger, J. M., Shulman, L. N., Facktor, M. A., Nelson, H., & Fleury, M. E. (2024). National estimates of the participation of patients with cancer in clinical research studies based on commission on cancer accreditation data. Open Access Original Reports. <https://ascopubs.org/doi/10.1200/JCO.23.01030>