

COVID-19 Vaccines: Diversity in Vaccine Studies



How vaccines are tested

All vaccines, including the new COVID-19 vaccines, go through a series of studies and checks (called clinical trials) to make sure they are safe, and that they work, before they are given to the public.

It is important that the clinical trials include a diverse group of people. Researchers need enough information to be sure the vaccine is safe and works for all groups and ages. This is especially important for COVID-19 because communities of color have been severely affected by the disease and early vaccination could help communities move forward.

Can I trust the vaccine and the people telling me I should get it?

You might feel concerned about whether COVID-19 vaccines were tested on people with your same racial or ethnic background or your same health concerns.

If you are a person of color, you might feel especially worried about taking these vaccines. Medical racism in the past and present is real. You may be wondering if you can trust these vaccines and the systems that developed them that have broken trust with your community before. We are a different people and a different nation than our grandparents and great grandparents. The systems today are open, transparent and accountable.

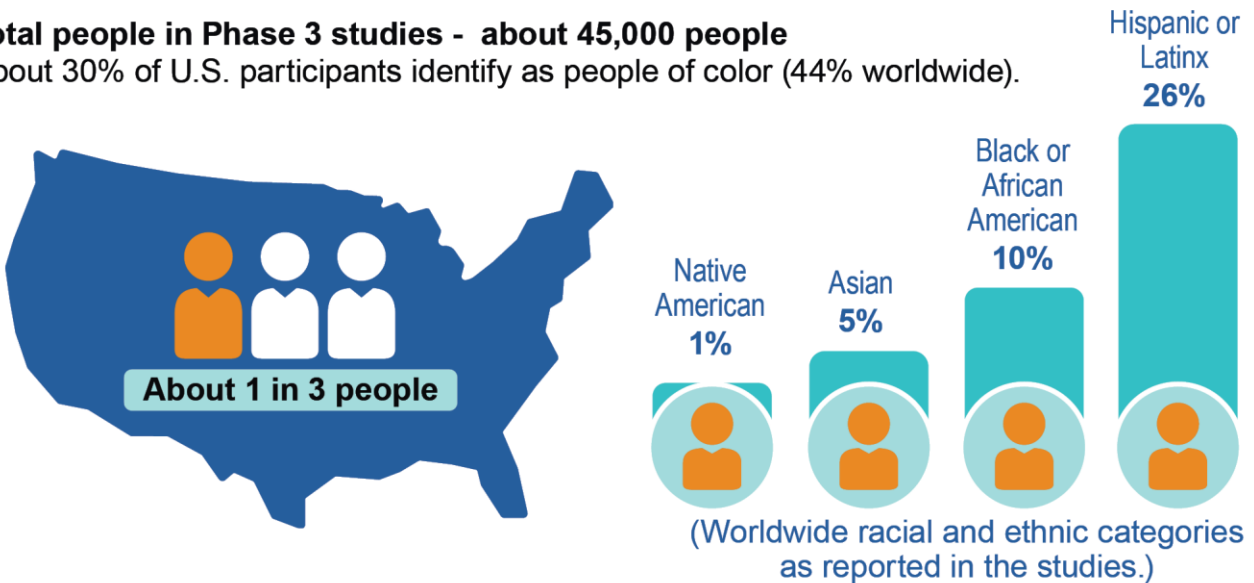
Three vaccines have received Emergency Use Approval (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use here in the U.S.— Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. More than a hundred additional vaccines are in different stages of development all over the world. More will likely be approved in the future.

For COVID-19 vaccines, researchers worked hard to rebuild trust with communities and recruit diverse volunteers for their studies. They included diversity in race, ethnicity and age, as well as in health conditions. The studies were more diverse than other vaccine studies have been in the past. The mix of people participating in the studies looks more like the overall population of the U.S.

Pfizer vaccine studies

Total people in Phase 3 studies - about 45,000 people

About 30% of U.S. participants identify as people of color (44% worldwide).



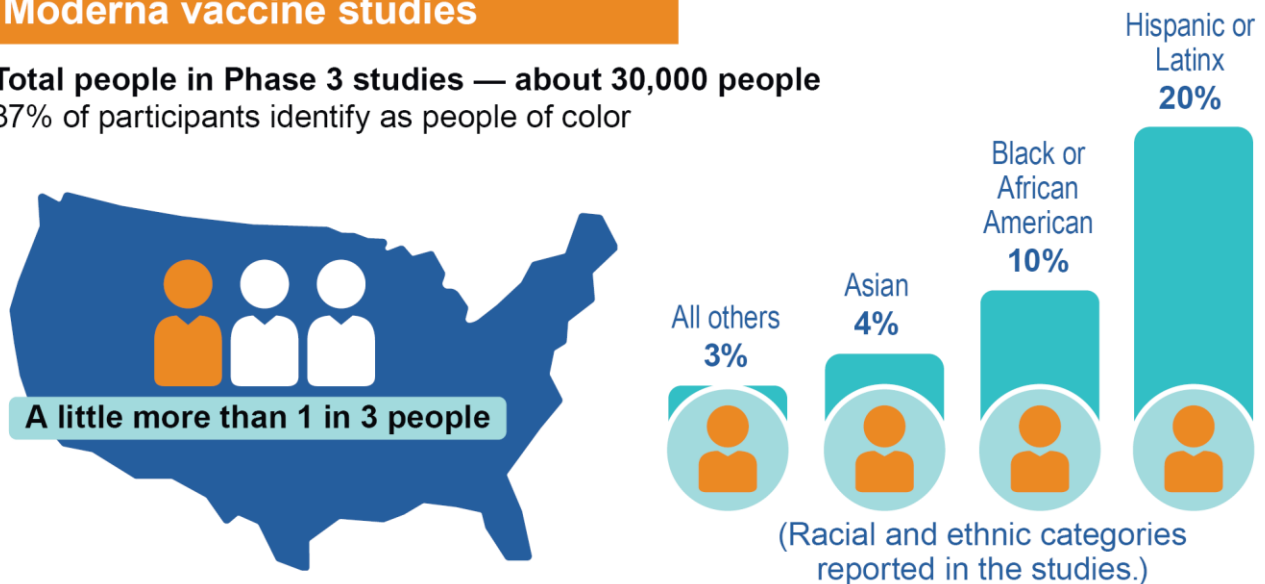
About 46% had at least one health condition that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 disease, including: obesity, diabetes, and ongoing lung disease.

Study participants were aged 12 to 56+.

Moderna vaccine studies

Total people in Phase 3 studies — about 30,000 people

37% of participants identify as people of color



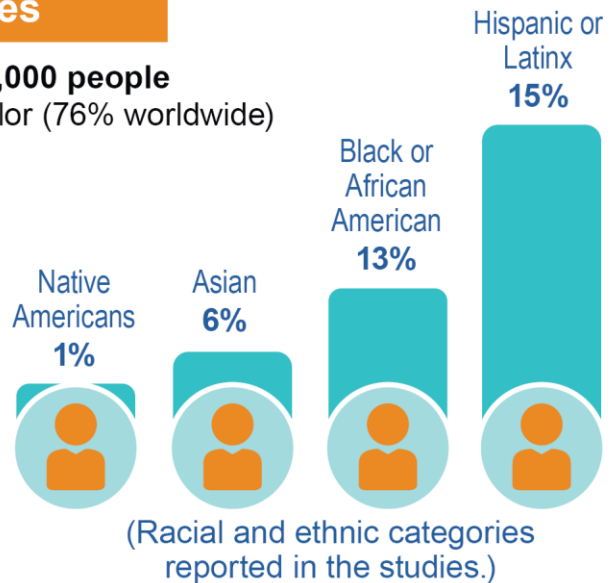
About 22% of participants had at least one health condition that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 disease, including diabetes, obesity, heart disease, chronic lung disease, and liver disease.

Study participants were aged 18 to 65+.

Johnson & Johnson vaccine studies

Total people in Phase 3 studies — about 44,000 people

35% of US participants identify as people of color (76% worldwide)



About 41% of participants had at least one health condition that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 disease including high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity.

Study participants were aged 18 to 65+.

The message we'd like you to take home

All three authorized vaccines are safe and effective. Like with all medicines, medical experts continue to keep track of any possible safety concerns with the vaccines. They do this through a safety reporting system called V-Safe. This way they are able to find and address even the most rare concerns as vaccines are given to millions of people.

Vaccines will help protect you and prevent the spread of COVID-19. We recommend getting a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can. We want you to ask questions. We ask that you give us a chance to answer them and that you give us a chance to help.

Support is available if you have questions or mixed feelings

You may feel hopeful that another vaccine will make it possible for more people to be vaccinated or for us to be around loved ones again. You may feel nervous. If you are a person of color, you may be wondering if you can trust vaccines from a medical system and a drug company that have broken trust with your community before. Medical racism in the past and present is real. It's understandable to have concerns. Learn more and get support:

- **Talk with your doctor or clinic. If you don't have a doctor, call 2-1-1 or text 898211** (English and Spanish texting available)
- Call the **Oregon Statewide Racial Equity Support Line** if you've been mentally and emotionally impacted by racism: 503-575-3764

- Call the **Oregon Statewide Safe + Strong Helpline** for emotional support and resource referral. You don't need to be in crisis. 1-800-923-HELP (4357)

Visit covidvaccine.oregon.gov for information, resources, and updates on the COVID-19 vaccine.

This was adapted from a document originally developed by Clackamas County, Columbia County, Multnomah County, and Washington County. These counties granted OHA permission to rebrand their local resource for statewide audiences.

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