



SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

Survey of U.S. Adults on Clinical Trials Research Participation

TOPLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Do you think there are opportunities for healthy individuals to take part in a medical research study?

	Women	Men
Yes	72.9%	83.0%
No/Don't Know	26.9%	16.8%

Has your doctor ever talked to you about participating in a medical research study, for example, as a healthy volunteer in an observational study, as a patient in a clinical trial, or as a participant in a long term study where you are periodically interviewed about your health?

	Women	Men
Yes	6.9%	4.6%
No/Don't Know	93.1%	94.9%

Did your doctor talk to you about participating in a medical research study because of a specific disease or medical condition that you had?

	Women	Men
Yes	65.2%	50.2%
No/Don't Know	34.8%	47.2%

Have you ever participated in a medical research study?

	Women	Men
Yes	9.4%	6.5%
No/Don't Know	90.4%	93.5%

If you were asked again to take part in a medical research study, how likely would you be to participate? Would you definitely, probably, probably not, or definitely not participate?

	Have participated in research before	Have never participated in research
Definitely/Probably Would	70.4%	37.5%
Definitely/Probably Would Not	24.1%	50.2%
Not sure/it depends	4.0%	10.6%

Please indicate which of the following, if any, are reasons you decided to participate in a clinical research study?

	Women	Men
To advance medicine or science	80.0%	89.8%
To help others with the condition	69.7%	86.7%
To obtain education about treatment/improving my health	63.6%	65.8%
To obtain better treatment for my condition	63.1%	64.6%
I was curious about the specifics of the study	59.2%	64.1%
The information I read, saw, or had heard about the study influenced me	55.5%	40.3%
My doctor recommended the study	38.4%	43.1%
To earn extra money	22.0%	44.2%
To obtain free medication	12.7%	15.0%

Why would you be hesitant to participate?

	Women	Men
Depends on the type of study	21.7%	15.4%
Too risky/dangerous/side effects	17.5%	15.2%
Do not have the time	17.4%	26.7%
Just not interested in it/don't believe in it	11.9%	15.8%
Health problems/not healthy enough	9.7%	5.1%
Age/too old	7.2%	2.4%

Other significant findings...

- Individuals with at least a college degree are significantly more likely than individuals with a high school education or less to have ever participated in a medical research study (11.2% to 6.1%).
- Individuals ages 18-34 are significantly more likely to “definitely” or “probably” participate in research if asked (49.3%) than almost every other age group.
- Individuals ages 65 and older are significantly more likely to “definitely not” participate in research if asked (28.5%) than every other age group.
- Women are significantly more likely than men to say they are too old (7.2% to 2.4%) or not healthy enough (9.7% to 5.1%) to participate in research.

FOCUS ON OLDER ADULT WOMEN (50 and Older)

Percentage of Women 50 and Older Who Have Ever Participated in a Medical Research Study*	
2008	13.2%
2006	10.2%
2003	11.9%
*1014 U.S. women 50 and older surveyed by telephone April 11-27, 2006, by International Communications Research (ICR) of Media, Pa., for the Society for Women's Health Research. Results weighted for age, income, region, education, race and size of metropolitan area where necessary to align them with their actual proportions in the population. The 2003 survey was conducted in the same manner by ICR, Jan. 24-Feb. 11, 2003, and included 1017 women 50 and older. The 2008 survey of 2,000 U.S. adults included 633 women 50 and older answering this question.	

Top Reasons Women 50 and Older Would Be Hesitant to Participate in a Medical Research Study*			
Top six responses	2008	2006	2003
Too risky/dangerous/ side effects	17.1%	15.8%	14.9%
Age/too old	15.8%	9.4%	6.6%
Depends on the type of study	14.8%	13.8%	15.3%
Just not interested in it/ don't believe in it	13.9%	15.9%	9.1%
Health problems/ not healthy enough	13.1%	9.9%	8.3%
Do not have the time	12.2%	14.8%	14.9%
*This was an open-ended question posed to respondents who said they would definitely/probably not participate in a medical research study, were unsure or did not know if they would participate. A list of possible responses was not provided; respondents were allowed to provide multiple answers.			
652 U.S. women 50 and older were surveyed by telephone April 11-27, 2006, by International Communications Research (ICR) of Media, Pa., for the Society for Women's Health Research. Results are weighted for age, income, region, education, race and size of metropolitan area where necessary to align them with their actual proportions in the population. The 2003 survey was conducted in the same manner by ICR, Jan. 24-Feb. 11, 2003, included 623 women 50 and older. The 2008 survey of 2,000 U.S. adults included 410 women 50 and older responding to this question.			

All 2008 survey results are from a survey of 2,028 U.S. adults 18 and older conducted by International Communications Research of Media, Pa., April 23-May 4, through a telephone survey. The survey was commissioned by the Society for Women's Health Research.

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The Society for Women's Health Research is the nation's only non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of all women through research, education and advocacy. Founded in 1990, the Society brought to national attention the need for the appropriate inclusion of women in major medical research studies and the need for more information about conditions affecting women disproportionately, predominately, or differently than men. The Society advocates increased funding for research on women's health; encourages the study of sex differences that may affect the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease; promotes the inclusion of women in medical research studies; and informs women, providers, policy makers and media about contemporary women's health issues. Visit the Society's Web site at www.womenshealthresearch.org for more information.