

Article: Measuring the diversity gap of cannabis clinical trial participants compared to people who report using cannabis

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Key Points:

- Nearly 13% of Americans report recent cannabis use.
- People who report recent cannabis use are increasingly diverse in terms of their sex, race, ethnicity, and age.
- However, cannabis clinical trial participants are mostly White males in their 20s and 30s.

Glossary:

Clinical trial = a research study on human participants.

Inequity = lack of fairness or justice.

Representative = matching the personal characteristics of the population to be studied.

Why this article matters: Demographic differences are an important factor when studying what cannabis does in and to the body.

Description of the Study: The age, sex, race, and ethnicity details of people who reported “past-month” cannabis use from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) were compared to those included in clinical trials assessing cannabis metabolism and/or effects on the body.

Research Questions: What are the demographics (that is: age, sex, race, and ethnicity) of cannabis clinical trial participants? How does that compare to people who report cannabis use?

Important Results: When cannabis clinical trial participant demographics do not match those of the population impacted by results, social and health inequities are perpetuated.

How the results will be used: Results from this work will be used to create more diverse and representative groups of cannabis clinical trial participants.