

Factors Influencing Participation in Clinical Research: Do Minority and Lower Socioeconomic Status Patients Experience Greater Barriers in Participation?

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Factors Influencing Participation in Clinical Research: Do Minority and Lower Socioeconomic Status Patients Experience Greater Barriers in Participation?

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Introduction/Background

The clinical research participant population is not representative of the United States' population. In clinical trials, there is lower female, minority, low-income, and low-educated representation. Often, language barriers, cultural differences, and skepticism of medical professionals all serve as barriers to participation.

It is important to achieve representation from multiple demographics in clinical research in order to develop safe and widely effective treatments. It is possible that certain demographics may react to identical treatment differently. Therefore, it is necessary to achieve proper diversity and representation through the clinical research process.

This study utilized a survey to gauge patient attitudes towards participation in clinical research. Specifically, it asked patients to judge to what extent certain barriers would influence their decision to participate in clinical research.

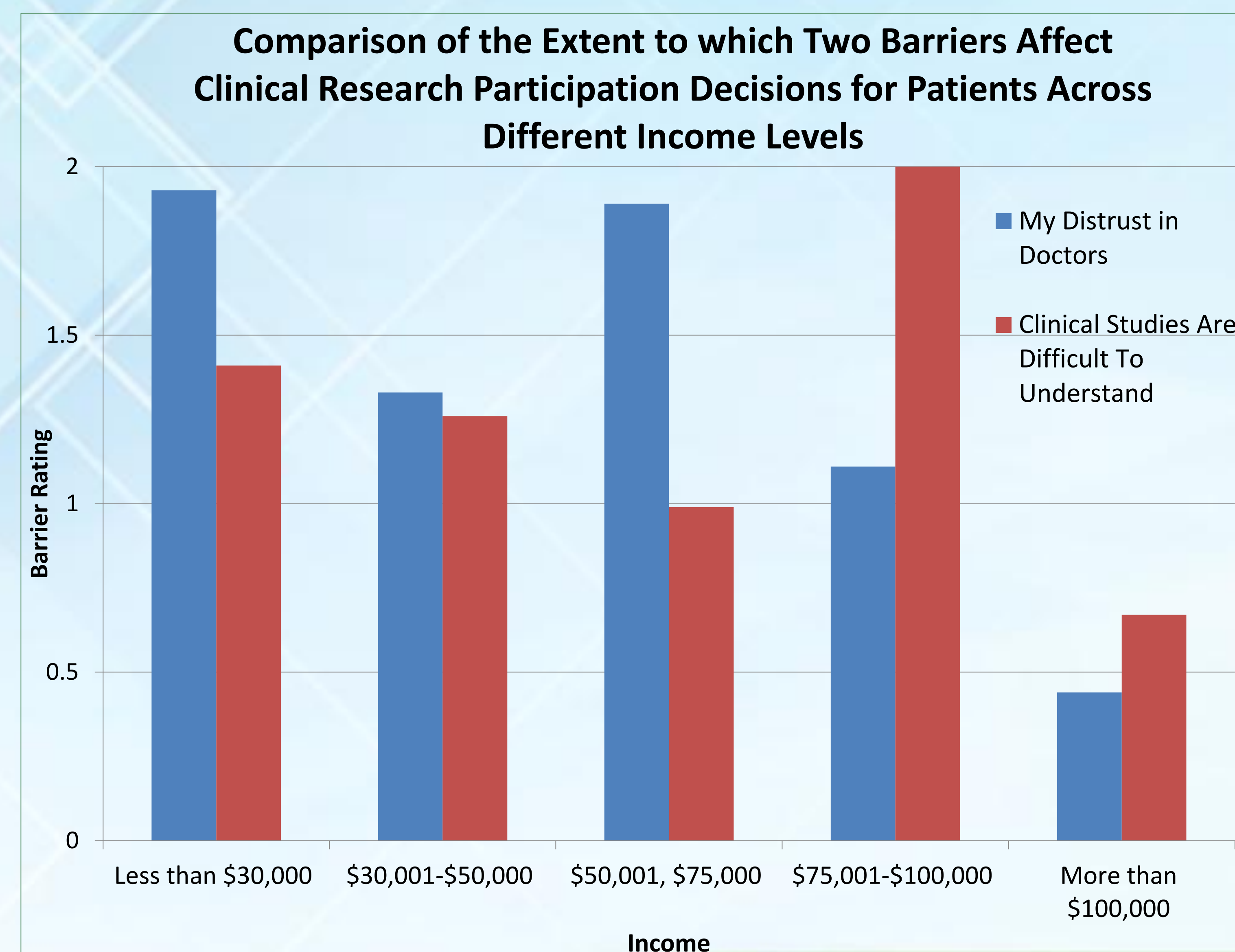
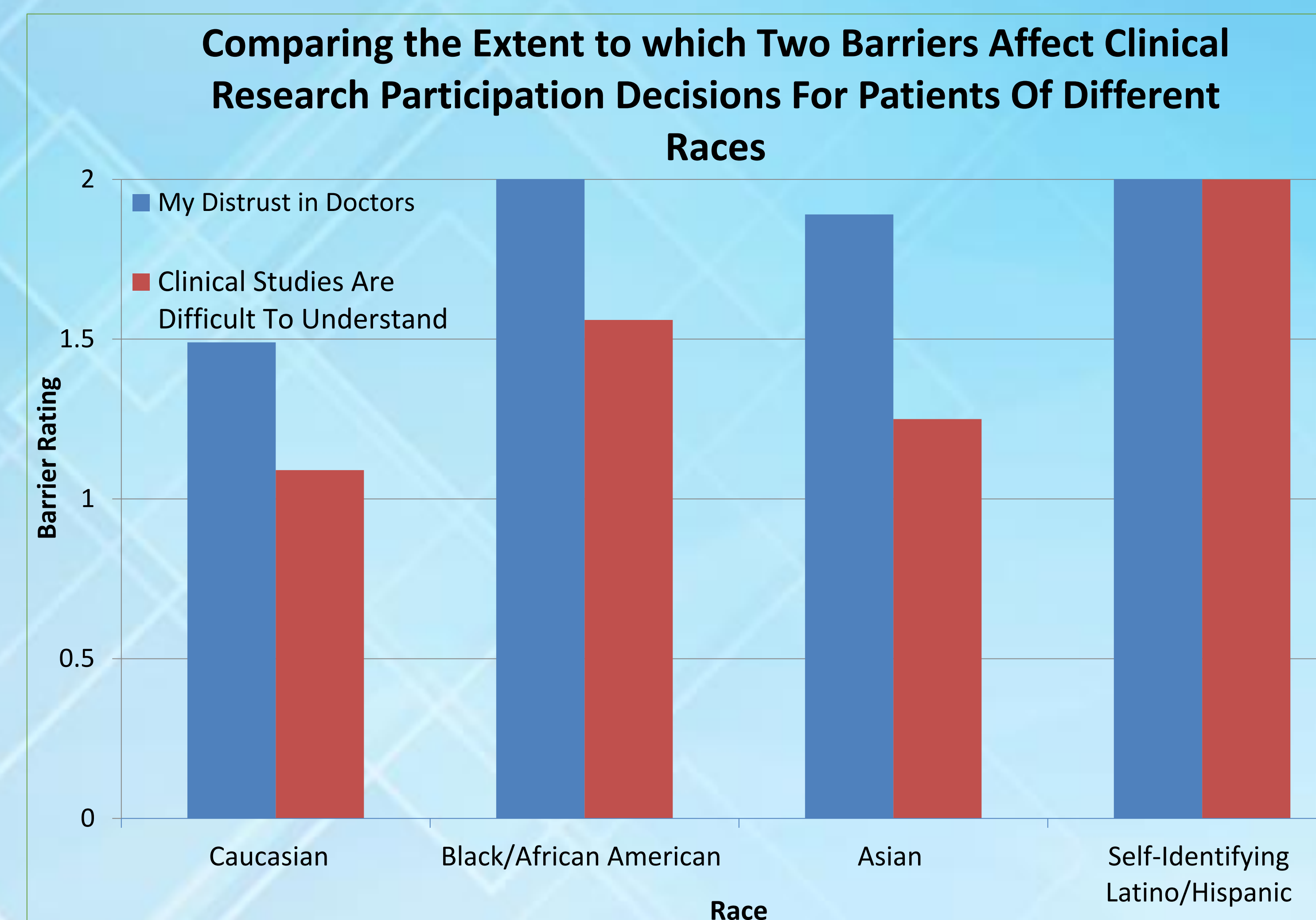
Research Question

To what extent is “mistrust of doctors” and “difficulty to understand clinical research” barriers to participation in clinical research for patients across different races and income levels?

Methods

The research team developed an IRB approved survey to gauge patient attitudes towards barriers to clinical research. The research team administered surveys in the waiting rooms of 4 LVHN Family Practice Clinics. Surveys were offered in English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese. Data from Section K of completed surveys was utilized in the results section.

Data and Results



Conclusion

Black/African American, Asian, and Latino/Hispanic patients reported “mistrust of doctors” and “difficulty understanding clinical research” as a greater barriers to participating in clinical research than Caucasian patients.

The extent to which patients reported “mistrust of doctors” and “difficulty understanding clinical research” as barriers to participate in clinical research generally decreased as patient income increased.

Discussion and Future Directions

Low-income and minority patients expressed greater barriers to participating in clinical research. This may be due to greater cultural and language barriers which may cause the mistrust of doctors and difficulty to understand clinical research.

The correlation between educational achievement and income may provide insight. With lower education, patients may have a weaker understanding of the medical profession and clinical research. The lack of understanding may also cause the mistrust.

This study has possible future directions. Using the knowledge that minorities and low-income patients face these two barriers, interventions can be developed. Utilizing research professionals with cultural and language similarities as the patient and utilizing simplified literature to explain the research are possible changes to help overcome the barriers low-income and minority patients face.

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