

Connection Between Education and Relationship with Doctor in Female Clinical Research Participation: A Multi-Center Study Investigating the Factors that Influence Female Participation in Clinical Research

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Connection Between Education and Relationship with Doctor in Female Clinical Research Participation

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A Multi-Center Study Investigating the Factors that Influence Female Participation in Clinical Research

INTRODUCTION

- Women are underrepresented in clinical research due to barriers faced in enrolling.^{1,2,3}
- This study aims to determine some lesser-recognized factors and barriers influential in women's decisions to participate (or not), specifically relationship with and trust (or distrust) of doctors.
- Research questions:
 - Does education level influence importance of relationship and trust?
 - Do women who participate in clinical research rank these factors as more important than those who don't?

METHODS

Write survey to determine what factors most influence women's participation in clinical research

Obtain and maintain IRB approval; translate surveys into Spanish and Chinese (Traditional and Simplified)

Give surveys to consenting women meeting eligibility requirements in Center for Women's Health

Maintain a screening log to record gender, language of survey and consent, and age eligibility

Collect 400 surveys and enter raw data into password-protected Excel file

Analyze data using Excel and use results to implement improvement in female participation in clinical research

RESULTS

Numerical Value	Descriptive education level	n
1	8th grade or less	5
2	Some high school, did not graduate	53
3	High school graduate or GED	132
4	Some college or 2 year degree	130
5	4-year college graduate	21
6	More than a 4-year college degree	5
7	Masters degree	6
8	Professional degree	4
9	Doctoral degree	0

Table 1. Number of responses by education levels with numerical values. Participants were asked to choose their highest level of education. n represents number of responses.

	Relationship	Distrust
1-3	2.516	2.047
4-8	2.446	2.181
t value	0.604	0.392
p value	0.547	0.696

1). For levels 1-3 n=190. For levels 4-8 n=166. Means (by education level) compared with student t-test.

Table 3. Mean education and relationship/trust rankings by past participation in clinical research. Means (yes vs. no) compared using student t-test.

	Education	Relationship	Distrust
Yes	2.167	1.833	3.889
No	2.492	2.131	3.450
t value	0.278	0.306	0.246
p value	0.785	0.764	0.809

Table 2. Mean rankings for "my relationship with my doctor" and "my distrust of my doctor" on a scale from 0-4. Values averaged by education level (see table

DISCUSSION

- There was not found a statistically significant difference in mean scores for "relationship" and "distrust" between education tiers. There was also no statistically significant difference in these values between those who had and had not participated in clinical research.
- Results suggest that different factors, including those surveyed, have more impact on trust and participation.
- Education may impact other aspects studied.

OUTCOMES AND FUTURE PLANS

- Continuation of the study aims to determine which factors MOST influence women's decisions to participate in clinical research
- These results, along with future study results, can be used to implement changes in approaching women to participate in clinical research
- Increased female participation in clinical research will improve health outcomes for women and give research a wider range of application

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