## Increasing Black patient participation in metastatic breast cancer clinical trials: The BECOME (Black Experience of Clinical Trials and Opportunities for Meaningful Engagement) project

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- Among U.S. racial/ethnic groups, Black people with breast cancer
- have the highest death rate and shortest survival
- Although about 15% of cancer patients in the U.S. are Black, only 4-6% of clinical trial participants are Black
- Only when trial participants reflect the diversity of the general population
- can oncologists understand how a drug works across subpopulations
- Understand barriers to trial participation for Black patients with
- metastatic breast cancer (MBC)
- Identify actions to increase participation

- Conducted web-based survey (with a paper-based option) of U.S. adults living with MBC, following a literature review and Key Informant interviews
- Survey participants were recruited through social media posts and emails—from the MBCA, MBCA members, subcommittee members and ambassadors—to people connected with cancer communities
- The chi-squared test and multivariate methods were used to compare Black and non-Black respondents
- p < 0.01 was considered statistically significant to reduce false positives due to multiple tests being run

### Demographics

	Black	Non-Black
Race, self-identified, n	102	322
Age, %		
25-44 years	29%	20%
45-54 years	33%	29%
55-64 years	26%	27%
65+ years	11%	24%
Education, %		
High school or less	8%	10%
Associate/technical degree; Some college	27%	22%
Bachelor's degree	24%	27%
Postgraduate courses/degree	37%	38%
Prefer not to answer	4%	3%
Household income, %		
< \$49,999	30%	21%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	29%	29%
> \$100,000	21%	32%
Prefer not to answer	20%	18%
Type of insurance, %		
Private insurance (employer-provided or individual)	42%	59%
Medicare + supplemental	22%	30%
Medicaid; Other Government; Medicare only	25%	7%
Other; None; Prefer not to say	11%	4%
Oncologist affiliated with university or academic medical		
system, %		
Yes	59%	60%
No	18%	27%
Unsure	24%	12%

### Limitations

- Respondents in this survey tended to be highly educated people living primarily in urban settings with high socioeconomic status and access to social media. • Survey topic and web-based recruitment from people connected to cancer communities may have resulted in sample selection biases.
- Clinical information was based on patient self-reporting without validation.

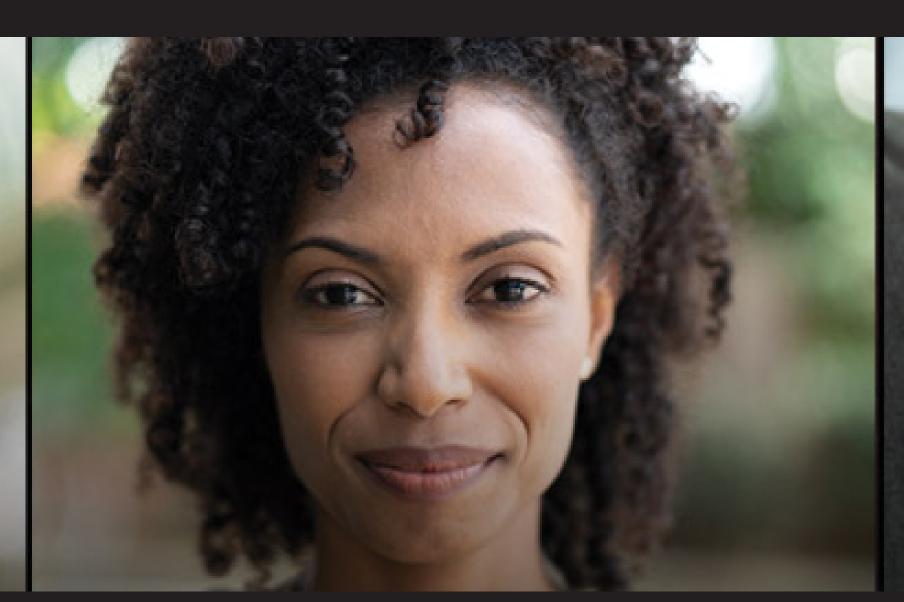
### Acknowledgements

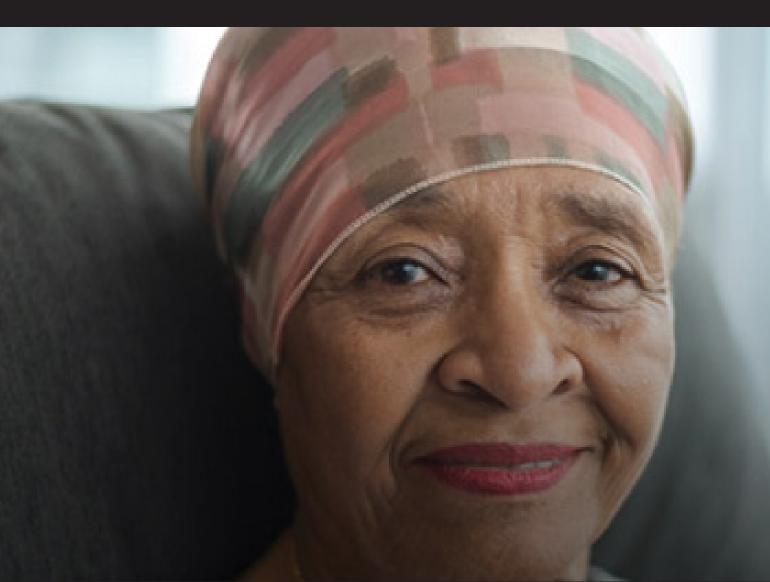
- The Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance (MBCA) is grateful to the many MBCA member organizations and individuals who participated in the BECOME project
- and to the people who participated in the interviews and survey.
- The authors thank BECOME subcommittee members; leadership team members Janine Guglielmino (Living Beyond Breast Cancer) and
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Patient-led research found 8 out of 10 Black people living with metastatic breast cancer would consider participating in clinical trials.









# ACTIONS >>>



Better Inform>

ONLY

Receive as much information as desired

Metastatic Breast Cancer



Inspire Trust

Want information from person with same racial or ethnic identity



Ensure Access>

Have difficulty finding trials



Address Concerns>

ONLY

Believe treatment will be fair and equal

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## ACTIONS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION



Black patients want to know about and would consider clinical trials but lack information.

92% Interested in learning about clinical trials

83% Somewhat or very likely to consider participating

**BUT...** 

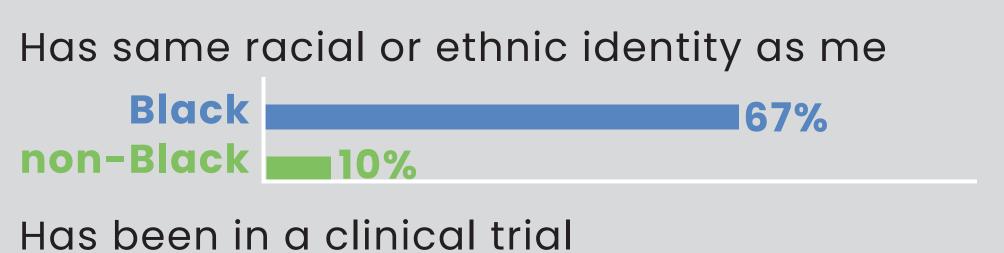
54% Aware of MBC clinical trials happening

non-Black

Receive as much information as desired from oncologist and care team



Black patients were more likely than non-Black patients to want to learn about clinical trials from someone with shared experience.





Ensure Access

Black patients considered the following to be important barriers to clinical trial participation:

Logistics

47% 40%

Too many of travel time appointments and tests

Finding Trials

Difficulty finding trials Expense

73% 56% 51%

Centers that run Financial I worry there trials don't take burden may be extra medical costs my insurance

# Address Concerns

Communicate clearly about issues that worry Black patients and reasons that motivate their willingness to participate in clinical trials.

Black patients are *less likely* than non-Black patients to trust that people of all races and ethnicities get fair and equal treatment in trials



Black patients are more likely than non-Black patients to believe unstudied treatments may be harmful

A compelling motivation for Black patients to participate in clinical trials was to "ensure people" with my racial or ethnic identity will benefit" non-Black

Common worries (non-significant difference) Side effects

non-Black Effectiveness of trial drugs

non-Black

## **NEXT STEPS**

All stakeholders have a role to play

- Expand survey respondent base. In future studies, investigators hope to reach a broader group to more fully represent the Black patient experience.
- Share results and develop strategies. Members of the BECOME initiative will meet with other groups who have recently performed surveys focused on Black women and men with breast cancer to share results and identify strategies to improve care.
- Increase Black patient enrollment in clinical trials. Activities could include improved patient education, training healthcare providers on effective patient communication, and helping patients find and access clinical trials.

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