



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
CANCER CENTER

Arizona Clinical Trials
Network

Arizona Clinical Trials Network (ACTN)

Advancing Healthcare Through Collaborative Research

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NCI Comprehensive
Cancer Center

A Cancer Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute

Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui.

Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.



Agenda

1. Background on Health, Cancer, Rural, and Clinical Trial Disparities
2. UACC Community efforts to define the Clinical Trial gap and unmet needs
3. UACC initiative to provide Access to Clinical Trials through the ACTN

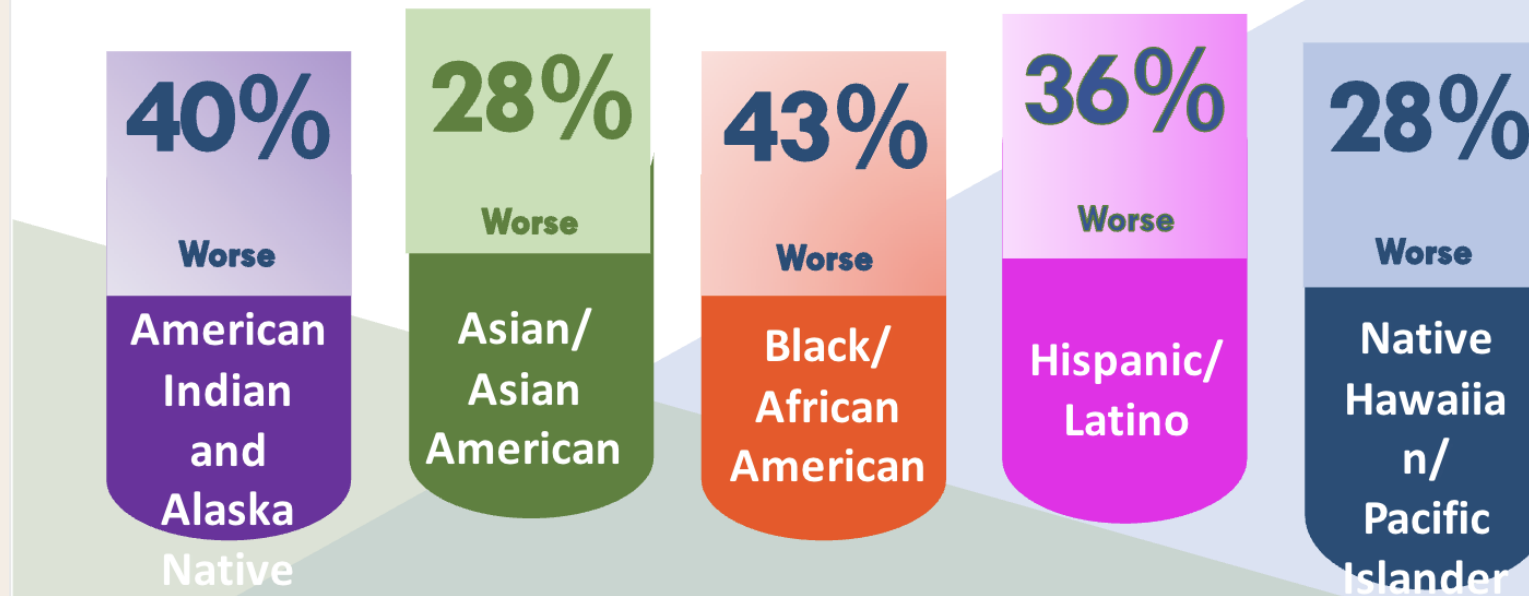


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Health Disparities

Worse Health Outcomes for Minoritized Racial and Ethnic Groups



2021 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; December 2021. AHRQ Pub. No. 21(22)-0054-EF.

@DrCHWilkins



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AACR: US Cancer Disparities 2024

HIGHEST
overall

Black people have the **highest overall cancer death rate** among all racial and ethnic groups.

Significantly
HIGHER

Incidence and **mortality rates** for stomach and liver cancers are **significantly higher in AI/AN, API, and Hispanic populations.**

21%
more likely

NHOPI women are 21 percent **more likely to die from breast cancer** compared to White women.

38%
more likely

Residents of rural counties are 38 percent **more likely to be diagnosed with and die from lung cancer**, compared to those living in large metropolitan or urban counties.



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Rural Disparities

LONGEST
times

Substantial
DELAYS



Residents in certain geographic locations, including rural areas, or of certain types of neighborhoods, such as those with low access to resources

CANCELED
appointments

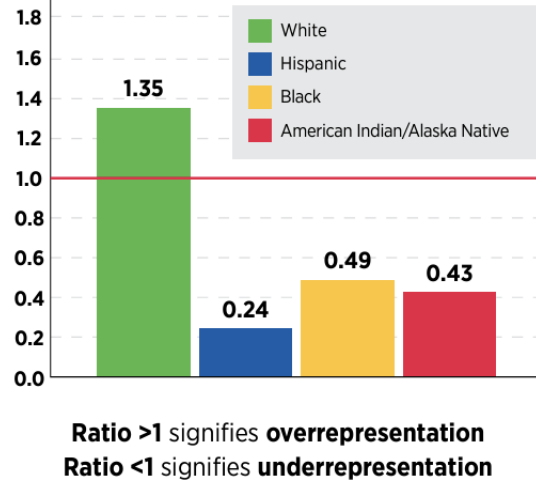


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Clinical Trials Disparities

In a recent **analysis of 93 precision oncology clinical trials** with 5,867 participants, **representation of racial and ethnic minorities** was calculated using the **ratio of the actual number of enrolled cases to the expected number of cases** based on their corresponding U.S. population (495).



CANCER TREATMENT

Of the **pivotal clinical trials** that supported FDA approvals of **82 novel therapeutics** during 2015–2021, **90 percent lacked adequate representation of Black patients**, and **73 percent** lacked adequate representation of **Hispanic/Latino patients**.

“The standard of care for cancer in the 21st century is to offer Clinical Trials.”

AACR Call for Action: Access to Clinical Trials

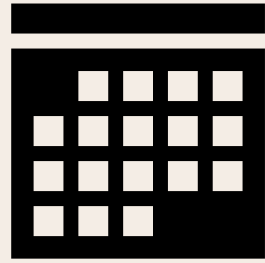


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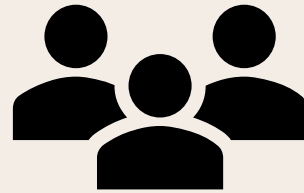
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Community Outreach and Engagement

- 1 Characterize and monitor the cancer burden and cancer related needs
- 2 Advance UACC research and clinical trials
- 3 Foster community partnerships and engagement with communities
- 4 Promote policy recommendations



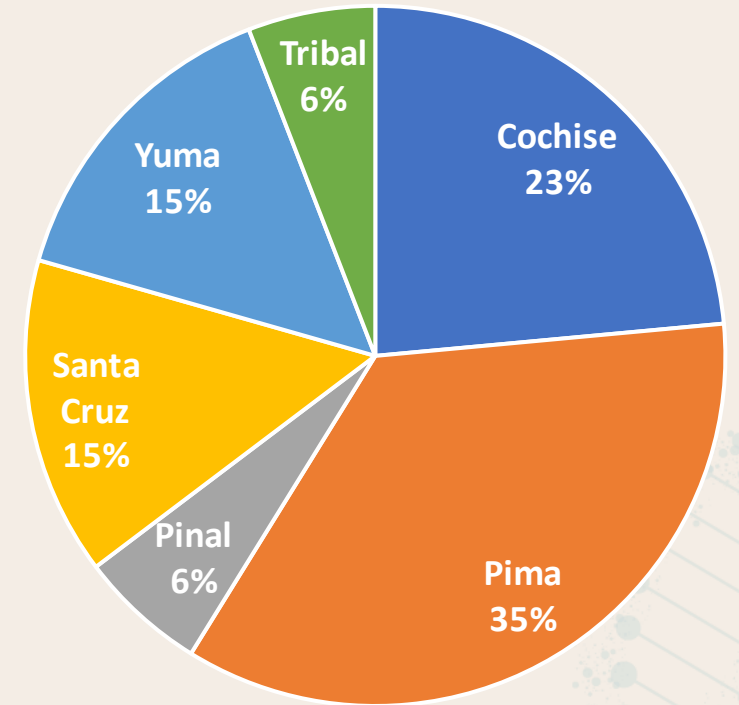
33
Events



2781 people
Engaged
(2023: 5216
people)



114.5 Event
Hours



Outreach Event Locations



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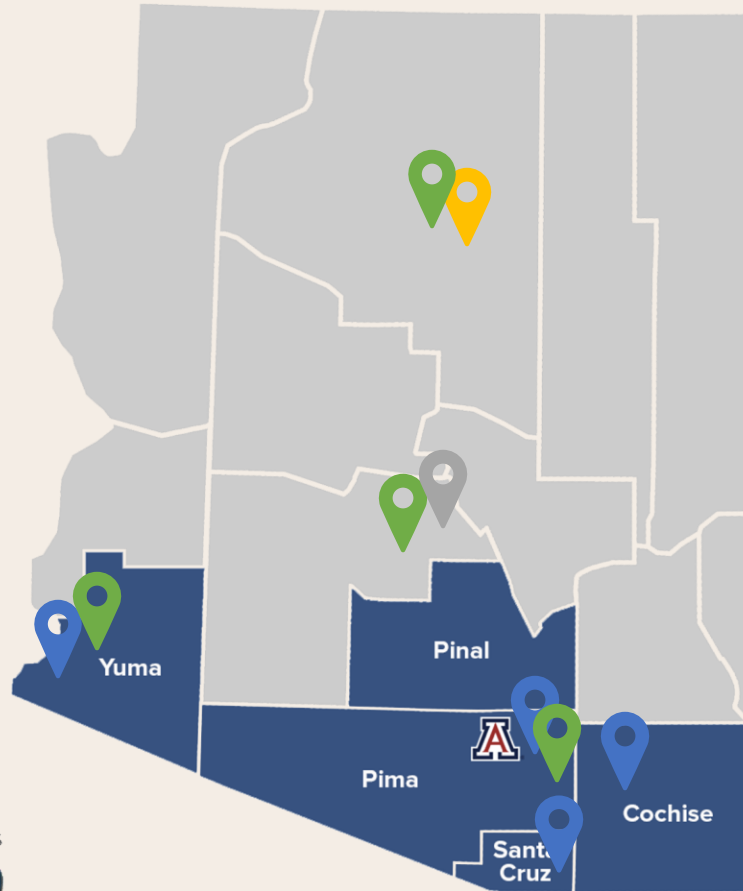
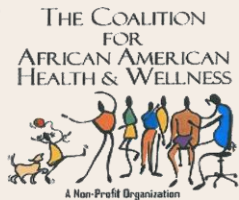
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Community Partnership

Northern Arizona



Southern Arizona



Statewide



Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
Native American
Research and Training Center

National / Beyond



CHICANOS
POR LA CAUSA



MÉXICO
CONSULADO EN TUCSON



Community Initiatives

BEYOND *Cancer*

- **Goal:** Develop & facilitate educational programming for cancer survivors
- **Activity:** Beyond Cancer Conferences to share resources with survivors/caregivers statewide



- **Goal:** Develop & facilitate informal conversations about cancer for community members
- **Activity:** Lunch and learns to share resources, education, and awareness with community members across the catchment area



ROSA
Research Outreach for
Southern Arizona

- **Goal:** Scientific cafes for community members to learn about ongoing UACC research
- **Activity:** UACC researchers and community members discuss, educate, and learn from each other across the catchment area.



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Community Assessment of Southern Arizona (CASA)

The survey was developed in alignment with the National Cancer Institute's charge for all comprehensive cancer centers to characterize their catchment area.



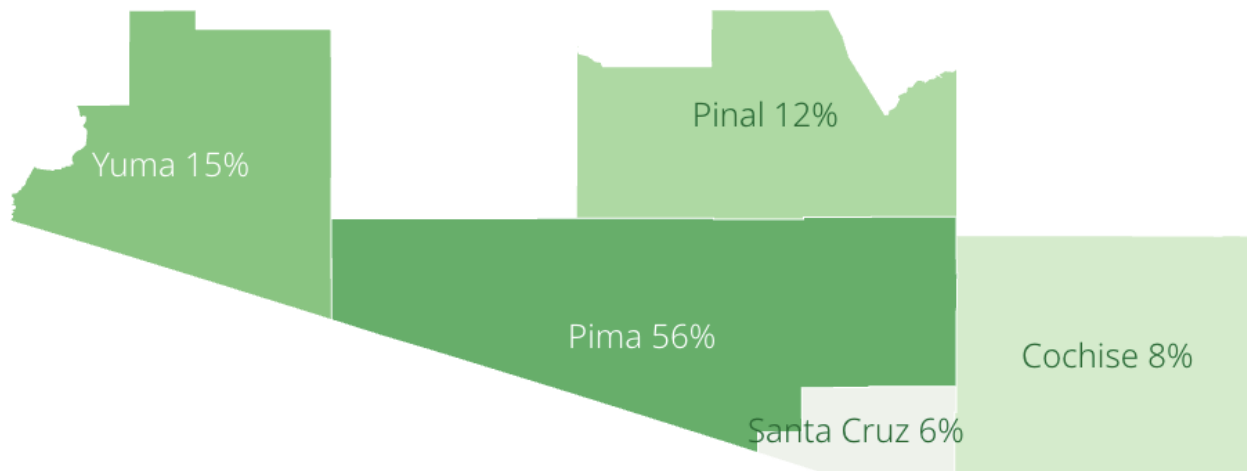
CASA
Community Assessment of
Southern Arizona

<https://public.domo.com/embed/pages/YvBD2>

Suggested Citation: Cruz, M., Centeno-Hall, T., Deshmukh, V., Yadav G., Mantina, N.M., Yellowhair, M. (2024, April 23). Community Assessment of Southern Arizona (CASA) Dashboard Tool. University of Arizona Cancer Center, Office of Community Outreach and Engagement

CASA: Demographics

CASA Survey Completions by County



Demographics

N = 1770

Age (mean)	49.86 yrs
Sex	
Female	1,218 (70%)
Male	520 (30%)
Race	
Non-Hispanic White	715 (42%)
Black or African American	78 (5%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	26 (1%)
Other	260 (15%)
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	866 (49%)
Non-Hispanic	883 (51%)
Education Level	
University Grad (4-year)	674 (39%)
College Grad (2-year)	208 (12%)
Some College (No Degree)	395 (23%)
HS Diploma or GED	336 (19%)
Grade 1-11	114 (7%)
Healthcare Coverage	
Insured	1557 (88%)
Uninsured	178 (10%)
Not Sure	27 (2%)



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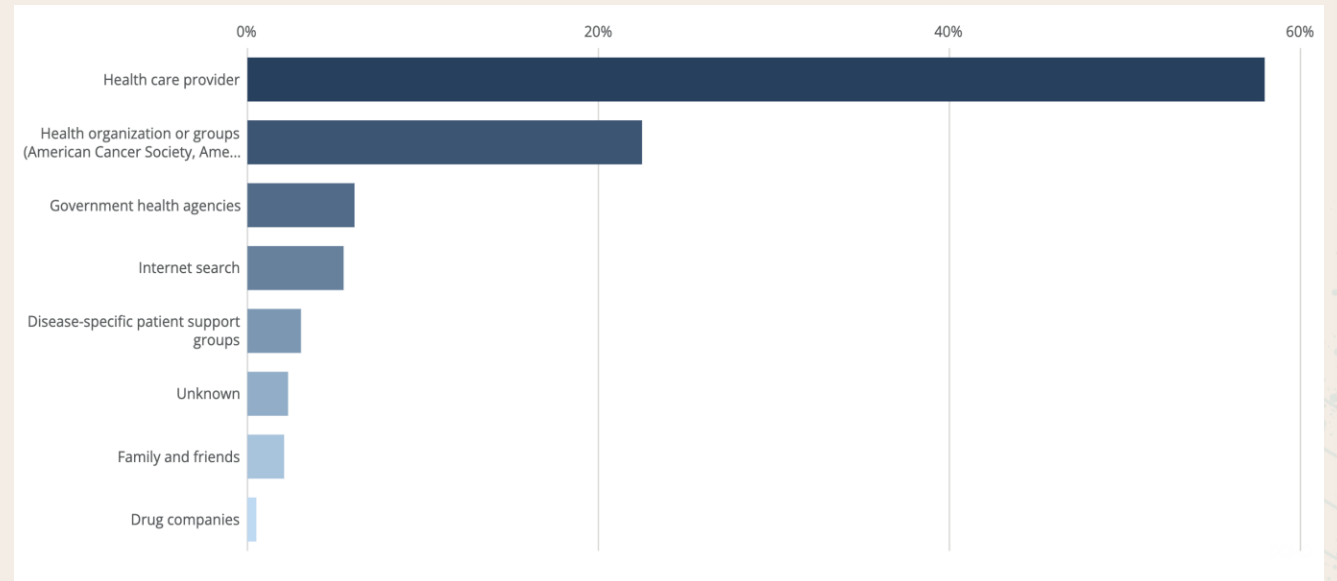
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CASA: Health Information Sources & Trust

Source

Health care provider	56.44%
Internet search	17.18%
Health organization or groups ...	15.25%
Government health agencies	4.35%
Disease-specific patient support groups	2.15%
Unknown	2.03%
Family and friends	1.81%
Drug companies	0.79%

Trust

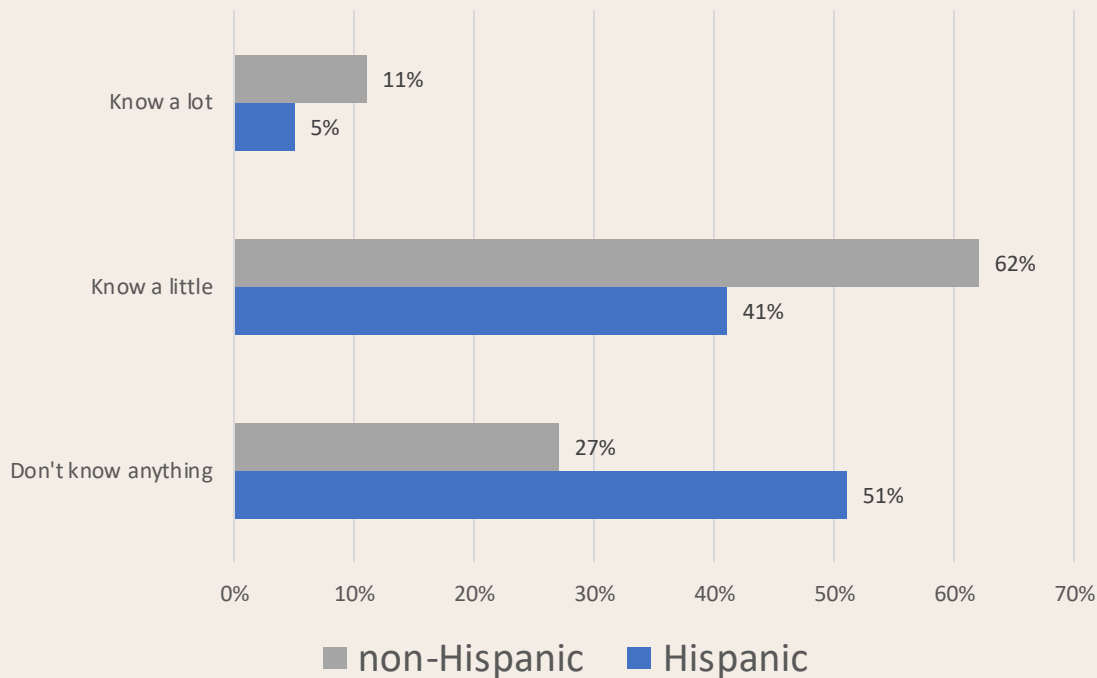


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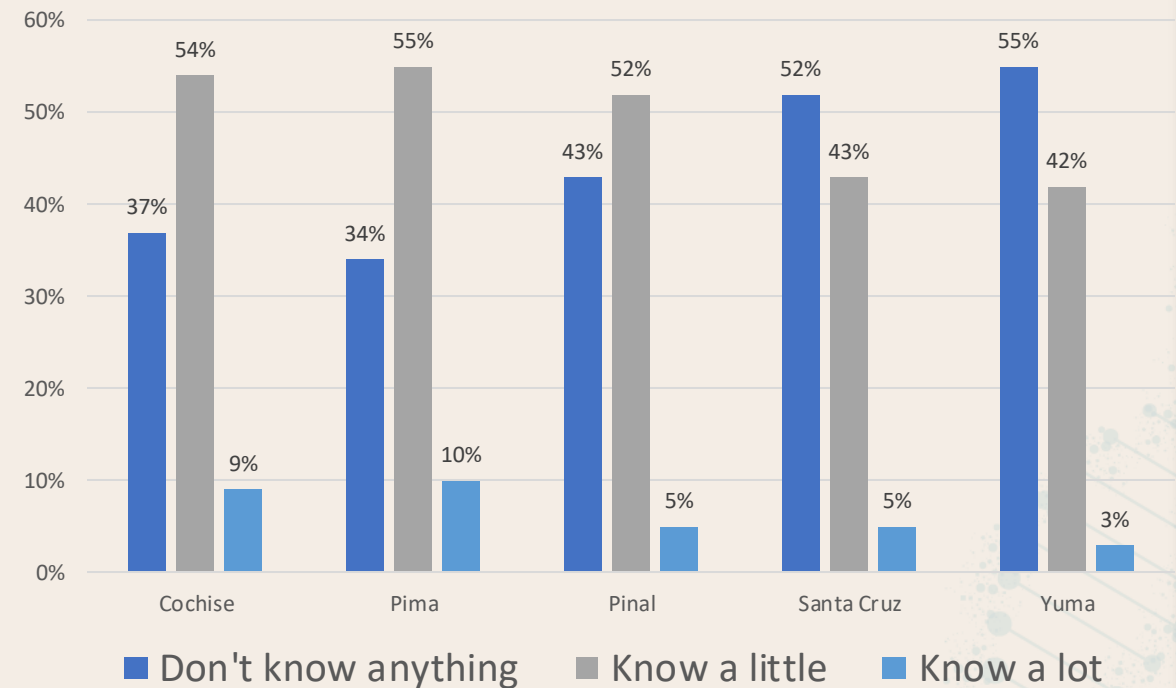
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CASA: Clinical Trial Knowledge

Clinical Trial Knowledge by Ethnicity



Clinical Trial Knowledge by County

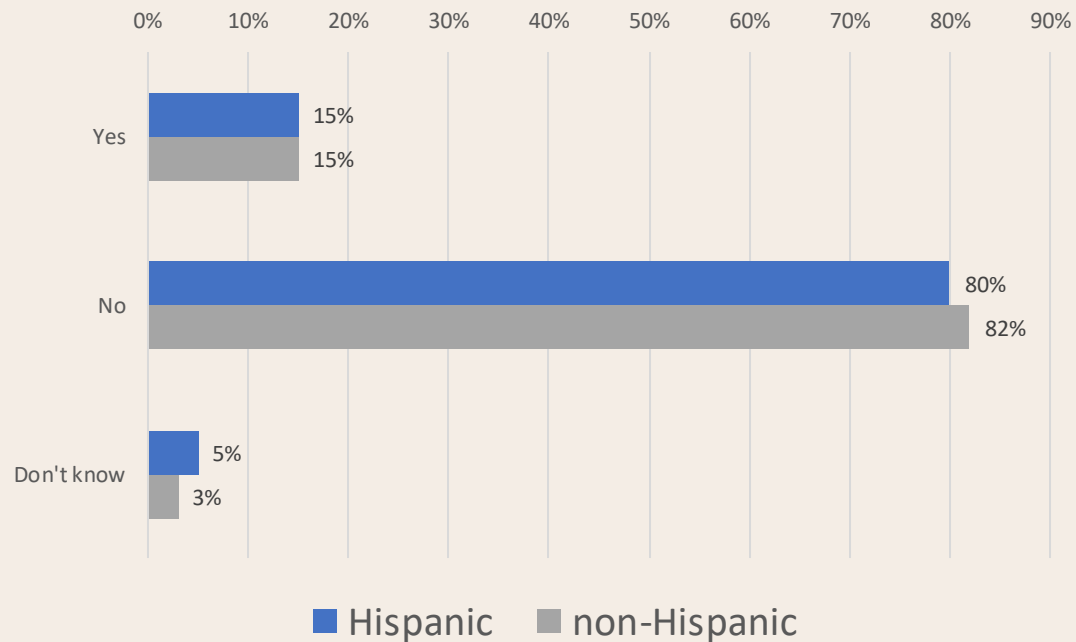


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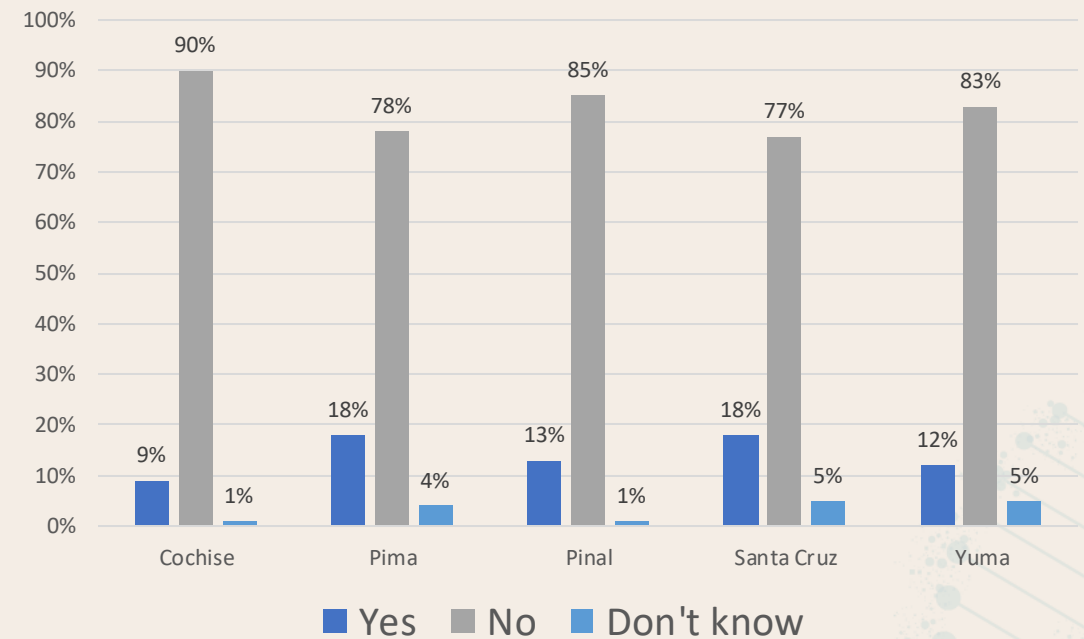
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CASA: Clinical Trial Participation

Clinical Trial Participation by Ethnicity



Clinical Trial Participation by County

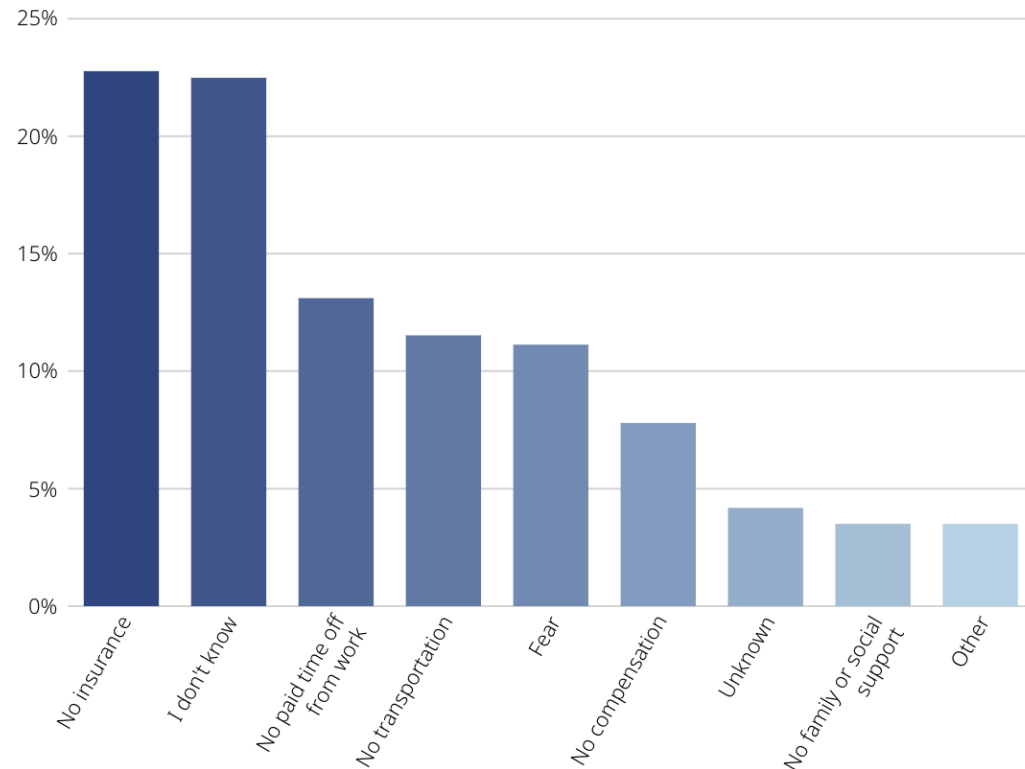


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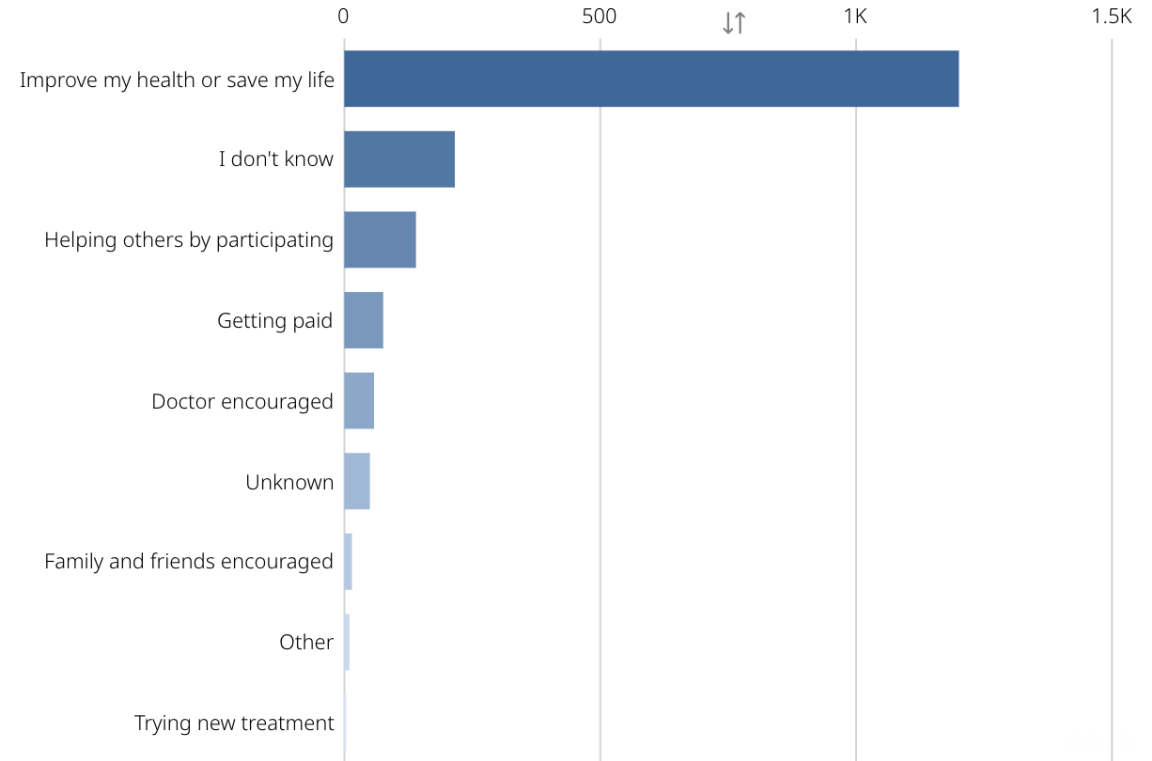
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CASA: Participation Barriers and Facilitators

Why wouldn't you participate in a clinical trial?



Why would you participate in a clinical trial?



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Providing access to UACC clinical research to underserved and underrepresented populations throughout the state of Arizona

NCI Comprehensive
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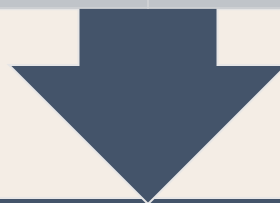
A Cancer Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute

BACKGROUND

The University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC) a National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Cancer Prevention and Control Program (CPCP)

Conduct numerous research studies spanning from prevention and across the cancer-care continuum

Reflective of all malignancies, treatment modalities, and stages of cancer.



Our catchment area is limited to the neighboring geographical regions where 90% of patients served by Banner Health-Tucson reside.

The five most southern counties in Arizona: Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yuma, and Cochise



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ARIZONA CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK (ACTN)

ACTN is a platform on which UACC can:

- Engage with oncology clinics across Arizona to participate in cutting-edge cancer research offered at the UACC through membership in the ACTN.

Engagement with these oncology clinics to:

- Expand the UACC catchment area
- Improve access to cancer research, particularly for underserved and underrepresented populations in rural and frontier communities.

Current focus:

- Hispanic & Native American research participation

Inclusion: Race and Ethnicity

Ethnicity or Race Category	Demographics for UACC Catchment Area 2020	Demographics for Persons Newly Diagnosed with Cancer in UACC Catchment Area 2020	Newly Registered UACC Patients 2022 (n=2766)	Interventional Treatment Accruals 2023 (number)/% n=195	Interventional Non-Treatment Accruals 2023 (number)/% n=336	Non-Interventional Accruals 2023 (number)/% n=2139
Ethnicity						
Hispanic	40.4%	15.9%	18.8%	(41) 21.0%	(86) 25.6%	(679) 31.7%
Non-Hispanic	59.6%	84.1%	80.1%	(150) 76.9%	(195) 58.0%	(1253) 58.6%
Unknown	0%	0%	1.1%	(4) 2.1%	(55) 16.4%	(207) 9.7%
Race						
White	86.7%	94.2%	91.2%	(179) 91.8%	(210) 62.5%	(707) 33.1%
Black/AA¹	3.6%	2.4%	2.6%	(4) 2.1%	(25) 7.4%	(26) 1.2%
AI/AN²	3.4%	2.1%	1.2%	0%	(3) 0.9%	(747) 34.9%
Asian	2.2%	1.3%	1.2%	(4) 2.1%	0%	(18) 0.84%
NHOPI³	0.2%		.07%	0%	0%	(3) 0.14%
Multi-racial	3.5%	0%	1.3%	0%	0%	0%
Unknown/Not Reported	0.4%		2.5%	(8) 4.0%	(98) 29.2%	(638) 29.8%

GAP

Most Arizona residents outside of Phoenix and Tucson (urban areas) receive healthcare services through regional hospitals throughout the state.

Many of these regional hospitals have limited access to clinical research for cancer patients.

Distance is a major logistical barrier to more advanced care and access to novel clinical trials.



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ACTN Goals

Provide access to UACC clinical trials across the state of Arizona



Make available a breadth of research and clinical trials at the sites



Provide cultural sensitivity training with the help of the UACC's Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) team to allow for network building with the various populations representing the state of Arizona



Increase accruals of underrepresented and underserved populations to UACC interventional treatment trials



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ACTN

The value for ACTN sites includes:

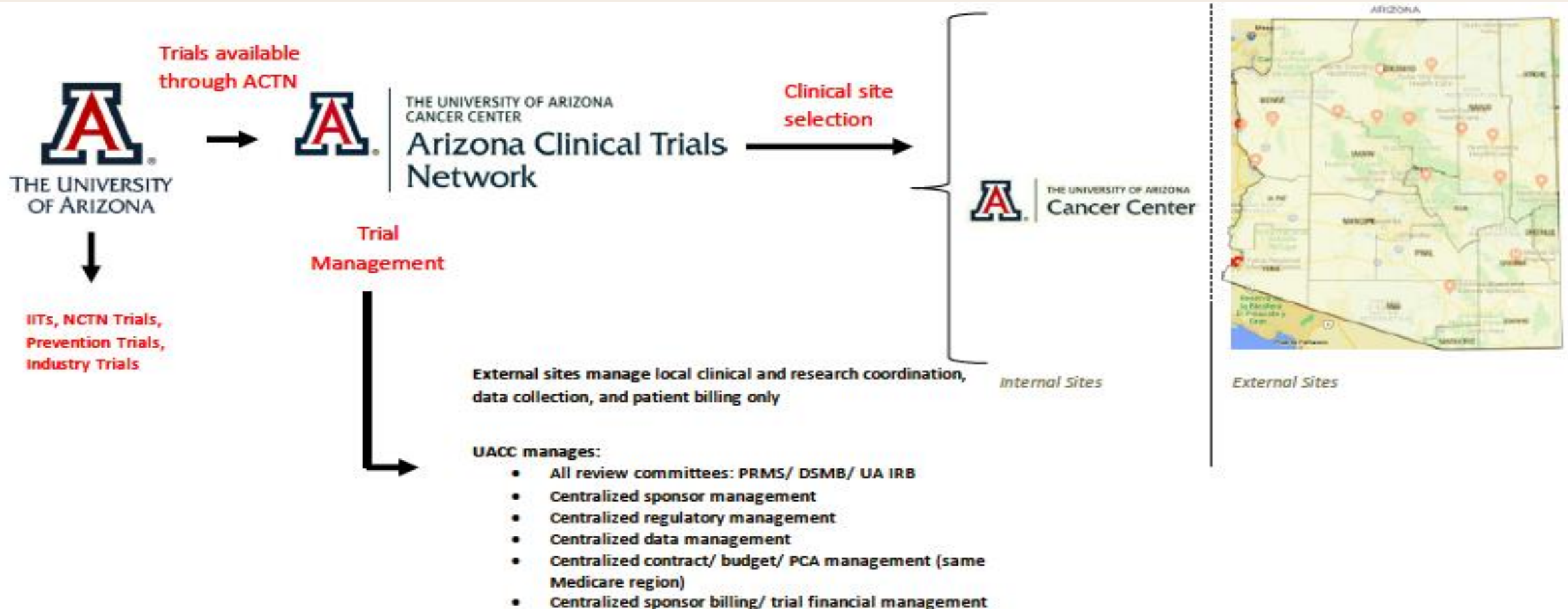
- Improve access to a breadth of cancer research from prevention and across the cancer-care continuum reflective of all malignancies, treatment modalities, and stages of cancer in their communities.
- Improve capacity for research at their sites by having the UACC provide the research infrastructure and trial management services.
- Enhance research portfolios at their sites and foster collaboration



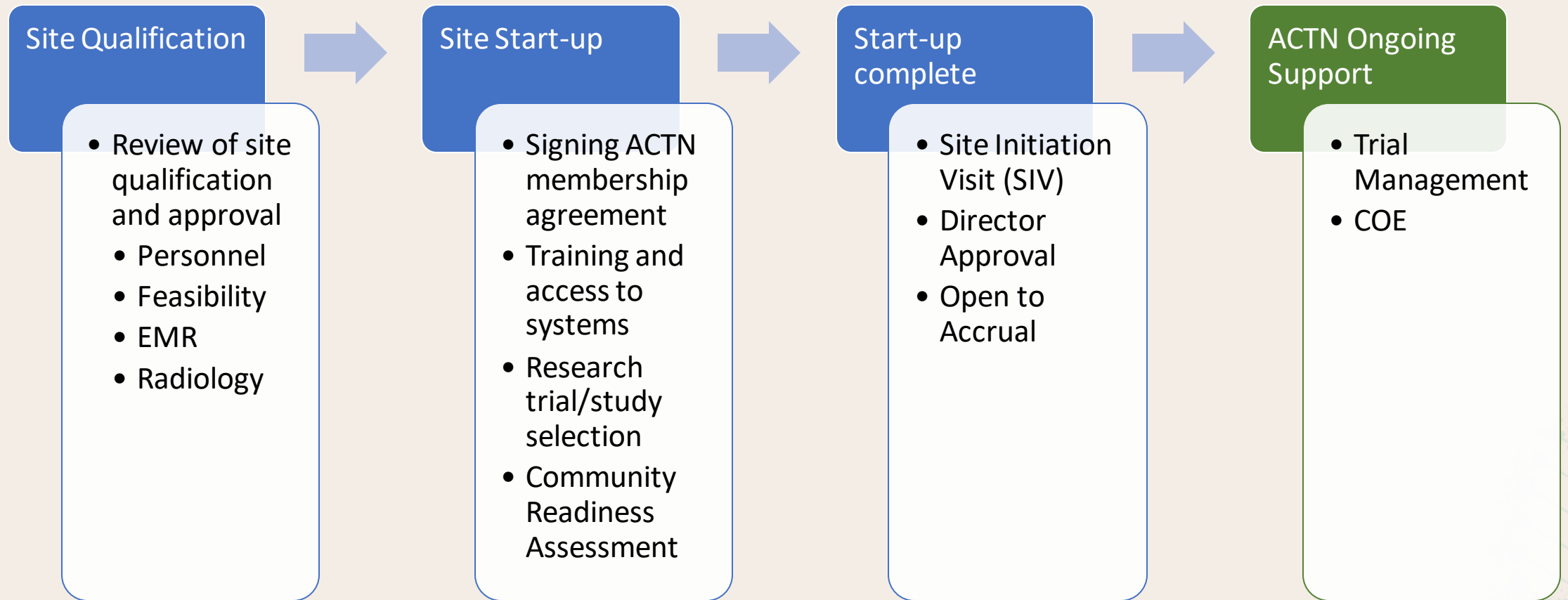
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ACTN DELINEATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES



ACTN SITE START-UP



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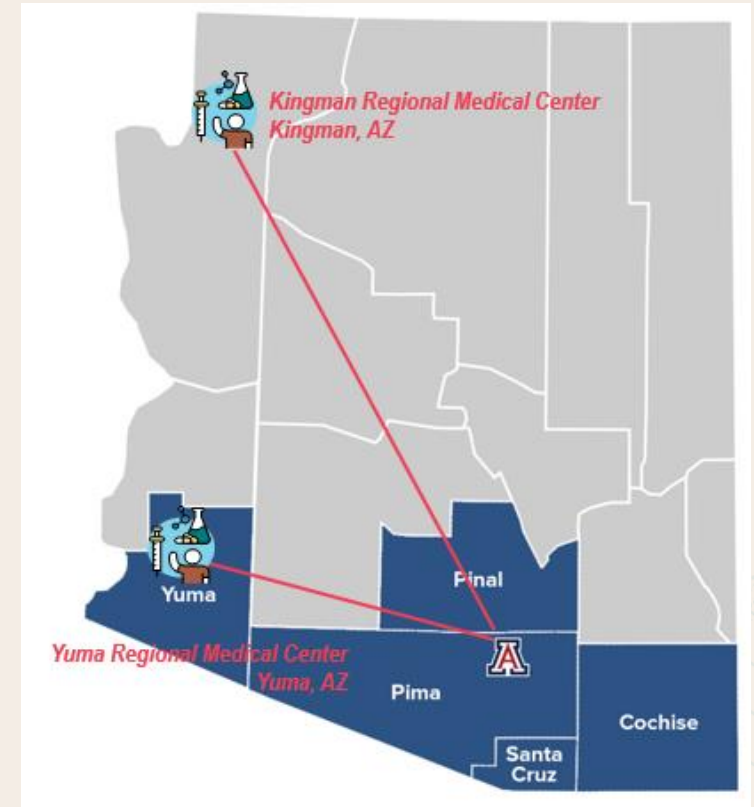
PROGRESS

Activated sites

Yuma Regional Medical Center

Kingman Regional Medical Center

More to come



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Interested? How do we get in contact?

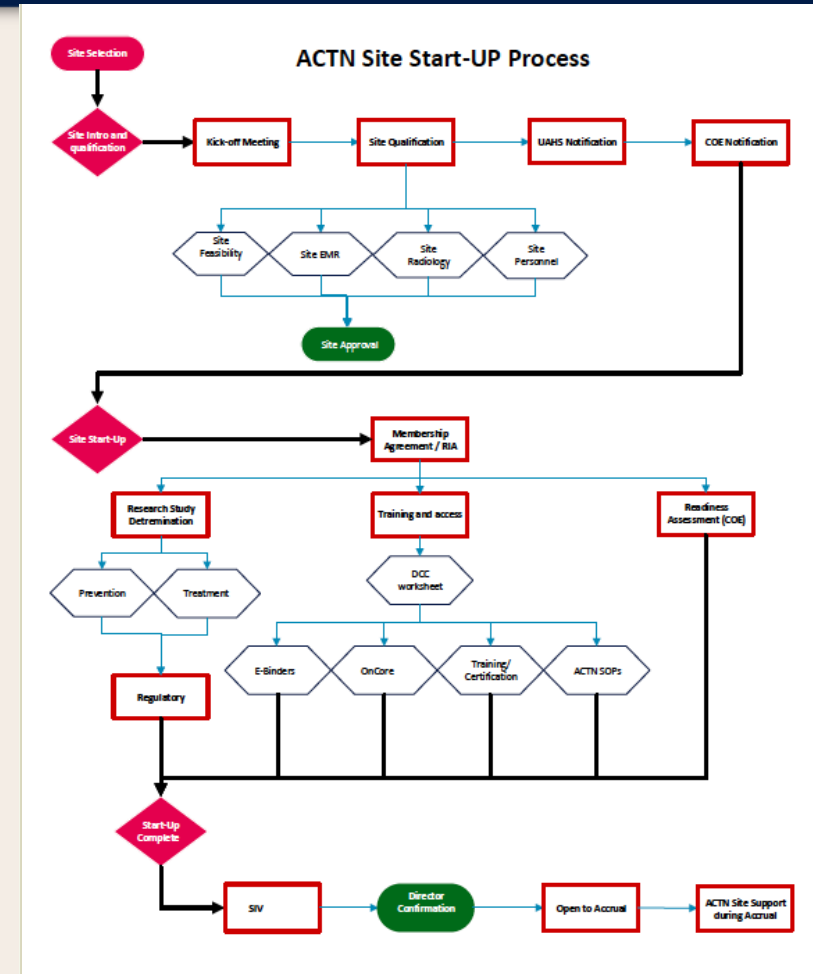
Reach out to ACTN Program Manager to set up a meeting to discuss interests with ACTN leadership team

- Linda Jepkoech Kimaru, PhD, MPH
- lkimaru@arizona.edu

Complete site qualification forms

Qualification forms will be reviewed

Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss the qualification and next steps



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Key Messages

1. Science and medicine have historical and ongoing roles in creating and maintaining systems that contribute to health inequities
2. Diversity and Representation of clinical trial participants alone will not address health inequities
3. To advance health equity, we must embed equity principles into clinical trial Design, Implementation, and Access to all patients

Questions

