

## Which ethnic groups should be in the trial and at what proportion?

Which ethnic groups should be in the trial?  
V1 13/3/2023 Trial Forge

Trial: PROTECT

Prostate cancer

PROTECT (prostate cancer) <https://www.isrctn.com/ISRCTN20141297>;  
<https://doi.org/10.3310/hta24370>

The panel noted:

- The panel did not make specific comments regarding the ethnic groups needed by the trial.

The panel concluded:

- The panel did not reach a conclusion with regard to particular percentages for different ethnic groups.

Where a panel cannot reach a conclusion, STRIDE suggests adopting the following default inclusion position:

- The minimum target for **inclusion of the specified ethnic groups should be at the same proportion as is found among the population of people with the condition targeted by the trial.** The proportion is dependent on the intended reach of the applicability of trial results. A trial intending national reach should aim for national ethnic proportions by disease. A trial with more local reach could aim for proportions in its local area.

Where **disease data by ethnicity do not exist, or cannot be obtained**, STRIDE suggests adopting the following default inclusion position:

- The minimum target for **inclusion of the specified ethnic groups should be at the same proportion as is found in the most recent census data.** The proportion is dependent on the intended reach of the applicability of trial results. A trial intending national reach should use national census data. A trial with more local reach could aim for census proportions in its local area.



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## General comments from the panel:

1. The lack of data to inform discussions about prostate cancer and ethnicity is a substantial problem.
2. Trial teams should compare the ethnic diversity of their trial population (i.e. those who take up the offer to take part in a trial) with those with the condition in the community more generally. They may be different.
3. The design of the trial needs to be discussed prior to the trial start with individuals who understand the perspectives, values and preferences of ethnic groups that need to be part of the trial. These discussions may need to be in languages other than English.
4. Discussions with individuals from different ethnic groups may need to include family members (partners particularly) who are often crucial in persuading men to seek medical help. Panel members mentioned the phrase 'toxic masculinity' as a barrier to seeking help, and family/partners can help to overcome this.

NB. Completed by Shaun Treweek, University of Aberdeen, based on a discussion with an external panel brought together for this purpose as part of the STRIDE project (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/hsru/what-we-do/research/projects/stride-supporting-recruitment-and-retention-improvements-for-diverse-ethnicities-283>). None of us was involved in this trial, we did not discuss the information below with the trial team.

Given the above, the information below may not be a proper reflection of what the trial team itself may have considered the ethnic groups needed by their trial. The information is therefore intended to be illustrative, not definitive.