

# Physicians' Perspective to Participation of Clinical Trials in Selected Areas in the Philippines: A Mixed-Method Study

Jinnessey Ai Kaye M. Young<sup>1</sup>, Juan Carlo D. Panlasigui<sup>1</sup>, Jan Andre Olivier T. Priela<sup>1</sup>,  
Tricia Ann G. Remo<sup>1</sup>, and Florence C. Navidad<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Technology Faculty of Pharmacy;

<sup>2</sup>Research Center for Social Sciences and Education, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines 3105

## INTRODUCTION

Clinical trials are a tool for evaluating new medical interventions on their effects on humans through voluntary participation (WHO, 2021). They encourage new approaches and provide information on the safety and efficacy of medical treatments (Bairu et al., 2014). The general public relies on the data collected by clinical trials to be approved for safe usage. (Lang et al., 2012)

## OBJECTIVES

The study aims to examine the awareness, benefits, and barriers of participating in clinical trials from the perspective of physicians in the Philippines.



## RESULTS

It was expressed that the three potential benefits in participating in clinical trials are as follows: medical innovation (83.2%), acquiring knowledge (82.2%), and better treatment of diseases (76.2%). As for the barriers, time involvement/commitment (69.3%) followed by limited funding or financial resources (53.5%) as the primary hindrance to participating in clinical trials. It was also shown that the participants with experience in clinical trials (28.7%) had higher mean value than those without regarding their awareness, attitude, and economic perception of clinical trials. However, the participants are convinced that investing in clinical trials should be a top priority as the positive impacts outweigh the economic impact.

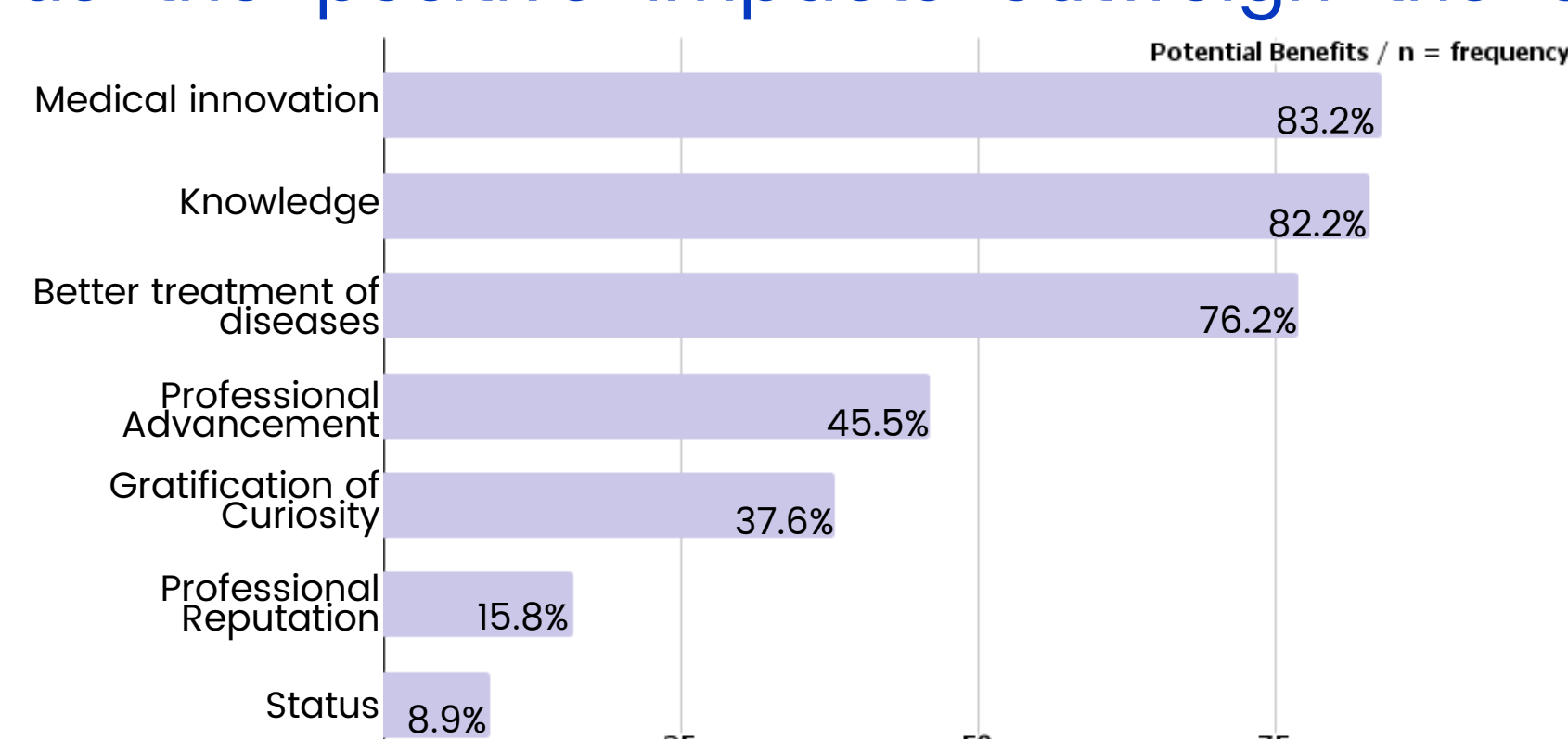


Table 1 displays the potential benefits gained in participating in clinical trials using frequency distribution. The participants expressed that the top three (3) potential benefits in clinical trials are medical innovation, acquiring knowledge, and better treatment of diseases (83.2 – 76.2%).

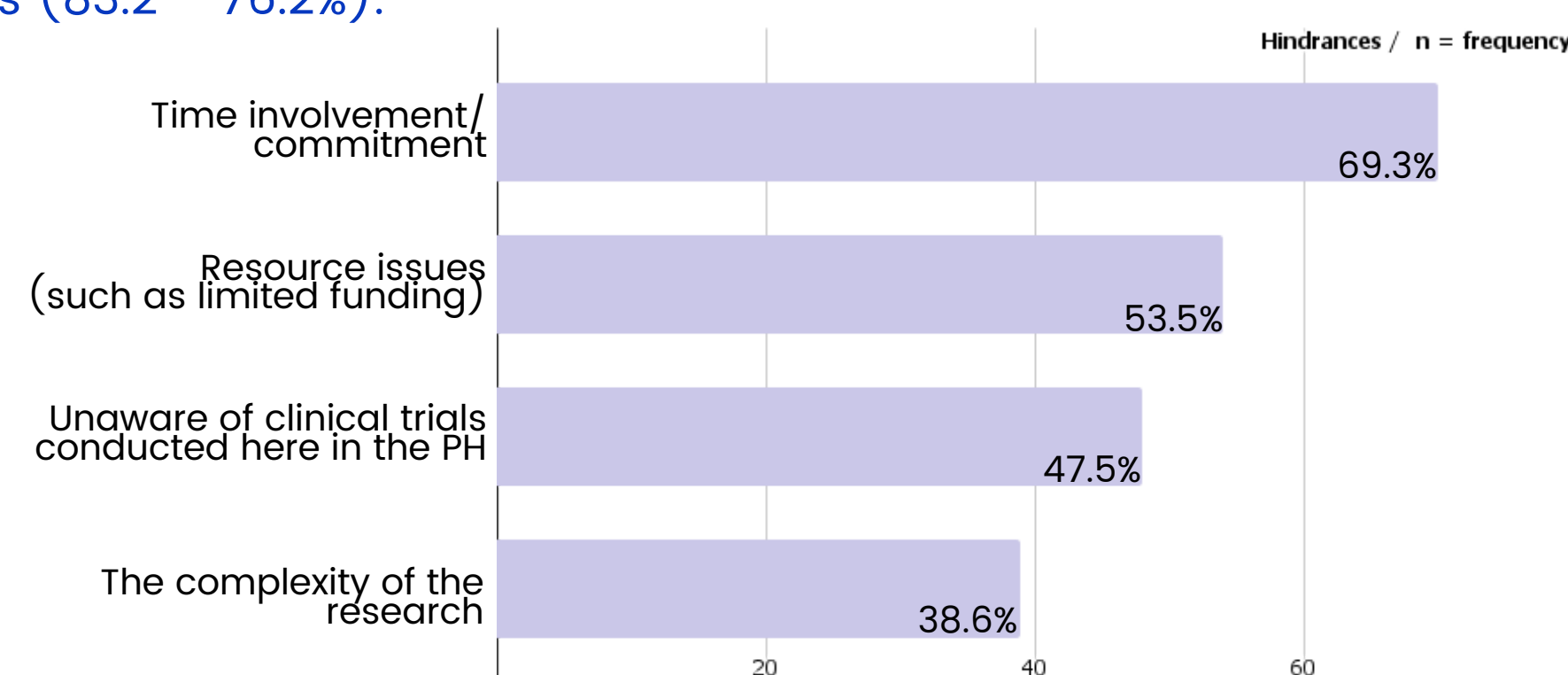


Table 2 displays the potential barriers from participating in clinical trials using frequency distribution. It shows that the primary hindrance in participating in clinical trials is time involvement or commitment followed by limited funding or financial resources.

	Experiences	Mean	SD	t(df)*	p-value
Awareness	With	2.676	0.398	3.566 (60.4)	0.001**
	Without	2.347	0.467		
Positive Impact	With	4.276	0.649	1.395 (52.1)	0.169
	Without	4.076	0.654		
Attitude	With	3.776	0.665	2.933 (45.2)	0.005**
	Without	3.364	0.567		
Economic	With	3.534	0.594	2.321 (48.5)	0.025**
	Without	3.237	0.551		

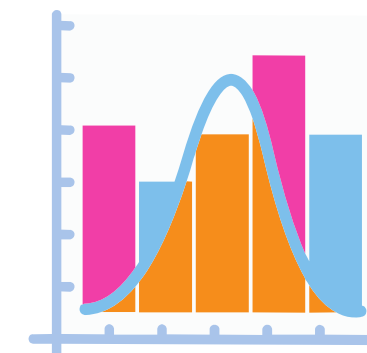
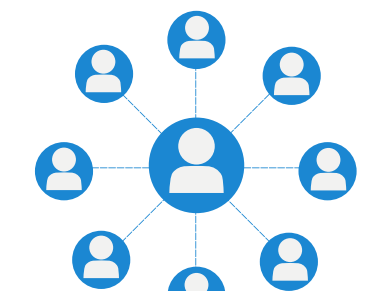
\*Levene's test for equality of variance not assumed  
\*\*p-value is significant at < 0.05

Table 3 displays the significant difference in the factors contributing to clinical trials between physicians with and without experiences in clinical trials using t-test independent. It shows that the participants with and without experiences were significantly different in their awareness, attitude, and economic perception towards clinical trials. The participants with experience in clinical trials had a higher mean value; hence they are more familiar with the conduct of clinical trials.

## METHODS



TAKE SURVEY



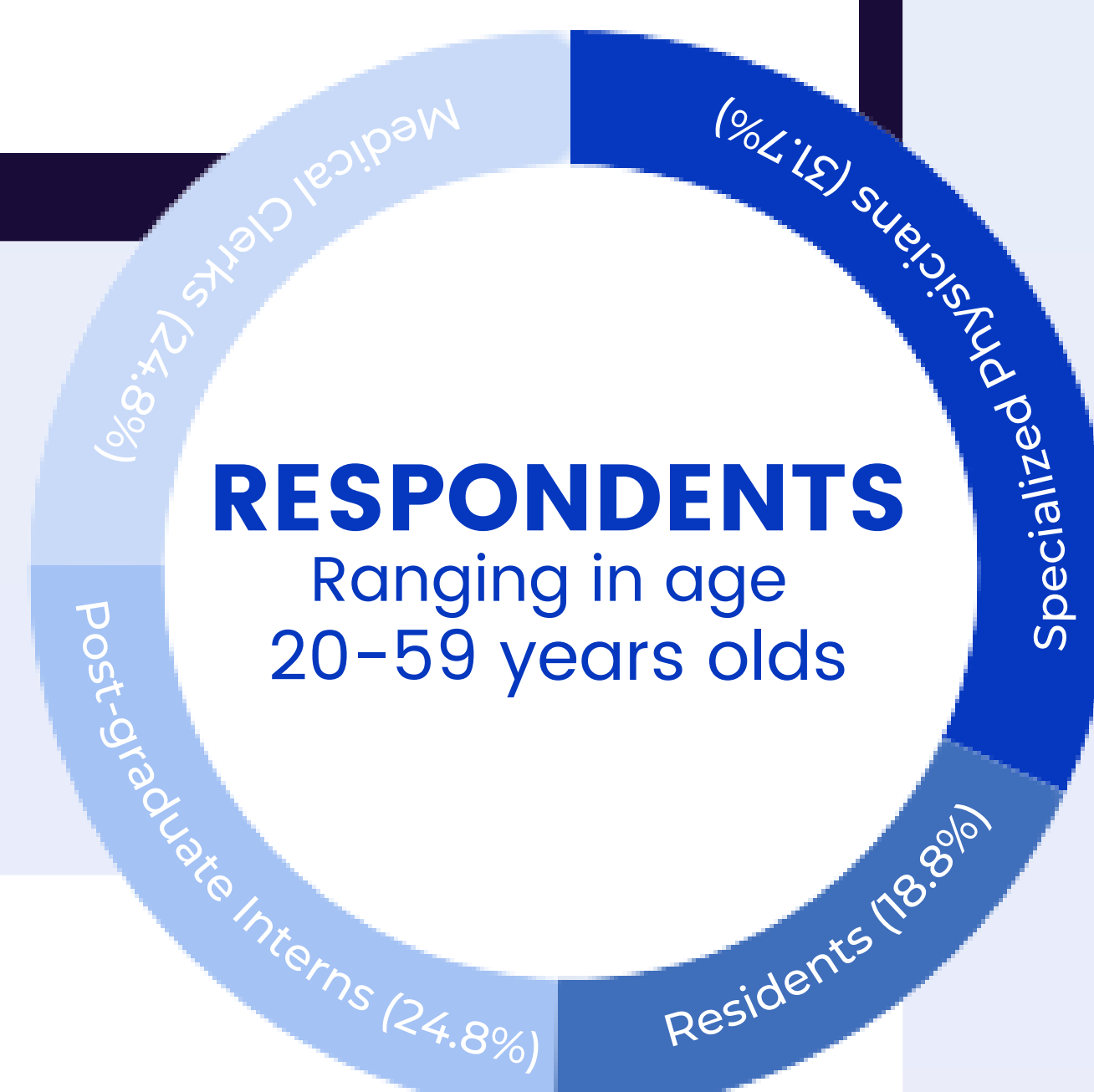
A mixed-method sequential explanatory study design following the health belief model was used for this study.

The questionnaire was distributed via an online platform, Google Forms for gathering data and was available in both English and Filipino languages.

The study utilized snowball technique in the recruitment process.

Responses from specialized physicians (31.7%), residents (18.8%), post-graduate interns (24.8%), and medical clerks (24.8%) ranging in age 20-59 years old from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao were collected and analyzed.

The data gathered was analyzed through measures of central tendency, relative frequency distribution, independent t-test, and one-way ANOVA.



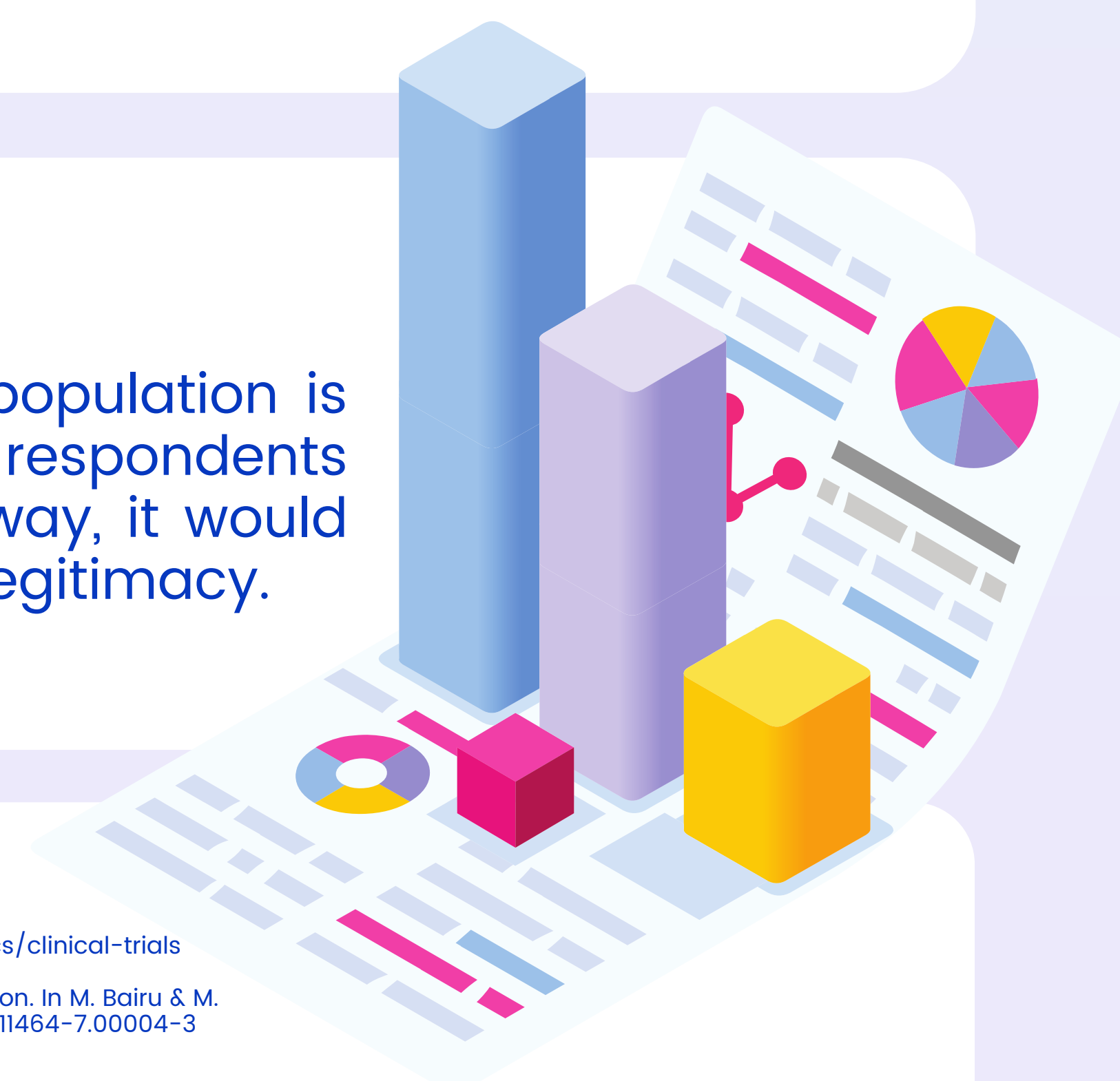
**RESPONDENTS**  
Ranging in age  
20-59 years olds

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our data show that the level of awareness on policies and regulations in actively participating in clinical trials in the Philippines is insufficient. Although it was shown in the results that there was a higher mean value for those with experience in participating in clinical trials than those without, all respondents with or without experience express that clinical trials need to be given priority since they entail medical innovation, acquiring knowledge, and better treatment for diseases. However, our survey suggests that the biggest barriers in conducting clinical trials are commitment and funding. Despite these, all of the respondents approve of clinical trials since they believe that the positive effects greatly outweigh the negative effects.

## RECOMMENDATION

Direct on-site intervention of the target participant population is suggested in order to further increase the number of respondents coming from different areas of the Philippines. This way, it would also help increase the confidence in the data and its legitimacy.



## REFERENCES

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