

POTENTIAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE PARTICIPATION OF FILIPINOS IN CLINICAL TRIALS

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INTRODUCTION

Clinical trials are performed on human volunteers to test new interventions, including their effects on human health [1]. It is important in the development of new medical treatments and the identification, diagnosis, and prevention of new diseases [2]. Individuals consider partaking in clinical research for altruistic reasons and personal benefit [3]. However, the presence of personal opinions also hinders people from joining clinical studies.

OBJECTIVES

The researchers aimed to conduct a study that will focus on the general population's perception of clinical trials in the Philippines.

METHODS

A mixed-method sequential explanatory design was used on the 224 collected data following the combined Behavioral, Social Cognitive, and Misinformation theories.

The survey questionnaires were deployed through google forms and virtual interviews was made. The respondents are 18-59 years old residing in the following areas: Manila, City - NCR; Dasmariñas, City - Luzon; Cebu, City - Visayas and Davao, City - Mindanao.

The statistical treatment that was employed for quantitative data analysis is descriptive and inferential statistics. The data was evaluated with the use of SPSS. ANOVA was also used for quantitative data. MAXQDA was used for qualitative data analysis.

RESULTS

Figure 1-3. displays the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents using frequency distribution. It shows that most of the respondents are female. Most of them are currently living in Luzon. Only a few (8.9%) participated in clinical trials.

	Experiences	Mean	SD	f (df=2,221)	p-value*
Awareness	With (n=20)	1.320	0.263	12.359	0.000
	Not sure (n=45)	1.751	0.377		
	Without (n=159)	1.721	0.354		
Likelihood of participating	With	1.691	0.369	2.444	0.089
	Not sure	1.945	0.710		
	Without	1.849	0.478		
Economic impact	With	2.052	0.555	0.454	0.636
	Not sure	2.001	0.560		
	Without	2.020	0.863		
Social Benefits	With	1.858	0.713	0.256	0.774
	Not sure	1.966	0.756		
	Without	1.949	0.756		
Possible risks	With	1.455	0.661	1.088	0.339
	Not sure	1.520	0.533		
	Without	1.548	0.562		
Barriers	With	1.534	0.564	2.761	0.065
	Not sure	2.060	0.855		
	Without	2.182	0.729		

*p-value is significant at <0.05

Table 1. Displays the significant difference in the awareness of clinical trials between Filipinos with and without experience in clinical trials using one-way ANOVA. It shows that the respondents have the same view on the likelihood of participating in clinical trials, economic impact, social benefits, possible risks, and barriers in Filipino's decision-making to clinical trials.

RESULTS

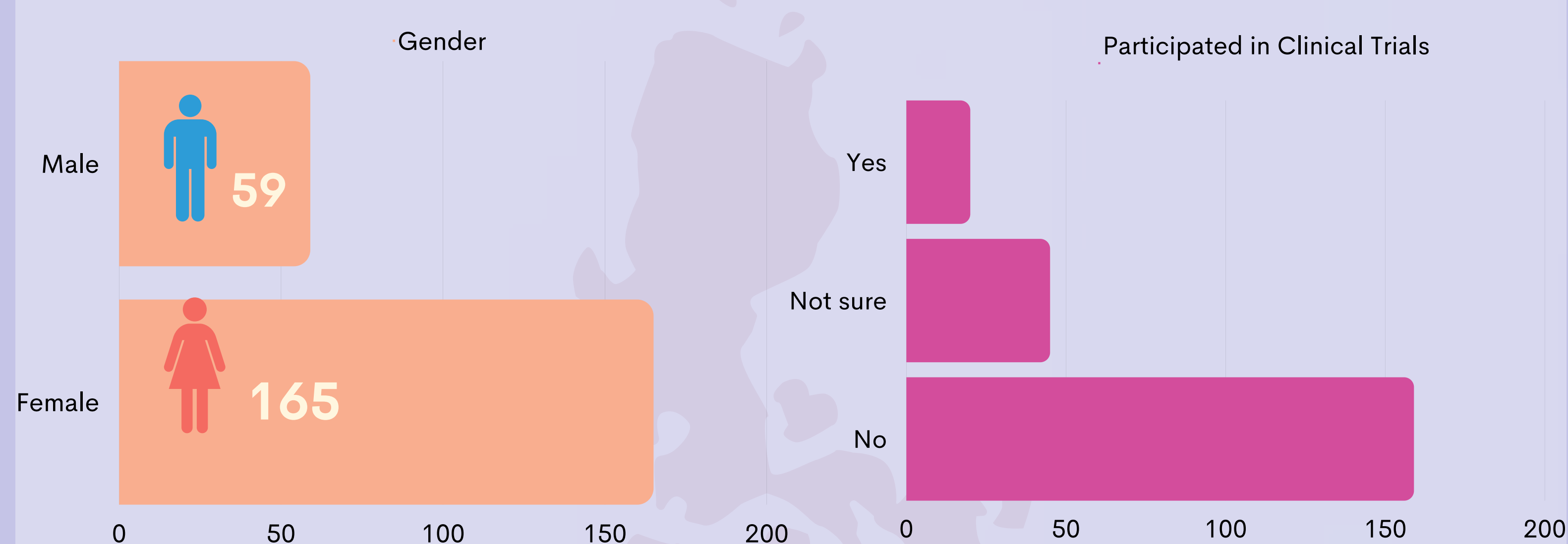


Figure 1. Gender

Figure 2. Clinical Trial Participation

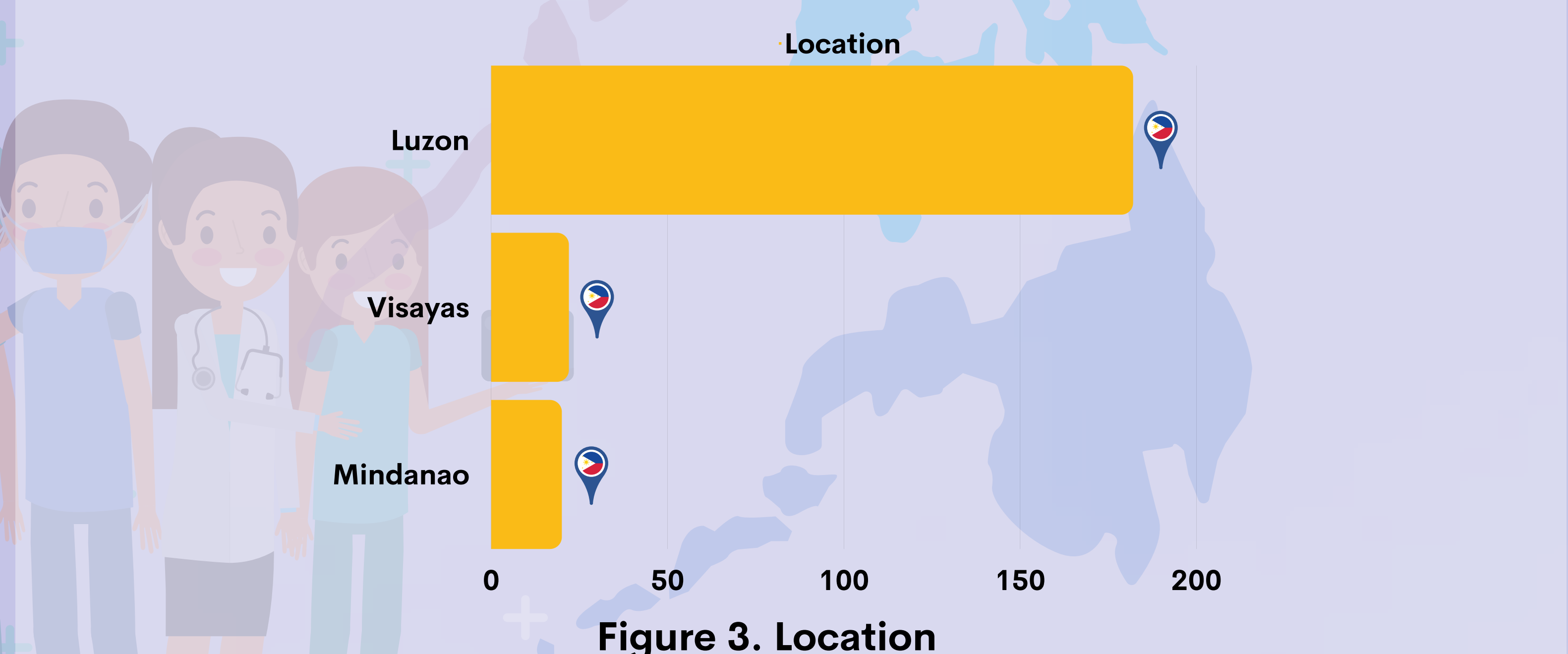


Figure 3. Location

CONCLUSION

Participants' experience in clinical trials was proportionate to their awareness. Filipinos perceived the lack of general information, the limitations of eligibility criteria, and the possible risks as hindrances towards clinical trial participation, resulting in lower participation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The researchers recommend having widespread literacy on the benefits and advancement of clinical trials.

REFERENCES

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