Building a Framework for Setting Enrollment Goals to Ensure Trial Participant Diversity: Insights & Challenges

Leo Russo Global Medical Epidemiology BIO Clinical Trial Diversity Roundtable January 31st, 2023



Situation: Pfizer needed a transparent and reproducible process for setting clinical trial diversity enrollment goals

Pfizer is committed to "racially and ethnically diverse participation in all of our trials."





Action: Built a framework using epidemiologic expertise and convened Advisory Board to evaluate, strengthen, and endorse.

Data Sources



- Limitations considered and addressed.
- Designed to address underrepresentation of historically underserved groups.
- Considers access to care, severity of disease/outcome, and type of trial.
- Compares race and ethnicity distributions of diseases population to general population
- Based on decisions embedded in the framework, enrollment goals are selected.



Result: A process that is scientifically rigorous, flexible, and based the disease epidemiology



* E.g., due to a biological factor.

1. Real world data refer to in-house, recent analyses of the demographic distribution of diseases targeted by Pfizer's medicines, from sources such as disease registries, surveys, electronic health records, and claims.

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Lessons learned: What went well & what were the challenges ?

- Framework endorsed as methodologically sound and ethical.
- Weighting of RWD to improve representation of disease populations.
- · Pfizer has solid foundation on which to build and enhance

- RWD sources vary in depth and reliability in capturing disease population.
- Missing values for race (11.9%) and ethnicity (12.5%) in RWD.
- Medical literature has potential biases that must be navigated.



Recommendations: What is needed to improve representation ?



- Broaden definition of diversity beyond race and ethnicity.
- Data providence and standardization for race and ethnicity variables.
- · Recruitment and retention of historically underserved groups .
- Enrollment levels that facilitates meaningful sub-group analyses

