

MEASURES OF TRUST AND WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Victoria Villalta-Gil¹, Jennifer C. Erves², Alecia Fair³, Jacquelyn Favours¹, Rowena Dolor², Duane Smoot²,
Consuelo H. Wilkins¹

1. Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, USA
2. Department of Internal Medicine, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, USA.
3. Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical Translational Research, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA
4. Duke Clinical Research Institute, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC

Background: Measures of trust in research exist, but no comparison between trust scales has yet been conducted. We aim to compare the validity and reliability of two trust scales and examine the relationship between trust and willingness to participate in research.

Methods: Adults (ages 18+ years) were randomly assigned to completed one of two surveys, which were identical other than including one of two scales assessing trust in medical research (1,2). The surveys also assessed willingness to participate in research and barriers to participation. We computed Cronbach's alpha to determine the internal consistency reliability of the trust scales and conducted linear regression models to assess predictors of willingness to participate.

Results: Cronbach's alphas for both trust scales were >0.8. Of 2,722 respondents, 1,335 participants were included in model A, Mainous trust scale ($R=0.340$, $F=34.66^{***}$), and 1,387 in model B, Hall trust scale ($R=0.282$, $F=29.81^{***}$). In both models, trust was the main predictor of willingness to participate (Mainous $\beta=-0.241$; Hall $\beta=-0.220$). In model A, age, income, and health numeracy and literacy were significant predictors. In model B, health numeracy and race were significant predictors. Post-hoc correlation analysis showed differential associations between each trust scale and the remaining variables.

Conclusions: Trust, regardless of measure, remains as the main predictor of willingness to participate in research. However the scales differ in affecting the weight that other variables, such as race, have in characterizing factors that predict willingness to participate in research.

References

1. Hall MA, Camacho F, Lawlor JS, DePuy V, Sugarman J, Weinfurt K. Measuring Trust in Medical Researchers. *Med Care*. 2006;44(11):1048–53.
2. Mainous AG, Smith DW, Geesey ME, Tilley BC. Development of a Measure to Assess Patient Trust in Medical Researchers. *Ann Fam Med*. 2006 May 1;4(3):247–52.