

CTN-POL-022	MINORITY PARTICIPATION ON CTN PROTOCOLS	Date Approved: Jan 02
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Purpose

The CTN has created the Minority Interest Group (MIG) to develop a strategic plan for the NIDA CTN on minority participation in clinical trials. According to NIH regulation, minority participants must be included in clinical trials. More importantly, however, the nation urgently needs information on what treatments may be effective with drug abusing minority individuals. Some minorities, such as African Americans and Hispanics, are over-represented in drug use and among drug abuse treatment clients.

Goals

The work of the MIG can be divided into two major areas:

Advocacy

- Increase minority participation at all levels of the CTN

Research

- Identify specific mechanisms to encourage culturally specific protocols applying empirically validated treatments to distinct minority groups.
- Develop secondary data analysis from existing CTN studies with large databases to examine the effect of treatments on distinct minority groups.
- Identify minority-group-specific measures of treatment outcome, psychiatric functioning and psychosocial adjustment for use in clinical trials

Policies

1. In review of new applicants to the CTN, it is recommended that NIDA give serious consideration to the culture and ethnic diversity of the proposed treatment populations. The purpose of this activity is to ensure that the treatment populations in CTPs throughout the CTN are proportionately representative of the minority populations in drug abuse treatment in the nation. In this way, new CTPs can be used to balance the overall cultural and ethnic diversity of populations throughout the CTN.
2. It is recommended that the Steering Committee examine periodically the relationship between the proportion of minorities proposed for accrual in a protocol and actual accrual. The intent is to ensure adequate minority representation in studies.