



JUST ASK 2020: Survey highlights

In November 2020, Cancer Trials Ireland contracted Spark Market Research to conduct nationally representative market research (see: Figure 2) into public attitudes and awareness of clinical trials, and associated matters. Elements of this research were benchmarked against a similar study conducted by IPPOSI (the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science & Industry) in 2009. You can [find that research here](#).

Below you will find highlights and a table of figures that lay out survey responses, tracking shifts where possible, over the past decade, and also comparing the overall totals against those who have direct or close experience of cancer.

This category, 'direct/close experience of cancer', comprises those people reporting a diagnosis themselves, or one among immediate family, and close friends. These figures are included for comparative purposes here only. Readers should not extrapolate these figures as a reliable representation of the incidence of cancer – please go to the [Irish Cancer Society](#) and the [National Cancer Registry of Ireland](#) for robust figures on the prevalence of cancer in Ireland. Bearing this caveat in mind:

- 6% reported a cancer diagnosis, rising to 8% in people aged 55-64, and 15% in people aged 65+
- 55% reported a close friend or family member with cancer
- Taken together, 59% of people in Ireland reported 'direct / close experience of cancer'

- **1 in 2 people in Ireland (48%) would participate in a clinical trial**
- **72% agree (and 27% strongly agree) that Clinical trials provide patients with access to treatments not otherwise available**
- **15% would participate in a trial to access treatments not otherwise available**
- **15% know someone who has taken part in a trial**
- **4% report having taken part in a trial themselves**

RESULTS ►



Prof Ray McDermott, Clinical Lead, Cancer Trials Ireland

It is very heartening to see such an acute understanding of the purpose of clinical trials among the public, because they are hitting the nail on the head – the number one reason doctors open clinical trials is to access the newest treatments for their patients.

Findings:

UNDERSTANDING	Shift	Total (2020)	IPPOSI (2009)	Direct/close exp. cancer
Do you understand the term Clinical/ Medical Trials?	+7%	80%	73%	84%
(Clinical trials are) Trials in which drugs/ medicines are tested on humans	+12%	72%	60%	72%
Agree clinical trials are a good idea		77%	77%	82%
Agree clinical trials undergo an 'ethical' review process	+8%	58%	50%	61%
Clinical trials have many safeguards in order to minimise risks		62%		66%
The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of clinical trials		73%		
Agree that clinical trials provide patients with access to treatments not otherwise available		72%	n/a	75%
Strongly agree that clinical trials provide patients with access to treatments not otherwise available		27%		30%

PARTICIPATION

Have taken part in a trial		4%		5%
Know someone who has taken part in a trial		15%		18%
Would be willing to participate in a clinical trial		48%	n/a	52%
would be willing to donate blood to be used for clinical research	+6%	76%	70%	82%
Would NOT be willing to donate blood for research	-9%	9%	18%	7%
would be willing to supply personal medical information for medical research if it is done in a confidential manner	+7%	72%	65%	79%
Would NOT be willing to supply personal medical info...	-8%	11%	19%	8%
Would participate in a trial if I was very ill myself	32%	70%	38%*	75%
Would participate in a non-drug trial		60%		66%
Would participate to get access to a new treatment for a disease before it is available to everyone		15%		16%

Sample:

1,001 people in Ireland taking an online survey in November 2020

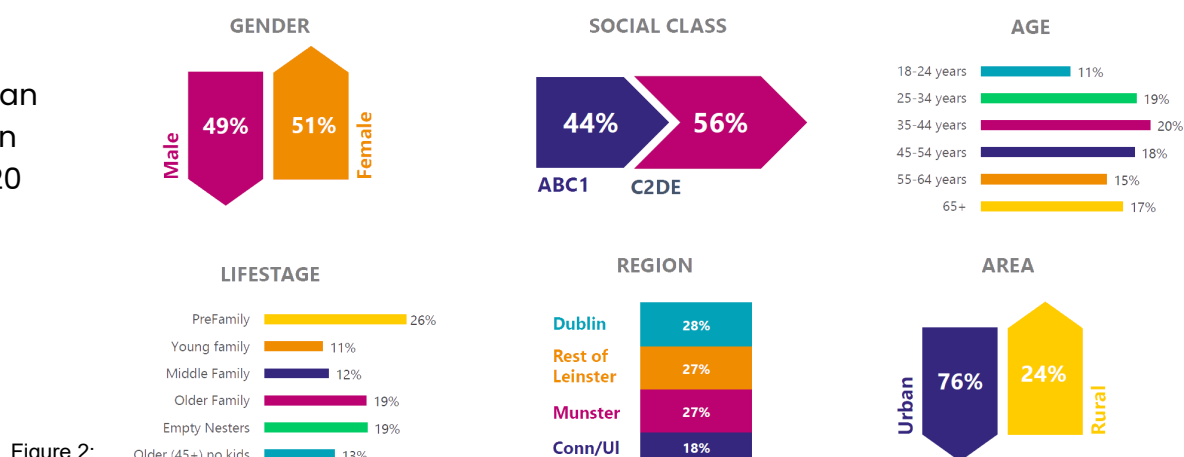


Figure 2: