

# Updates

## **ACT-Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Working group**

*Co-Chairs: Drs. Louise Pilote and Marie-Annick Clavel*

*Committee Members*

*Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr. Syamala Buragadda*

# Outline



IDEA Committee



Inclusive clinical trials



Phased Approach to Develop  
Resources for Inclusive Clinical Trials

Phase 1-Identifying Barriers and Facilitators

Phase 2- Scoping Review of Existing Toolkits

Phase 3- Reviewing Participant Diversity in Canadian Clinical Trials



Resources- key components of the toolkit

# ACT-IDEA Working Group Members

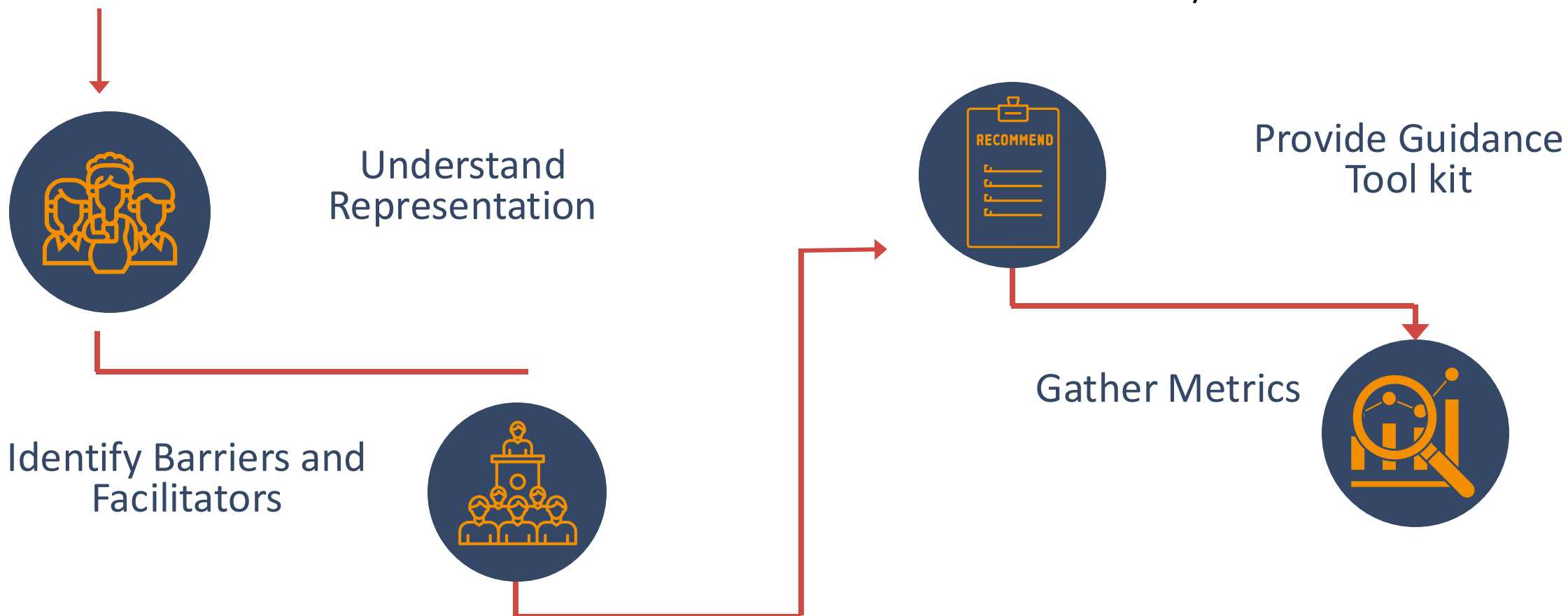
- Eva Friedman (ACT staff)

- Stuart Nicholls
- Diego Herrera
- Leanne Casaubon
- Julia Chehaiber
- David Collister
- Patricia Gongal
- Sarina Isenberg
- Alexandra King
- Patricia Li
- Heather Lochnan
- Manon Picard
- Courtney Pollock
- Amity Quinn
- Shannon Ruyzcki
- Shelley Zieroth



# ACT-IDEA Working Group Objectives

Contribute to the democratization of clinical trials by



# **Supporting Canadian Trialists**

## **Toolkit for Conducting Inclusive Clinical Trials**

# Inclusive Clinical Trials



More comprehensive data



Better health outcomes for marginalized communities



Effective healthcare interventions

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Phased Approach to Develop  
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**Phase 1-Identifying Barriers and Facilitators**



Resources- key components of the toolkit



# **Phase 1**

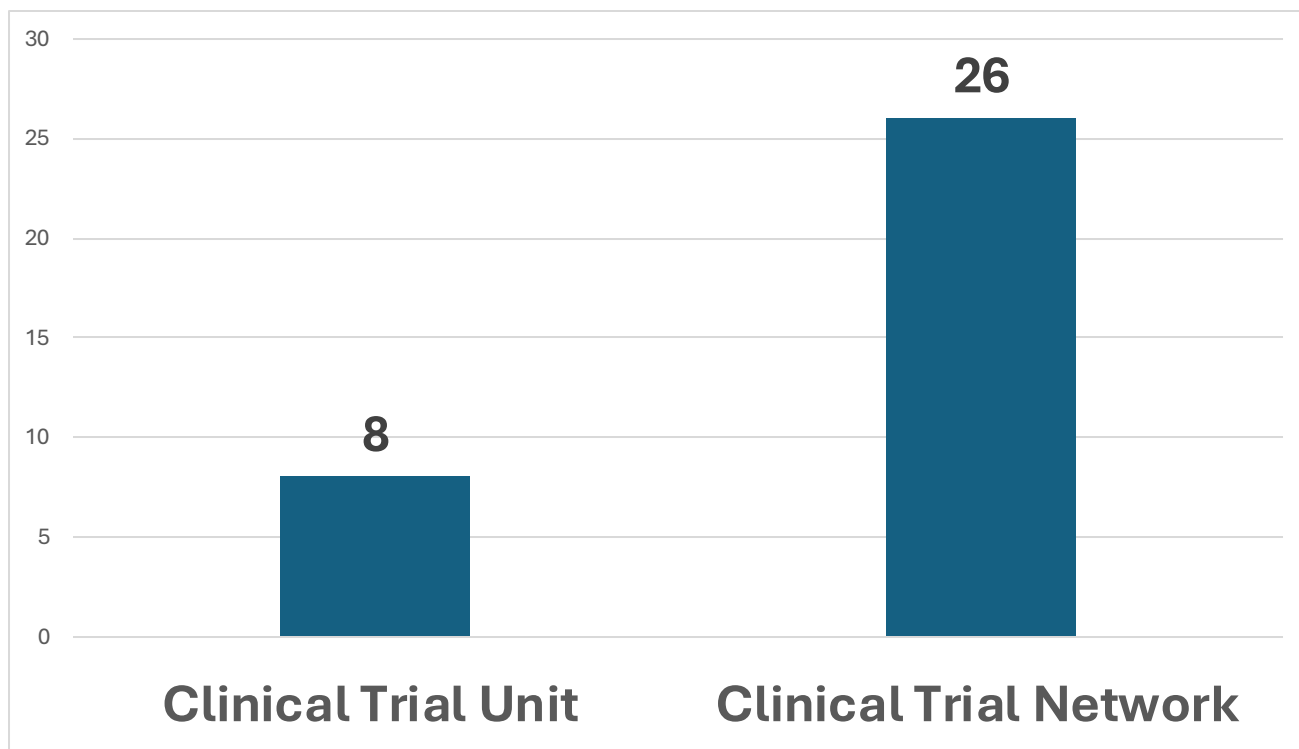
## **Identifying Barriers Facilitators for inclusive trials**

This phase involved collaborating with CTU/CTN to gather insights to understand what makes it challenging for trialists to achieve inclusion

➤ Surveys

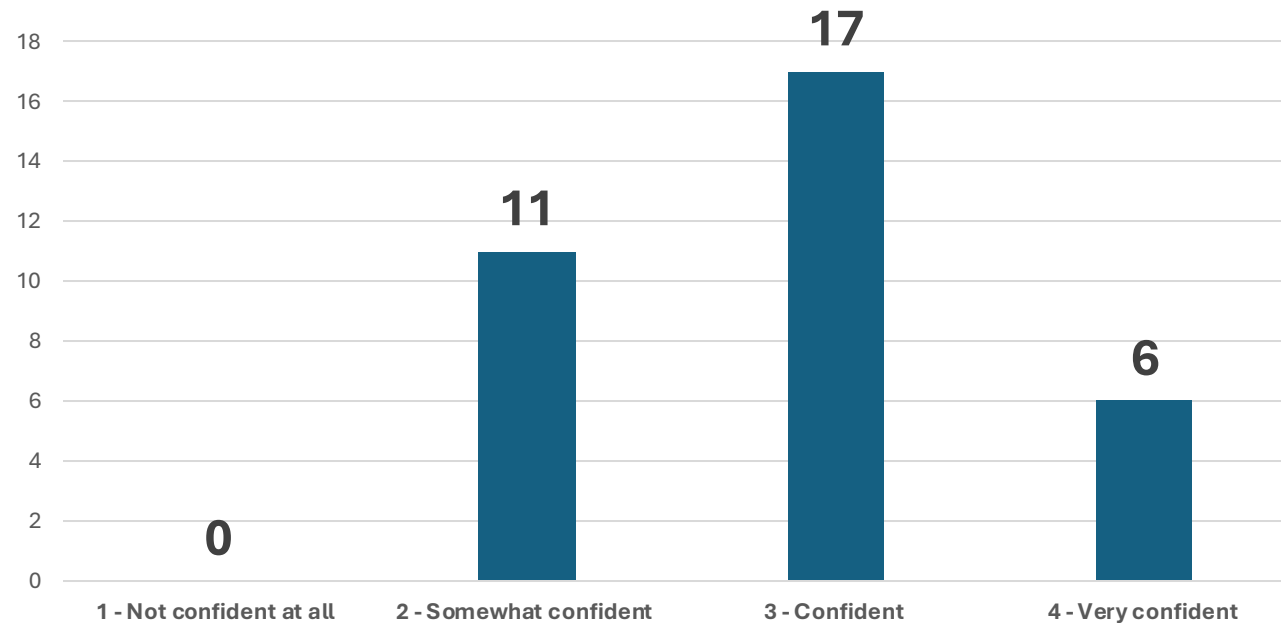
➤ Focus groups

# Survey Response from 28 CTNs and 11 CTUs

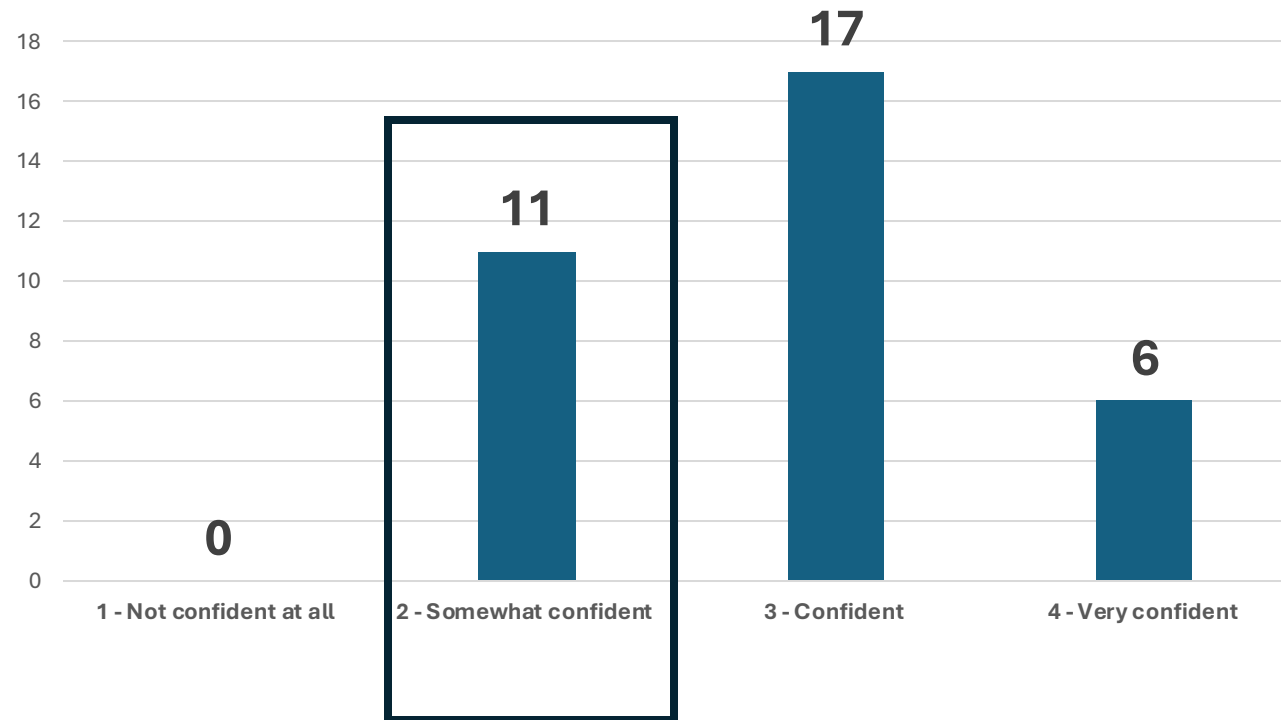


Total n=34

# Confident in navigating and championing IDEA principles

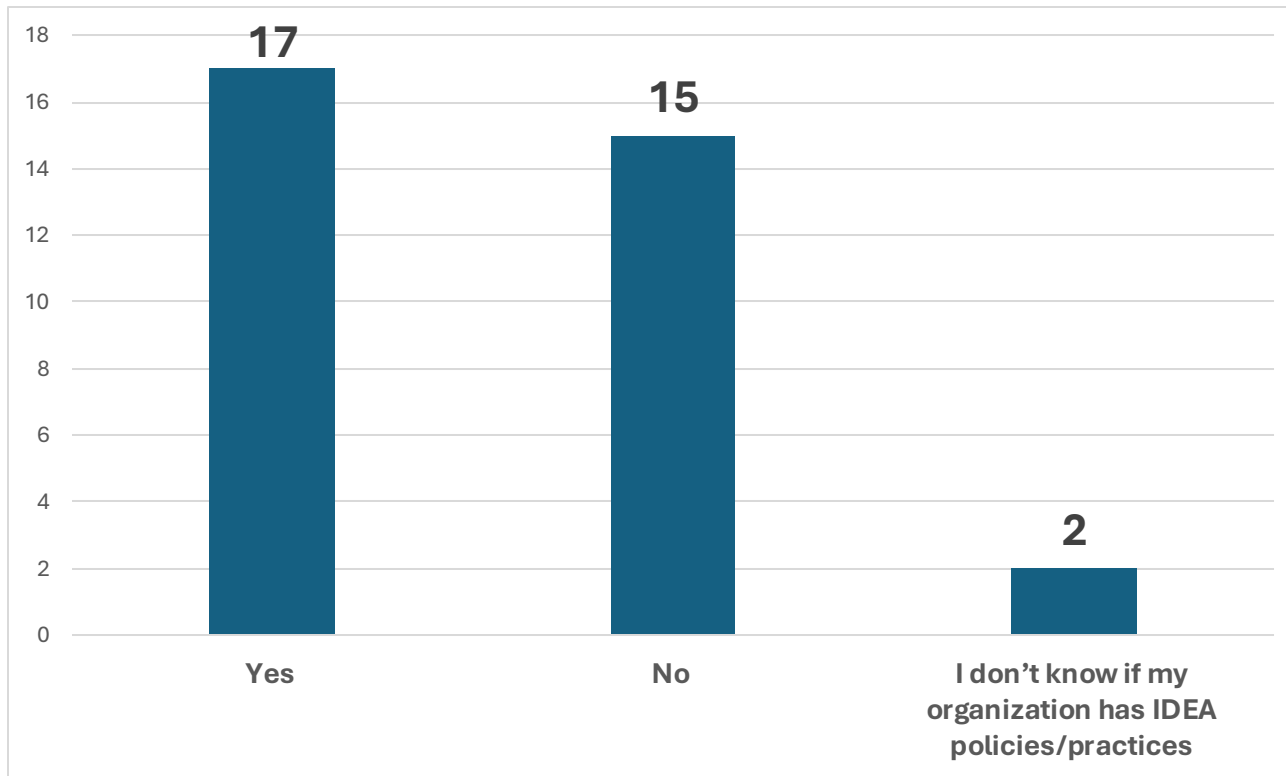


# Confident in navigating and championing IDEA principles

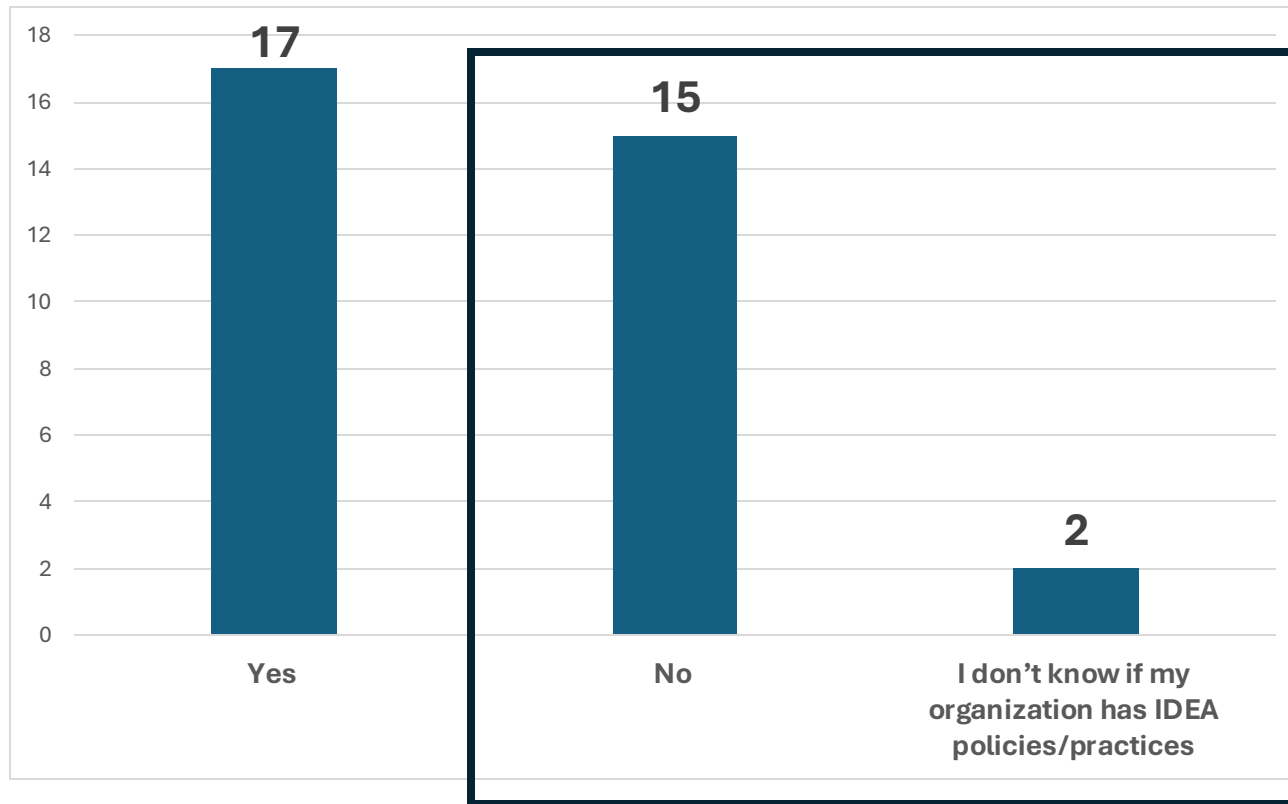


n=11 (32.3 %) – somewhat confident

# Number of responders have established IDEA policies/practices

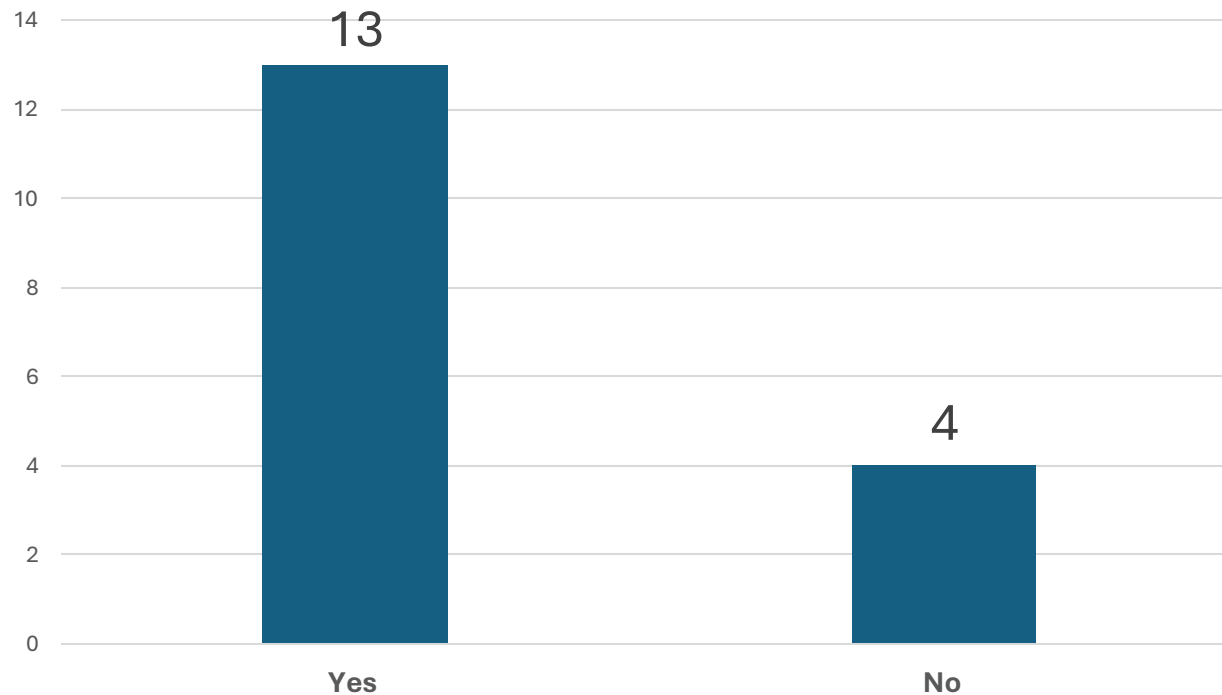


# Number of responders have established IDEA policies/practices

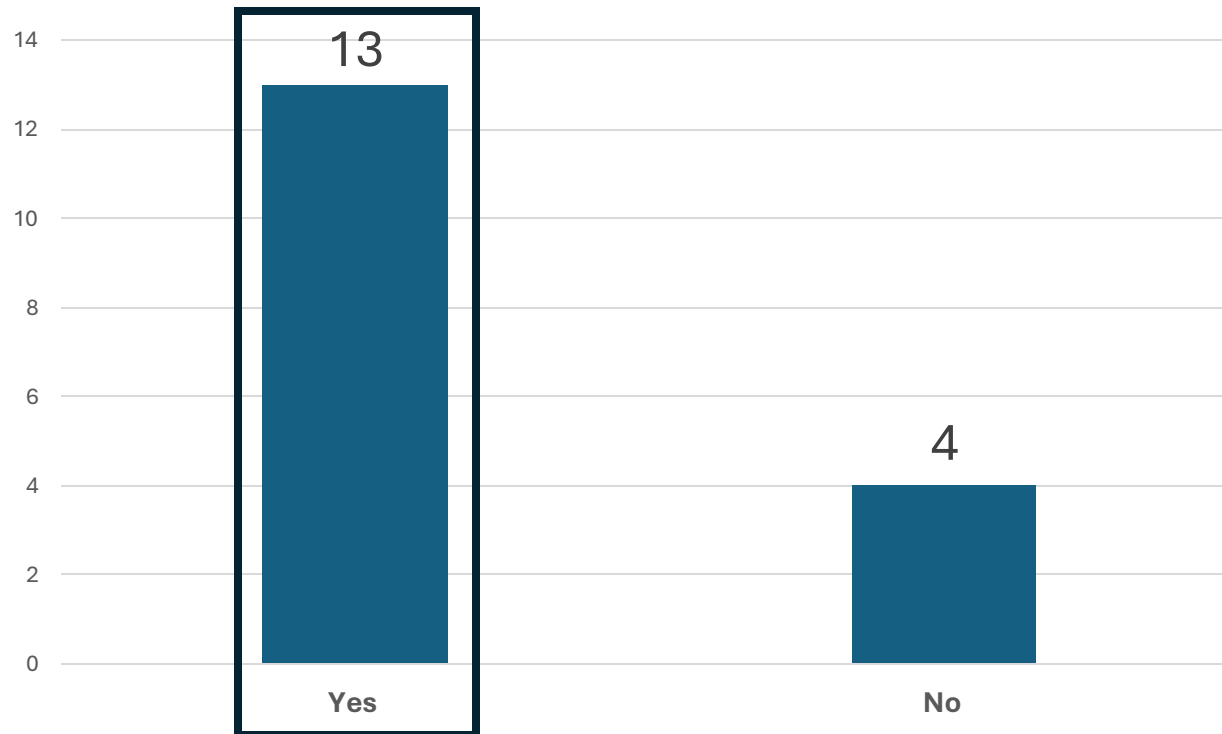


n=17 (50% have no IDEA policies)

# Interested in receiving assistance to establish IDEA policies



# Interested in receiving assistance to establish IDEA policies



n=13 (77%) needs assistance



# Perception about **Barriers** to conducting inclusive clinical trials

- Lack of transport - 66%
- Lack of Childcare - 66%
- Lack of time and Geography - 100%
- Language and communication - 87%

# Perception about **Facilitators** to conducting inclusive clinical trials

- Community partnerships - 100%
- Adapting personalized approach -87%
- Cultural sensitive approaches - 87%
- Multilingual team members - 67%

# Focus groups on IDEA in Clinical Trials

- 2 In-person at ACT-Quebec symposium (French and English)
- 1 Virtual

## Join Our Focus Group Discussion on Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility (IDEA) in Clinical Trials

We invite you to participate in an engaging focus group to discuss the barriers and facilitators, key challenges and strategies to improve inclusive clinical trials and assess the stakeholders' perception of developing an IDEA toolkit tailored to Canadian clinical trials.

### Topics of Discussion:

- Understanding barriers and facilitators to inclusive clinical trials.
- Strategies for Improving IDEA in clinical trials.
- Perception of IDEA Toolkit Development

### Mode of participation: *(choose one)*

- Virtual:
  - Date and time to be decided
- In-Person - Quebec City
  - October 8th, 2024 (Afternoon)
  - October 11th, 2024 (Morning)

### Why Participate?

- Contribute to creating a more inclusive clinical trial process.
- Share your experiences and insights.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders and experts.
- Influence the development of a valuable IDEA toolkit.

### How to RSVP:

Please confirm your participation to the ACT IDEA Committee Research Coordinator, Eva Friedman ([Eva.Friedman@phri.ca](mailto:Eva.Friedman@phri.ca)), by July 10th, 2024

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Phased Approach to Develop  
Resources for Inclusive Clinical Trials

**Phase 2- Scoping Review of Existing  
Toolkits**



Resources- key components of the toolkit

# Phase 2

## Scoping Review of Existing Toolkits

Many international resources and toolkits exist  
to guide clinical trial inclusivity  
but not fully address the Canadian context

### **Objective:**

To review the existing toolkits to see what strategies have been effective globally and identify gaps that need to be filled for Canadian trials

## ^ Title and abstract screening

TEAM PROGRESS



4521 ● DONE

58 ● CONFLICTS

0 ● ONE VOTE

0 ● NO VOTES

⚙ Team settings

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Phased Approach to Develop  
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**Phase 3- Reviewing Participant Diversity in  
Canadian Clinical Trials**



Resources- key components of the toolkit

# **Phase 3**

## **Reviewing Participant Diversity in Canadian Clinical Trials**

Critical to assess the current state of diversity in Canadian clinical trials

- What populations are underrepresented?
- What is the distribution of participants by sex/gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic background, region and other factors?



# A Meta-Epidemiologic Study of Canadian Randomized Clinical Trials

**Shannon M. Ruzycki** , Kirstie C. Lithgow, Claire Song, Sarah Taylor, Abinaya Subramanian,  
Miriam Li MD, Stephanie Happ, Mark Shea MD, Debby Oladimeji, P.J. Devereaux, Wayne Clark,  
Dean Fergusson, Justin Ezekowitz, Michael Walsh, Sarina R. Isenberg , Patricia Li, Sangeeta  
Mehta, Stuart G. Nicholls PhD, Courtney Pollock, Louise Pilote, Amity Quinn, **David Collister**

# STUDY DESIGN

- Meta-epidemiologic study of phase 2 and 3 RCTs of adults
- (Canada only) registered in ClinicalTrials.gov
- Over 10 years from January 1, 2010-December 31, 2020 with published results
- Data abstraction for participant diversity and eligibility criteria (PROGRESS-PLUS)

# RESULTS

118 RCTs with 17387 participants mostly from large cities from Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta

89% reported sex,

10.2% reported gender, no RCT reported both sex and gender

66.3% females/women, no gender diverse participants

Race/ethnicity reported in 23.7% participants without standardized nomenclature

72.0% White, 2.7% Black, 6.3% Asian, 0.2% Indigenous, rest others

Eligibility criteria related to PROGRESS-PLUS factors rare  
except for cognition (n=42), substance use (n=25), pregnancy (n=29), breastfeeding (n=16) and elderly (n=26)

# OBSERVATIONS

Incomplete reporting of study participant diversity

Underrepresentation of gender minorities, persons of colour and Indigenous persons

Additional research is needed to understand the barriers and facilitators

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Resources- key components of the toolkit

# Creation of ACT-IDEA Toolkit

- Use data from surveys, focus groups and review to design a toolkit unique diversity of Canada's population
- Provide Canadian trialists with actionable insights and strategies to target underrepresented groups

# Key components of IDEA toolkit

- ***Recruitment Strategies***

Practical tools to help trialists reach underrepresented populations

- ***Community Engagement Templates***

Ready-to-use materials to improve outreach and collaboration with community organizations and healthcare providers

- ***Informed Consent Resources***

Simplified, culturally appropriate informed consent forms and procedures for diverse groups

- ***Data Collection and Analysis***

Strategies for gathering and analyzing data in ways that respect diversity and accurately represent participant demographics

# Conclusions

ACT-IDEA aims to ensure all Canadians who are eligible to participate in clinical trials have the opportunity to participate



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# Thank you!

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