

The Facts About COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials

Are you still deciding whether to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

To help you make the decision that you believe is best for you, your family, and your community, here are some facts about the role of clinical trials in the development of the vaccines.

How were the vaccines made so fast?

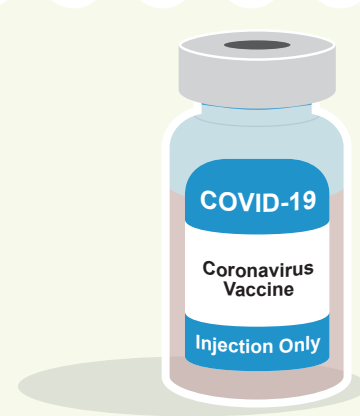
The short answer: experience and teamwork.

Researchers from all over the world shared information about COVID-19 and some were already developing vaccines for similar viruses. They used all their experience and knowledge to quickly create COVID-19 vaccines, test them in clinical trials, and make many doses.



The vaccines were made quickly, but the trials did not skip any steps.

- ▶ Researchers focused their attention and worked in teams to find and develop COVID-19 vaccines that were used in the trials.
- ▶ Doctors and nurses helped to run the trials.
- ▶ Independent ethics boards helped to oversee the trials.
- ▶ Regulatory agencies worked quickly to review the data from the trials.
- ▶ And of course, many people volunteered to participate in the trials that gathered important data.



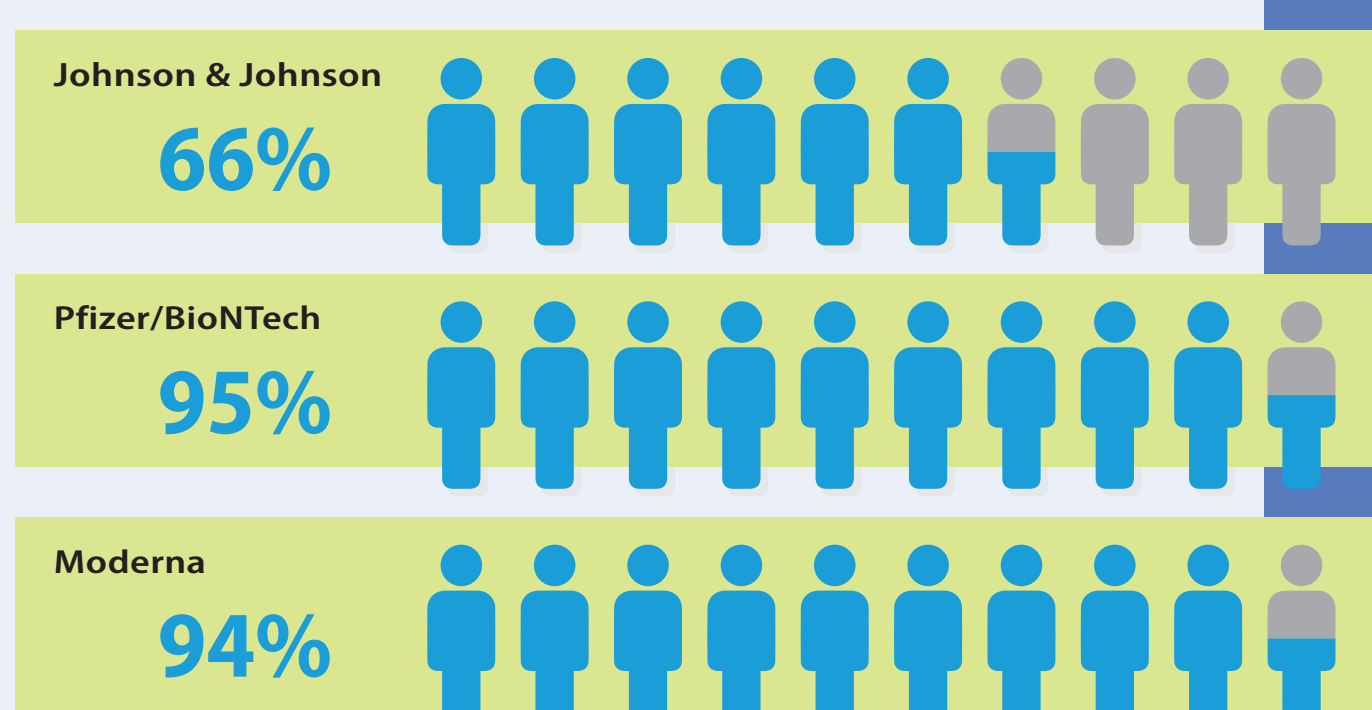
Did the clinical trials show that the vaccines are safe and effective?

Yes. Before the vaccines were authorized for use in the United States, there were multiple clinical trials to find out if the COVID-19 vaccines work and are safe.



How well did the vaccines work in the trials?

There are 3 different vaccines in the United States. The chart below shows how effective each vaccine is at preventing COVID-19. The trial participants did not have COVID-19 before they got the vaccine.



Were there any side effects in the trials?

The most common side effects of COVID-19 vaccines found during the trials were flu-like symptoms and pain, redness, or swelling where the shot was given.

There were no serious side effects in people who received the vaccines during the trials.

After the trials were done, a small number of people who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine had blood clots. The chances of this serious side effect happening are:

- ▶ 7 in 1,000,000 for women 18 to 50 years old
- ▶ 1 in 1,000,000 for other adults



Like most vaccines and treatments that are approved by regulators, these vaccines will be studied further and closely monitored for safety.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

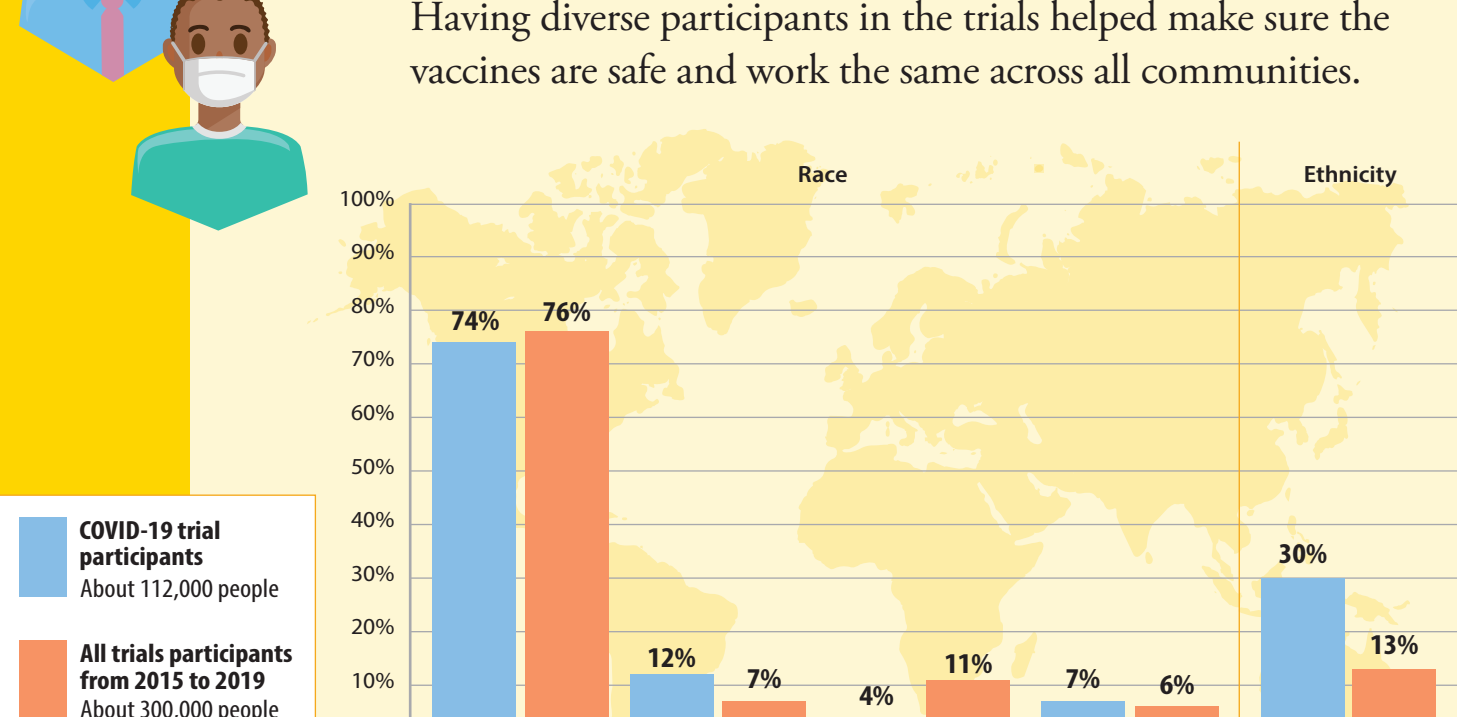
Did COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials include diverse groups of people?



Yes. People of different races and ethnicities have had important roles in the development of the COVID-19 vaccines:

- ▶ doctors and nurses who ran the trials
- ▶ regulators who authorized the vaccines
- ▶ participants who were given a vaccine in trials

Having diverse participants in the trials helped make sure the vaccines are safe and work the same across all communities.



Overall, the COVID-19 vaccine trial participants were more diverse than the participants in trials for other treatments and vaccines that were approved from 2015-2019.



Although these numbers are from all around the world, the diversity of the COVID-19 vaccine trial participants was very close to the actual diversity of the population in the United States.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Food and Drug Administration; Kaiser Family Foundation

You still may not be sure if you want to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

While you decide, make sure to learn more about the vaccines. And, ask a doctor or health professional all the questions you have until you are ready to make your decision about getting vaccinated.



Follow these links to learn more:

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Website](#) pages with myths and facts about COVID-19 vaccines

[CDC Website](#) pages with information about each vaccine that has been approved in the United States

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) Video](#) explaining how the road to COVID-19 vaccines has been so fast

[FDA Office of Minority Health Video](#) on COVID-19 vaccine safety and diversity

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CISCRP is a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing unbiased information about clinical research.

Visit the CISCRP website at www.CISCRP.org to learn more about the role of clinical research in developing the COVID-19 vaccines.