

## **Research on research: Influencing factors that impact young people to participate in research**

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### **Background:**

Adolescence is a unique stage of human development and an important time for laying foundations of good health. Therefore, we hope to see a strong representation of adolescent voice in health-related research. A review of local hospital data exploring current adolescent engagement in research, between the ages of 10 to 18 years old, suggested there was a lack of representation within this age group.

### **Methods:**

Adolescents aged 10 to 18 years old completed an anonymous electronic survey during a three-week period in February 2024, to explore various factors that influenced their decision-making process regarding participation in research. The survey encompassed a range of multiple-choice questions exploring attitudes, motivations, and potential barriers related to research involvement, including recruitment and retainment. Data generated from the survey was summarised with descriptive statistics.

### **Results:**

100 adolescents were approached with a 73% response rate. Responses suggested recruitment is most successful across all ages, when promoted by a trusted source such as doctor, nurse, or school representing over 50% of responses. Adolescents aged 10 to 12 years, were least likely to engage in social media recruitment methods, however when comparing social media platforms for ages 13 to 18 years, TikTok was the most popular platform with 21.7% of responses. Direct phone calls and Facebook were the least popular forms of recruitment with less than 5% of responses. Over 68% preferred online surveys as the research method, with time reported as the biggest barrier to participation in research.

### **Conclusions:**

This study provides insight into adolescent's preferences and motivational factors when thinking about joining research. Researchers should consider these results when aiming for adolescent engagement or retention. These findings can inform strategies for enhancing the inclusion and engagement of adolescents in research.

**Disclosure Statement: This was a pilot study and has not been published.**