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Because patients play a vital role in cancer research, scientists from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and related organizations decided to assess current trends in research participation. The results? Nearly 22% of people with cancer reported participation in studies, including treatment trials and quality-of-life studies. What's more, enrollment in cancer treatment trials was 7.1%, a notably higher rate than earlier estimates of 2% to 3%. "These contributions are much more extensive than was previously recognized," writes Joseph Unger, PhD, MS, a health services researcher and biostatistician at Fred Hutch and the study's lead author. "Cancer clinical research is a true partnership between those with cancer and those who study and treat cancer."

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