

2026 Patient Recruitment Roundup

Analysis of Clinical Trial Recruitment & Enrollment Rates, 2022–2025

Phase IV enrollment is **under pressure**. The median enrollment rate fell 33% in two years, from 1.04 to 0.70.*

Key findings

The analysis covers 19,880 industry-sponsored, Phase I–IV drug interventional trials completed between 2022 and 2025 (COVID-19 trials excluded). The yardstick is the median enrollment rate (MER).

Industry-sponsored patient trial MER, 2022–2025 vs. 2010

Year	MER		Total patients
2022	0.39		610,267
2023	0.42		1,096,376
2024	▼ Low 0.32		782,978
2025	0.36		573,385
2022–25 combined		0.37	3,063,006
2010	0.76		1,077,011

*The **median enrollment rate (MER)** is defined as the median number of patients enrolled per site per month across all trials with available actual enrollment data. It is distinct from planned enrollment rate and reflects real-world recruitment performance. All enrollment rate figures refer to MER unless otherwise stated.

Source: Trialtrove

19–20

Phase II enrollment months

2010 plans allowed 12 months and now fall 7 to 8 months short.

+62–69%

Asia outperforms North America

Asian sites lead on overall MER in every year studied.

0.16

Oncology at the bottom

The lowest MER of any therapeutic area in 2025, down from 0.20 in 2022.

5.38

Vaccines enroll fastest

Infectious disease vaccines posted the highest, and most volatile, rate in 2025.

1.59M

Non-industry trials take the lead

They enrolled 1.59M patients in 2024, against 783K for industry.

2×

Sites needed for oncology

Planning with the overall 0.37 MER undercounts the sites by about half.

Get the full benchmarks by phase, region, therapeutic area, and modality.

Download the report

