

# Children continue to be underrepresented in drug trials

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(HealthDay) -- Even for conditions with a high pediatric disease burden, only a small proportion of clinical drug trials study pediatric patients, according to research published online July 23 in *Pediatrics*.

Florence T. Bourgeois, M.D., M.P.H., from Harvard University in Boston, and colleagues identified all [drug trials](#) registered in ClinicalTrials.gov with start dates between 2006 and 2011 and tracked the resulting publications for conditions with a high burden of pediatric disease.

The researchers found that, for the selected conditions, 59.9 percent of

the disease burden was seen in children, but only 292 of 2,440 trials (12.0 percent) were for [pediatric patients](#) (P

"There is substantial [discrepancy](#) between pediatric burden of disease and the amount of clinical trial research devoted to pediatric populations," the authors write. "This may be related in part to trial funding, with [pediatric trials](#) relying primarily on government and nonprofit organizations."

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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