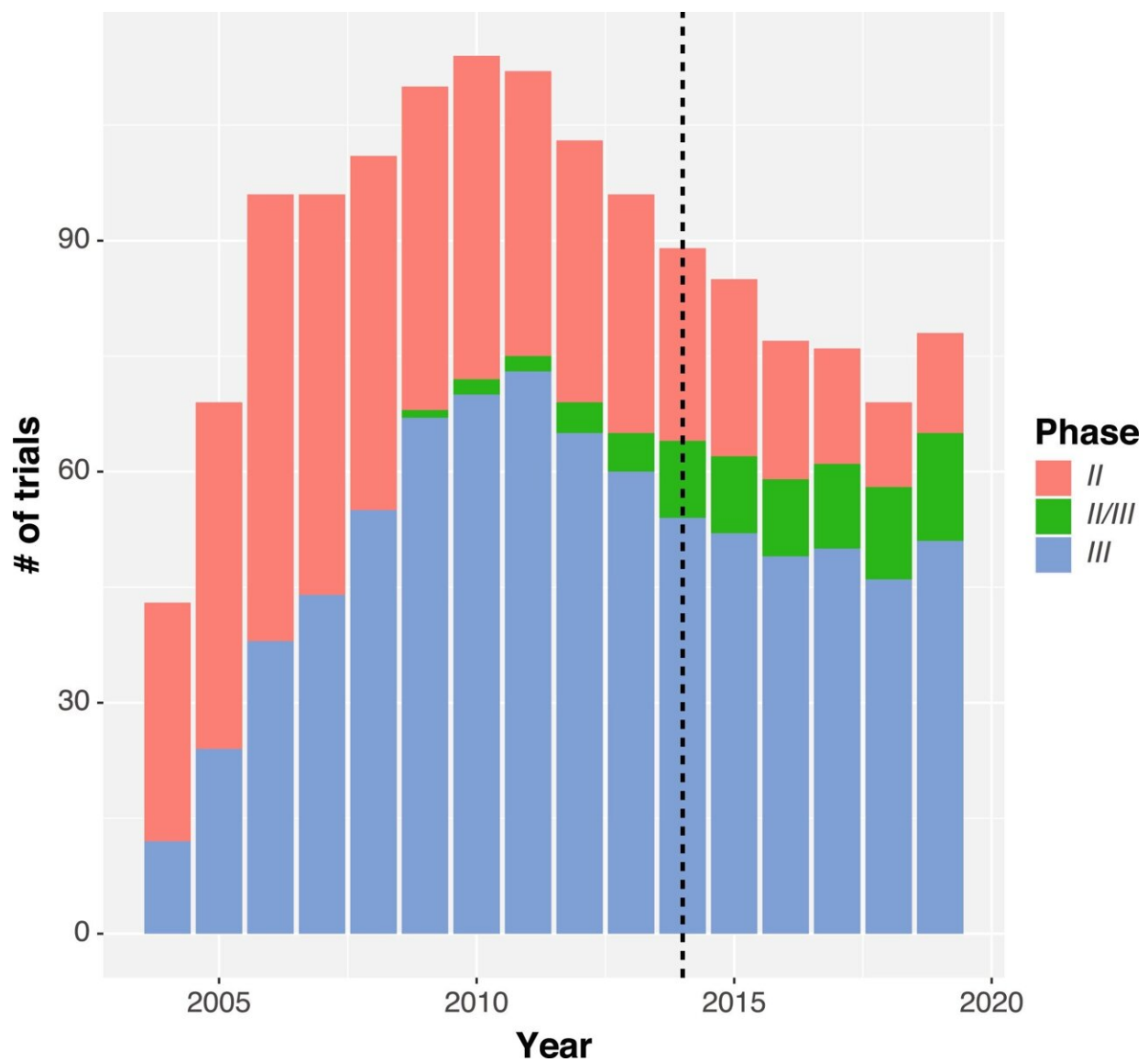


# Have recent efforts successfully boosted adolescent and young adult enrollment in cancer clinical trials?

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Distribution of trial types by year. For each calendar year, the number of actively accruing trials for which adolescent and young adult patients were eligible is represented as a stacked bar plot. For example, if a trial was activated in 2014 and closed to accrual in 2018, that trial contributes to calendar years 2014–2018. The vertical black bar represents the year of the National Clinical Trials Network launch. Credit: *Cancer* (2022). DOI: 10.1002/cncr.34402

It's important for adolescents and young adults (AYAs) to participate in cancer clinical trials to ensure adequate opportunities for AYA patients to contribute to, and benefit from, advances in cancer treatment. A recent analysis published by Wiley online in *Cancer* indicates that such trials have enrolled a greater proportion of newly diagnosed AYA patients in recent years.

The research examined how AYA enrollment changed after 2014, when the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health, formed the NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN), which includes four [medical oncology](#) cooperative groups, one pediatric group, and one international group that work together to coordinate and support cancer clinical trials at more than 2,200 sites across the United States, Canada, and internationally. One of the NCTN's goals was to increase patient enrollment in trials in rare cancers and from special populations including AYAs.

Investigators identified 304 phase 2, 2/3, and 3 trials led by one of the cooperative groups that were activated from 2004 through 2019, involved therapy for newly diagnosed cancer, and had age eligibility overlapping the AYA range (15–39 years). AYA accrual comprised 9.5% of enrolled patients in pre-NCTN trials compared with 14.0% of patients in post-NCTN trials. The findings indicate that there has been a proportionate increase in AYA participation in [cancer](#) clinical trials after

the NCTN was formed.

"Though we cannot directly attribute this increase to launch of the NCTN, these results are encouraging and suggest that the NCTN is working to provide [clinical trials](#) for newly diagnosed AYA patients and treating oncologists are taking advantage of these opportunities to enroll patients," said lead author Hari Sankaran, MD, MSc, of the National Cancer Institute.

**More information:** Hari Sankaran et al, Enrollment of adolescent and young adult patients newly diagnosed with cancer in NCI CTEP -sponsored clinical trials before and after launch of the NCI National Clinical Trials Network, *Cancer* (2022). [DOI: 10.1002/cncr.34402](https://doi.org/10.1002/cncr.34402)

Provided by Wiley

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