

Women and Minorities in Study Populations

There are clear scientific and public health reasons for including women and minorities in study populations. Accordingly, the NIH requires that applications for clinical research give appropriate attention to including members of these groups in studies. If this is impossible (for example, because the disease occurs only in men or is prevalent only in one racial or ethnic group), or is inappropriate with respect to the health of the subjects, a strong scientific rationale or other well-supported justification is necessary. Unless the rationale/justification is compelling, NIH will not fund such applications. This policy covers research grants, cooperative agreements, and research contracts.

Council will consider the degree to which the applicants have addressed this policy when it evaluates applications. Applications with inadequate representation of women and minorities and/or inadequate justification may be deferred, approved based on portfolio considerations, or approved with the condition that staff will ensure compliance with the policy before award. Council will be subsequently notified of awards for these types of approvals.

The NIH will not award research grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to applicants who do not follow this policy.

SRGs assign codes to applications to indicate their judgment as to compliance with these concerns. These codes, described below, appear on the summary statement.