

Clinical Trials at European Universities: Mapping Unreported Drug Trials

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Failure to report clinical trial results is not a victimless crime. It has substantial negative consequences for patients and public health.

Since July 2014, European Union rules have required each and every clinical trial registered on the EU clinical trials registry to post summary results onto the registry within 12 months of trial completion (6 months for paediatric trials). These rules also apply to trials completed before 2014, and apply irrespective of whether a trial's outcomes have been published in the academic literature. Thus, all of the clinical trials identified in this report as missing summary results are in violation of European Union transparency rules that were designed to protect the interests of patients and taxpayers.

Overall, 778 clinical trials run by 30 European universities (83% of due trials) are verifiably missing results on the European trial registry, in violation of EU transparency rules. Excluding UK universities, reporting rates are just 7%. The actual figure of due trials missing results is likely to be far higher.

Notable figures include:

- Only three universities perform well: [University of Oxford](#), [University College London](#), and [King's College London](#). These universities have already posted over 80% of their trial results.
- Fourteen universities have failed to post a single clinical trial result. This includes all assessed universities in France, Italy, Norway and Sweden.
- The remaining 13 universities also perform weakly, with reporting rates ranging from 2-33%.

This joint report examines European universities reporting of clinical trials by university and country, and provides explanations as to why this is such an important issue.

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