**Methods**

The numbers of scleroderma patients in the U.S. and Southeastern U.S. in total and by race were estimated based on the estimated U.S. population provided by the [United States Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US) as of July 1st, 2024; the estimated scleroderma prevalence among adults in the United States of 25.9 per 100,000 people [(Fan, et al. 2020)](https://www.jmcp.org/doi/10.18553/jmcp.2020.20136); and the scleroderma prevalence estimates among White and Black populations based on prevalence estimates from [(Mayes, et al. 2003)](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/art.11073).

To estimate the total number of White and Black scleroderma patients in the U.S. and Southeast U.S., the current study weighted the scleroderma prevalence of the general U.S. population from Fan, et al. for White and Black individuals in the U.S. based on each race’s proportion of the total prevalence estimates from Mayes, et al. The prevalence estimates of scleroderma among White and Black individuals in the U.S. were assumed to be the same for their respective populations in the Southeast U.S.. For example,

These estimates were then used to calculate the numbers of scleroderma patients overall and within each regional and racial group using the following methods:

The number of unrepresented Black scleroderma patients were calculated by multiplying the number of scleroderma patients for both regions by the observed proportion of Black participants in U.S. clinical trials (8.9%) and subtracting this “represented” population from the total estimated Black scleroderma patient population in the region:

To investigate whether the demographics of scleroderma clinical trial participants are reflective of the the United States’ scleroderma patient population, two one-sample z-tests were conducted in R 4.5.0 to compare the observed proportions of White and Black participants in U.S. clinical trials to their respective estimated proportions within the United State’s scleroderma patient population. Furthermore, we quantified this disparity by estimating the number of all Black scleroderma patients who are unrepresented in clinical trials in the United States and Southeastern U.S. (defined as AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, and TN), which is home to about half of the United States’ total Black population.

**References**

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