

Study Summary

ABOUT YMTT

You & Me: Test and Treat (YMTT) is a joint research effort to increase access to free, rapid, at-home COVID testing for residents in Merced County, California and Pitt County, North Carolina.

The **Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI)** partnered with **Community-Campus Partnerships for Health**, and anchor partners – **United Way of Merced County** and **Pitt County Health Department** – to provide COVID test kits and resources to help reduce the spread of COVID. Participants received gift cards for submitting their test results and completing surveys..

ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT

Recruitment efforts occurred in person at community events organized and hosted by YMTT anchor and community partners in Merced County, CA and Pitt County, NC. Enrolled participants were required to provide informed consent to participate in the study per Duke University Institutional Review Board (IRB) human subject protections.

ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

- Anyone 8 and older
- Residents of Merced County, California and Pitt County, North Carolina
- Participants who provided a signed and dated informed consent form

ENROLLMENT PERIOD:

February 2023 – June 2024

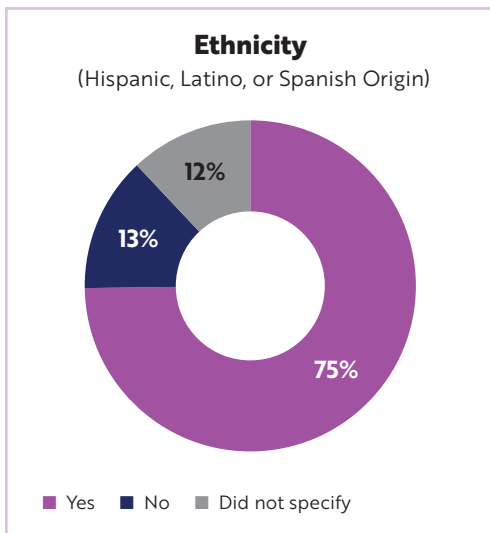
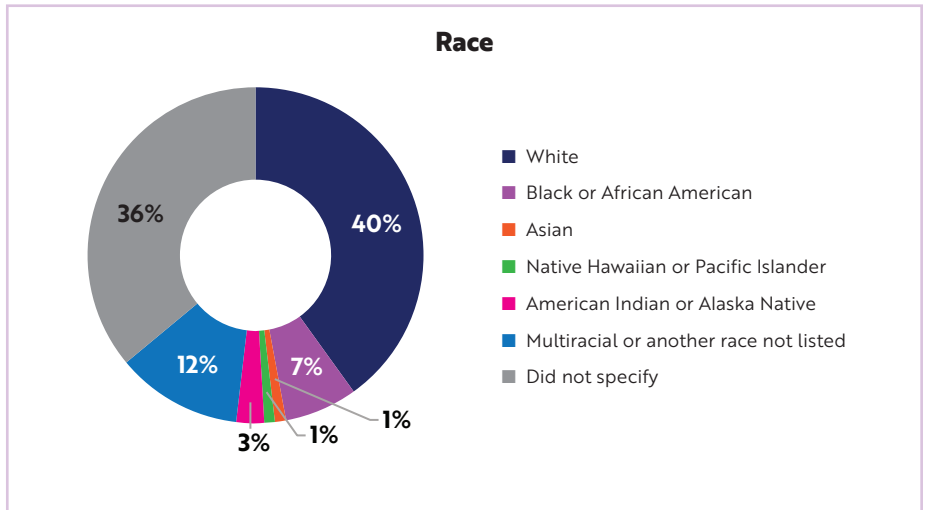
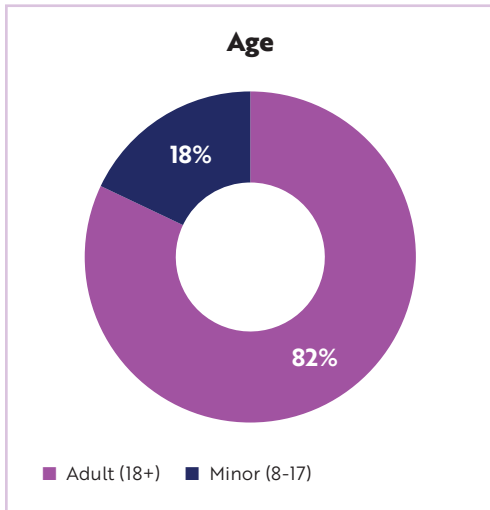
ENROLLMENT TOTAL:

841 YMTT Participants
completed baseline forms*



DEMOGRAPHICS

*Note: At the end of enrollment, the total sample size was 841.



Geographic Location

Merced and Pitt Counties were selected based on large proportions of their Hispanic/Latino/Latinx and Black residents in areas heavily impacted by COVID, along with above-average uninsured rates and COVID-19 risk scores. Our goal was to address these challenges by offering free COVID testing to support these communities.

California:

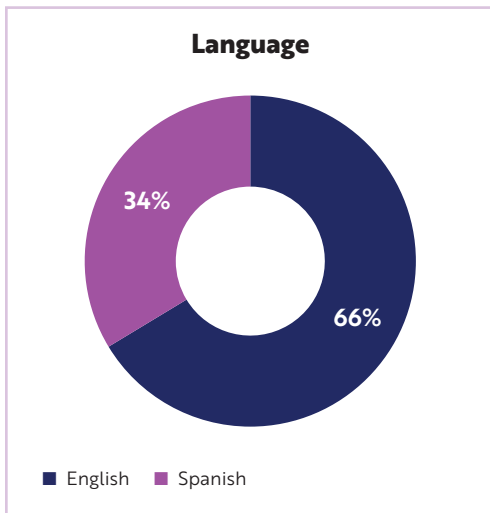
Merced County: 80.74%

Other California Counties: 3.57%

North Carolina:

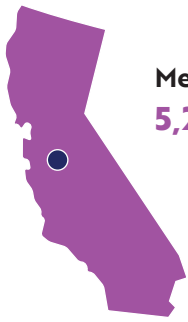
Pitt County: 5.95%

Other NC Counties: 0.60%



TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION

Total test kits distributed at community events: **11,427**



Merced County:
5,255 test kits

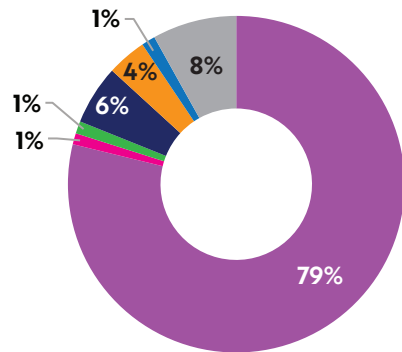
Pitt County:
6,172 test kits



Other distributions by county partners: **8,573**

How did you learn about YMTT?

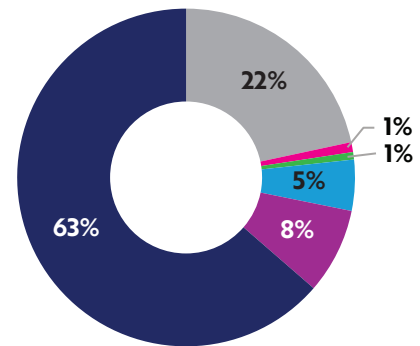
Majority of participants learned about the YMTT study via a community organization or community bulletin board.



- Community org/Bulletin board
- Word of mouth
- Flyer
- Combination
- Social media
- Did not specify
- Other

Test Kit Satisfaction Rate

63% were very satisfied with the test kits provided.
71% provided a test kit satisfaction rate of 7 or higher.



- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7-8
- 9-10
- Did not rate

Strengths:

"The staff were very welcoming, helpful, and knowledgeable about registering for this COVID study."

"It was a secure and safe process."

"We needed the test kits, thank you for providing them!"

Areas for Improvement:

"The paperwork and surveys were lengthy and complex, with too many questions."

"It was difficult to complete, especially on mobile devices."

LESSONS LEARNED

- ✓ Plan in-person mock visits, trainings, and community events before the program starts to troubleshoot test kit distribution and boost enrollment.
- ✓ Set up routine check ins with key partners to build relationships, support, and trust.
- ✓ Identify preferred languages in communities to better share resources and improve access.
- ✓ Explore digital inclusion initiatives or alternatives to overcome technology barriers in rural communities and enhance feasibility.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Insights and data from the YMTT study will be used to amend the **Toolkit for Engaging Diverse Communities to Plan and Implement Public Health Programs**. Initially developed based on lessons learned from the *Say Yes! COVID Test* and *You & Me COVID-Free* programs, this toolkit is designed for those aiming to create a community-engaged public health program. Our goal is to refine this toolkit so that it can serve as a valuable resource for a wide range of public health programs beyond COVID.

Additionally, the YMTT study team will host a town hall in the spring of 2025 to discuss the study's results and key takeaways.

You can learn more about the YMTT study at covidtestandtreat.org

For questions, inquiries, or just to keep in touch, email us at YouMe-TestTreat@duke.edu.

OUR ANCHOR & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Operational Partners:

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health



Community-Campus Partnerships for Health

Promoting Health Equity and Social Justice



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®



Merced County Partners:

Cultiva La Salud Merced
Life Line CDC
United Methodist Church of Merced
United Way of Merced
University of California Merced
Valley Crisis Center
Valley Onward



Pitt County Partners:

Bethel Advocacy Center
Holly Hill FWB Church Life Changing Center
Northern Pitt County Improvement Association, Inc.
Omega's of Pitt County / Iota Nu Nu
Pitt County Family Development Corp, Inc.
Pitt County Health Department
Mt. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

