



Enfranchisement and Meaningful Inclusion of Diverse Populations in *All of Us*

01 June 2021

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Policy Director

All of Us Research Program



Program Overview | Diversity at Scale

Diversity of Resources: Deliver a national resource of deep **clinical, environmental, lifestyle, & genetic data** from one million participants who are consented & engaged to provide data on an ongoing, longitudinal basis

Diversity of Participants: Reflect the broad diversity of the U.S.—**all ages, races/ ethnicities, gender, SES, geographies, & health status**—and over-recruit those historically underrepresented in biomedical research

Diversity of Researchers: Build the tools & capabilities that make it accessible to the public and easy for researchers—**from citizen and community scientists to scientists from premier university labs**—to make discoveries using *All of Us*



Commitment to Participant Partnership



Build a Culture of Participant-Centered Design

Incentivize Focus on UBR Communities

Develop Specific Plans for Population Engagement

Grow a Network of National and Local Community Partners

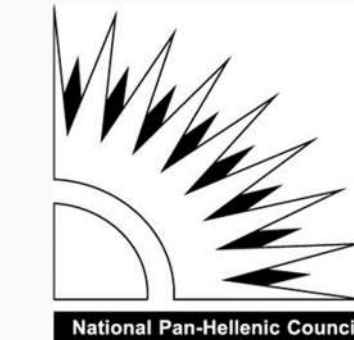
Build Up FQHC Research Capacity as Valuable HPO Partners

Create Network of Direct Volunteer Partners

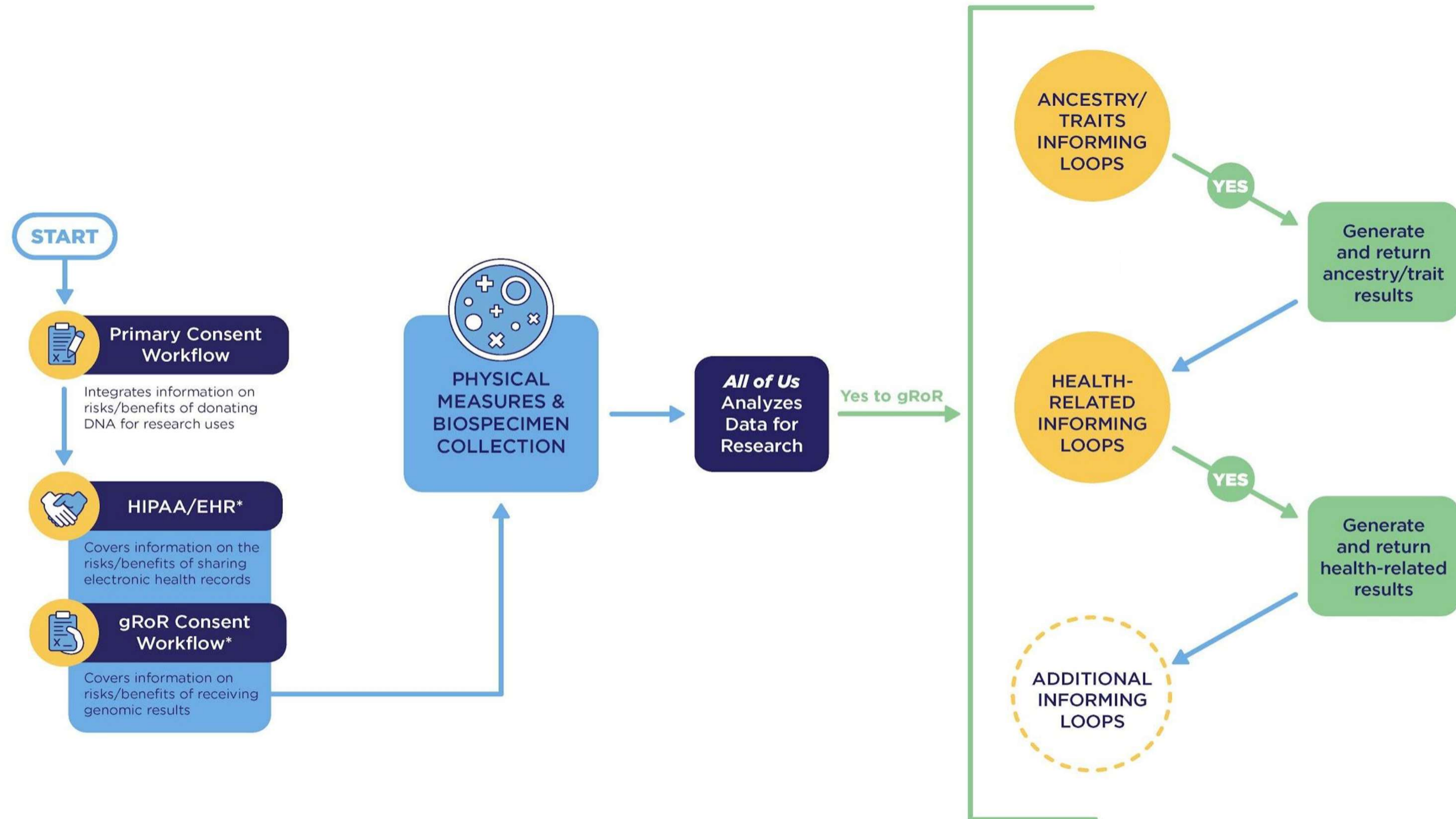
All of Us Community and Provider Partner Network



All of Us Proudly Supports the LGBTQ+ Community

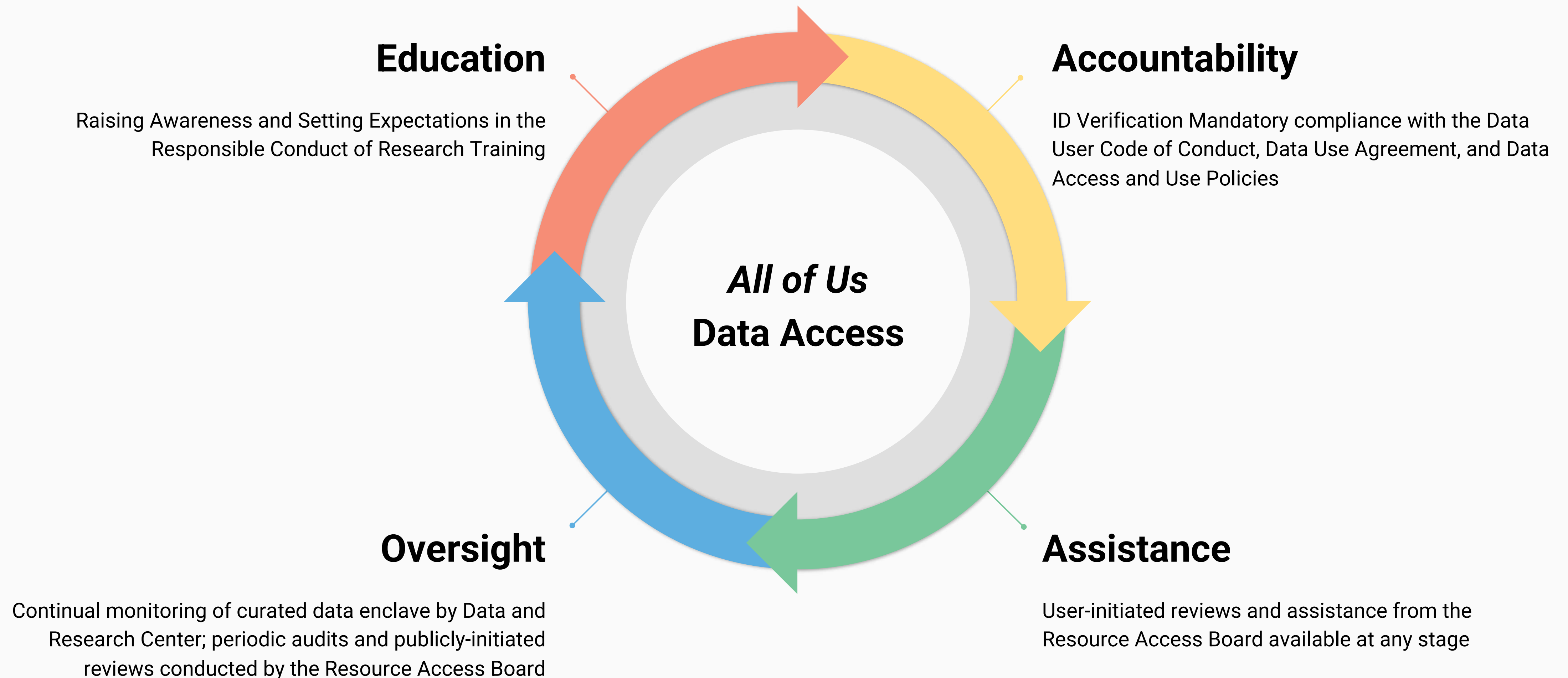


Participation | Granular Participant Controls

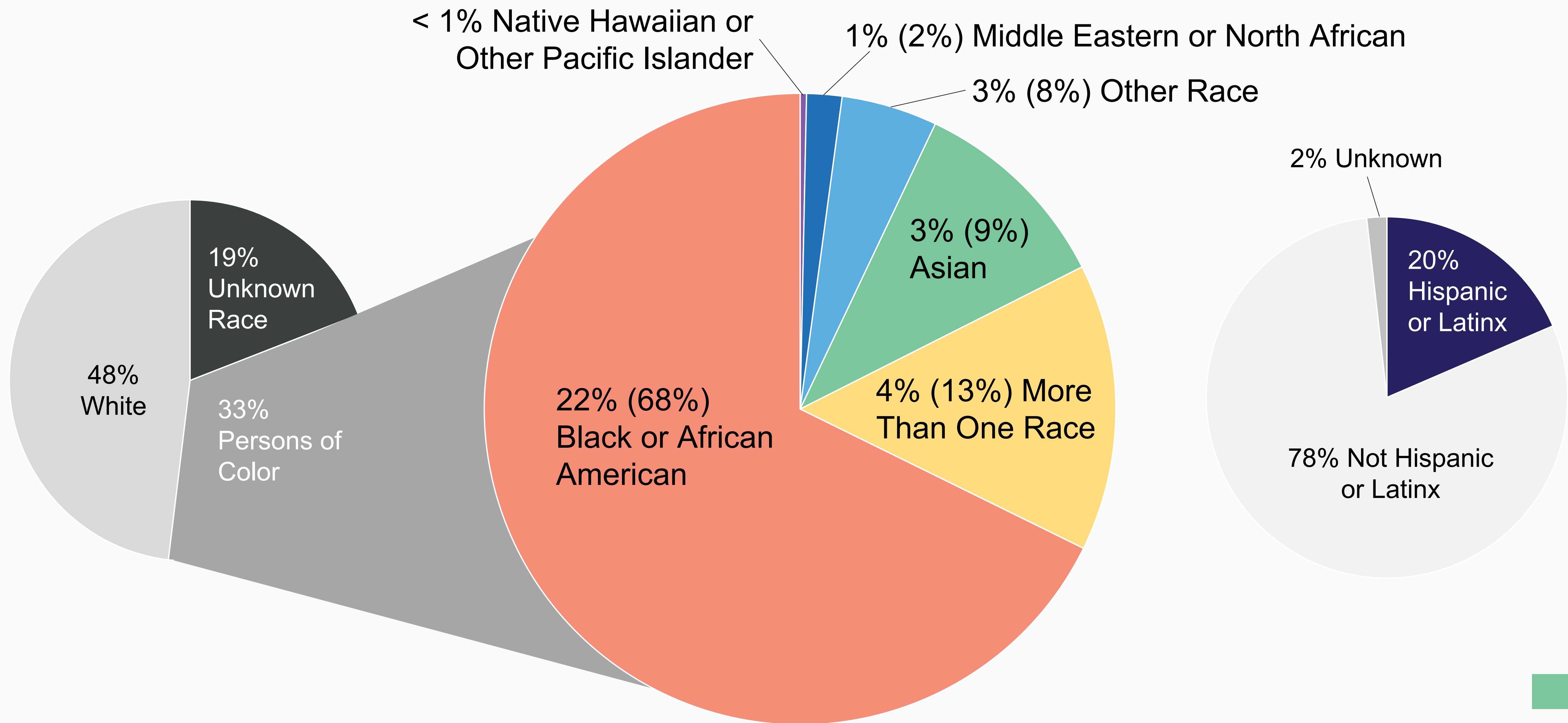


*Not required during initial consent experience, but MUST complete before proceeding to PM&B

Data Access | Preventing Misuse, Building Trust



All of Us Current Enrollment Numbers (As of May 28th)



RETENTION

Thank you!



AllofUs.nih.gov
joinAllofUs.org
ResearchAllofUs.org



katherine.blizinsky@nih.gov



extra slides





Background



Why do we even need an *All of Us* Research Program?



People/ Patients

- Patients may not be served well by treatments designed for the “average” patient. We hope in the future that *All of Us* will help advance precision medicine.
- Many people & populations have been left out of biomedical research, and thus, often left out of health care solutions.
- Health problems can take years to unravel and require much trial and error treatment.
- Patients may not have access to or make use of their own health data.



Professional Providers

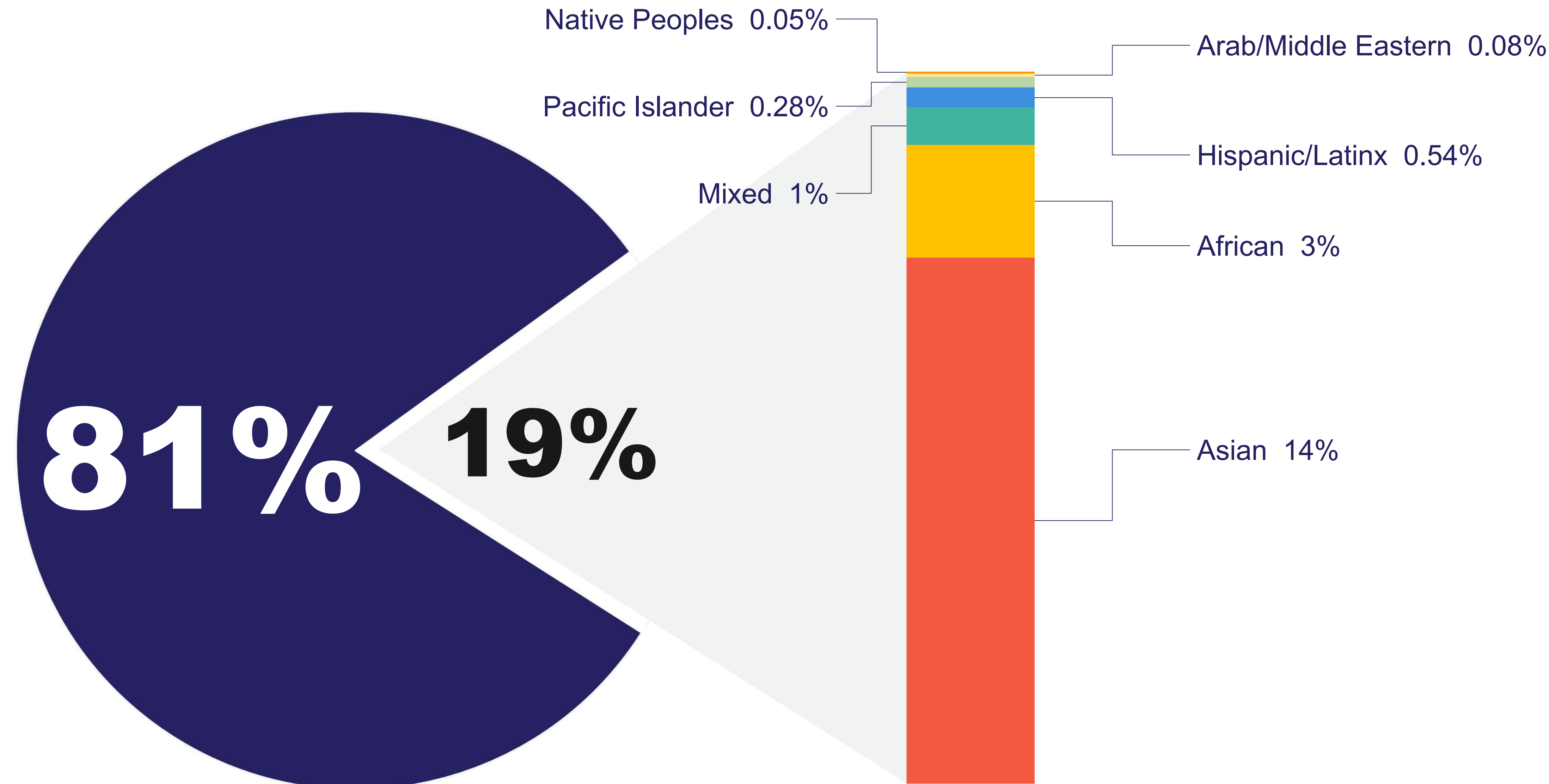
- Precision medicine research is still in the early days, so providers do not have enough information available to provide precision care for many conditions.
- Developing individualized approaches to care often requires overtime.
- It can be difficult to coordinate care between many different providers, especially with medical records and key data scattered in different silos.



Biomedical Researchers

- Researchers spend a lot of time and resources creating new IT systems, databases, and analytic tools.
- They also face enormous costs & time just to recruit participants.
- Data collection is often not standardized, and data can be siloed and difficult to integrate.
- A single lab’s resources may not be sufficient to answer the research questions that matter.

Persistent Racial and Ethnic Bias in GWA Studies

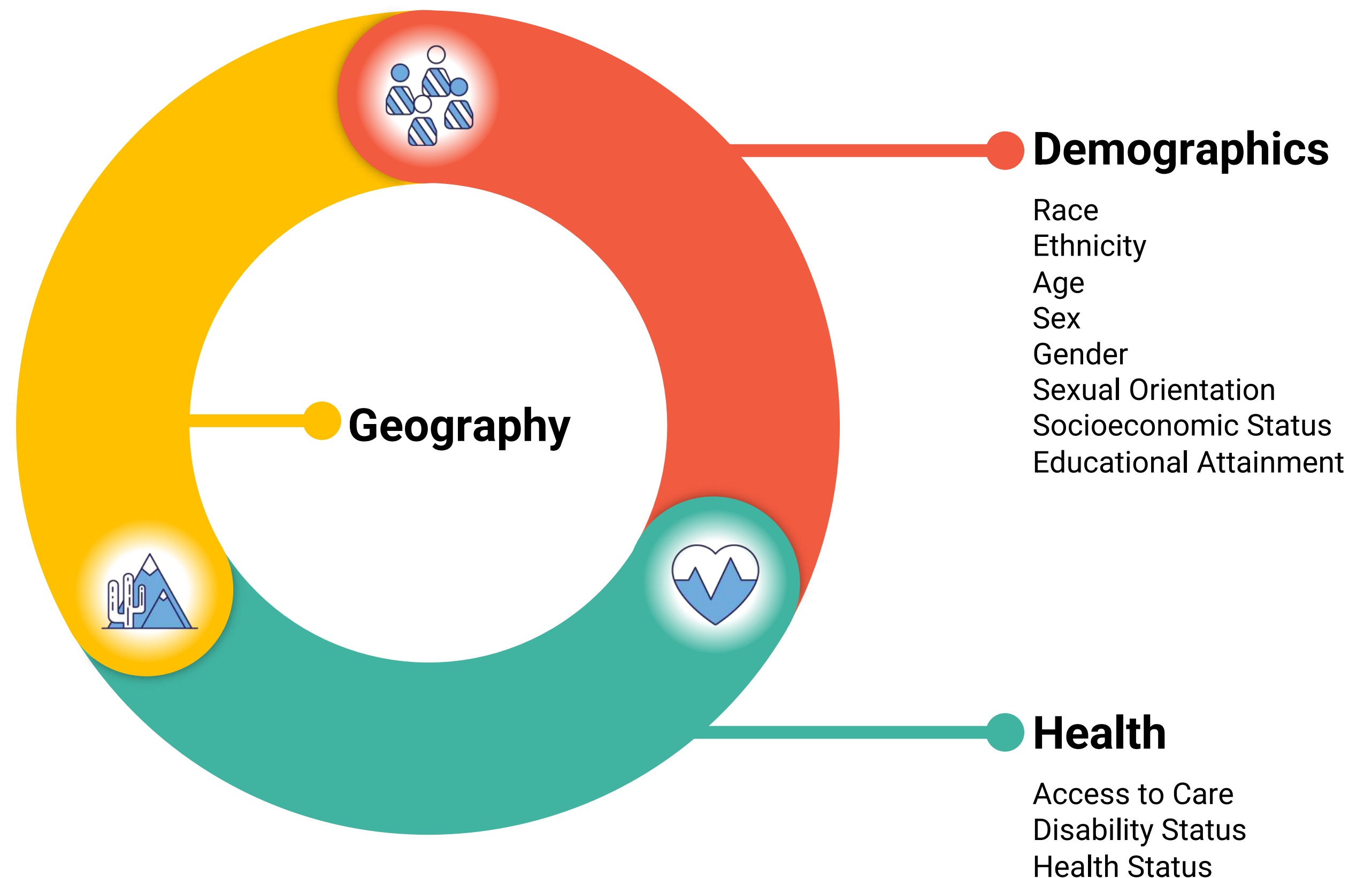


Minorities make up
38%
of the US population.

Minority populations to rise to over
56%
of overall population.

Minority enrollment in clinical trials
<10%

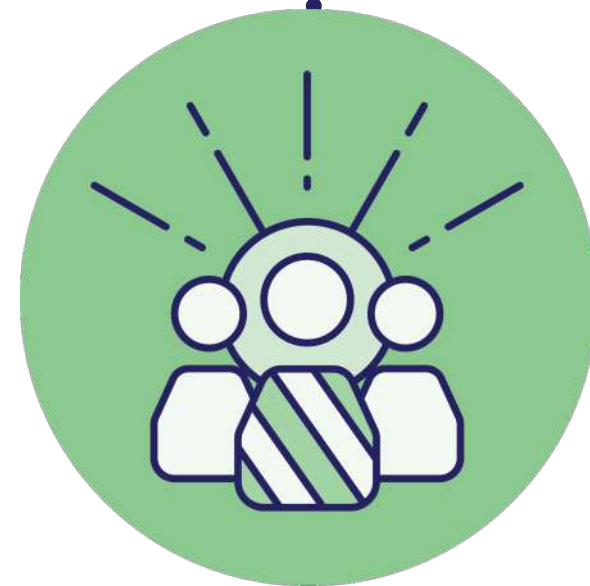
underrepresentation in biomedical research includes dimensions of...



All of Us Mission

Nurture relationships

with one million or more participant partners, from all walks of life, for decades



Deliver the largest, richest biomedical resource ever,

making it as easy, safe, and free to use as possible



Our Mission

To accelerate health research,
enabling individualized care for
all of us.



Catalyze the robust ecosystem

of researchers and funders
hungry to use and support it

Build and maintain a strong *All of Us* Team

capable of achieving the
program's mission

***All of Us* Core Values**

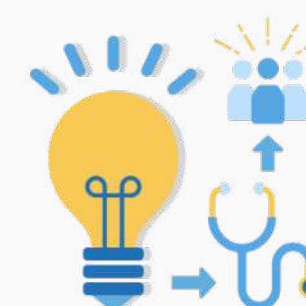
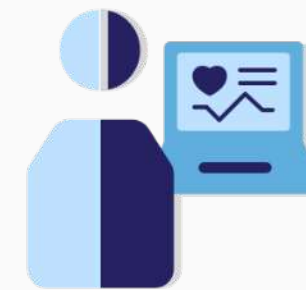
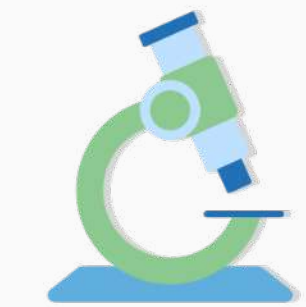
- Participation is open to **all**
- Participants reflect the rich **diversity** of the United States
- Participants are **partners**
- **Transparency** earns trust
- Participants have **access** to their information
- Data are **broadly accessible** for research purposes
- Security and privacy are of **highest importance**
- The program will be a **catalyst for positive change** in research



How will *All of Us* lead to discoveries?

Participants Share Data

Participants share health data online. This data includes health surveys and electronic health records. Participants also may be asked to share physical measurements and blood and urine samples. We also want to know if you will want information about your DNA.



Data Is Protected

Personal information, like your name, address, and other things that easily identify participants will be removed from all data. Samples—also without any names on them—are stored in a secure biobank.

Researchers Study Data

Approved researchers use the data to conduct studies. By finding patterns in the data, they may learn more about what affects people's health.

Participants Get Information

Participants will get information back about the data they provide, which may help them learn more about their health.

Researchers Share Discoveries

Research may help in many ways. It may help find the best ways for people to stay healthy. It may also help create better tests and find the treatments that will work best for different people.

***All of Us* is catalyzing innovation in the research enterprise**

For participants

- Empowering people from all walks of life to engage and help shape the future of research.
- Committed to responsibly returning information to participants.
- Developed a network of community partners to serve as “a trusted person I can talk to.”
- Creating a network of non-traditional partners for biomedical research, starting with Federally Qualified Health Centers, to bring in diverse and underrepresented communities.

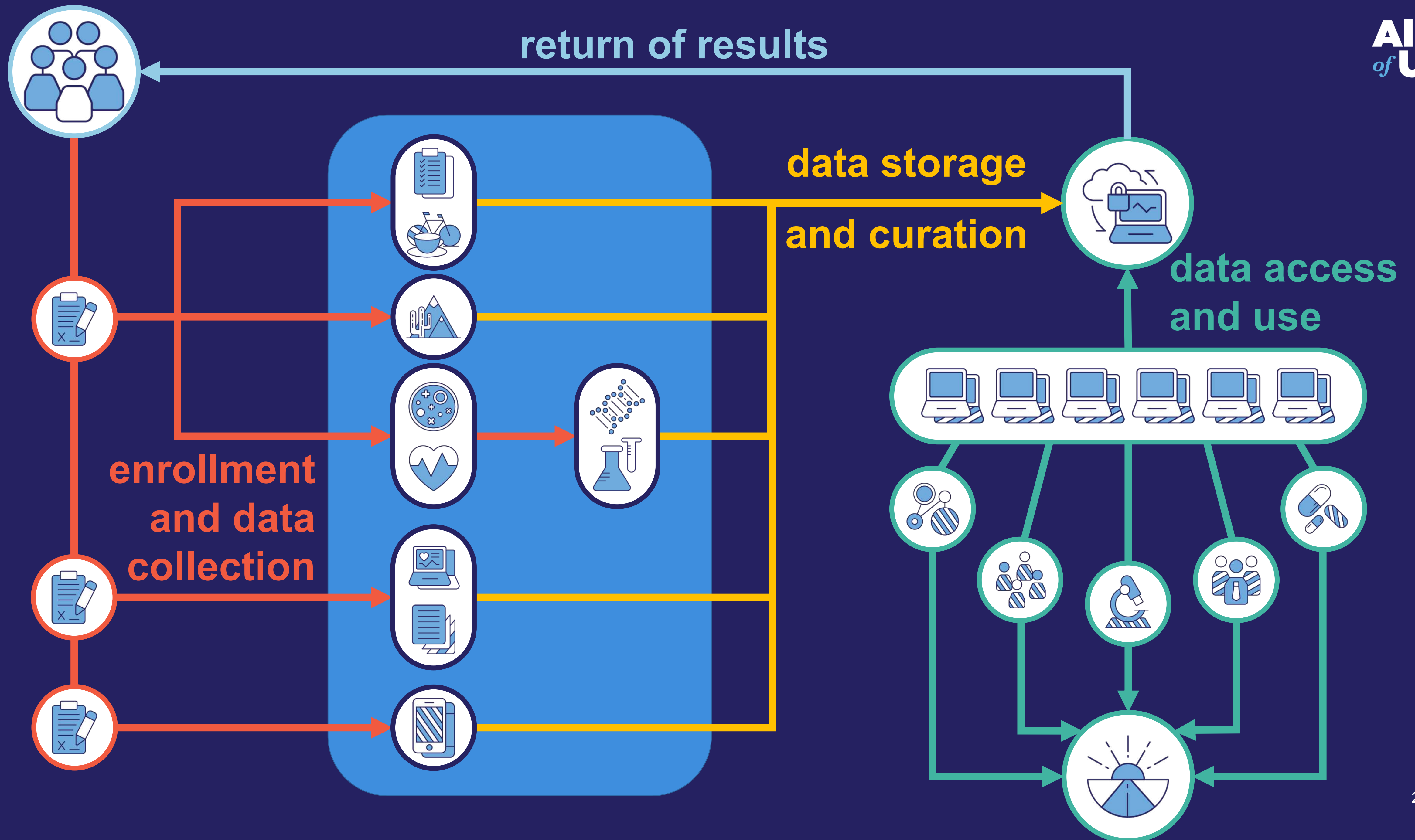
For researchers

- Testing digital engagement strategies to recruit and retain diverse participants.
- Opening new pathways to bring in data:
 - Investments in pilots to gather rich, longitudinal electronic health records.
 - Developing APIs and apps to leverage wearable health technologies.
- Empowering and democratizing research to bring “more brainpower per problem.”
 - *All of Us* will be open to all researchers, including citizen scientists.
- Built a network of partners to make it possible for anyone, anywhere in the country to participate in biomedical research.



Program Structure





Major building blocks of the *All of Us* Research Program consortium

DATA AND RESEARCH CENTER

Big data capture, cleaning, curation, & sharing in secure environment

Vanderbilt, Verily, Broad Institute

BIOBANK

Repository for processing, storing, and sharing biosamples (35+M vials)

Mayo Clinic

PARTICIPANT TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS CENTER

Web and phone-based platforms for participants

Vibrent Health

GENOMICS PARTNERS

Genotyping and whole genome sequencing of biosamples; counseling and educational resources for participants

Baylor College of Medicine, Broad Institute, University of Washington, Color, HudsonAlpha, and partners

PARTICIPANT CENTER / DV NETWORK

Direct volunteer participant enrollment, digital engagement innovation, and consumer health technologies

Scripps Research Institute (with multiple partners)

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ORGS NETWORK

HPOs with clinical & scientific expertise, enrollment & retention of participants

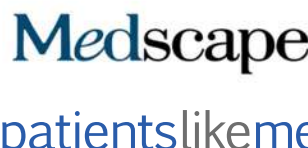
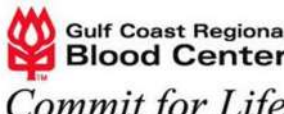
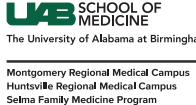
30+ regional medical centers, FQHCs, and VA

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

Communications, marketing, and design expertise; engagement coordination and community partners network

Wondros, Pyxis Partners, University of Utah, and many community engagement partner organizations

All of Us Consortium Members *(beyond community partners, as of March 2021)*

The Participant Center       				Communications & Engagement 				
HPO Network (Health Care Provider Organizations)		RMCs All of Us California  IllinoisPrecision Medicine Consortium  All of Us New England  Trans America Consortium  New York City Consortium  All of Us Southern Network  All of Us SouthEast Enrollment Center 	All of Us Wisconsin 		All of Us Pennsylvania 	University of Arizona and Banner Health 	FQHCs (Federally Qualified Health Centers) 	VA Medical Centers 
Participant Technology Systems Center (PTSC) 		Biobank 	Data & Research Center (DRC) 		Genomics Partners 			

All of Us RESEARCH PROGRAM

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The *All of Us* Policy Team



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Director



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Privacy Officer



Teresa McEachern, B.B.A.
Special Assistant to the
Director



Jessica Reusch, Ph.D.
Agreements Lead



Ericka Thomas, M.H.A.
Participant Priorities Lead

functional areas

All of Us

Consideration

Interpretation

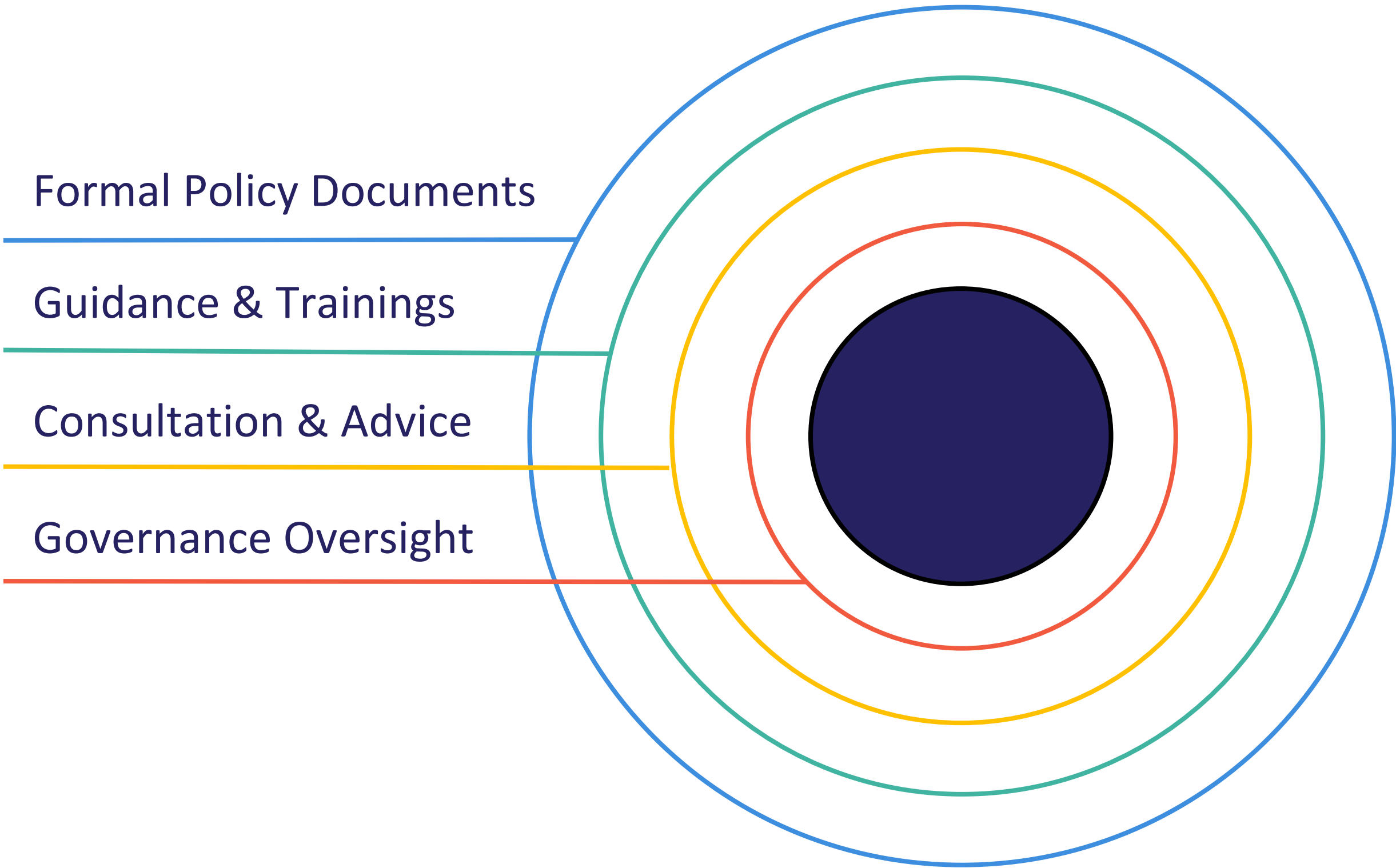
Promulgation

Policy Office

Evaluating ethical and social obligations for the program

Setting the terms for legal, regulatory, and policy compliance

Establishing and overseeing program-wide policies and principles



Consents and authorizations

Including vulnerable populations and protected classes

Privacy protections, controls, and measures

Access and use of *All of Us* data and research resources

Generation and sharing of genomic information

Agreements

Participant Protections*

Privacy

Access and Use

Genomics

topical areas



Sharing Data with Researchers

All of Us Data Collection



Participant Surveys

- The Basics
- Lifestyle
- Overall Health
- Personal Medical History
- Health Care Access & Utilization
- Family Medical History
- COVID-19 Participant Experience
- *Mental Health*



Electronic Health Records

- Medical Records
- *Claims Data*
- *Pharmacy Data*
- *Vision and Dental Records*



Physical Measurements

- Blood Pressure
- BMI
- Heart Rate
- Height
- Hip Circumference
- Waist Circumference
- Weight



Biospecimens

- Blood
- Urine
- DNA (from blood or *saliva*)
- *Saliva*
- *RNA*

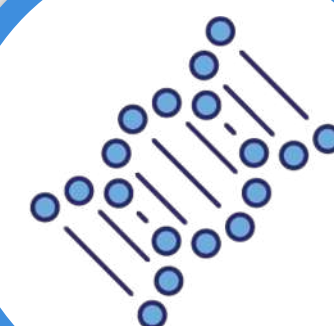


Mobile/Wearable Tech



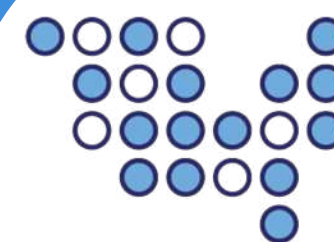
Assays

- COVID Serology*
- *HbA1c*
- *Heavy Metals*



Omics

- WGS*
- Arrays (Ancestry & Traits)
- *Other Omics*



Geospatial/Environmental Data

Selected Scientific Opportunities

- Develop quantitative **estimates of risk** for a range of diseases by integrating environmental exposures and genetic factors
- Identify the causes of individual variation in response to commonly used therapeutics = **pharmacogenomics**
- Discover **biological markers** that signal increased or decreased risk of developing common diseases
- Develop **solutions to health disparities**
- Use **mobile health technologies** to correlate activity, physiological measures, and environmental exposures with health outcomes
- **Empower study participants** with data and information to improve their own health
- Create a platform to enable **trials of targeted therapies**



***All of Us* Data Access and Use Principles**

◎ **Participants are research partners**

- Must protect their privacy to the greatest extent possible (while balancing the below principles)

◎ **Data is a non-scarce resource and should therefore be as accessible as possible for authorized users**

- This includes researchers outside of academic medical centers to those affiliated with industry and citizen/community scientists

◎ **We should continuously seek to remove unnecessary barriers to accessing *All of Us* data**

- No group of data users should have privileged access to *All of Us* resources based on anything other than data protection criteria

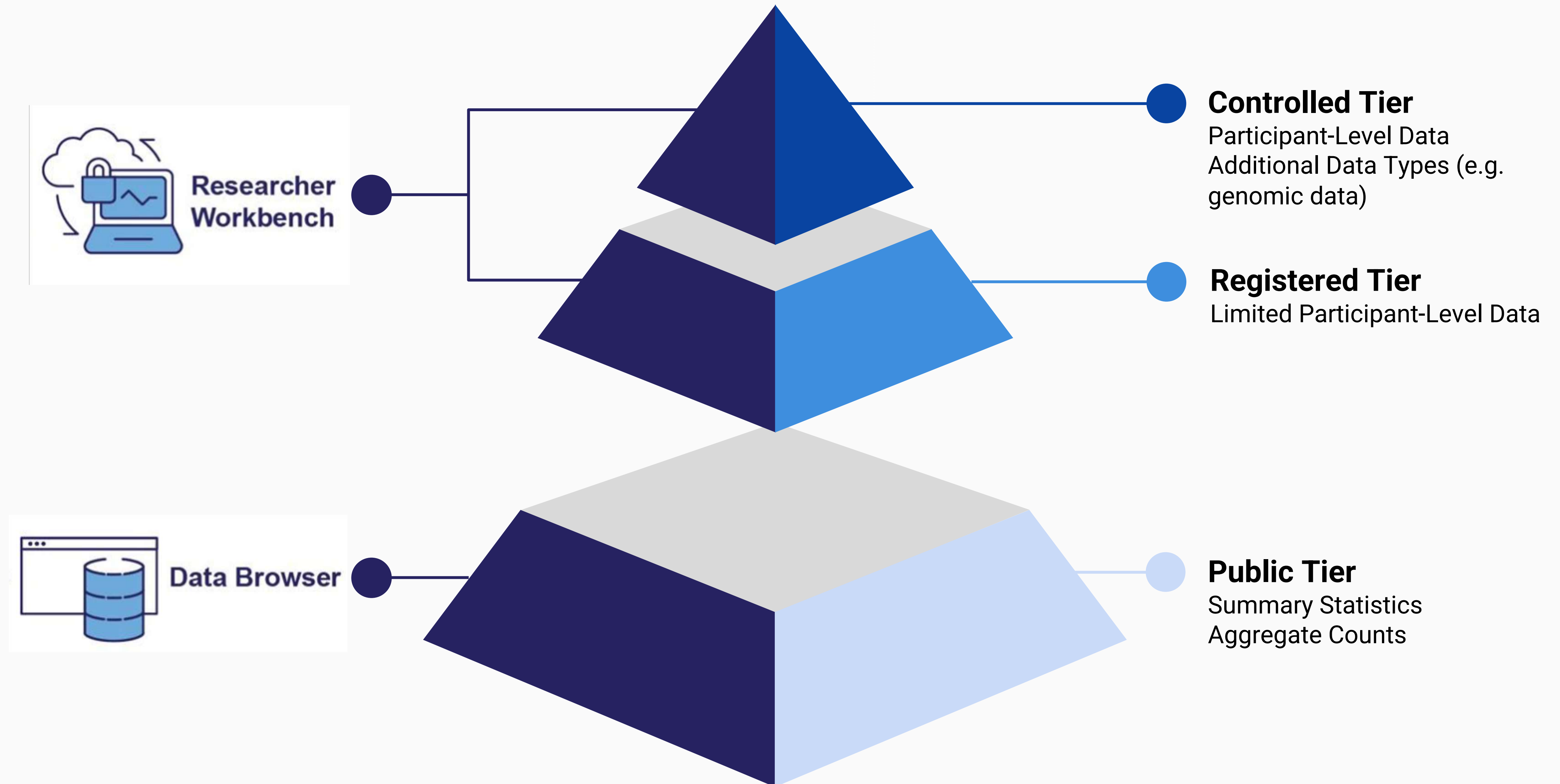
Considerations

- ◉ How do you balance broad access with programmatic oversight?
- ◉ How much do you trust your data users?
- ◉ What measures may be taken to render data hard to re-identify or (otherwise misuse) without sacrificing utility?
- ◉ How will you determine if/when a user has violated the terms of use and the gravity and intent of the violation?
- ◉ How will you enforce appropriate user behavior?

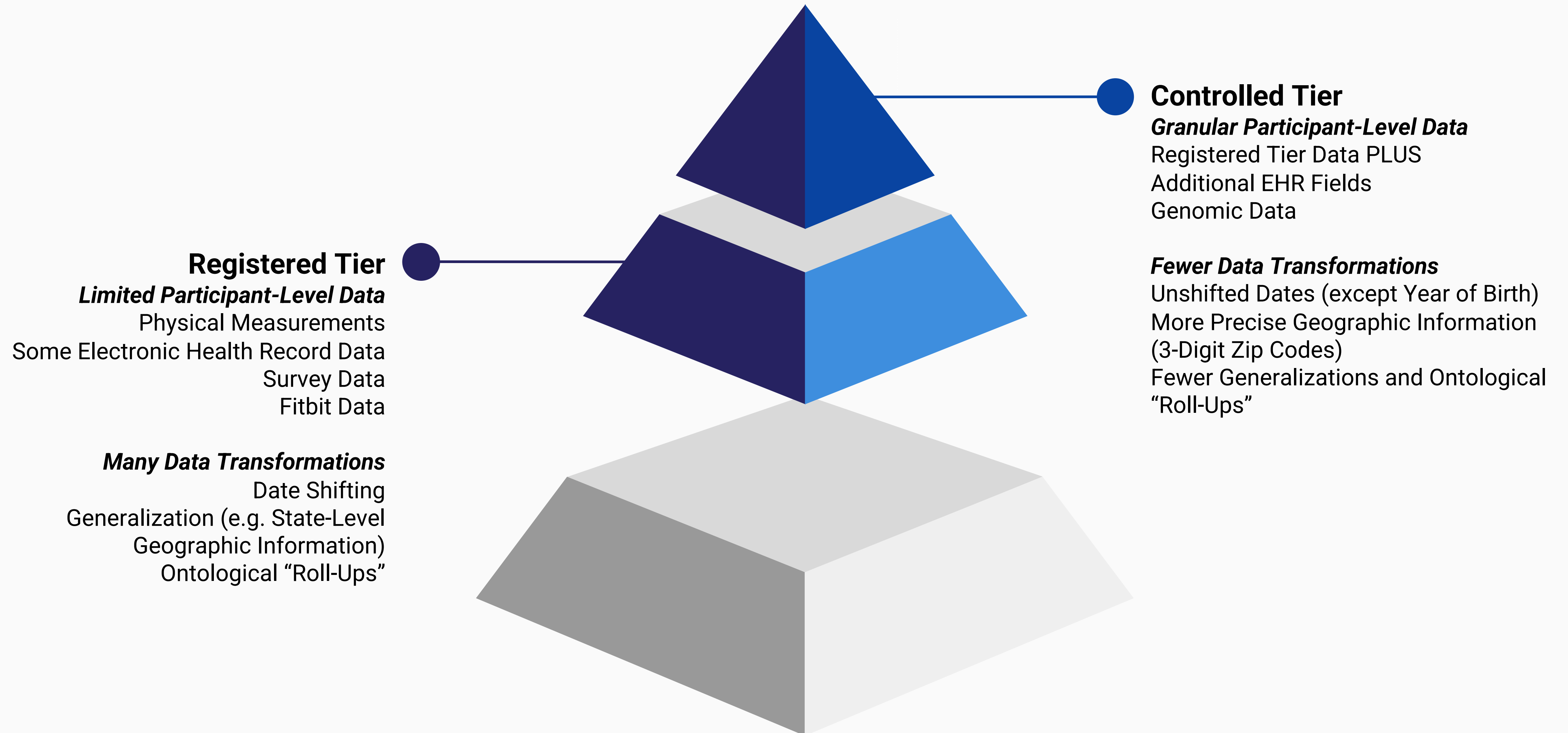


"They're harmless when they're alone, but get a bunch of them together with a research grant and watch out."

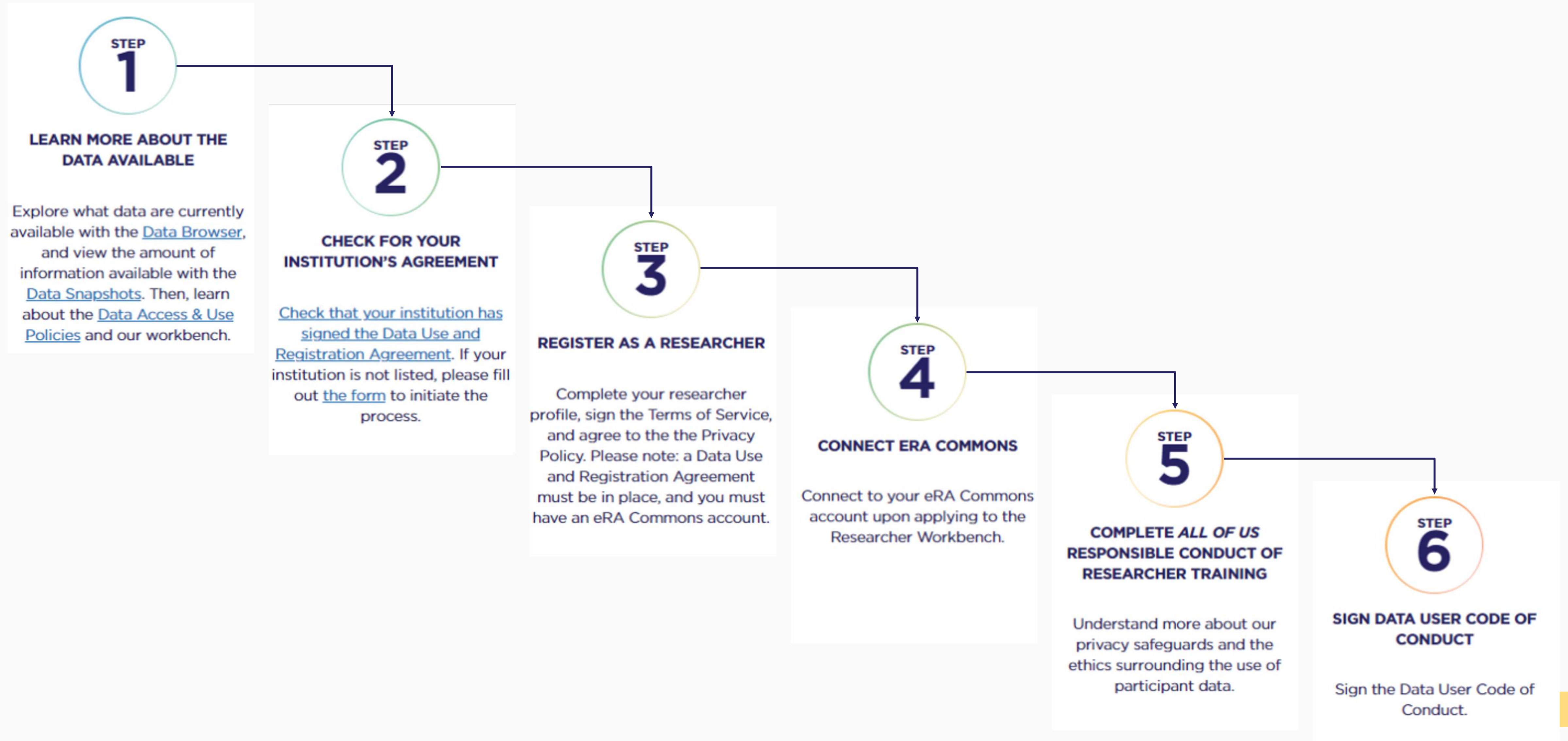
The *All of Us* Research Hub



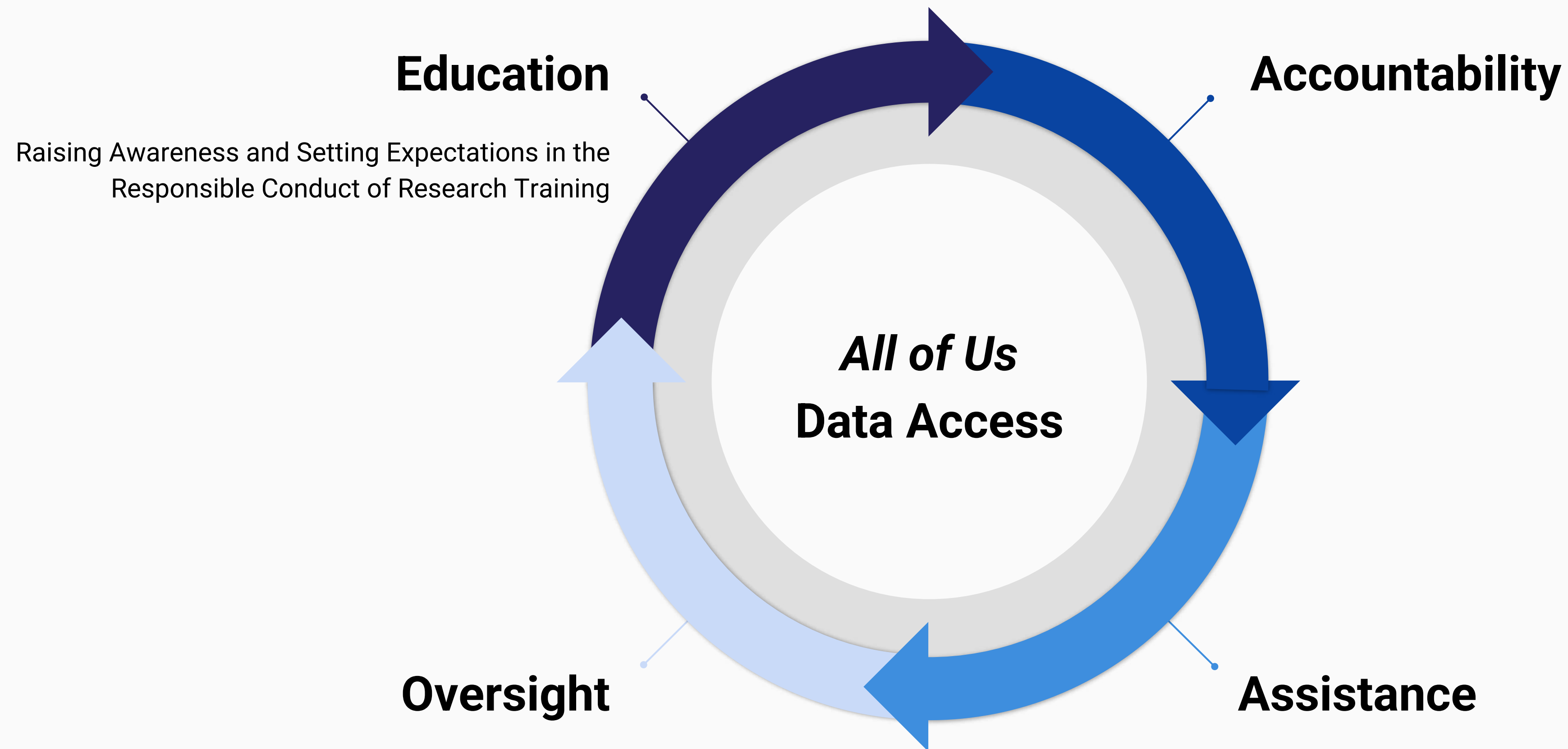
The *All of Us* Research Hub



The User Application Process



Preventing Misuse, Building Trust

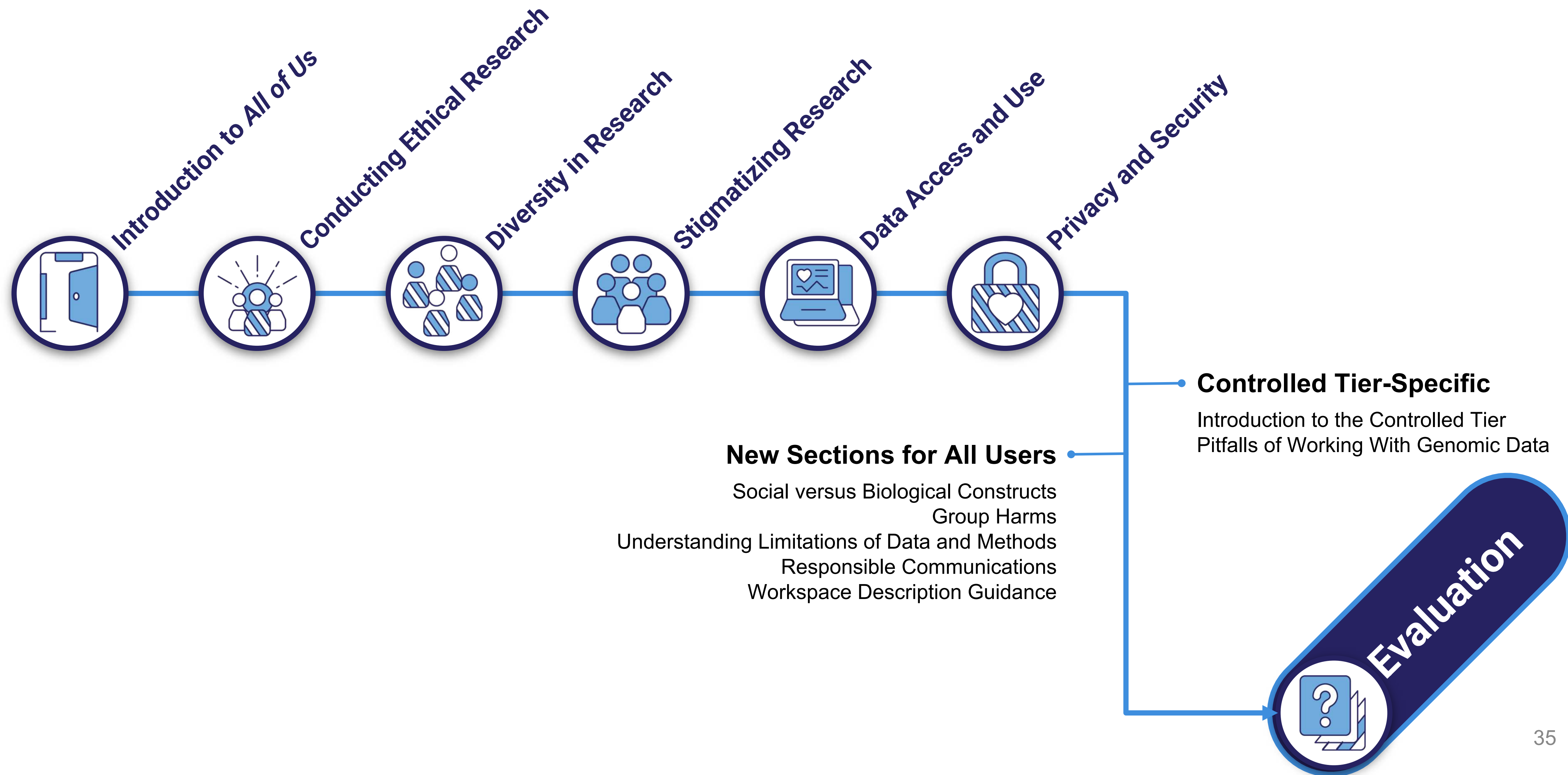


Education

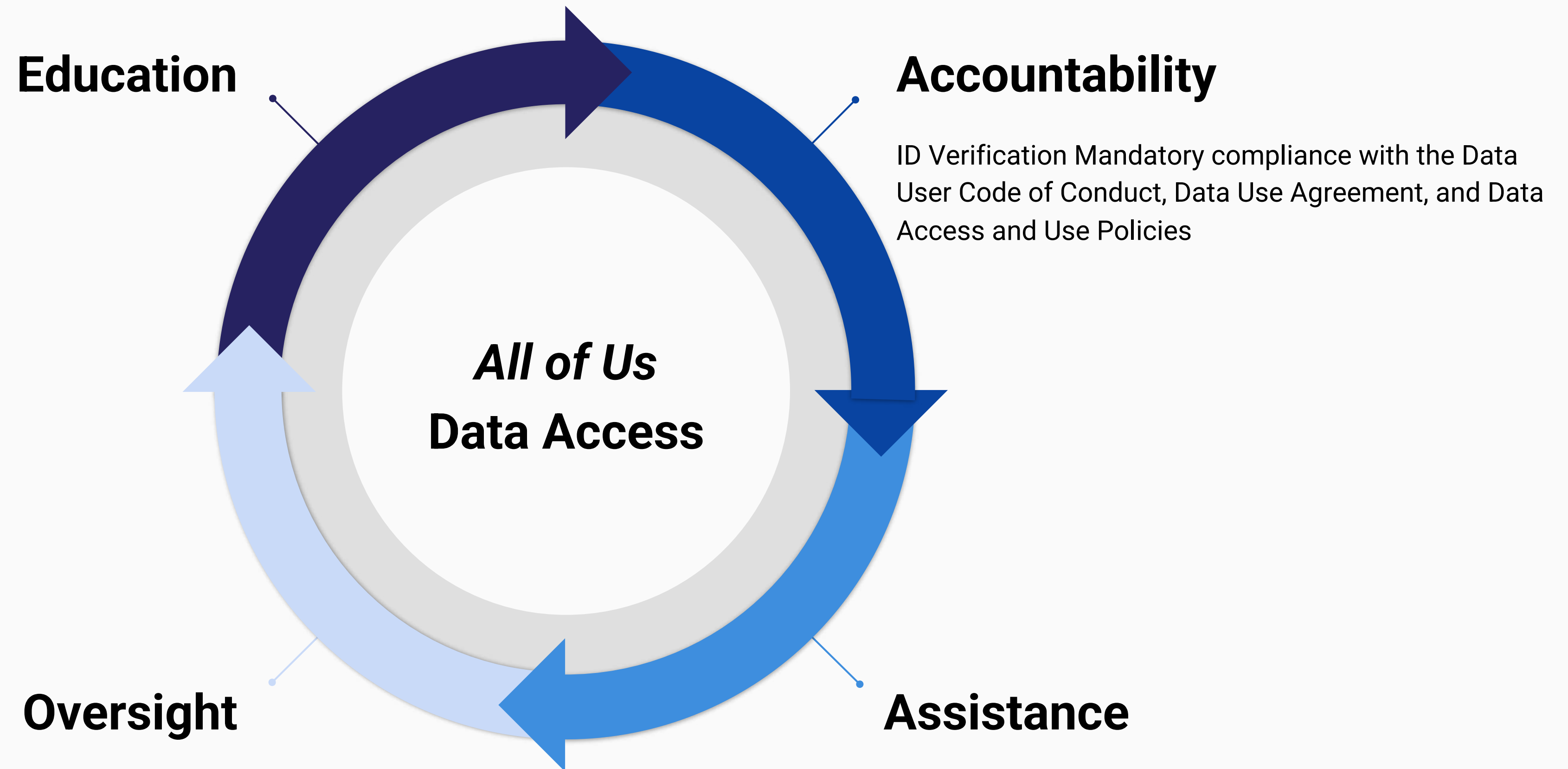
Responsible Conduct of Research Training



Additional Modules

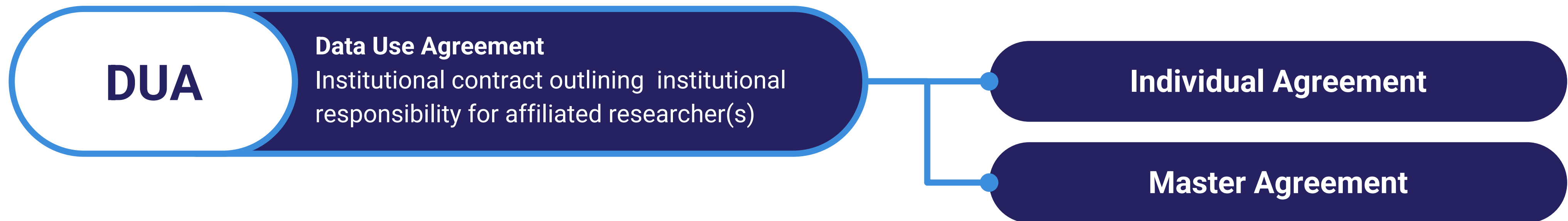


Preventing Misuse, Building Trust



Accountability

Data Use Contracts and Policies





Accountability

Data Use Contracts and Policies

DUA

Data Use Agreement

Institutional contract outlining institutional responsibility for affiliated researcher(s)

DUCC

Data User Code of Conduct

Individual agreement outlining individual use responsibilities

The *All of Us* Data User Code of Conduct (select clauses)

I **WILL**:

- ◉ read and adhere to the ***All of Us* Research Program Core Values**.
- ◉ know and follow **all applicable federal, state, and local laws** regarding human data access and privacy.
- ◉ provide a **meaningful and accurate** description of my research purpose every time I create an *All of Us* Research Program Workspace.
- ◉ use the *All of Us* Research Program data ONLY for the purpose of **biomedical or health research**.

I **will NOT**:

- ◉ use *All of Us* Research Program data, or any external data, files or software that I upload... for **research that is discriminatory or stigmatizing** of individuals, families, or communities.
- ◉ **attempt to re-identify** research participants or their relatives.
- ◉ **make copies of or download individual-level data** resources outside of the *All of Us* research environment without approval from RAB.
- ◉ **share my login information with anyone**, including another Authorized Data User...



Certificates of Confidentiality

42 u.s.c. § 241(d)

applies to identifiable, sensitive information collected during the course of federally-funded research

ensures limited disclosures to protect participant identities

radically overhauled by the 21st century cures act

before

optional

issuance

participant
identities

coverage

at researcher
discretion

withholdi
ng

n/a

immunity

mandatory and
automatic for
federally funded
research*

identifiable and
potentially identifiable
information and all
copies

mandatory, with
some exceptions*

immune from
legal process and
inadmissible in
proceedings

after

Accountability

Data Use Contracts and Policies

DUA

Data Use Agreement

Institutional contract outlining institutional responsibility for affiliated researcher(s)

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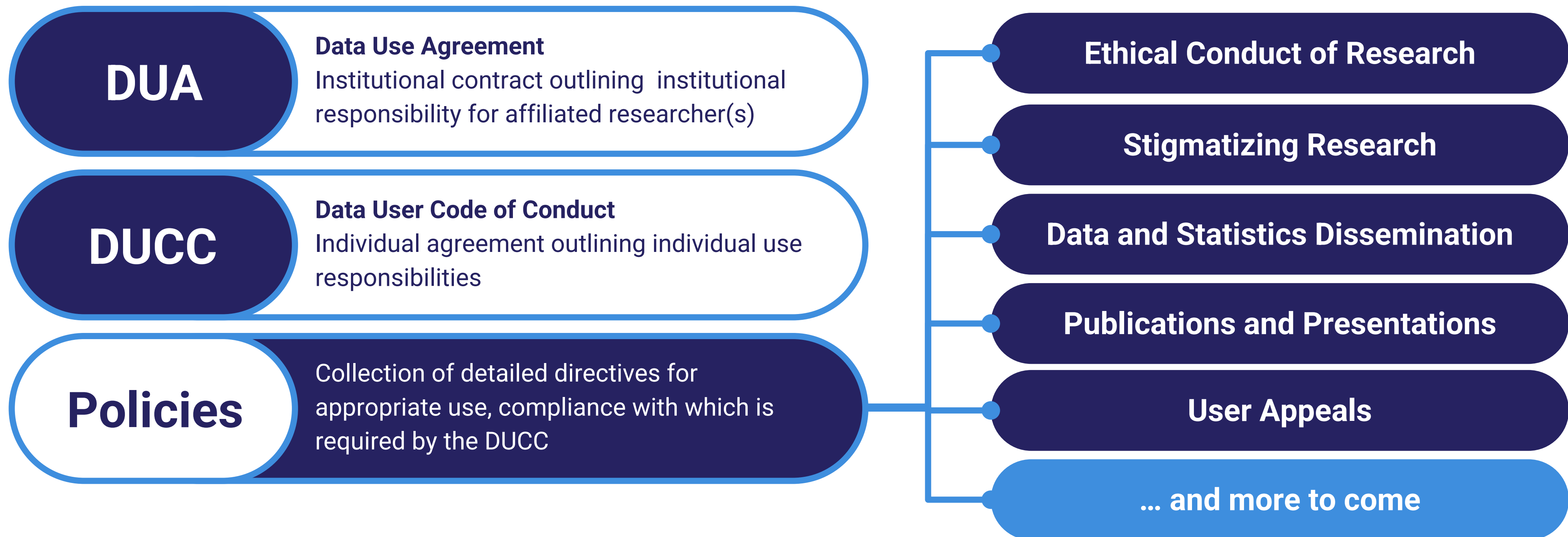
Individual agreement outlining individual use responsibilities

I WILL:

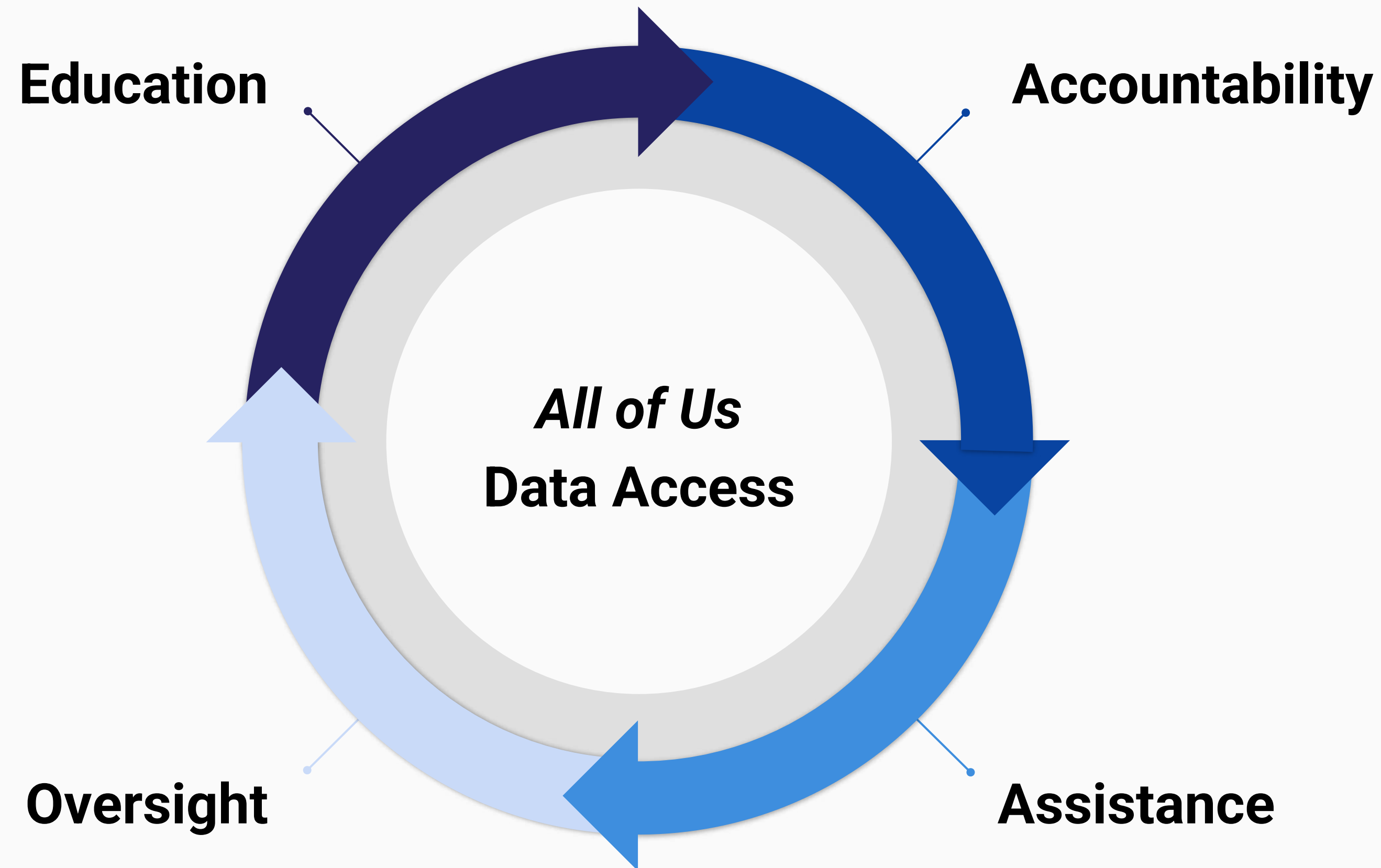
conduct research that follows **all policy requirements** and conforms to the ethical principles of the *All of Us* Research Program.

Accountability

Data Use Contracts and Policies



Preventing Misuse, Building Trust



Continual monitoring by Data and Research Center and periodic audits and publicly-initiated reviews conducted by the Resource Access Board

User-initiated reviews and assistance from the Resource Access Board available at any stage

Assistance

<https://www.researchallofus.org/research-projects-directory/>

User-Initiated
Workspace
Reviews

+

Periodic
Workspace
Audits

+

Publicly-
Initiated
Workspace
Reviews

Resource Access Board
(RAB)

Oversight

Has a violation actually occurred?

Occurrence

Is it reasonable to believe that the perceived violation was intentional?

Intentionality

Has the user always otherwise been in good standing with *All of Us*?

User History

Type

What is the type of the perceived violation?

- Legal or Regulatory Violation
- Participant/Group Reidentification
- Stigmatizing Research
- Group Harm
- Insufficient Workspace Description
- Marketing
- Other

Type specific-considerations

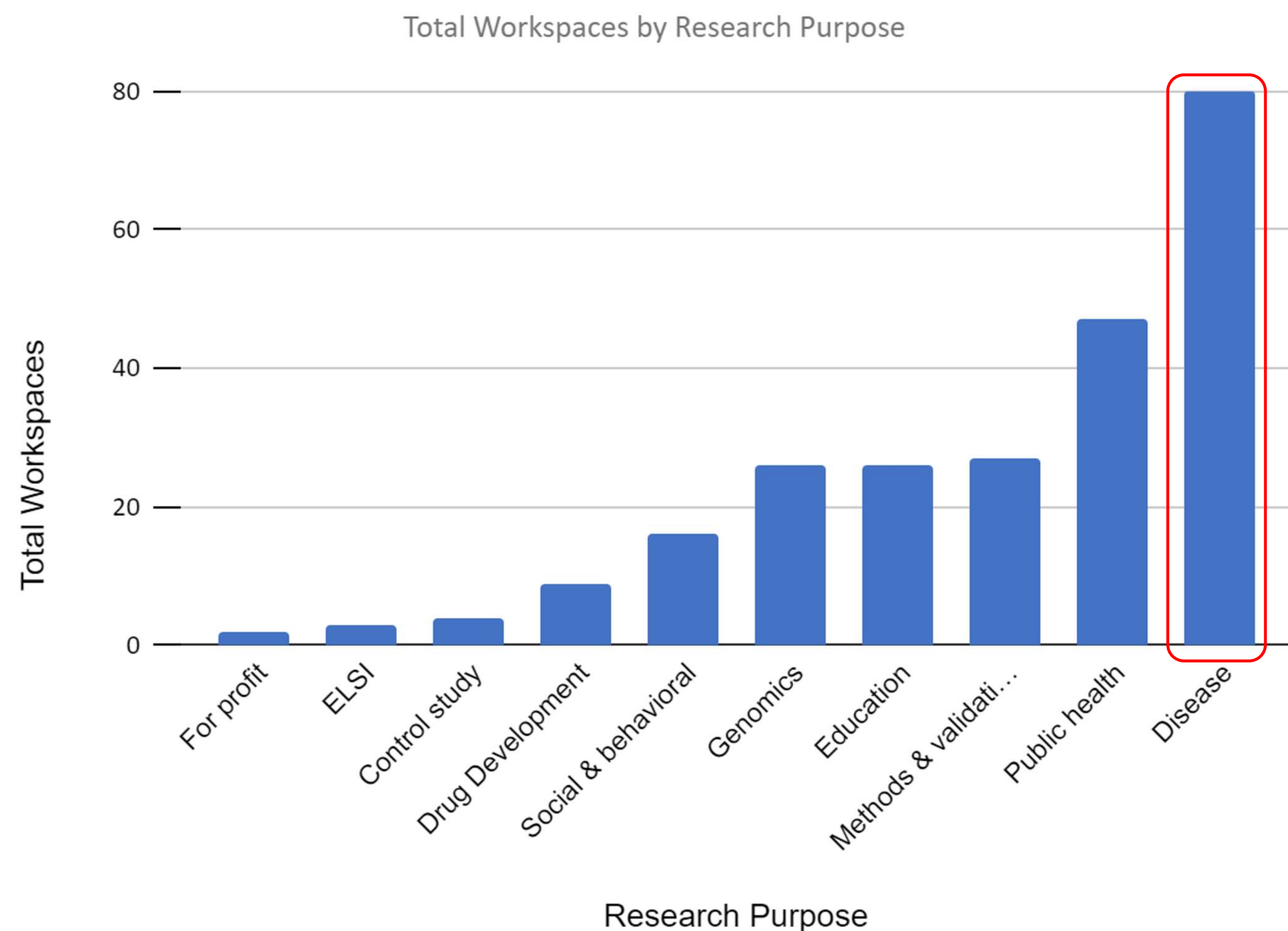
Scale and Scope

- How many individuals or how much information was affected?
- How significant was the effect?

Pattern Recognition

Are there patterns in violations in the user's history or across users (either total or affiliated with a particular insitution)?

Researchers are accessing *All of Us* for many reasons



*Please note: researchers may select multiple categories per workspace

Disease Foci (Workspace Count)

Cancer (12)

Diabetes (8)

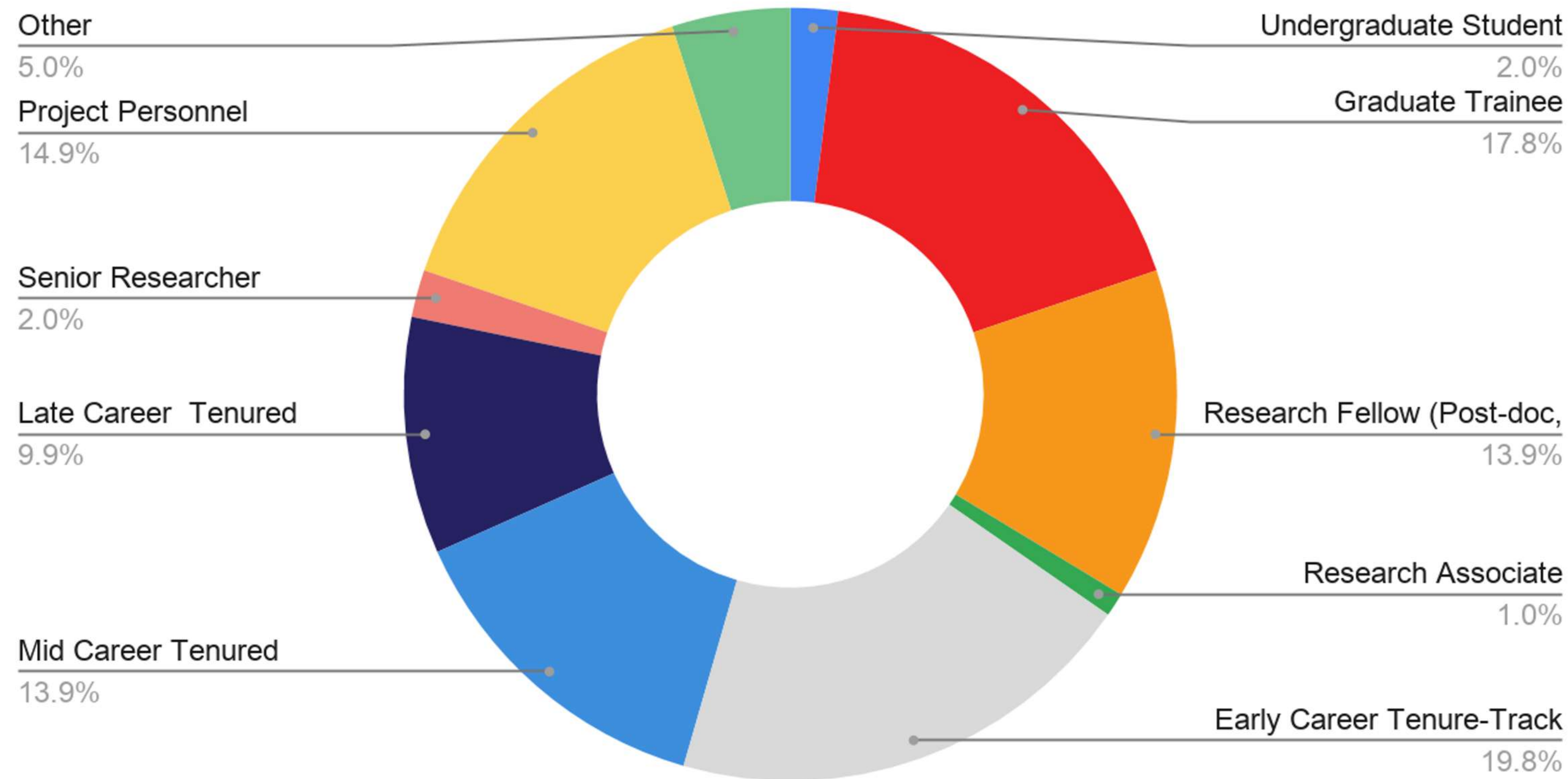
Depression (7)

Cardiovascular Disease (6)

Autoimmune Disease (6)

and many more....

Who are our researchers?



Researcher Demographics*

- **>50%** Trainees, Fellow, & Early Career Investigators
- **86%** have graduate degrees (**72%** doctorate)
- **48%** White, **40%** Asian, **10%** None/PNTA, **1%** AA, **1%** AI/AN
- **94%** Non-Hispanic
- **61%** Man, **33%** Woman, **5%** Non binary, transgender, or PNTA

*Percentages provided are out of the total number of researchers who responded to each optional demographic question as of 8/4/2020. Response rates for demographic questions range from ~63% for Ethnicity to ~71% for race.



Sharing Data with Participants



Participants Want Results

PLOS ONE published a public opinion survey conducted by the Foundation for the NIH.

2,601 responses were analyzed.

79% supported the program after reading a short description.

54% said they would definitely or probably participate if asked—not predictive of enrollment numbers, but encouraging.

- Little variability among demographic groups
- Most important incentive for participation:
learning about one's health information

*Kaufman DJ, Baker R, Milner LC, Devaney S, Hudson KL (2016):
A Survey of U.S. Adults' Opinions about Conduct of a Nationwide Precision Medicine Initiative
Cohort Study of Genes and Environment.
PLOS ONE 11(8): e0160461. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0160461*



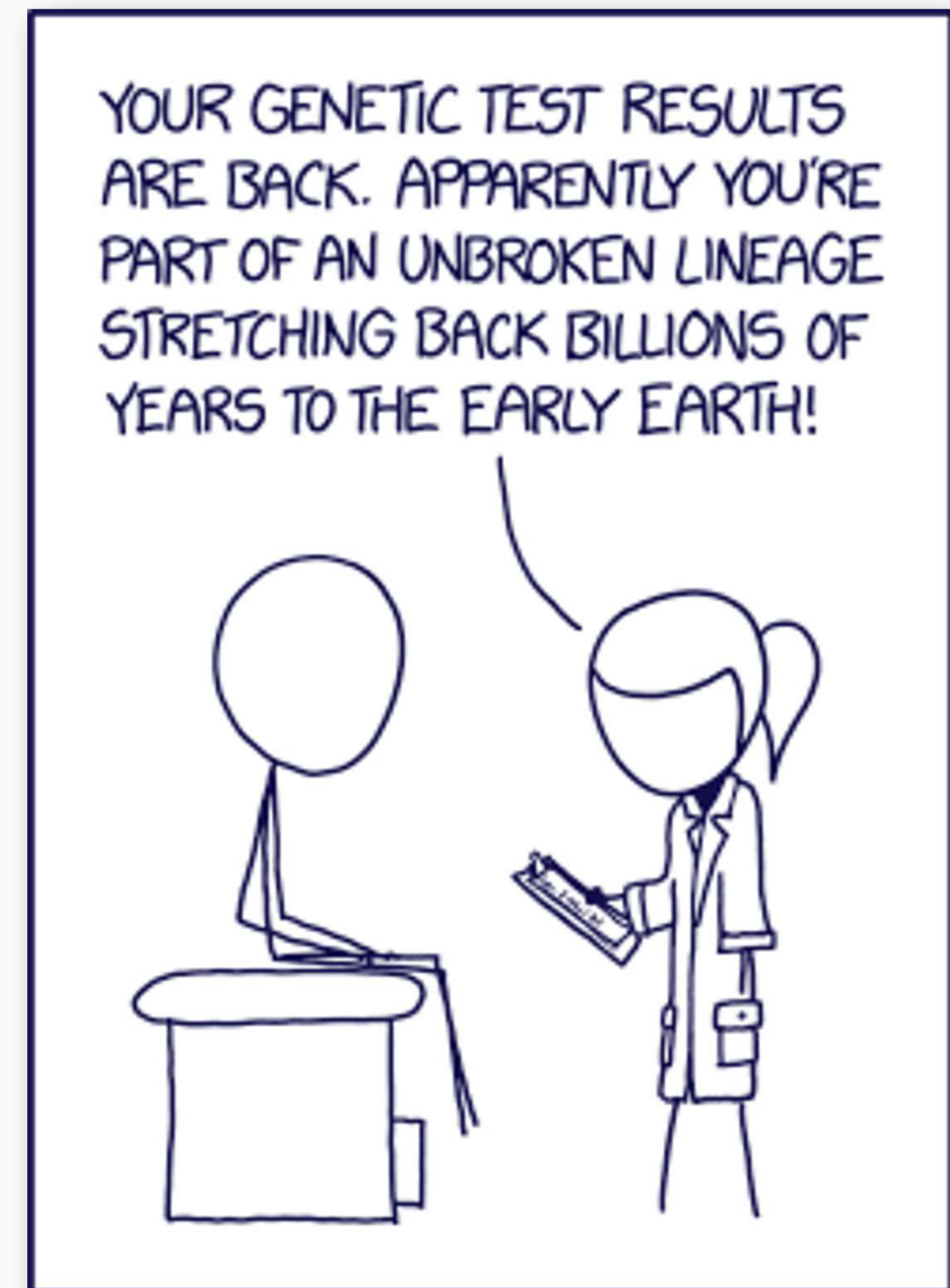
National Academies Report

- Support decision making regarding the return of results on a study-by-study basis
- Promote high-quality individual research results
- Foster participant understanding of individual research results
- Revise and harmonize current regulations

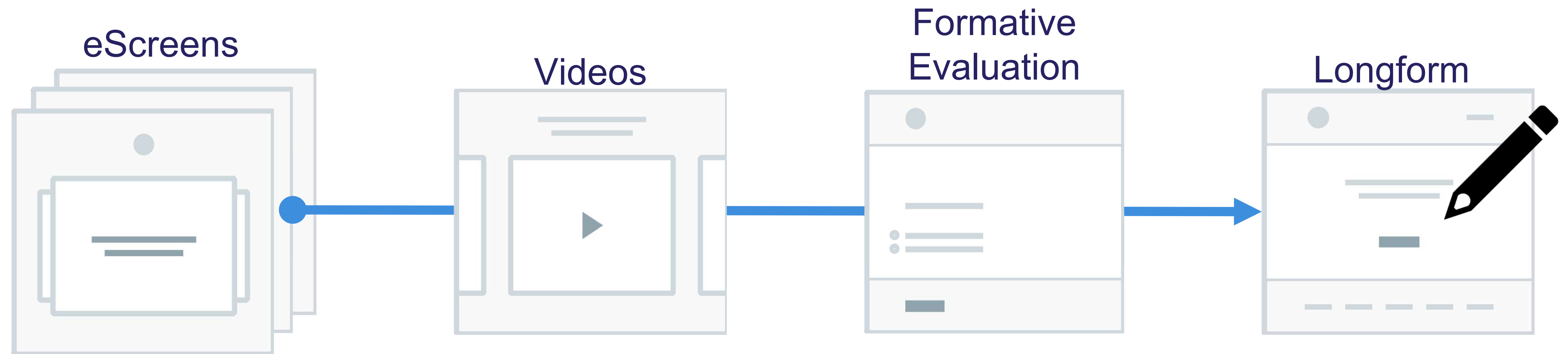


Considerations

- What are the legal and regulatory obligations?
- Where is the appropriate balance between paternalism and participant autonomy?
- What information should and should not be returned to participants?
- How should you support participant decision-making and receipt of information?
- How can you overcome issues of equity and cultural sensitivity?



Broad Accessibility | Informed Consent



yes means yes.

everything else means no.

Consent vs . Informing Loops | DNA Results Example

Overall potential risks
and benefits of learning
DNA results

General overview of
DNA, variants,
limitations of current
knowledge

Legal information,
disclaimers, and
resources

Choice to be offered for
each DNA result type in
the future (as available)

**Consent
to Get
DNA
Results**

Shared Emphasis on...

Participant Choice
Research Results

**Informing
Loops**

Potential risks and
benefits of that specific
type of DNA result

Examples of the type of
information one could
learn from that type of
DNA result and
limitations of those
results

Link to Learning Center
to help participants find
more information

Choice to receive that
specific type of result

All of Us Participant Educational and Decision Support

Participant Learning Center



DNA & Genomics

DNA is an important source of information about health. Learn about the role of genes, what DNA does, and how genetic testing works.

What is DNA? What are genes?

DNA is short for deoxyribonucleic acid. DNA is the material that makes up genes. Genes carry information that determine your traits, such as your hair color, eye color, and risk of developing some diseases. DNA is passed on from parents to their kids. Half of your DNA came from your

How do genes affect health and disease?

Our bodies are very complex. They require teamwork from many kinds of molecules in our bodies. Proteins are specific molecules that carry out nearly everything happening inside our bodies. Genes help make the proteins and tell them what to do. A change in a gene's DNA can

What is a genome?

Your genome is your complete set of DNA. It acts like a personal blueprint, storing the information needed to build and maintain your body.

What is the difference between “genomics” and “genetics”?

Genetics studies how genes are passed down in your family. When studying genetics, researchers look at a limited number of specific genes. Think of genetics as studying the career of one player on a championship team.

What is a genetic variant?

Decision Tool

If I decide to receive my DNA results...

I may learn that I am at increased risk for some health conditions.

It may help my healthcare provider take better care of me.

It may help my healthcare provider make decisions about my medicines.

I may need more expensive health care.

It might be harder or more expensive to get disability, life, and long-term care insurance.

I may feel confusion or worry about my results.

My blood relatives may find out things about their health, too.

I may need to take time off work to care for my health.

I may not find out anything useful.

I may realize I'm not related to some family members in the way I thought I was.

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DNA Results | Ancestry and Traits



Genetic ancestry

Where in the world did your genes come from?



Lactose intolerance

Your genes code for lactase, which helps you digest milk.



Earwax type

Flaky or sticky? Earwax type is encoded in your genes.



Cilantro preference

Smell and taste work together to influence your cilantro preference.



Bitter taste perception

Learn what your genes can tell you about your ability to taste bitter things.

- Began returning results in late 2020
- >34 K notified they can get results if they want to
- >25 K said “Yes” to getting Genetic Ancestry and Traits results
- >20 K viewed genetic ancestry results
- >18 K have viewed at least one trait result
- **Biggest complaint: “I want to know more.”**

Available Now

DNA Results | Health-Related Information

IDE approved July 2020

- DNA from blood; supplement for saliva in process
- Returning ACMG 59 and PGx CPIC A

Genetic counselors will return P/LP results



Hereditary disease risk results

Please review the benefits and risks to getting your DNA results about hereditary disease risk.



Medicine and your DNA results

Please review the benefits and risks to getting your DNA results about medicine and your DNA.

Downloadable/Printable Reports

Ability to send report directly to health care provider

Technical section for health care providers

not quite here yet!

Lessons Learned | Genetic Ancestry and Traits

- **Commercial Product vs. Government Research Product**
 - We are not a DTC testing service, but we are returning many of the same results
 - Need to set appropriate expectations
- **Fine Line Between Traits and Health-Related Information**
- **Diverse Population Needs**
 - Cultural Competency/Sensitivity - returning results with appropriate contextual information
 - Return of Value - who determines what is of value?
- **Clarity** - Clear information on key concepts to prevent biologizing of social and other non-biological constructs
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Ancestry
 - Genetic Ancestry

Lessons Learned | Health-Related Results

- **Participant Choice**
 - Learn about and decide on each result type *before* results are generated
 - Can choose for each result type independently
- **Bridging the Digital Divide**
 - PDF reports vs. interactive web results
- **State-level laws for genetic analysis**
 - Florida law - must offer to send results of genetic testing to physician. Why not offer to all participants, regardless of state?
- **Obtaining an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) from the FDA**
 - Ties the program's consent to FDA purview
 - Providing comprehensive overview and all related materials helped establish a clearer picture