Study Results in Clinicaltrials.gov: A Whole New Ball Game

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Research Questions:

- What proportion of records in Clinicaltrials.gov include results given that the FDA now requires results reporting for some trials?
- Are certain types of trials more likely to include results?
- How can searchers best make use of Clinicaltrials.gov?

Findings:

- Only 6% of completed trials include results.
- Nearly all trials with results are for studies completed since 2009.
- Most of the trials with results were industry funded.
- Even though they don’t include results, an additional 19% of trials have associated publications in the CITATIONS field.
- These publications are either harvested from PubMed records or supplied by investigators.
- The publications field can only be targeted through the Expert search option available under the Refine search tab.

Conclusion:

- Expanding the search to include publications will enhance recall.