

examined 13,327 studies that ended during the period from 2008 to 2012. Of these, over 77% were drug trials. Of all the trials, only 13.4% reported summary results within 1 year of completing the research. When using a 5-year time frame, 38.9% reported summary results.

A British physician, Ben Goldacre, is part of an international campaign called ALLTrials, which seeks to require researchers worldwide to publish their results. He noted that an antidepressant he had prescribed for his patients showed positive results in the published literature. Whereas the published literature showed this antidepressant to be as effective as any other antidepressant drug, *unpublished* data involving 3 times as many people as the published data did not find the same results. A similar situation happened for another

type of antidepressant drug, referred to as SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors). Prozac is one example of this class of drugs. Although these were introduced in the 1980s, it was not until 2006 that data submitted to the FDA showed a relationship between the drug and suicidal ideation in adolescents. Further, only 51% of the studies submitted to the FDA showed that use of SSRIs led to a positive result, whereas 94% of *published* studies showed positive results.

Thought Question: What role should the U.S. federal government play in ensuring treatment data from all clinical trials are available to the public?

(Based on “Failure to Publish the Results of All Clinical Trials Is Skewing Medical Science,” *The Economist*, July 25, 2015)