



# TRENDS IN PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Data Report: The State of the Drug Development Industry

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## METHODOLOGY & PROFILE

## Methodology & Profile



# 152

participants were surveyed in April 2022

**Participants were heavily screened to ensure they met the following criteria:**



**Industry:** Pharma, biopharma, or biotech company



**Level:** Have drug development decision-making responsibility and be director-level or above



**Role:** Work in a role related to drug development



**Company:** Have at least one compound in development



**Geography:** US/Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia, or Middle East/India

Survey was conducted on behalf of PPD, part of Thermo Fisher Scientific, by Industry Standard Research (ISR), using ISR's proprietary Health Panel. Participants were provided an honorarium for their time.



## Statistical Differences

Data were analyzed using statistical crosstabs to check for any statistically significant differences across demographic segments, including:



### Geography

US/Canada (n=75)

Europe (n=46)

Asia/Pacific (n=31)



### Company Size

**Small:** Annual R&D Spend < \$100M (n=42)

**Mid:** Annual revenue \$100M - \$999M (n=41)

**Large:** Annual R&D Spend ≥ \$1B (n=69)



### Role

Director (n=95)

VP/C-Suite (n=57)

Statistically significant differences between segments at a 95% confidence level are shown in callout boxes throughout the report with the data for each segment in parentheses.

**Small (57%) vs. Mid (22%)  
and Large (15%)**

In the example above, the data from respondents from small companies is significantly higher than that of respondents at mid-size and large companies.

# Respondent Profile

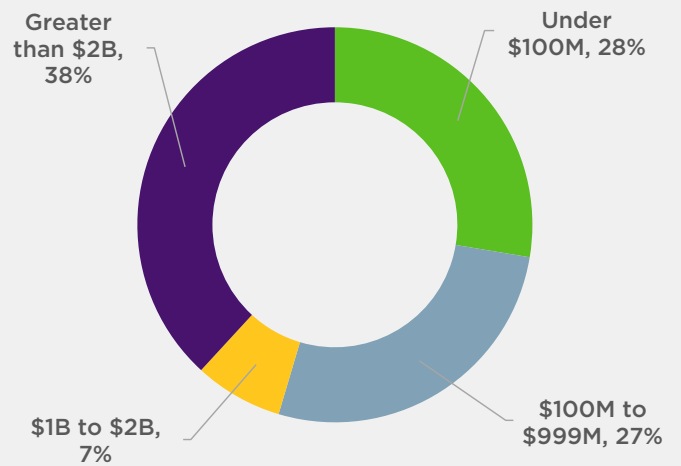
RESPONDENTS WERE SURVEYED FROM:



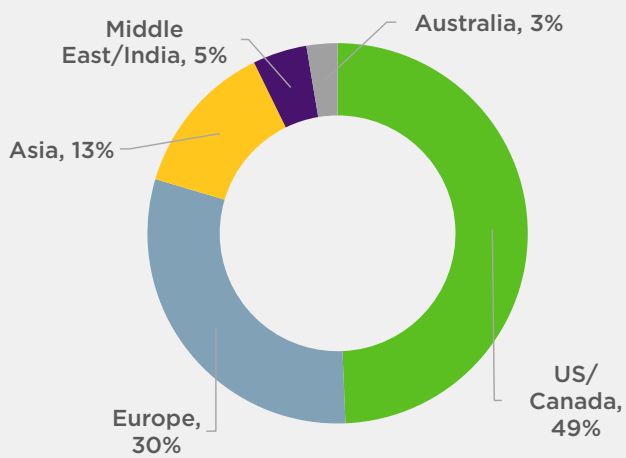
## Company Type



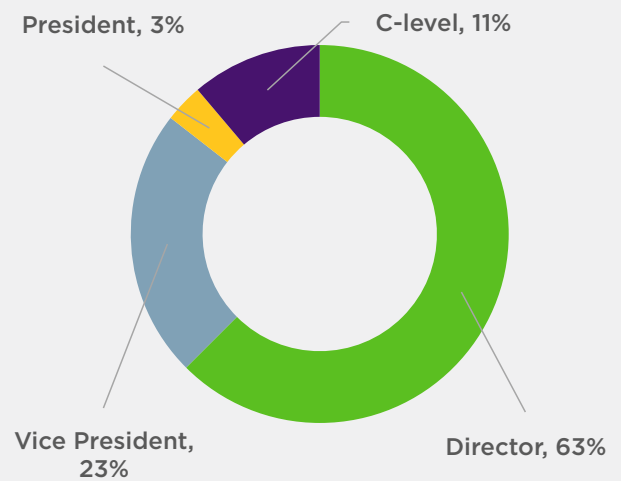
## Annual R&D Spend



## Geography



## Job Level



# Respondent Profile

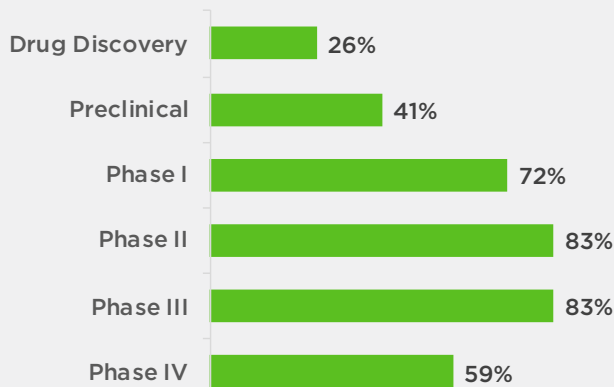
## RESPONDENTS WERE SURVEYED FROM:



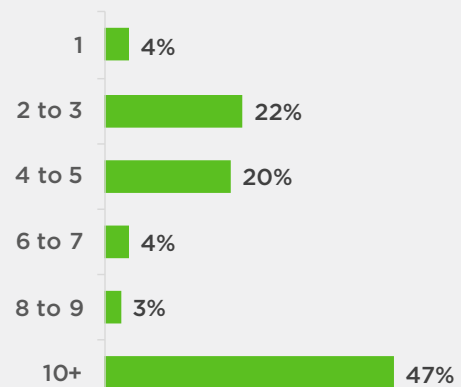
### Role



### Development Phase Responsibility



### Unique Molecules/Compounds in Pipeline



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# Drug Development

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:



Survey participants reported that **Oncology and Hematology** (59%), **Rare Diseases** (39%), and **Immunology and Rheumatology** (38%) are the therapeutic areas leading their drug development pipeline

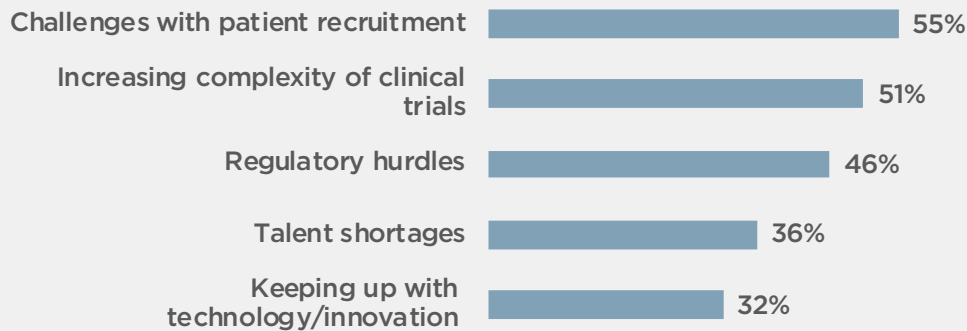


Challenges with **patient recruitment** in clinical trials (e.g., patient retention, population diversity) (55%) and **increasing complexity of clinical trials** (51%) are the biggest pain points for respondents' organizations

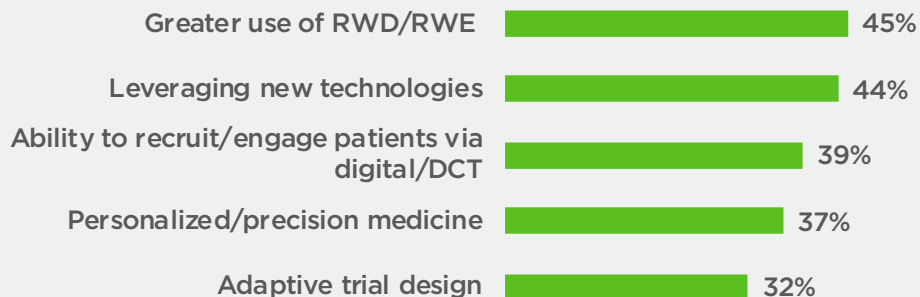


The largest proportion of survey participants consider **greater use of RWD/RWE** to complement data from clinical trials (45%) and **leveraging new technologies** in drug development (e.g., mRNA, drug discovery platforms) (44%) to be the greatest opportunity areas in drug development in clinical trials

### Top 5 Challenges



### Top 5 Opportunities



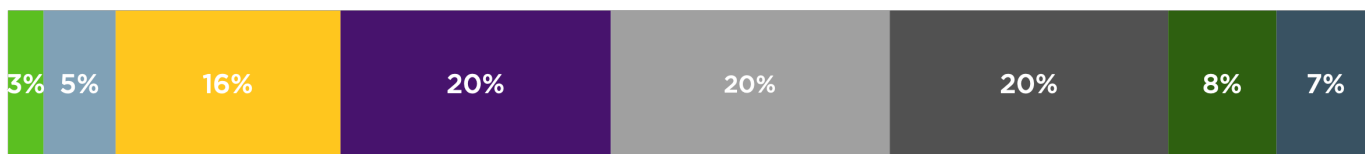


# Drug Development

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

There is **wide adoption of new innovations, strategies, and technologies** at respondents' companies, with over half of respondents reporting their organization currently utilizes **adaptive trial design** (64%), **digitalization** (e.g., cloud computing, APIs, digital platforms) (62%), **RWD/RWE** (59%), and **big data and analytics** (data science) (53%).

Nearly **half of survey participants** reported that the **average timeline to produce a drug moves more slowly** than it did two years ago (48%), while **one-quarter of respondents** noted a **faster drug development timeline** (24%).



- More quickly by 24+ months
- More quickly by 12 to 23 months
- More quickly by 1 to 11 months
- No change in timeline
- More slowly by 1 to 11 months
- More slowly by 12 to 23 months
- More slowly by 24+ months
- Don't know



The COVID-19 pandemic has encouraged respondents to **decentralize trials**, or work with partners that can do so (51%) and identify areas for process improvements to **increase speed to market** (49%).

# Decentralized Trials

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:



Among respondents who reported that their organization currently utilizes decentralized trials, the average proportion of trials conducted in this manner **has increased by 11 percentage points over the last year** and is expected to increase another 13 percentage points over the next two years.



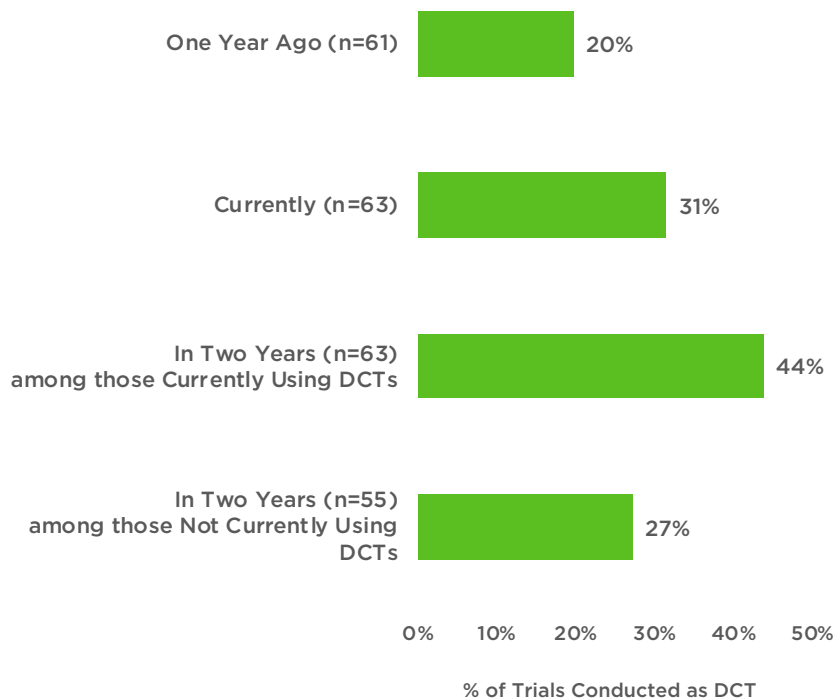
Survey participants who do not currently use decentralized trials expect that, on average, roughly one-quarter of their clinical trials (27%) will employ this strategy by 2024.

## EXPERT TAKE



**“DCTs are a solution to the biggest challenges [reported in this survey, patient recruitment and enrollment]. Making it easier for people to participate in studies will solve that challenge.”**

*Mariah Baltezgar, VP Specialized Solutions, PPD, part of Thermo Fisher Scientific*

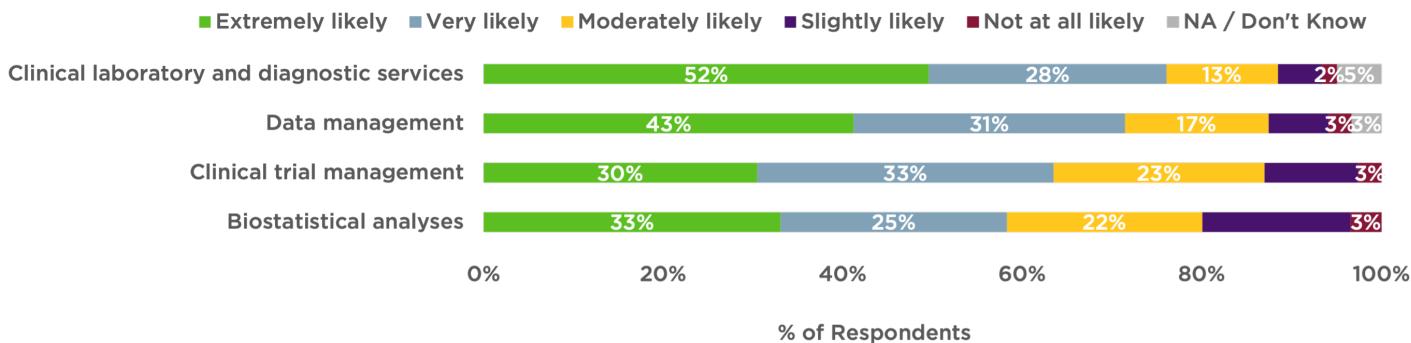


# Outsourcing

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Respondents recently involved with outsourcing at their organization indicated, on average, that the largest proportion of clinical development work is **outsourced using a full-service, trial by trial** (32%) model, followed by hybrid full-service/FSP (16%) model and in-house employees (15%).

With more than half of survey participants providing ratings of “Very Likely” to “Extremely Likely,” **clinical laboratory diagnostic services** (80%), **data management** (74%), **clinical trial management** (63%), and **biostatistical analyses** (58%) are the activities reported as most likely to be outsourced at respondents’ organizations.



One-third of survey participants reported that their company became more likely to outsource **all of a trial** (35%) over the past two years, while roughly half said the same for outsourcing a **portion of a trial** (47%).

# Patient Recruitment

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Patient recruitment is an important area among respondents: Difficulties related to patient recruitment tops the list of challenges and the ability to better recruit and engage patients via digital/DCT featured among respondents' top three opportunity areas.

When asked to describe their current outlook on patient recruitment compared to two years ago, **two out of five respondents expressed a negative outlook for patient recruitment (42%)**.

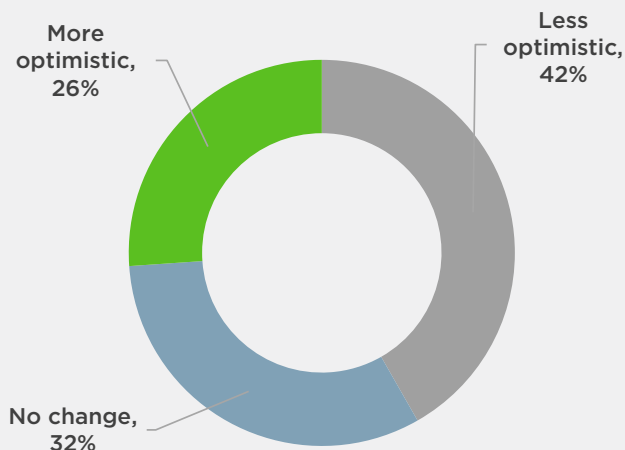
Common themes for being less optimistic include patients delaying care/avoiding hospitals and trials

centers due to COVID-19, increased competition for patients, and the impact of COVID restrictions on hospitals/sites.

One-quarter of survey participants are more optimistic regarding patient recruitment for clinical trials (26%).

Many respondents cited patients being motivated by the pandemic to participate in trials, decentralized trials, and new recruitment methods/technology as sources of their positive outlook.

Outlook on Patient Recruitment vs. 2 Years Ago



### EXPERT TAKE



**“Studies are extremely specific and very narrow to prevent failure, but it’s counterintuitive, as it limits the number of patients eligible for the study.”**

*Rodrigo Garcia, MD, MS, VP Sites and Patients Center of Excellence, PPD, part of Thermo Fisher Scientific*

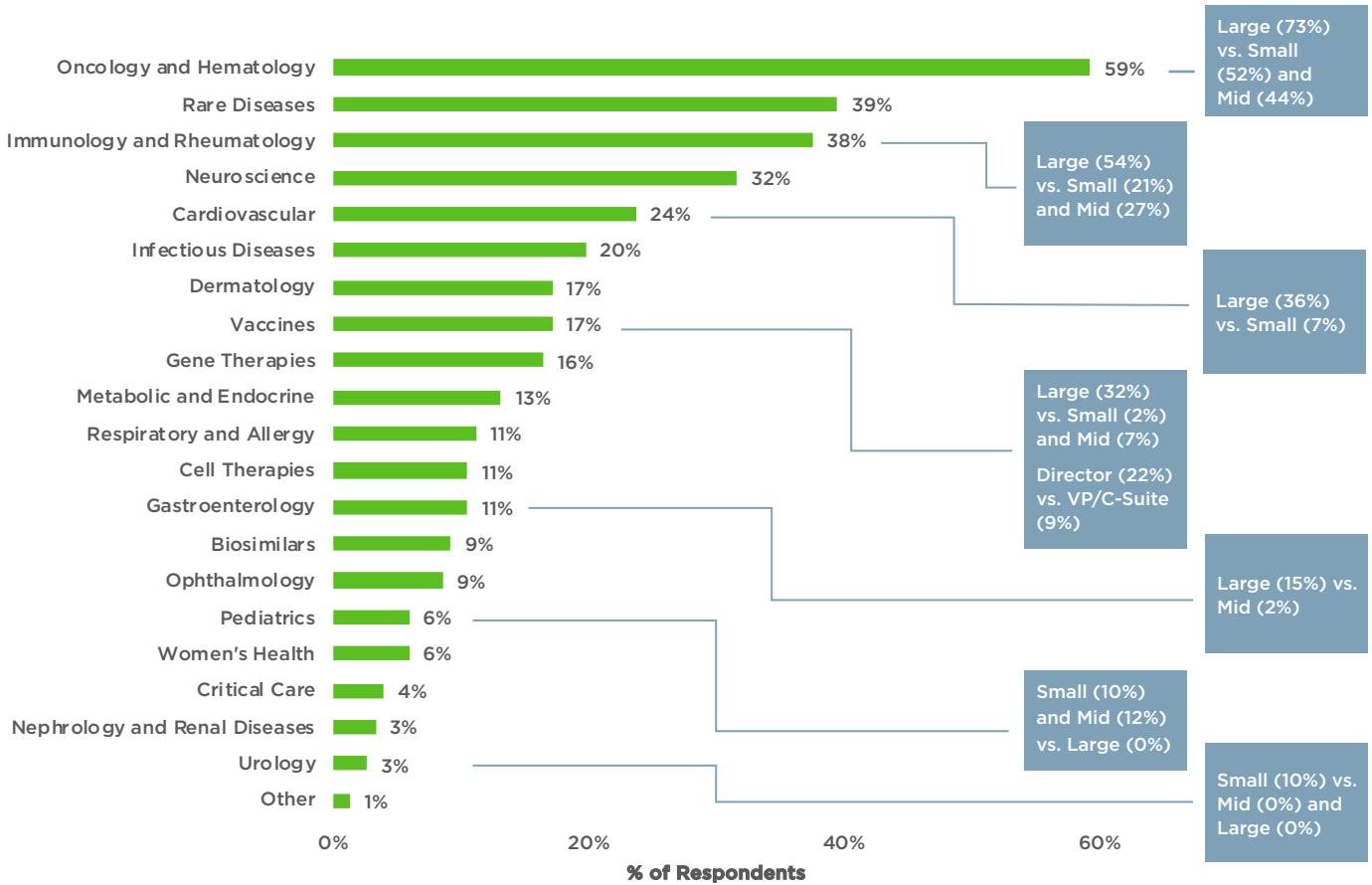


## DRUG DEVELOPMENT



# Therapeutic Areas

Q1. Which therapeutic areas/therapeutics are leading your organization's drug development pipeline today? Please choose up to 5. (n=152)

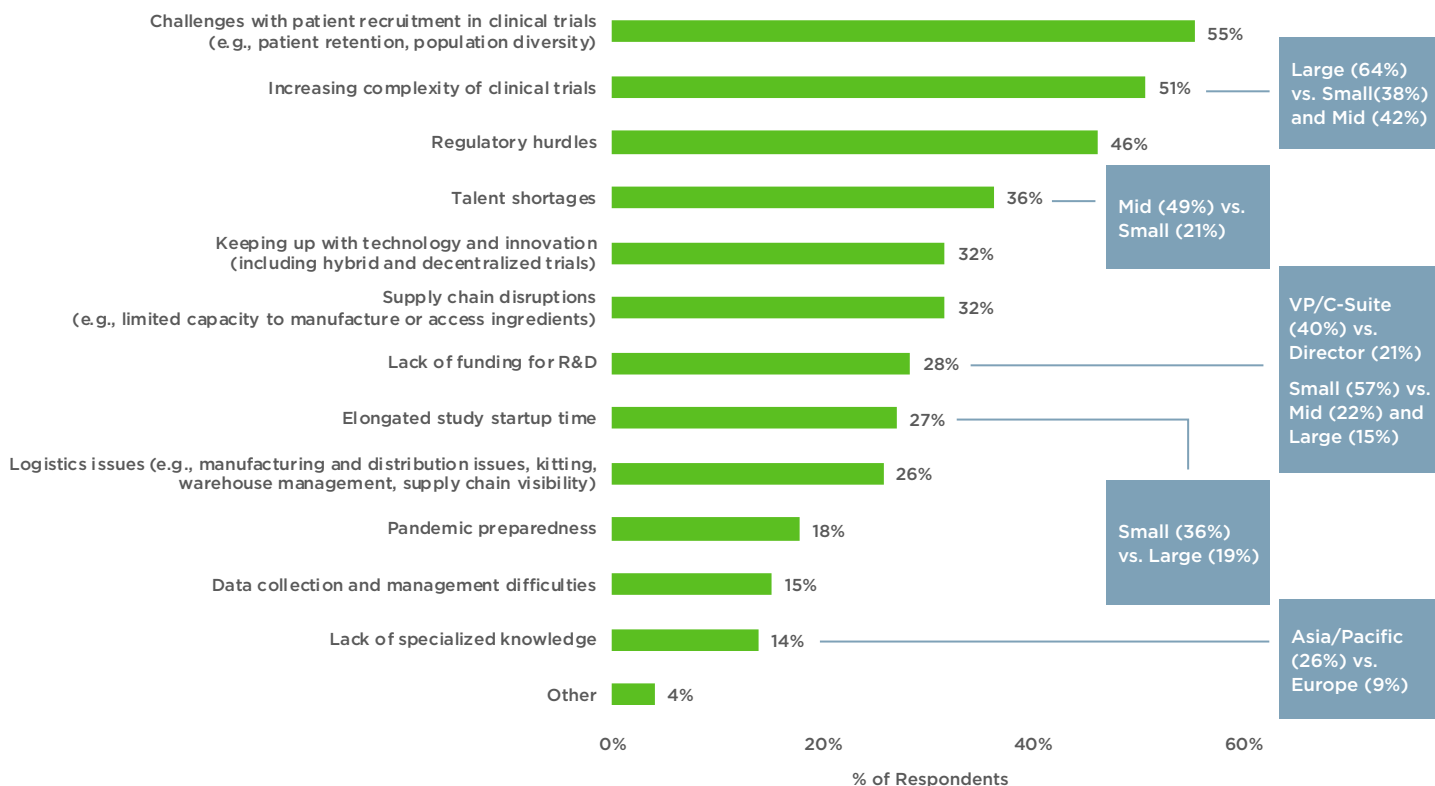


'Other' responses include: Neuromuscular, Nutrition

- + Nearly three out of five respondents reported that **Oncology and Hematology (59%)** is one of the therapeutic areas leading their company's drug development pipeline.
- + **Rare Diseases and Immunology and Rheumatology** were among the top five therapeutic areas for 39% and 38% of survey participants, respectively.

# Challenges

**Q2.** What are the biggest challenges your organization is currently facing? Please choose up to 5. (n=152)

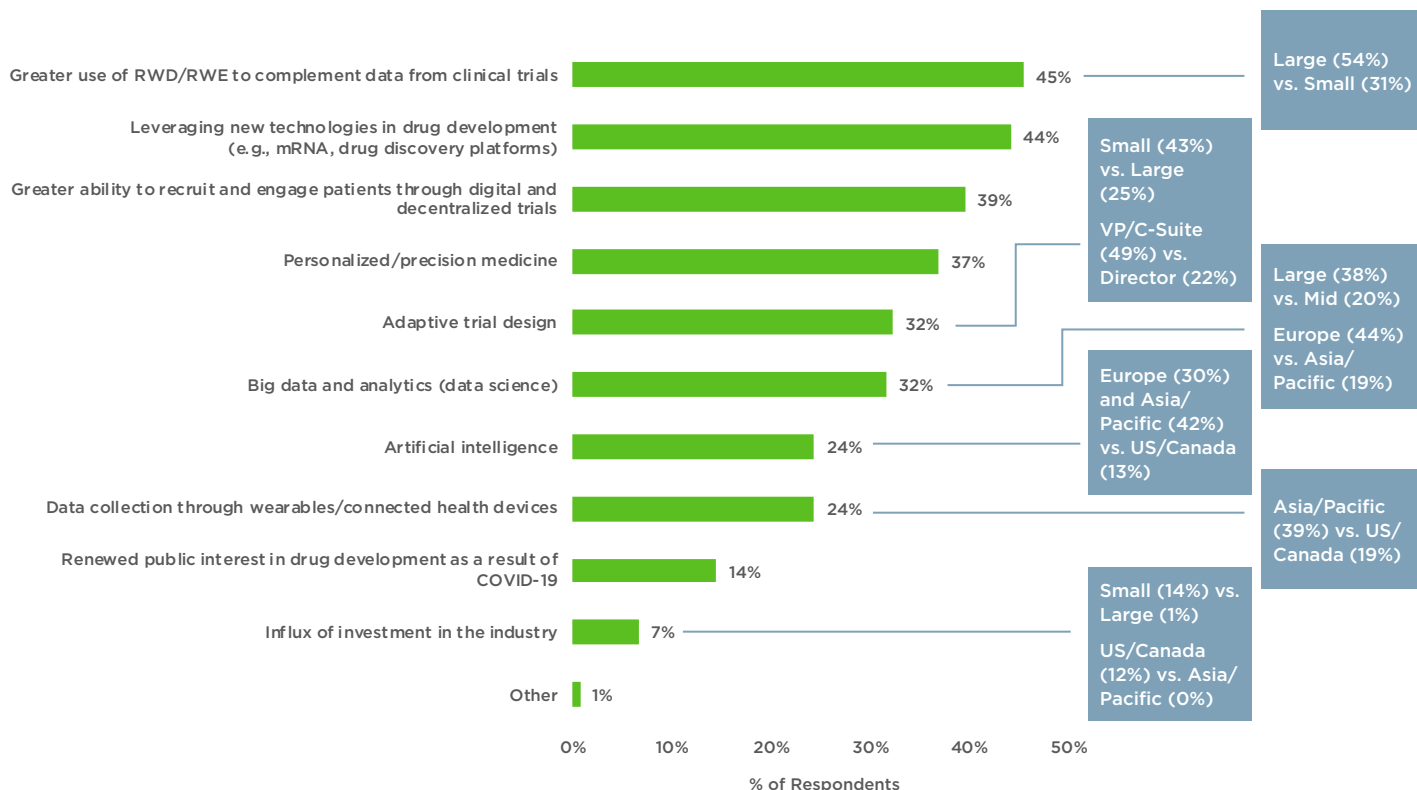


*'Other' responses include:* Local expertise, Market access, Pricing and access, Staff burnout, Unintended value transfer to stakeholders, War in Ukraine

- + More than half of respondents said that their organization is facing **challenges with patient recruitment** in clinical trials (55%) and **increasing complexity of clinical trials** (51%).
- + Some interesting differences between company sizes emerged:
  - > Trial complexity is more frequently noted as a challenge among respondents at large organizations.
  - > Respondents at small organizations report more trouble with funding and elongated study startup times.

# Opportunity Areas

**Q3.** What do you consider to be the greatest opportunity areas in drug development in clinical trials? Please choose 3. (n=152)



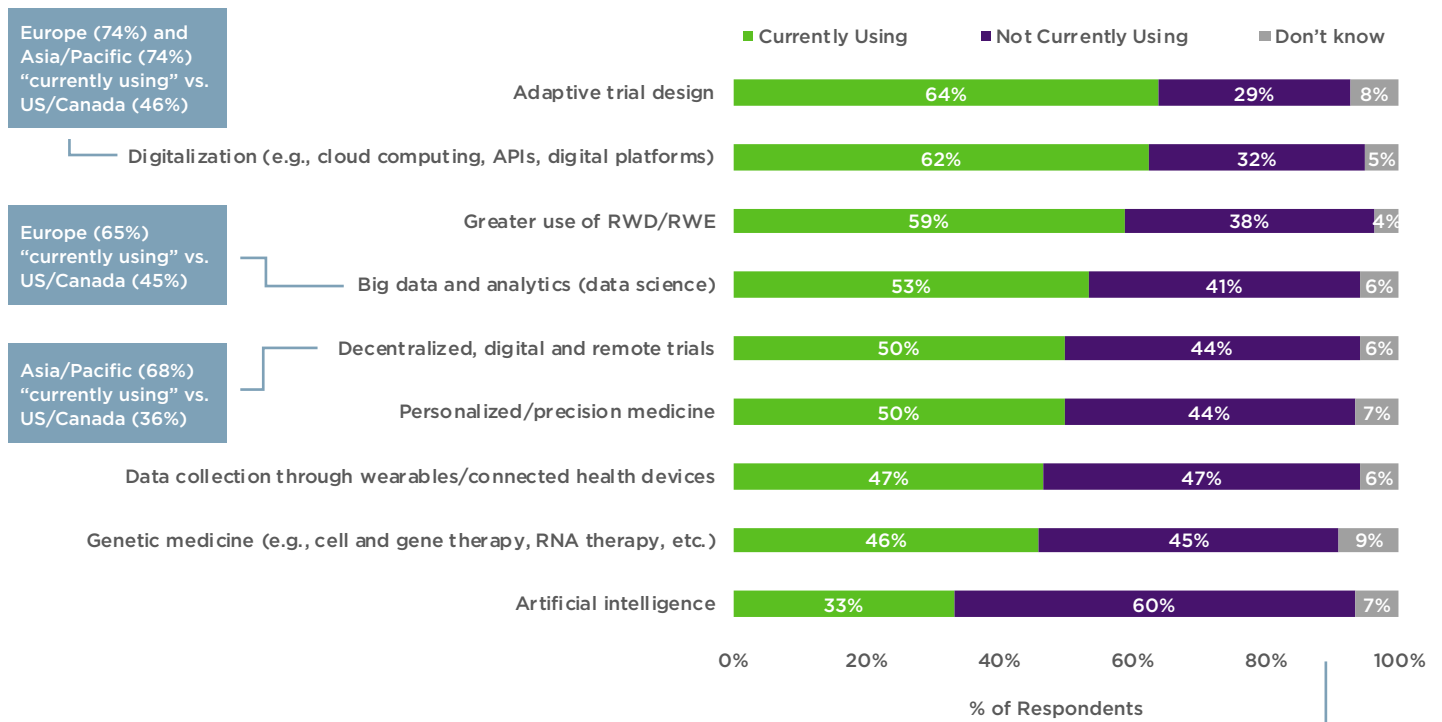
*'Other' responses include:* Use of biomarkers as endpoint

- + The largest proportion of respondents consider **greater use of RWD/RWE** and **leveraging new technologies** as the greatest opportunity areas in clinical trials (44-45%).
- + More than one out of three respondents consider improved patient recruitment via digital and decentralized trials as an opportunity, tying back to recruitment being considered a top challenge.
- + Fewer than 15% of respondents included influx of investment in the industry or renewed public interest as a result of COVID-19 as opportunity areas in drug development.



# Use of New Innovations, Strategies, and Technologies

**Q4.** Is your organization currently using any of the following innovations, strategies, and/or technologies? (n=133)



If there are other new innovations, strategies, and/or technologies your organization is currently pursuing, please list below:

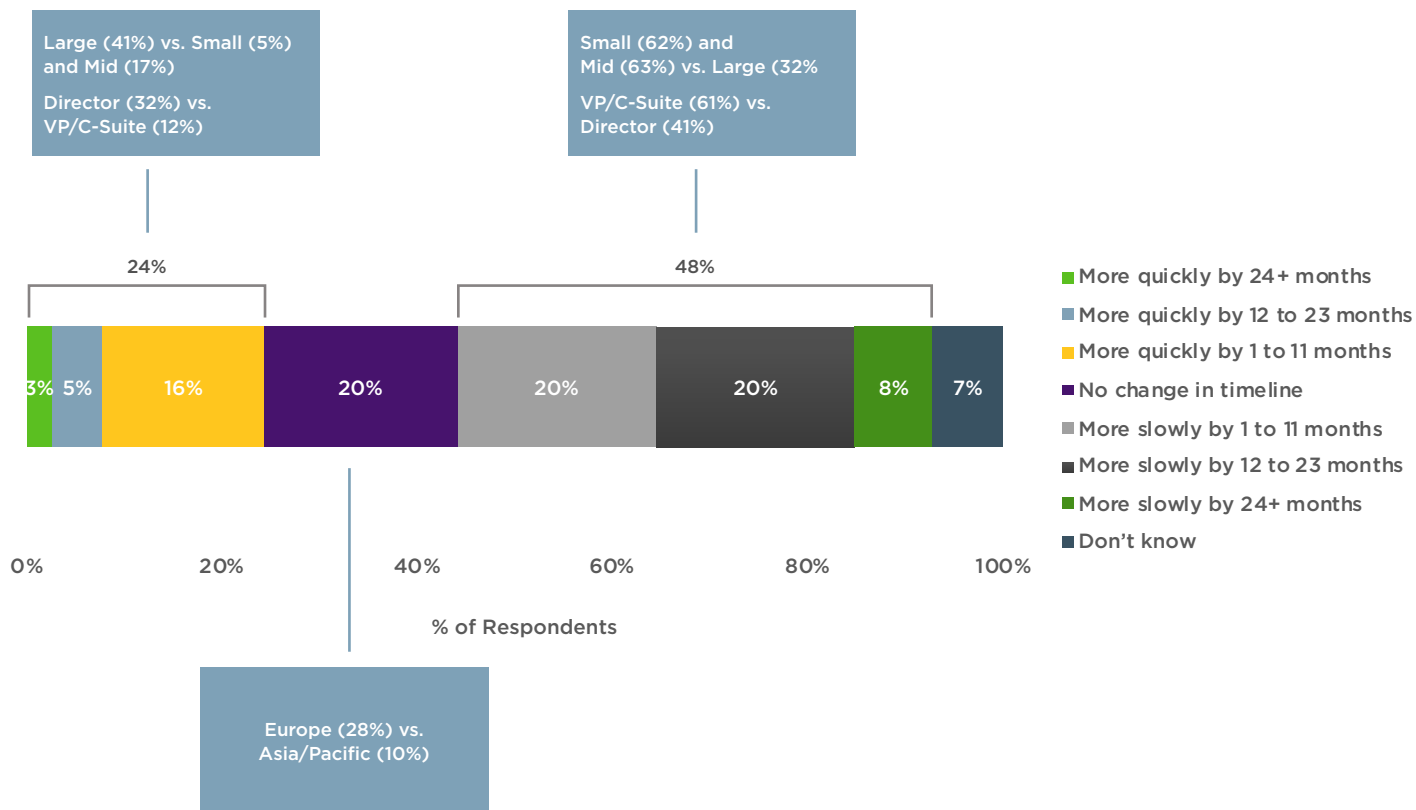
- + At home nursing for drug administration, routine patient monitoring, and reporting
- + DNA sequencing for enrollment criteria
- + Innovative contracting
- + Investing in biomarker measurement in blood and tissues
- + Non-viral gene delivery

Apart from "Digitalization," respondents from large companies are more likely to select "currently using" for all innovations vs. small and mid

- + Nearly two-thirds of respondents reported that their organizations are currently using **adaptive trial design** (64%) and **digitalization** (62%).
- + The smallest proportion of respondents are currently using **artificial intelligence** (33%) at their companies, with those at large organizations being more likely to report use of AI than those at mid-size or small companies.

# Drug Production Timeline

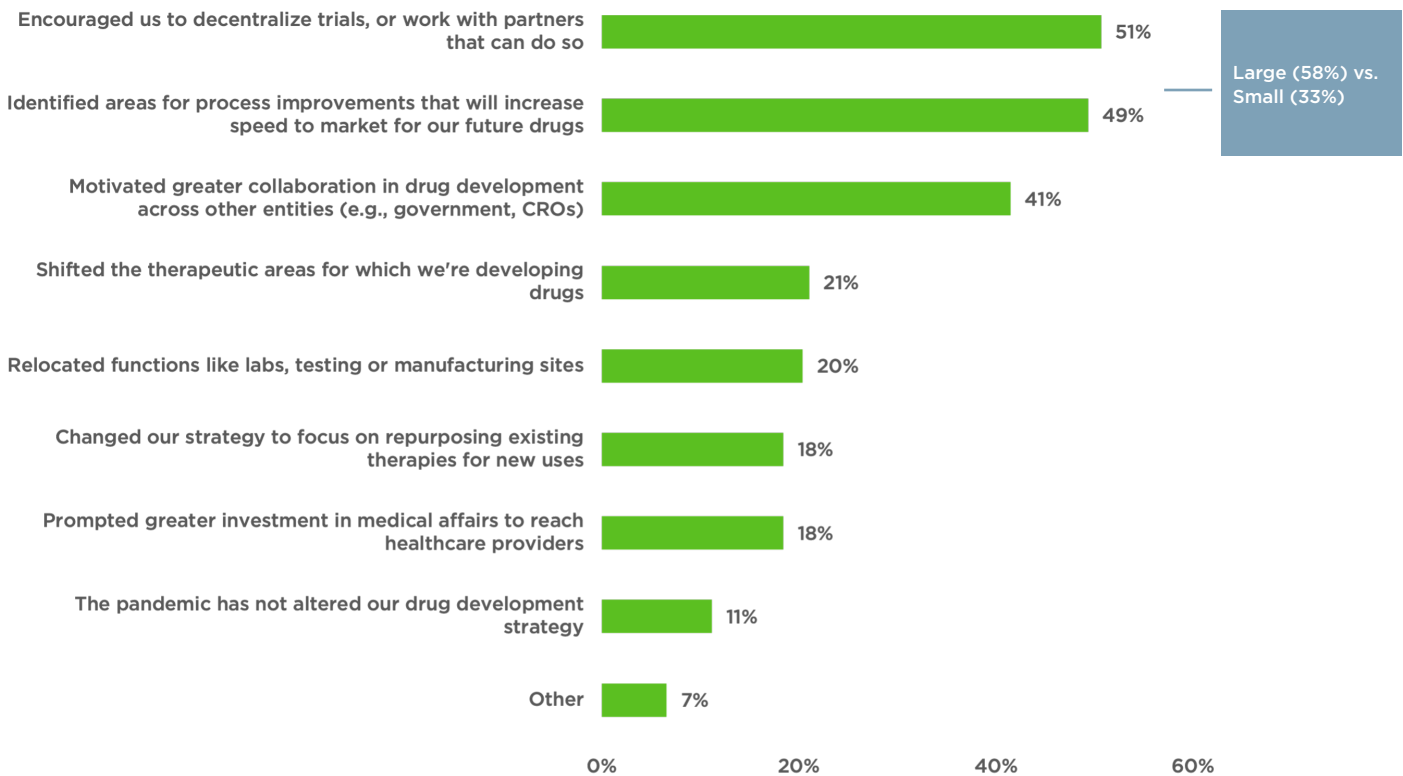
**Q5.** Compared to two years ago, how has the average timeline to produce a drug (from first-in-human trials through market approval) changed at your organization? (n=152)



- + Half of respondents reported that that **the average timeline to produce a drug is longer now** than it was two years ago (48%), compared to one-quarter reporting a faster timeline (24%).
  - > Respondents at large organizations more frequently selected one of the “more quickly” response options, while those as small or mid-size companies were more likely to select “more slowly.”
  - > Small companies experiencing timeline difficulty was also seen in their higher frequency of reporting challenges with elongated study startup times.

# COVID-19 Impact

**Q6.** How has the COVID-19 pandemic altered your organization’s drug development strategy?  
Please select all that apply. (n=152)



'Other' responses include:

- + Cost reduction
- + Greater difficulty accessing and monitoring clinical data
- + Greater regulatory interactions - e.g., FDA
- + Invested in the Bixomarker discovery for immunotherapy of cancers
- + Modify our clinical supply organization
- + More flexible (e.g., remote) Ad Boards and KOL interactions
- + More IITs and RWE/real world data use
- + More outsourcing due to staffing shortages
- + Technology and process enablement to achieve efficiency
- + Utilize alternate CROs

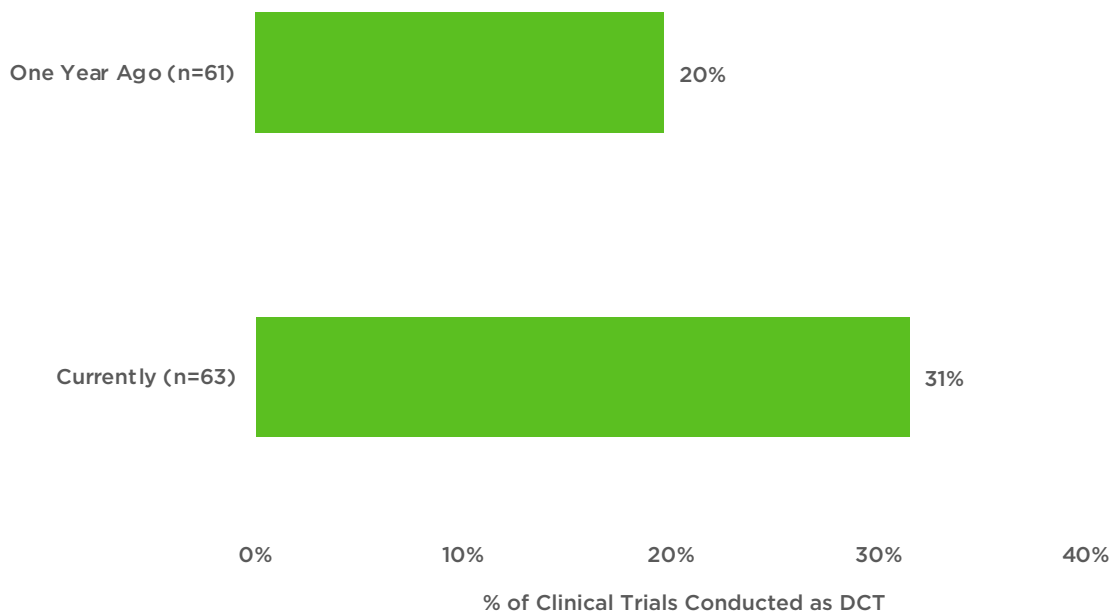
- + Half of survey participants said the COVID-19 pandemic encouraged us to **decentralize trials** (51%) and identified areas for process improvements that will **increase speed to market** (49%).
  - Respondents at large organizations were more likely to identify process improvements than those at small companies.
- + Two out of five participants surveyed reported that the COVID-19 pandemic **motivated greater collaboration** in drug development across entities.
- + Only one in ten respondents indicated the pandemic **did not alter** our drug development strategy (11%).

# DECENTRALIZED TRIALS



## Decentralized Trials – One Year Ago to Currently

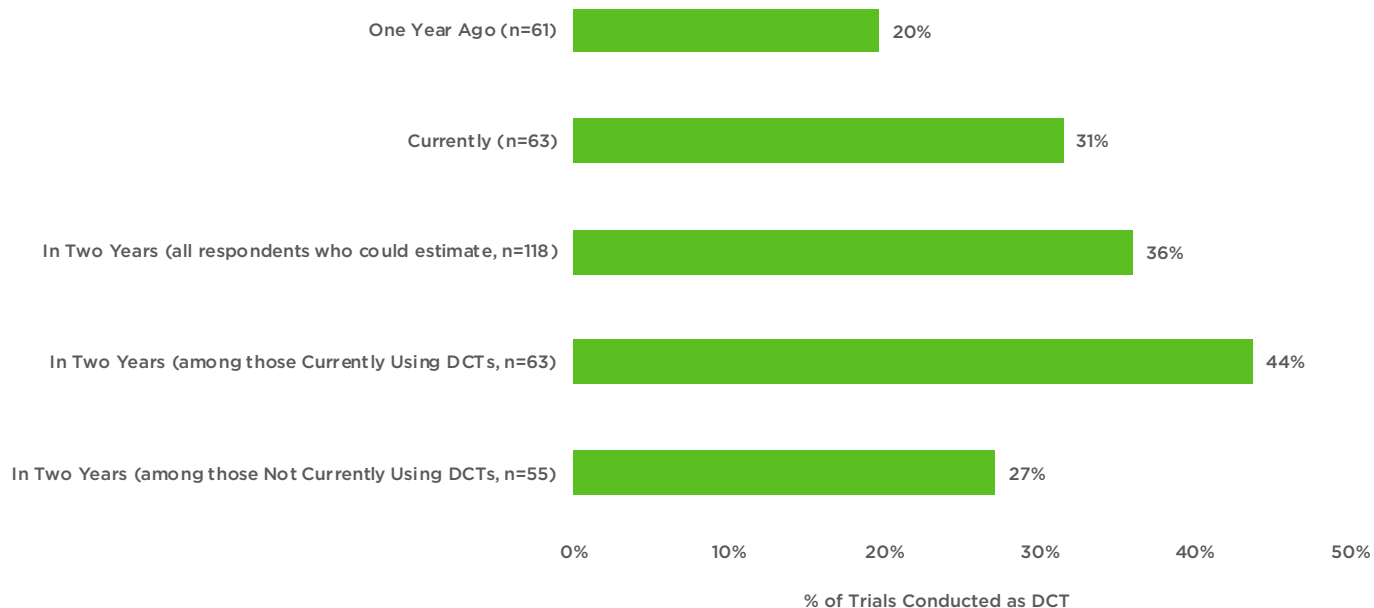
- Q7.** One year ago, what percentage of your company’s clinical trials would you estimate were conducted as decentralized trials? (n=61, excludes respondents who do not currently use decentralized trials and those unable to answer)
- Q8.** What percentage of your company’s current clinical trials would you estimate are being conducted as decentralized trials? (n=63, excludes respondents who do not currently use decentralized trials and those unable to answer)



- + Respondents who reported that their organization uses decentralized trials said that one-fifth of their clinical trials were conducted in this manner one year ago.
- + The same survey participants estimate an 11-percentage point increase in the proportion of decentralized trials conducted today (31% on average).

## Decentralized Trials - In Two Years

**Q9.** What percentage of your company's clinical trials would you estimate will be conducted as decentralized trials in two years (2024)? (n=118, excludes respondents unable to answer)



- + Among the 63 respondents currently using decentralized trials, the proportion of trials conducted in this manner is expected to increase by an estimated 13 percentage points, on average, over the next two years (44% of trials).
- + Survey participants who reported that their organizations do not currently use decentralized trials project that approximately one-quarter of their trials will be decentralized in 2024, on average (27%).



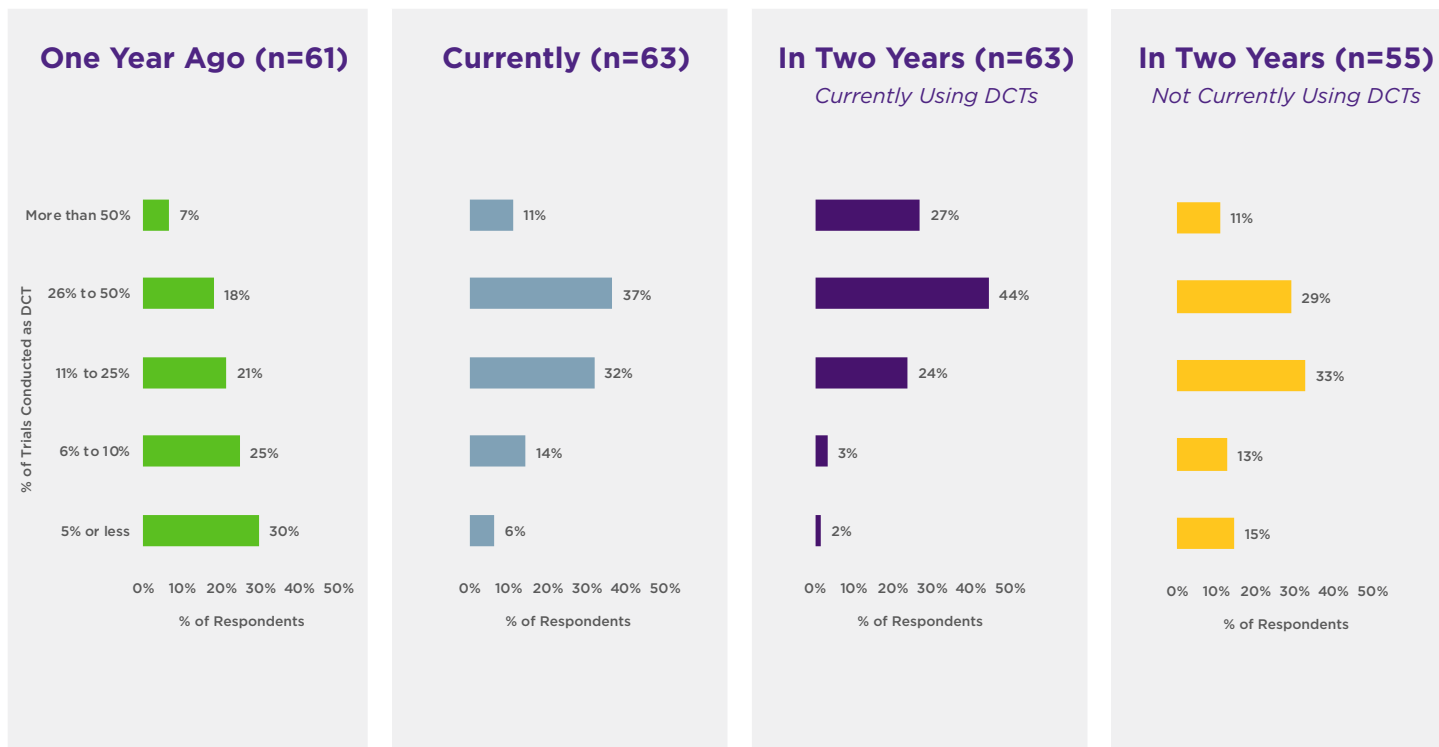
### EXPERT TAKE

**“The more you have people participate and you can bring the study to them, the fewer dropouts you’ll have. Ideally it will reduce timeline and reduce overall cost.”**

*Mariah Baltezgar, VP Specialized Solutions, PPD, part of Thermo Fisher Scientific*

## Decentralized Trials

While the previous two pages highlighted the mean percentage of clinical trials conducted as decentralized trials, the data below shows how the reported percentages were distributed using the following buckets: 5% or fewer of trials decentralized, 6 to 10% of trials decentralized, 11 to 25% of trials decentralized, 26 to 50% of trials decentralized, and more than 50% of trials decentralized.



- + **One year ago**, most organizations that used DCTs did so for 10% or fewer of their clinical trials (55%).
- + **One-fourth of respondents** whose companies utilize DCTs predict that more than half of their organization's clinical trials will employ this strategy by 2024 (27%).
- + **Respondents who do not currently use** decentralized trials expect the prevalence of DCTs in two years' time to roughly mirror the proportions reported by respondents using DCTs today.

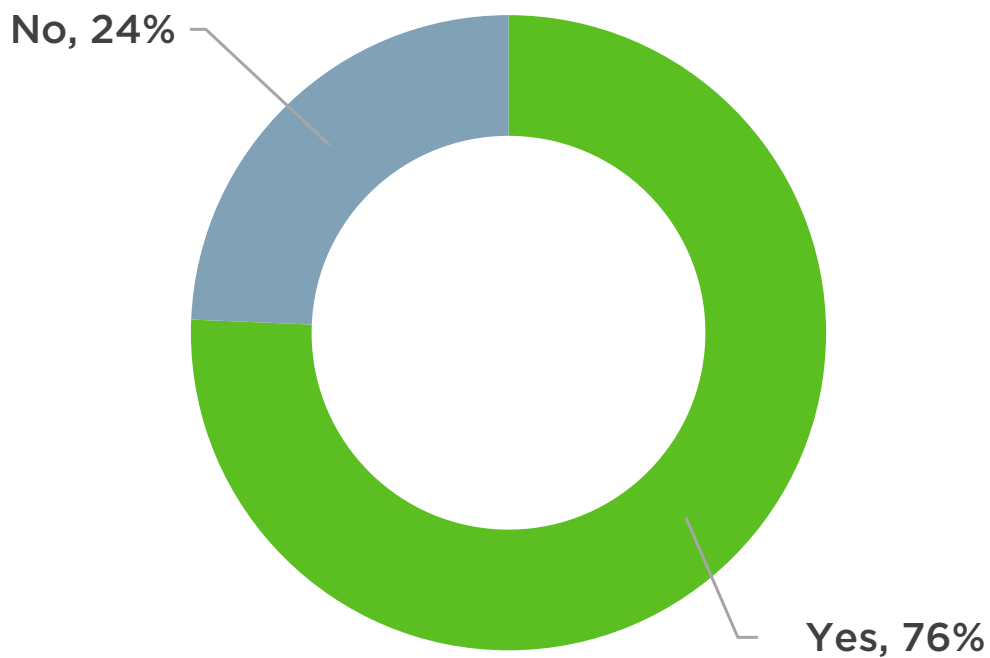


# OUTSOURCING



## Outsourcing Models

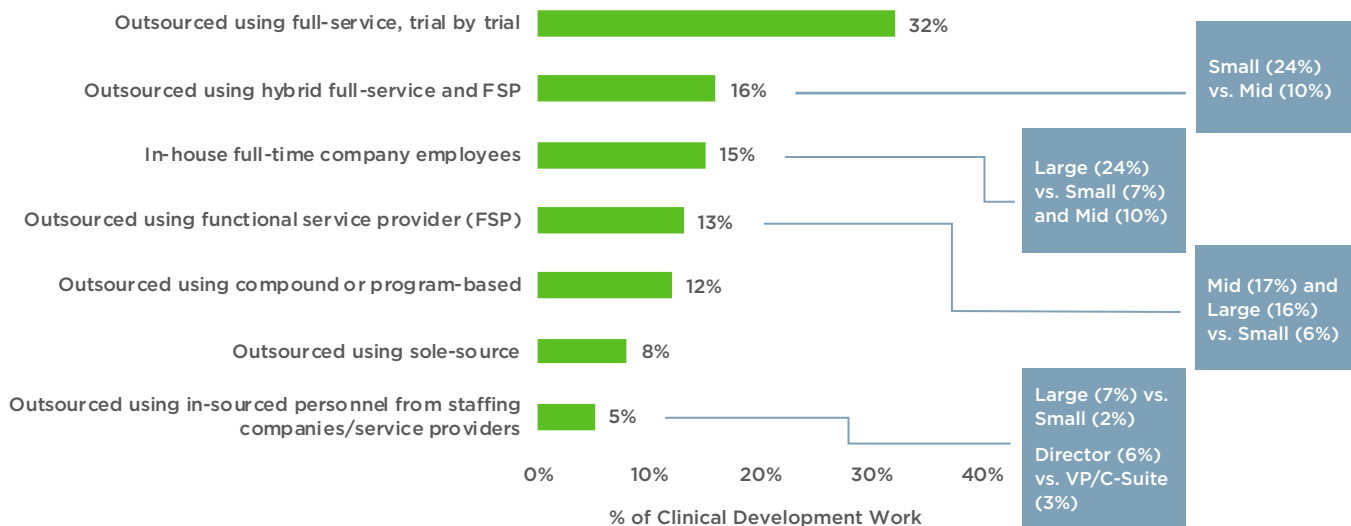
**Q10.** In the past 18 months, have you been involved with outsourcing part or all of a clinical trial? (n=152)



- 
- + Three-quarters of respondents have recently been involved with outsourcing part or all of a clinical trial (76%).

## Outsourcing Models

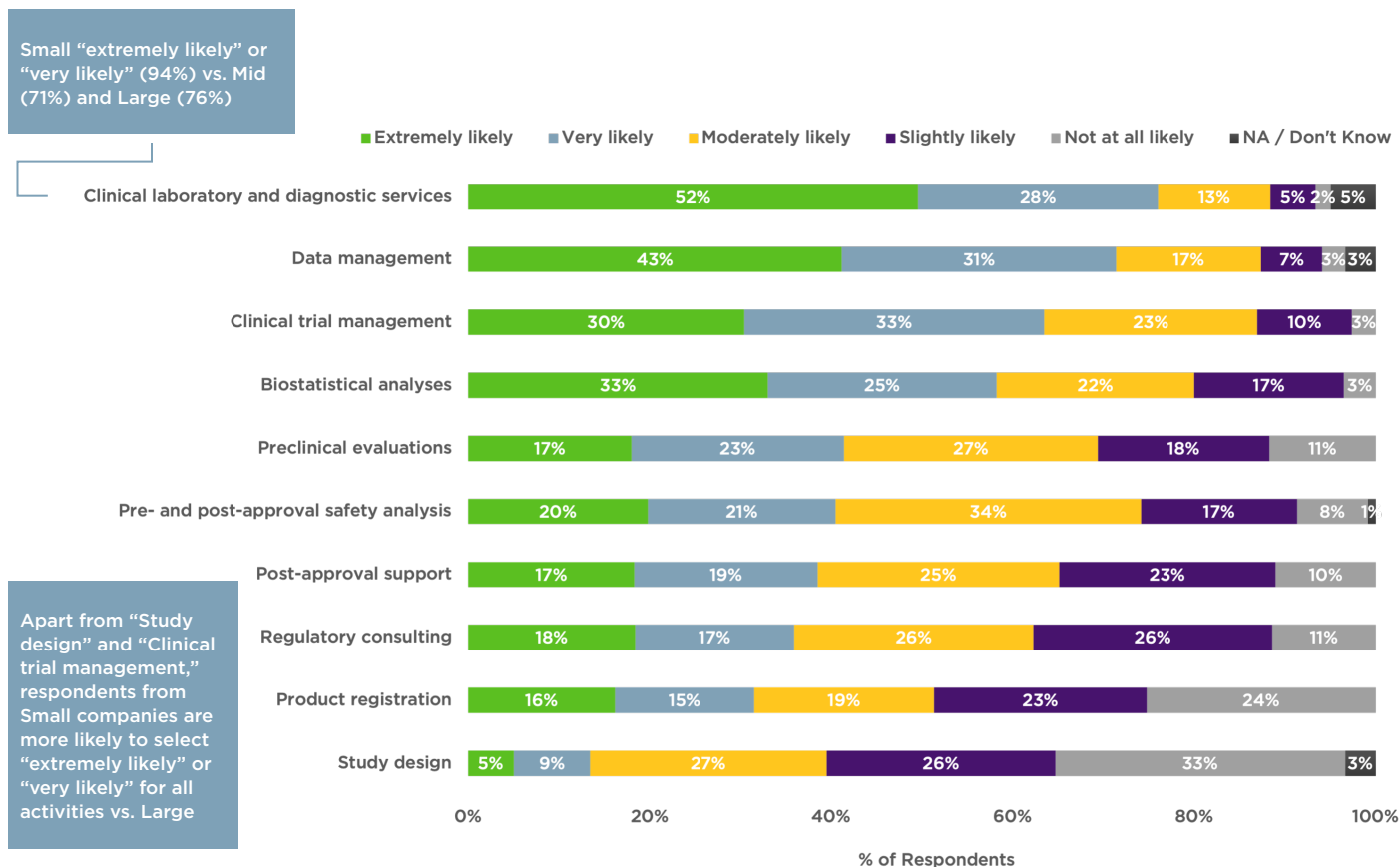
**Q11.** For the areas in your company with which you are familiar, what percent of the clinical development work is accomplished via the following models? Your best estimates are fine but values must sum to 100%. (n=115, respondents not recently involved with outsourcing excluded)



- Among those who outsource, the full-service, trial-by-trial model accounts for the highest proportion of outsourced clinical development work (32% on average). The next nearest models are used for half as much work as the full-service model.

# Outsourced Activities

**Q12.** Using the scale provided, please indicate how likely your company is to outsource each of the below drug development activities. (n=115, respondents not recently involved with outsourcing excluded)

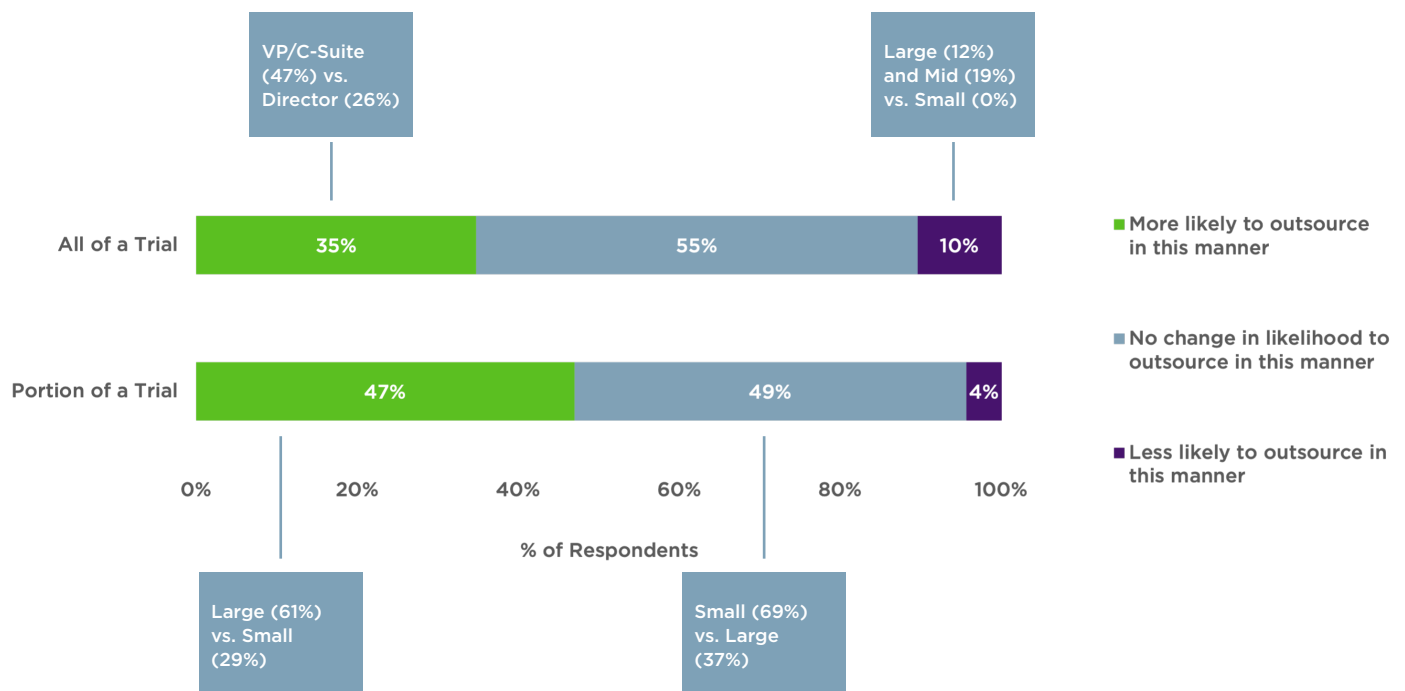


- + Most respondents reported that their organizations are “extremely likely” or “very likely” to outsource clinical laboratory and diagnostic services (80%) and data management (74%).
- + Study design is the least likely drug development activity to be outsourced – 33% of respondents said it was “not at all likely.”
- + Across nearly all included activities, respondents from small companies indicate a statistically higher likelihood of outsourcing compared to those at mid-size or large organizations.

## Outsourcing Trends

**Q13.** Over the past two years, has your company become more or less likely to outsource all of a trial? (n=115, respondents not recently involved with outsourcing excluded)

**Q14.** Over the past two years, has your company become more or less likely to outsource a portion of a trial? (n=115, respondents not recently involved with outsourcing excluded)



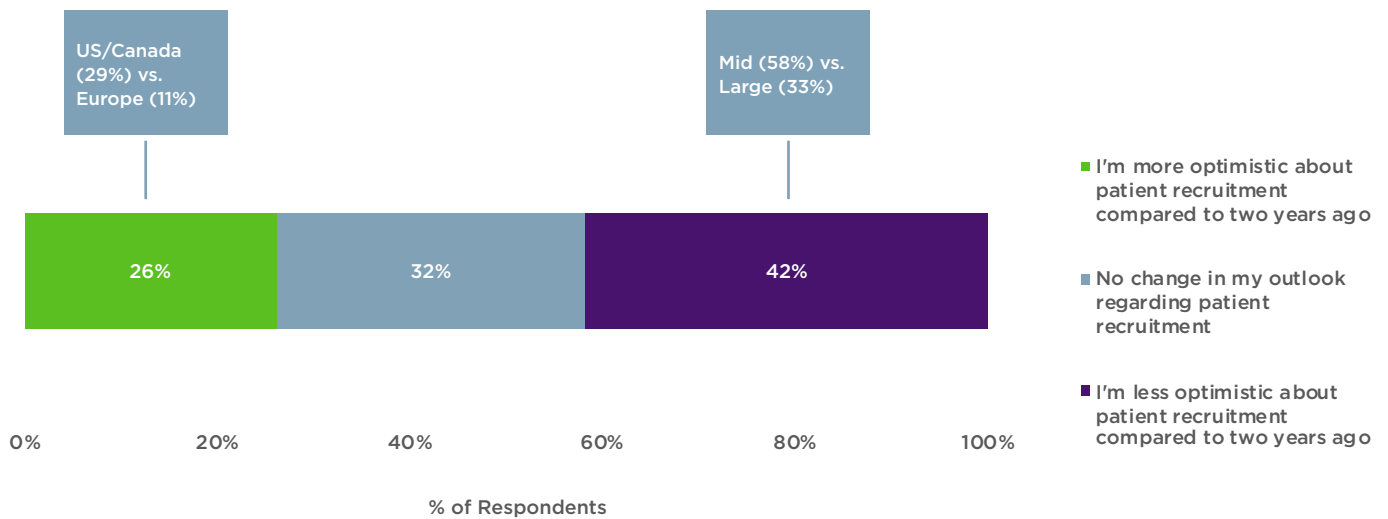
- + Over the past two years, roughly one-third of respondents indicated that their company has become more likely to outsource all of a trial (35%), while nearly half said the same for outsourcing part of a trial (47%).
- + Greater likelihood of outsourcing could perhaps be in response to **talent shortages** (4th on the list of respondents' biggest challenges).
- + Approximately half of survey participants noted no change in outsourcing rates at their organization.

# PATIENT RECRUITMENT



## Patient Recruitment Outlook

**Q15.** How would you describe your outlook regarding patient recruitment for clinical trials compared to two years ago? (n=115, respondents not recently involved with outsourcing excluded)

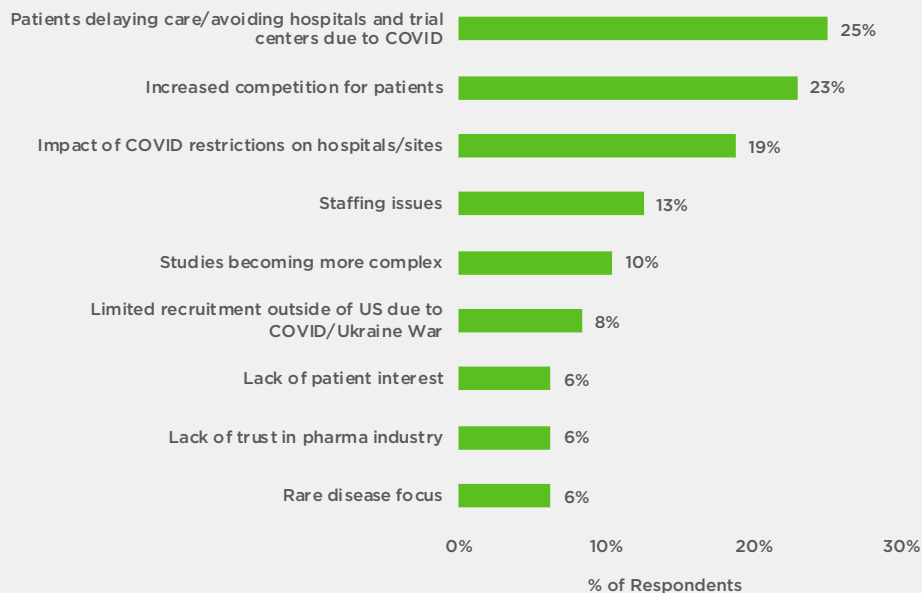


- + The largest proportion of survey participants are **less optimistic about patient recruitment** for clinical trials compared to two years ago (42%).
  - > Respondents at mid-size organizations more frequently expressed a negative outlook than those at large companies.
- + One-quarter of respondents expressed optimism about patient recruitment (26%), with respondents from US/Canada showing more optimism compared to those in Europe.

## Patient Recruitment – Less Optimistic

**Q16.** Why do you feel less optimistic about patient recruitment compared to two years ago?  
(n=48)

### Themes



### SELECT VERBATIM RESPONSES: LESS OPTIMISTIC



“COVID has diverted specialized medical and support resources from clinics in Europe and Asia to support primary COVID care. **Patients (at risk due to underlying disease) are unwilling to participate in trials requiring non-essential medical clinic visits.**”



“In general, clinical **studies tend to become larger, longer and more complex**, e.g., in order to allow appropriate stratification, power subgroups, include different active comparators, etc. This development is leading to **increased competition for study centers and individual patients.**”



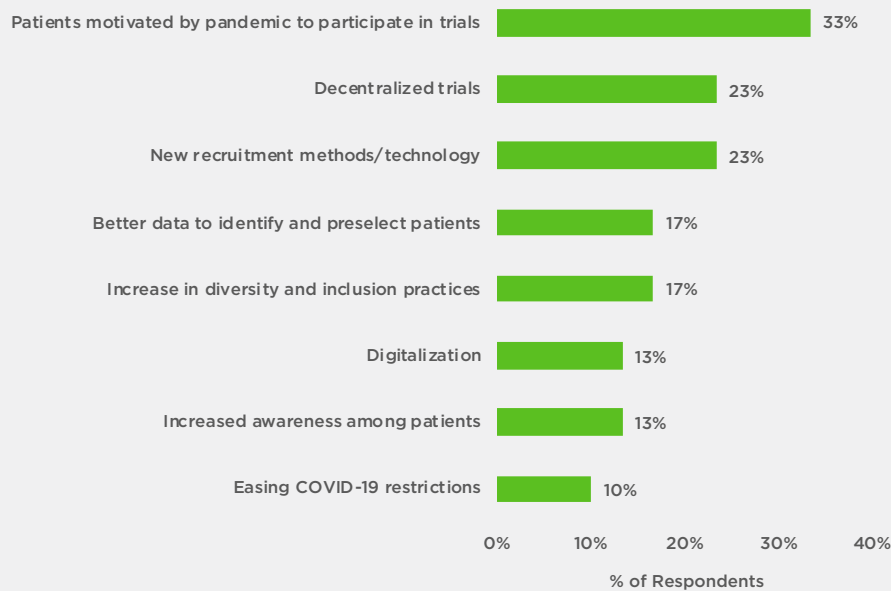
“Not sure the reason, but it seems that **trial logistics in general are increasing** leading to lower patient recruitment. This may be due to **not (yet) using the appropriate technologies to increase patient recruitment consistently.** We also experience increasing CRO challenges, largely related to **quality of / qualified staff** — believe this is a general result of the war on talent.”

*Please see appendix for full list of responses.*

## Patient Recruitment – More Optimistic

**Q17.** Why do you feel more optimistic about patient recruitment compared to two years ago?  
(n=30)

### Themes



### SELECT VERBATIM RESPONSES: MORE OPTIMISTIC



“It is a story of both quality and quantity. I feel the **pandemic has increased awareness** about the importance of the clinical trial process and data integrity and completeness. This may help with **motivation for patients to not only participate but to comply with protocols** and complete data collections.”



“The industry has opened new ways to recruit patients in an effort to ensure **more diversity and inclusiveness that is a better reflection of society** and this has opened up new avenues for patient recruitment. In addition, due to COVID and earlier adoption of technology, there is more **digital/decentralized trials which make it easier for patient retention and recruitment** – thus my optimism!”



“Greater **availability of big data to find patient populations**, and higher engagement of patient advocacy groups.”

*Please see appendix for full list of responses.*





Appendix

## **OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES: PATIENT RECRUITMENT**

## Patient Recruitment – Less Optimistic

**Q16.** Why do you feel less optimistic about patient recruitment compared to two years ago?  
(n=48)

*A lot of competition for patients make this a money business. Entry of new specialized patient recruitment companies with dodgy business processes. Legal and compliance hot spot*

*Because it's becoming harder to find treatment naive patients that satisfy the protocol inclusion and exclusion criteria*

*Because of pandemic*

*Challenge due to what seems to be an increase in companies developing drugs for rare diseases*

*COVID decimated trial infrastructure*

*COVID has diverted specialized medical and support resources from clinics in Europe and Asia to support primary COVID care. Patients (at risk due to underlying disease) are unwilling to participate in trials requiring non-essential medical clinic visits*

*COVID has slowed recruitment in our trials for a variety of reasons. That may or may not return to normal levels in the future*

*COVID increases the complexity to a new dimension. A new wave of COVID comes along and the recruitment drops, in-house restrictions increase, dropouts also increase. We need to budget for higher dropouts against the typical 15% being provided in earlier trials. This has an escalating effect*

*COVID pandemic has made it difficult to recruit patients due to more frequent monitoring required in clinical trials*

*COVID pandemic has made patients more worrisome about coming into research offices and has created some mistrust with drug development for some*

*COVID restrictions (loss of centers), world politics restricting access to previously high-recruiting areas (Ukraine, Russia, Belarus)*

*COVID restrictions at study sites, patient fear*

*COVID still providing obstacles for patient contact. Patients appearing at trial centers*

*COVID-19 has changed patient priorities and they are less likely to participate or prioritize a clinical trial*

*Despite the news related to the development of the COVID vaccines that showed the importance of getting subjects into clinical trials for some therapeutic areas, it will not cause more subjects to consider trials in oncology. In the therapeutic area of oncology there is a lot of competition for patients from all the companies developing therapies*

*Due to COVID restrictions and because people are more afraid of contamination if they go out from their homes. Then you have an increased risk to lose patients during the clinical trial if they get infected with COVID*

*Due to COVID there is greater cost to access hospital site testing for patient monitoring*

*During my current Phase II trial, I have experienced how patients (especially elderly) stay at home and hardly come out to visit a doctor, as a consequence they can not be informed about clinical trials that are currently running. If they are informed, they are very hesitant to participate*

## Patient Recruitment – Less Optimistic (cont.)

**Q16.** Why do you feel less optimistic about patient recruitment compared to two years ago?  
(n=48)

*Evolving patient landscape, available options outside the study, complicated protocol with excessive demands on subjects etc.*

*Finding the right patients, increasing competition from other trials, decreasing quality of site staff due to COVID burnout*

*Greater difficulty to get people to travel and participate in external activities if not of immediate benefit. Definitely a higher level of disinterest and apathy in participating in trials, unless they are COVID or vaccine-related*

*Higher burden for patients to come to clinical trial site and get poked and prodded in the post-COVID world*

*Impact of COVID (and associated hospital practices), regulatory environment and financial constraints on our hospital-based clinical work*

*In general, clinical studies tend to become larger, longer and more complex, e.g. in order to allow appropriate stratification, power subgroups, include different active comparators, etc. This development is leading to increased competition for study centers and individual patients*

*It is more difficult to get patients into studies. They are not coming to the hospital and waiting longer for routine or diagnostic visits. They are also reluctant to enter a clinical trial that has many visits to the hospital or clinic. COVID has especially frightened older people*

*It's harder for CROs to keep skilled personnel to maintain the personal attention that is needed to work with the sites to foster efficient patient recruitment*

*Lack of patients going through the system and non-availability of the correct caliber of staff*

*Lack of trust in Pharma industries*

*More compounds in development, especially in the Onco and Immuno Onco field*

*More difficult to find suitable cohorts, more emphasis on diversity*

*More drugs and trials chasing the same patients*

*Need to increase diversity within our patient population, which places additional stress on identifying clinical sites and their ability to recruit and enroll ethnically diverse patients who qualify and may benefit from the study drug*

*Not sure the reason, but it seems that trial logistics in general are increasing leading to lower patient recruitment. This may be due to not (yet) using the appropriate technologies to increase patient recruitment consistently. We also experience increasing CRO challenges, largely related to quality of / qualified staff – believe this is a general result of the war on talent*

*Pandemic has influenced rate of enrollment*

*Patient recruitment for challenging indications, especially in the USA region, is a bottleneck in terms of cost and timeline*

## Patient Recruitment – Less Optimistic (cont.)

**Q16.** Why do you feel less optimistic about patient recruitment compared to two years ago?  
(n=48)

*Patients are less willing to travel long distances for study sites, and there is a very competitive landscape for the appropriate patients. Companies that have shifted to DCT approaches more than ours have a competitive recruitment advantage*

*Patients are reluctant to attend on-site visits at hospitals. Patients may be more careful in selecting which study they participate in after all the communication on the vaccine development, fear of new products and credibility of the pharmaceutical companies*

*Recruitment challenges especially in rare diseases*

*Recruitment is getting harder each year. Regardless of the therapeutic area*

*Reduced investigator-patient impact*

*Reliability after Corona*

*Slow recruitment rate and difficulty in recruitment due to COVID-related testing and sample handling*

*The pandemic situation has grossly affected recruitment — suspension and delay are everywhere. Investigators are being reassigned to more COVID-related studies. Subjects are also decreasing due to associated concern on either after COVID infection side effects or on-going COVID vaccination process specially in field of neuroscience and dermatology*

*There is great impact by COVID-19, less patients are interested in participating clinical trials*

*Ukraine war as well as COVID limits patient recruitment in China as well as in Russia and Ukraine which are very important regions for us*

*Very difficult to recruit in a number of countries currently because KEE's [Key External Expert] are exhausted, patients more reluctant to take part in studies, and health services are occupied doing catch up chronic care*

*War in Ukraine and sanctions for Russia*

*With increased investment in new drug development as well as more focusing on hot therapeutic area*



## Patient Recruitment – More Optimistic

**Q17.** Why do you feel more optimistic about patient recruitment compared to two years ago?  
(n=30)

*AI-based platforms are being used for patient recruitment which helps in identifying and preselecting the patients*

*Appropriate education of participating subjects about clinical trial, simpler trial design, and implementation of innovative and effective strategies focusing on recruitment of appropriate subjects*

*As decentralized trials and the use of digital technologies in study designs increase, patient recruitment becomes easier as we are meeting patients where they are instead of making them come to us*

*Because of increased communication due to digitalization*

*Better access after COVID, improved medical care*

*Better healthcare infrastructure and awareness*

*Changes in the COVID-19 situation*

*COVID pandemic increased public willingness and knowledge about clinical trials. Adaptive designs and new safer technologies for unmet needs will increase patient willingness to participate. New data capturing technologies (e.g. wearable devices) also ease patient recruitment*

*Decentralized/virtual clinical trial providers have opened up a range of recruitment sources*

*Due to COVID, patients are more aware of the importance of clinical trials and their objectives and are willing to take part in an effort that will benefit humanity as a whole*

*General positive sentiment towards the drug industry due to COVID vaccine development*

*Greater availability of big data to find patient populations, and higher engagement of patient advocacy groups*

*Greater awareness throughout the general public about the need to participate in clinical trials. This should stimulate more willingness to enroll as a clinical trial participant*

*Hope there will be less difficulty in the recruitment challenges of patients since the common man acquired the knowledge of the clinical research process during the COVID-19 pandemic*

*I am expecting going forward patient recruitment will be higher and expected to overcome challenges related to patient recruitments such as complexity of study protocol, lack of awareness about clinical trials in patients and sociocultural issues related to trial participation. Specially after COVID-19 we can expect much faster patient recruitments based on new technology advancements which allows us even remote trial participation etc.*

*Improved patient reach through (social) media channels. More awareness of patients towards the importance of clinical trials due to COVID-19 experience. Improving large data sets on availability of patients with a certain disease*

*Improved treatment databases to identify subjects, increased trial decentralization to improve the clinical trial subject experience*

*Increase in diversity and inclusion practices*

## Patient Recruitment – More Optimistic (cont.)

**Q17.** Why do you feel more optimistic about patient recruitment compared to two years ago?  
(n=30)

*It is a story of both quality and quantity. I feel the pandemic has increased awareness about the importance of the clinical trial process and data integrity and completeness. This may help with motivation for patients to not only participate but to comply with protocols and complete data collections*

*Recruitment to clinical studies is often challenging, and there has been increasing focus on developing strategies to promote participant recruitment. Post COVID pandemic, the recruitment of participants to non-COVID-19-related clinical studies has been negatively impacted by issues including prioritization of COVID-19 research due to change in the research staff priorities. Majority of the ongoing trials had been paused during the pandemic but now with DCT and virtual trials, it is now easier to get patients enrolled globally as they don't have to spend any time for a site visit or transit times which itself enhances the recruitment, compliance and retention of the patients. With the DCT trials on rise, bringing trials to patients, having their concerns/voices heard in the early trial phase plus focusing on QOL - all has a positive impact on patient's recruitment as now they can be recruited globally, transmit their data via electronic or mobile devices, get study procedures done locally or by their GP/PCP and direct shipment of drugs to patients plays an important role for recruitment*

*Increase in patient awareness*

*Optimistic about this because higher participation and motivation of doctors to join the clinical trials as collaborators or collaborating research sites are very common*

*Pandemic effects*

*The benefits of data-driven, clinical trial patient recruitment are finally coming to fruition. The quantity of high quality, real-world data has improved dramatically over the past few years. For example, we can now leverage historic treatment patterns at specific sites of care to identify the best clinical trial sites*

*More regular patient follow up at clinical sites – less interruptions due to COVID*

*More awareness among patients especially poc/underserved*

*The industry has opened new ways to recruit patients in an effort to ensure more diversity and inclusiveness that is a better reflection of society and this has opened up new avenues for patient recruitment. In addition, due to COVID and earlier adoption of technology, there is more digital/decentralized trials which make it easier for patient retention and recruitment – thus my optimism!*

*Using a combination of RWD, DCTS, and other DHTS to facilitate a "last mile" strategy when it comes to clinical trial diversity, equity, and participation access It is a story of both quality and quantity. I feel the pandemic has increased awareness about the importance of the clinical trial process and data integrity and completeness. This may help with motivation for patients to not only participate but to comply with protocols and complete data collections*

*More use of digital tools to recruit and capitalize on COVID trial inclusion*

*New technology is helping us a lot, the pandemic has also motivated many potential subjects to take part in trials*

Appendix

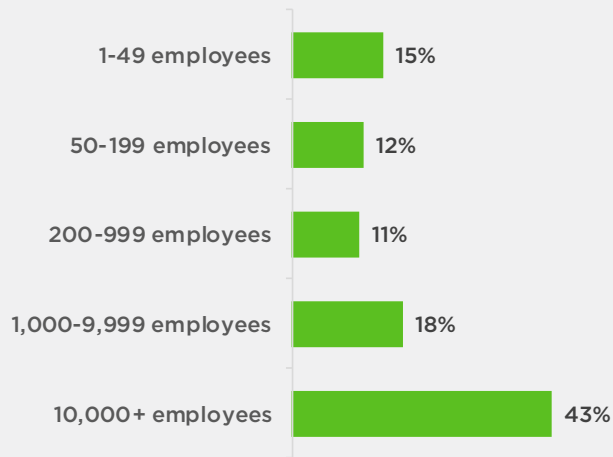
# SCREENING QUESTIONS/DEMOGRAPHICS



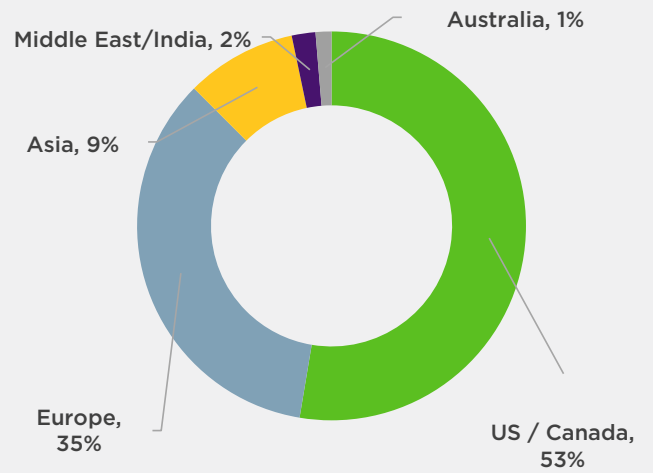
# Company Profile



## Company Size



## HQ Location





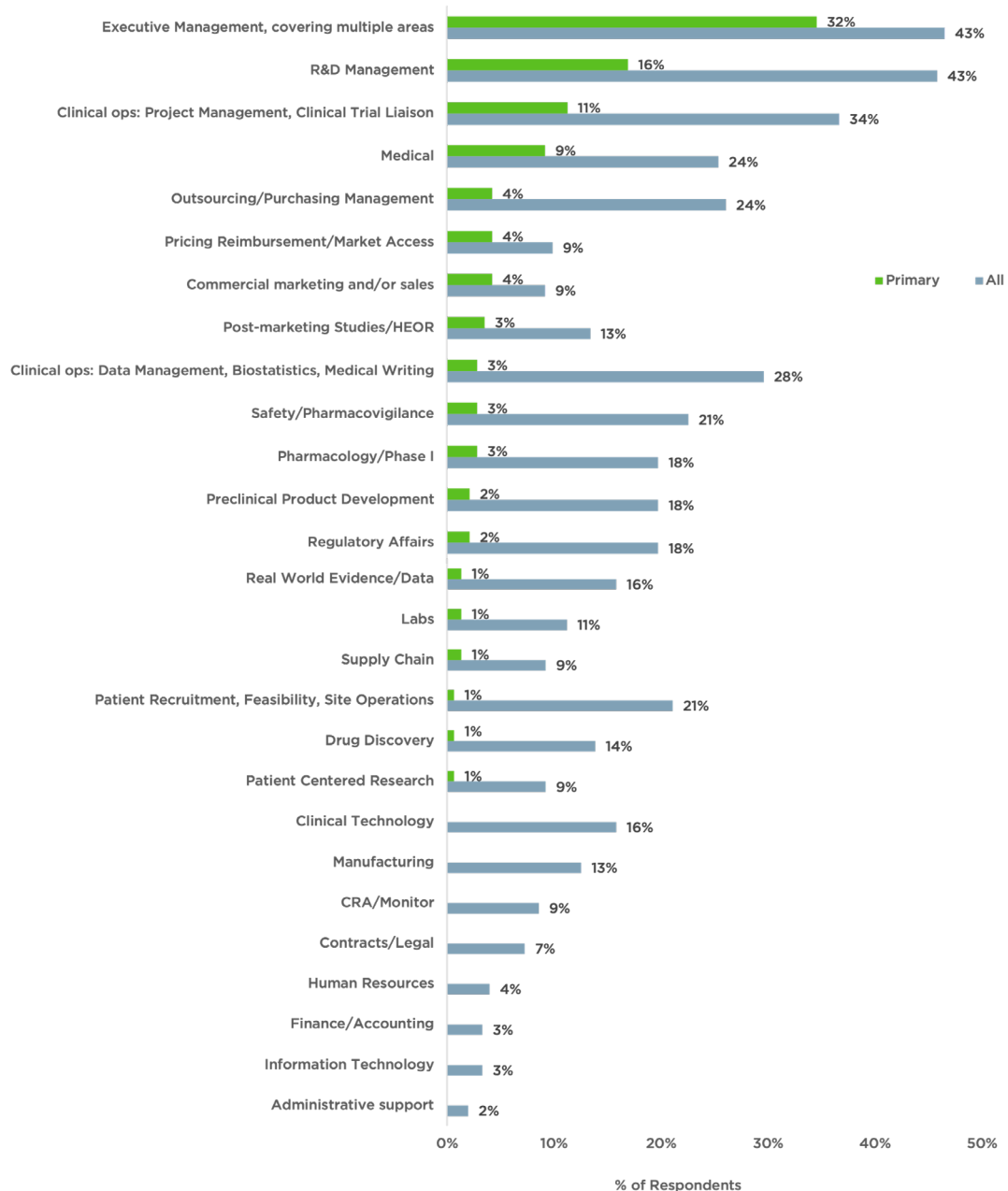
# Decision-Making Responsibility



Please select your **primary area** of decision-making responsibility. Please **select one**.  
(n=152)



Please select your **area(s)** of decision-making responsibility. Please **select all that apply**.  
(n=152)





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