

# Risk-Based Monitoring in Clinical Trials: An Evolution of Practices During the COVID Pandemic

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RBQM Working Group Members & Leads

Association of Clinical Descarch Organizations (AC

Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO)

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## **About ACRO**

- The Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO) is a trade association that brings together the leading global CROs and technology companies
- Currently 15 member companies
- ACRO hosts several committees including:
  - Risk-Based Quality Management (RBQM) Working Group, Decentralized Clinical Trials (DCT) Working Party, Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee



# **ACRO Member Companies**

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# About ACRO's RBQM Working Group

- Today's speakers are all members of the RBQM Working Group (founded in 2015)
  - Collaborative effort to promote and advance the adoption of Risk-Based Monitoring (RBM) and RBQM principles in clinical trials
  - CROs and technology companies coming together to support sponsors, sites, regulators and each other
  - Pursuing our annual landscape project
  - Brought about by frustration within regulatory authorities, sponsors and CROs that RBM and RBQM components were not being implemented to their fullest potential
  - DCT components added to the project over the last two years



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# ACRO's Annual Landscape Survey

- PRIOR YEAR'S SURVEY // 2019 Landscape Data
- 6,513 studies ongoing in 2019 from 7 different CROs
- LAST YEAR'S SURVEY // 2020 Landscape Data
- 5,987 studies ongoing in 2020 from 6 different CROs
- 908 of these studies were new study starts in 2020

- THIS YEAR'S SURVEY // 2021 Landscape Data
- 4,889 studies ongoing in 2021 from 7 different CROs
- 1,270 of these studies were new study starts in 2021



# RBQM Components Included in Survey

- Initial Cross-functional Risk Assessment
- Ongoing Cross-functional Risk Assessment
- Quality Tolerance Limits (QTLs)
- Key Risk Indicators (KRIs) Specific to Data Quality /
   Subject Safety
- Centralized Monitoring
- Off-site / Remote-site Monitoring
- Reduced SDV
- Reduced SDR



## Considerations in our Dataset

- Dataset is made up of outsourced clinical trials
- Sponsors maintain oversight of some components (QTLs, for example) – which would not show up in our dataset
- Results may be an underestimate of RBM and RBQM uptake, but they are valuable indicators and still show adoption trends
- Each year, we are working to improve tracking capabilities



## The Changing Landscape Over Time

2019 Landscape

2020 Landscape

2021 Landscape

At least one RBQM component 53%

Traditional Trials 47% Traditional Trials 23%

At least one RBQM component 77%

n=5,987 ongoing studies in 2020

Traditional
Trials
12%

At least one RBQM component 88%

n=4,889 ongoing studies in 2021

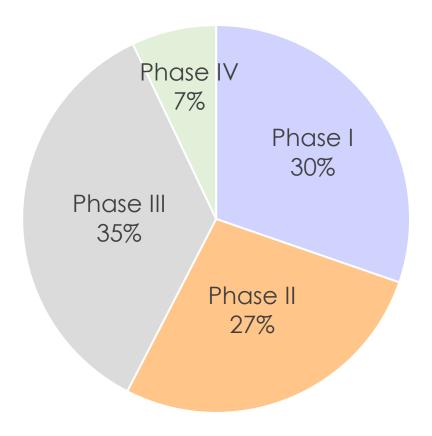


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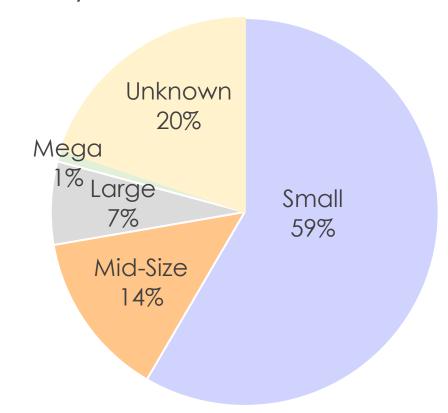
n=6,513 ongoing studies in 2019

## A Closer Look at the 2021 Dataset

#### Study Phase



#### Study Size Based on # of Patients

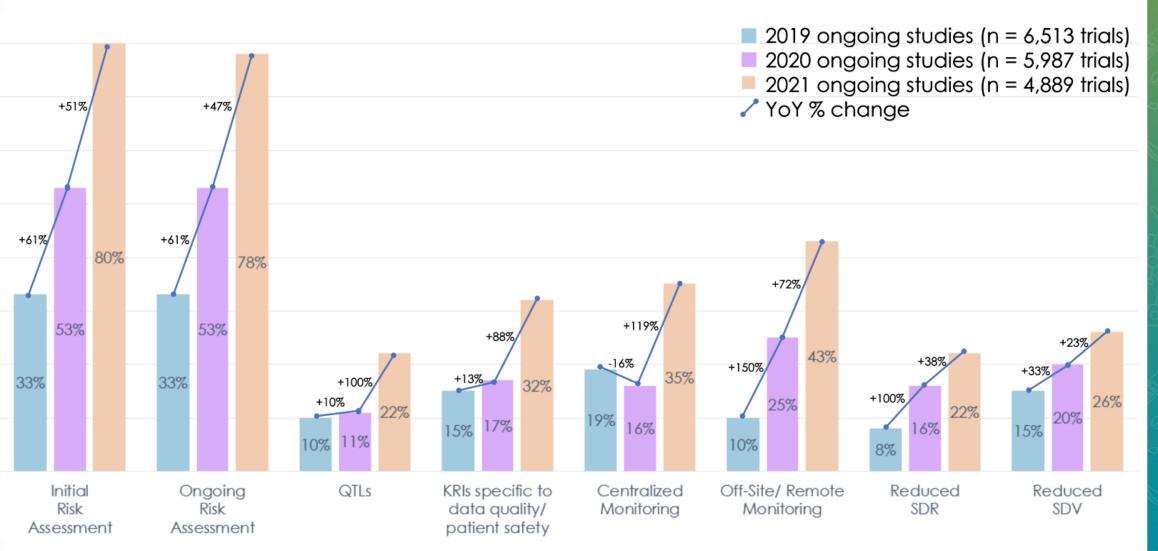


Small: less than 300 patients Mid-sized: 300-999 patients Large: 1,000-5,000 patients Mega: More than 5,000 patients



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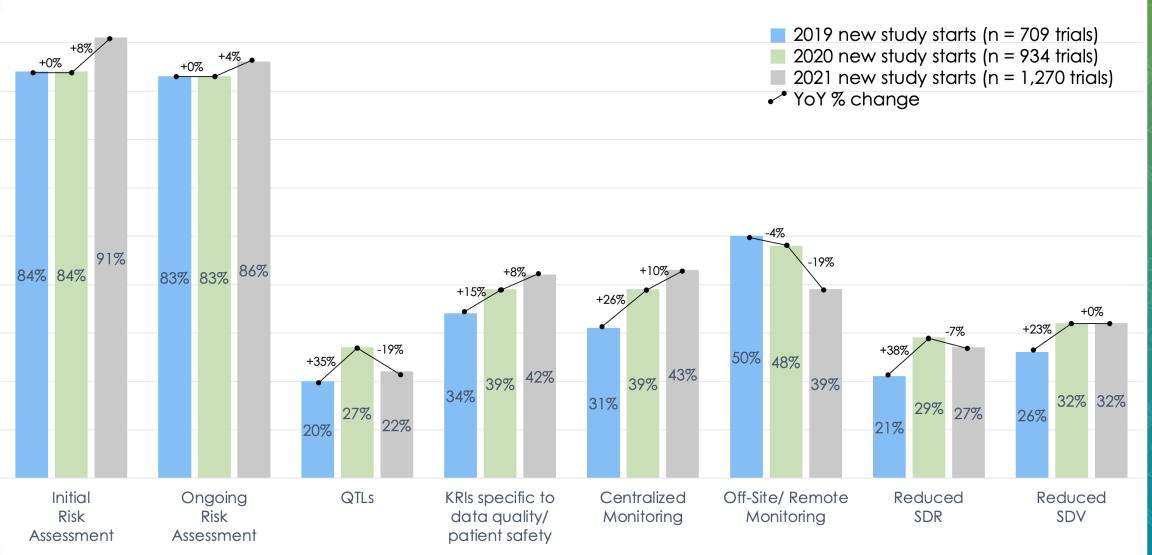
## RBQM Components in 2019-2021 Ongoing Studies





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## RBQM Components in 2019-2021 New Study Starts





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## Observations & Recommendations

- Key observations
  - Risk assessments are on almost every study
  - Reduced SDV and reduced SDR have potential to increase
  - Strong adoption of Centralized Monitoring, combination of reduced SDV/SDR remains paramount
- Top recommendations for how we can support sponsors, sites to increase adoption
  - Continued support for risk assessment practices, remain core driver for proper implementation of RBQM components
  - Flexibility there is not a one size fits all approach, each study must be assessed for greatest impacts to participant safety and data quality



# Hopes for Next Year's Survey & Adoption Metrics

- Increased adoption of reduced SDV and reduced SDR
- Increased use of centralized monitoring
- Continue to understand adoption of operationalization of RBQM & DCT – and the evolution of clinical trial operations
- Interest in success measures, value-driven success metrics
- Opportunity to collect adoption levels of DCT components
  - eConsent / eConsent eSignature
  - Direct to / from patient shipment
  - Home health visits
  - Telemedicine
  - eCOA/ePRO
  - Connected devices / digital endpoints
  - Local / community labs



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## ACRO's Publications on RBQM

- PRIOR YEAR'S SURVEY // 2019 Landscape Paper
  - RBM in Clinical Trials: Past, Present & Future (TIRS 4/21)



- LAST YEAR'S SURVEY // 2020 Landscape Paper
  - RBM in Clinical Trials: Increased Adoption Throughout 2020 (DIA TIRS 3/22)



- THIS YEAR'S SURVEY // 2021 Landscape Paper in Progress
  - Today we'll share highlights from the results
- Publications can be found online: acrohealth.org/risk-based-quality-management



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### Thank You

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