



Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development

Impact REPORT

ANALYSIS AND INSIGHT INTO CRITICAL DRUG DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

CRO contribution to drug development is substantial and growing globally

New study finds clinical outsourcing associated with faster development times at comparable quality

- Since 2001, spending by drug sponsors on clinical research services has grown 15% annually, outpacing the 11% rate for overall spending on development.
 - Drug sponsors have increased their reliance on contract research organizations (CROs): headcount among major CROs grew 6% annually between 2001 and 2004, while sponsor headcount remained flat.
 - In 2004, leading CROs managed 23,000 phase I-IV clinical trials worldwide, monitored more than 150,000 clinical investigators, and enrolled more than 640,000 new subjects.
 - According to sponsors, projects with high CRO usage stay closer to schedule: in general, high CRO usage projects are submitted more than 30 days closer to their projected submission date than are low CRO usage projects.
 - Although pivotal trials involving high CRO usage tend to be larger than those with low CRO usage, they are completed faster, especially during the study close-out period.
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