

Quality Outlook 2026:

The rise of the QA__Agents



Foreword



Sebastien Sepierre,
CEO, Scilife

In every industry, the conversation today revolves around AI. No surprise there. Regulatory change is accelerating. Digital systems are multiplying. Data is flowing at a scale our predecessors couldn't have imagined.

AI and predictive analytics are opening new doors, but also raising new dilemmas around transparency, explainability, and oversight.

But in life sciences, where the margin for error is measured in lives, the real question isn't how fast we can automate processes, but how we do it without eroding trust. Under that pressure, the function of Quality is quietly transforming.

Organizations are learning to stay compliant, adapt at speed, and innovate responsibly. But the real transformation isn't happening in algorithms, it's happening in the people behind them. And that's no coincidence.

Because quality has always been, and will always be, a profoundly human endeavor.

The world is racing to build AI agents that think faster. But what life sciences need are QA agents — data-literate, digitally fluent, strategically minded — who think deeper and lead with discernment.

The real story isn't about AI replacing people. This isn't about saying AI is bad or not valuable. It's about reframing it. It's about recognizing that AI is only valuable when it amplifies human intelligence and operates under human guidance.

The future of quality isn't distant. It's already unfolding, carried out by people who still care deeply about what reaches patients.

At Scilife, we believe that the future is both AI-driven and human-led — powered by technology, but defined by the people driving transformation from the inside out.

This is the new face of quality: proactive, predictive, and profoundly human.

In this report, we take the pulse of the QA landscape across the life sciences and explore how forward-thinking teams are transforming the function, not as a regulatory obligation, but as a steadying force that supports responsible growth and strengthens trust.

We share data-driven insights, expert perspectives, and practical strategies for teams ready to move from compliance to competitive advantage. Because in a world where automation and AI are rapidly redefining how decisions are made, it's still human judgement (thoughtfully supported by technology) that safeguards integrity and ensures every decision ultimately honors the patient.

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Introduction

For years, quality was treated as a back-office function, important, yet somehow peripheral, kept at a distance from the engines of strategy and innovation.

But that framing no longer survives contact with the realities of 2026. As digital systems multiply, AI-assisted decision-making accelerates, and regulatory expectations intensify, a new truth is becoming undeniable: **quality maturity is no longer a supporting capability, but the backbone of responsible advancement in life sciences.**

It's the quiet revolution no one is talking about and yet it is rapidly becoming the defining competitive advantage of the decade.

Not because the idea itself is new, but because leaders are finally reckoning with what happens when quality maturity is missing: volatility, preventable failures, eroded trust, and systems that falter precisely when human lives depend on their reliability.

Organizations that embed quality into their culture, decision frameworks, and operating models don't just avoid deviations; they move faster, fail less, and scale with fewer surprises. High-maturity companies consistently outperform reactive ones because they understand a simple truth: prevention compounds. Quality, when it's mature, becomes a force multiplier, driving resilience, trust, and speed.

Unbeknownst to most, in life sciences, quality maturity is potentially the most important key competitive advantage. Companies who embed quality into strategy, culture, and operations consistently outperform those that remain reactive. Mature quality practices shift the role of QA from policing to prevention, driving resilience, trust, and alignment with business goals.

By contrast, low quality maturity carries a steep price. Despite unprecedented digital adoption, life sciences continue to bleed value through the same cracks: reactivity, organizational fragmentation, and systems that fail precisely when they're needed most. The numbers are unforgiving.

As of 2025, in the midst of the aforementioned digital and quality revolution, the hidden cost of poor quality (CoPQ) continues to drain performance for some companies, **consuming up to 15–20%**¹ of sales revenue. In some cases, as much as 40% of total spend. Major compliance events can exceed **\$12M**² in remediation costs, along with reputational and patient impact.

These figures reveal a core truth: CoPQ is not the cost of compliance, but the cost of immaturity. The cost of operating without the foresight, discipline, and cultural alignment that modern quality demands.

The hidden cost of reactive quality

41%

of leaders cite manual processes in quality and compliance as a key efficiency barrier, showing how outdated systems drive rework, delays, and hidden CoPQ costs.

(Source: Deloitte's 2026 life sciences outlook)

50%

In fiscal year 2025, FDA warning letters increased by 50%, indicating a significant rise in regulatory compliance issues across the industry.

(Source: The FDA Insider)

1. "What is Cost of Quality (COQ)?", ASQ, <https://asq.org/quality-resources/cost-of-quality>

2. "Pharma Regulatory Compliance." GMP Pros, <https://gmppros.com/pharma-regulatory-compliance/>



Karandeep Badwal,

Founder and Principal Consultant at QRA Medical

“The key to aligning QA with business goals is to link what leaders already care about: Faster time to market, customer trust, and the hidden cost of poor quality.”

In reactive organizations, money flows toward firefighting: CAPAs, investigations, do-overs, audits that spiral.

In high-maturity organizations, it flows toward foresight: robust systems, reliable data, and decisions that prevent issues long before they surface. These organizations treat quality not as a safety net, but as a strategic lever: one that shapes behavior, accelerates learning, and reduces volatility across the entire lifecycle. Their QA leaders are not inspectors of yesterday's failures; they are interpreters of emerging risk, architects of trust, and the human agents guiding AI-driven systems with a level of judgment no algorithm can replicate.

The industry often asks whether AI will replace QA. The truth is simpler: organizations without mature quality will be replaced — not by machines, but by competitors who recognize that real value emerges only when innovation is guided by a disciplined, human-led quality system.

And in a sector where every decision ultimately reaches a patient, quality isn't optional. It's the difference between a system that reacts... and one that protects. It's what separates organizations that merely keep up... from those that move forward with clarity, confidence, and integrity.

At a glance: The current state of quality in the life sciences

From enforcer to accelerator

The quality function has never been under more scrutiny. New regulations, digital expectations, and cultural shifts are reshaping what it means to deliver excellence. This unlocks a new era of opportunity: under this pressure, QA is crystallizing into a new, more evolved, connected, and proactive kind of leadership.

Quality is strategic, yet alignment lags

Many still treat quality as a checkpoint rather than a growth driver. In less mature organizations, it remains siloed in QA. The most advanced embed it across functions, aligning quality and business strategy in lockstep.

Culture is the new real differentiator

Organizations stuck in fear-based reporting never get the full picture. When teams hide deviations to avoid finger-pointing, quality flatlines. Leading companies are reframing CAPA and deviations as engines for improvement, not blame. They're replacing checkbox training with continuous, behavior-driven learning that builds ownership and trust.

No longer invisible

For too long, quality shaped every process but was missing from key decisions. When things worked, QA remained invisible. When they failed, QA took the heat. Now, visibility is the new foundation of credibility. Quality teams are problem-solvers, risk mitigators, and culture shapers enabling innovation and accelerating launches, and providing the steady hands that make innovation safe and scalable.

The digital and data gap persists, but opportunity abounds

Technology and data hold the key to predictive, proactive quality. While adoption remains uneven, leaders are turning integration and analytics into accelerators of intelligent quality. As compliance rebalances with innovation, automation, digital QMS, and culture-first initiatives are making quality everyone's responsibility.

The verdict:

A digital yet profoundly human future

Automation accelerates reviews. AI flags risks before they surface.

But neither understands intent, patient impact, or the ethical and regulatory nuance behind each decision. That's QA territory.

As QMSR, EU AI frameworks, and new FDA expectations tighten requirements for traceability and explainability, the winning organizations will be those that fuse predictive tools with the seasoned judgment only QA brings.

Excellence will belong to those who combine digital intelligence with human discernment, a partnership where technology enhances clarity, and people uphold integrity.

A closer look at the pressures shaping quality

In 2025, we surveyed hundreds of quality professionals across the life sciences to assess global organizational quality maturity. The insights reveal where improvement opportunities lie and how leaders can build the capabilities that support sustainable growth, innovation, and patient trust.

“Early involvement of quality remains inconsistent, creating avoidable risks downstream.”

“Quality is often undervalued because it isn’t immediately tied to revenue, yet it quietly protects the entire business.”

“Many organizations remain oriented toward correction rather than cultivating the conditions that prevent issues altogether.”

“I’ve seen reactive compliance lead to constant crises; proactive quality breaks them before they begin.”

“Quality is not an initiative. It is a sustained habit.”

“Quality is too often invited late, yet expected to resolve complex issues immediately.”

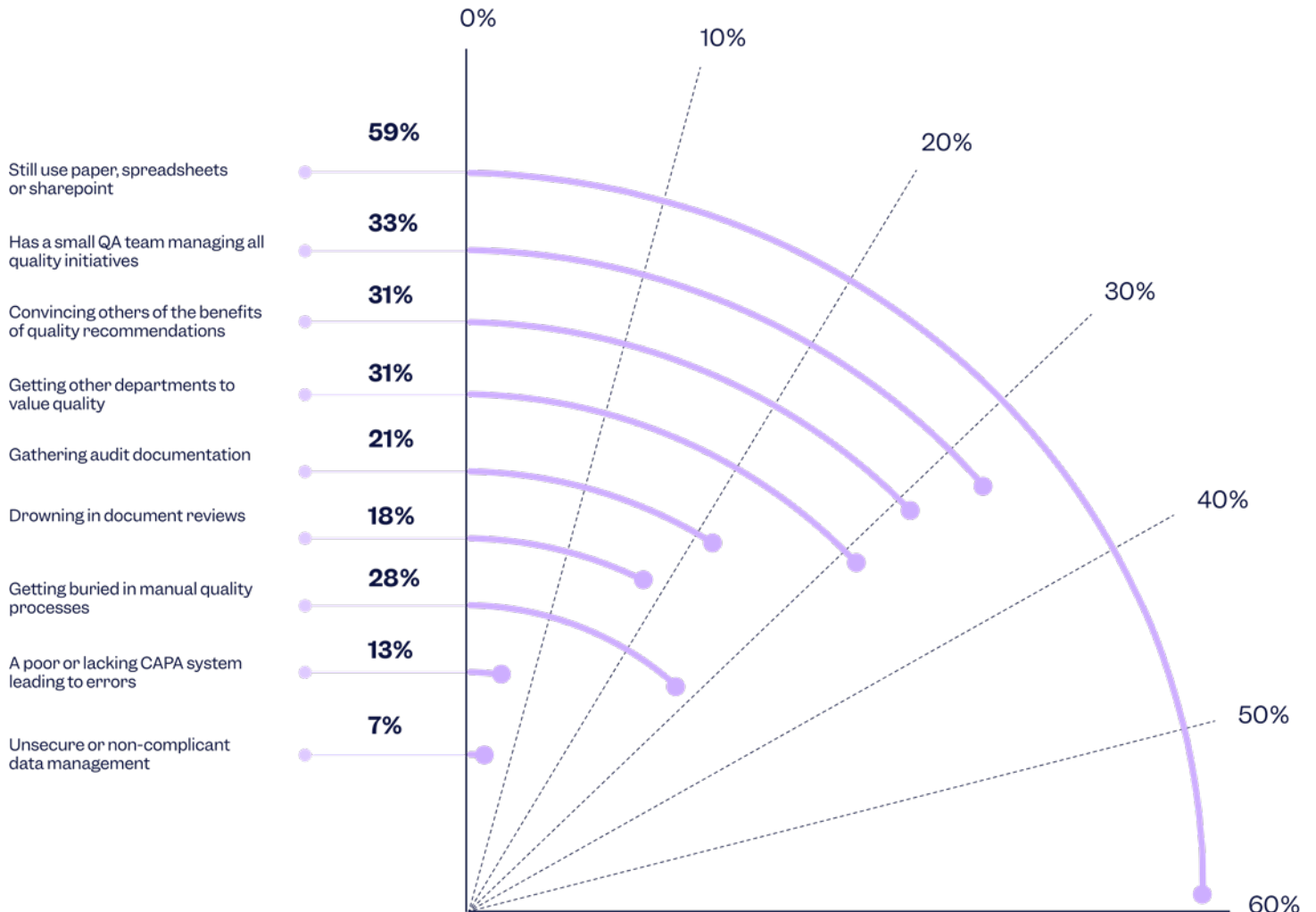
“The responsibility QA carries for patient safety is profound, though often unrecognized in day-to-day operations.”

“Quality is far more than paperwork; it’s the foundation of trust and improvement.”

“Continuous improvement collapses when data is scattered across systems.”

Many organizations still approach quality primarily through a lens of compliance, rather than recognizing its role as a strategic driver of sustainable growth. And because the return on that investment is often difficult to quantify in the short term, leadership may hesitate to invest early, leaving systemic and infrastructure gaps that place additional pressure on QA teams and limit their ability to work proactively.

What's holding quality teams back in 2025

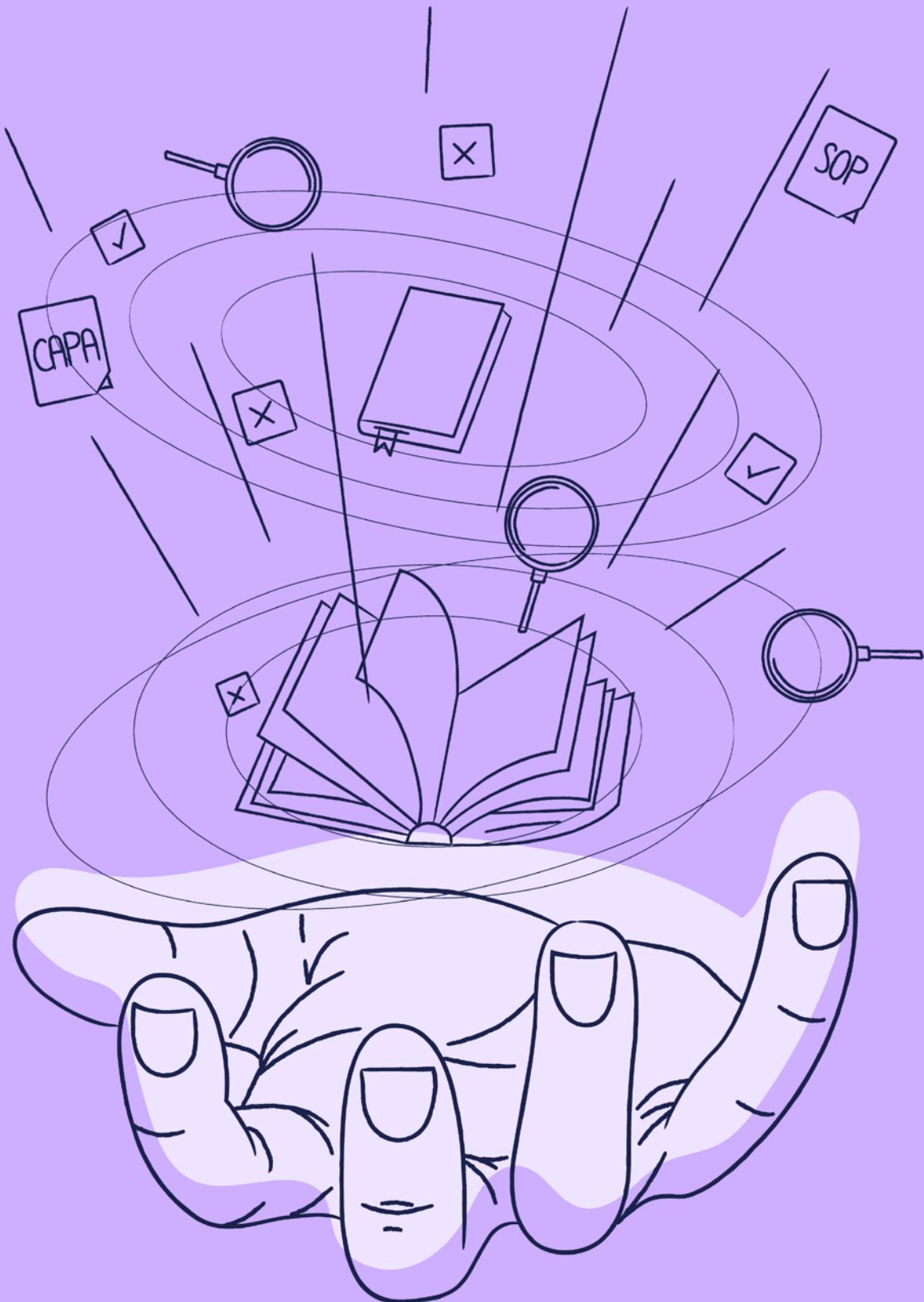


The result is a quality culture that defaults to reactivity, with digital and cultural foundations emerging as the most fragile elements. While organizations feel assured about governance and core processes, that confidence fades when the discussion moves to culture, leadership, data, and technology.

To explore why, let's break down each factor that shapes quality maturity and how respondents perceive their performance.

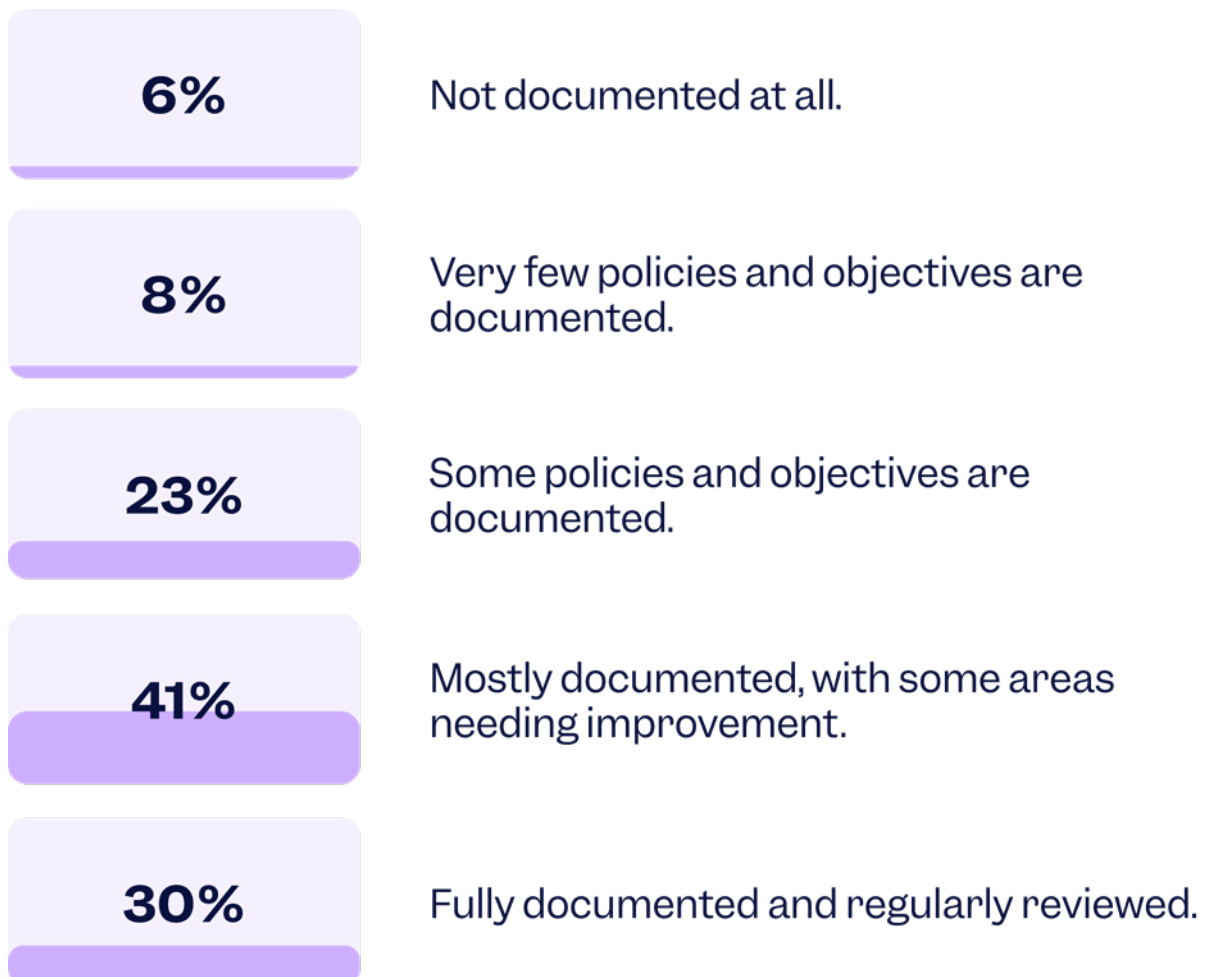
Quality frameworks

Governance is strong,
but not the finish line



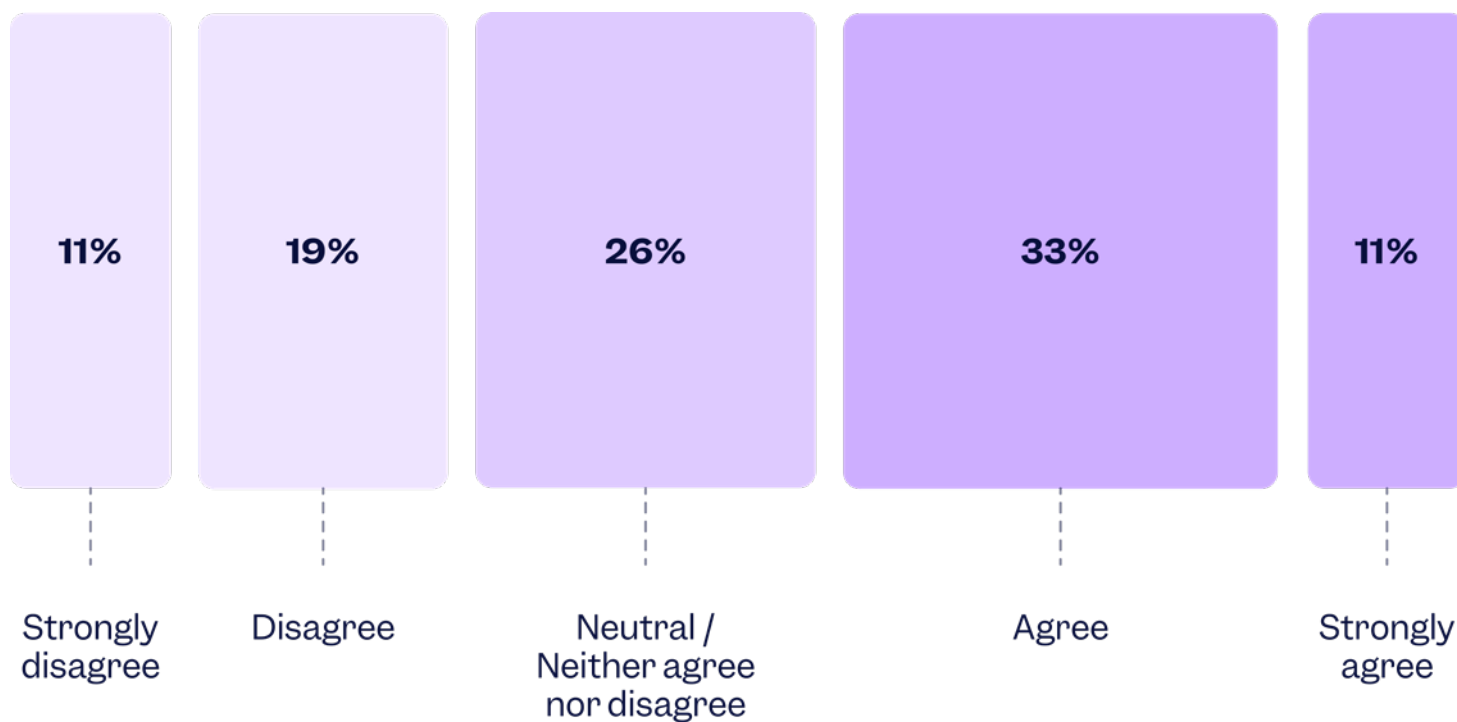
Governance is often where quality maturity begins, but it's rarely where it ends. Strong policies, documented objectives, and alignment on paper give organizations a solid foundation. Many teams report confidence in their governance frameworks, but true maturity requires something deeper: turning policies into everyday practice, linking quality goals to business outcomes, and ensuring governance drives behavior, not just compliance.

To what extent does my organization have documented quality policies and objectives?

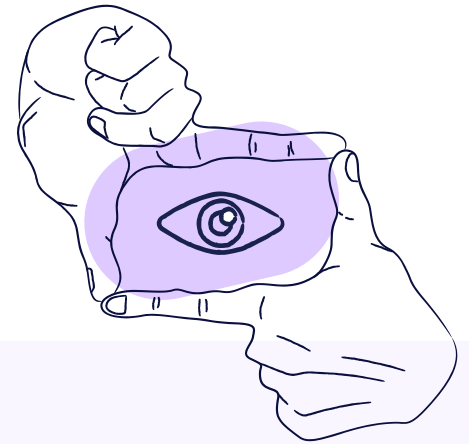


- Quality policies and objectives are consistent, comprehensive, and mostly documented (41% of respondents).
- It is important to note that having policies on paper isn't enough. If they're not linked to business goals, maturity stays low.
- True maturity means policies are living documents that guide daily decisions, not just stored away.
- As seen below, 33% of respondents say their QMS is well aligned with business strategy.

Our quality management system is well integrated with our overall business strategy.



Insider view: From governance to connection



Quality frameworks

Governance is strong, but not the finish line

- Strengthen continuous improvement by regularly examining and refining how quality practices function in real work, not just on paper.
- Ensure quality initiatives are closely connected to business strategy so they can inform decisions at every level of the organization.
- Leverage predictive analytics and AI thoughtfully. Not as replacements for judgment, but as tools that illuminate risks before they materialize.



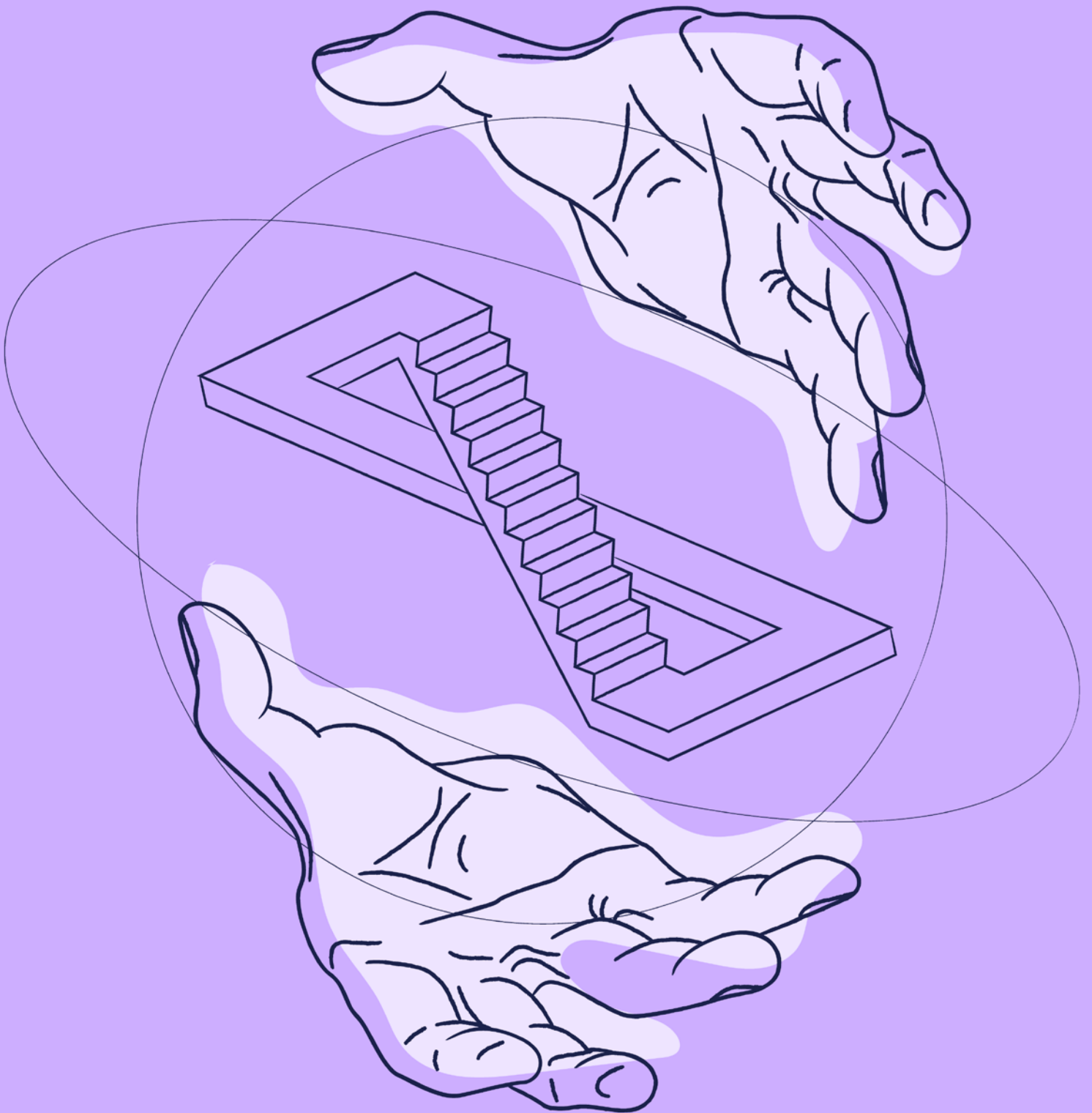
Martin King,
Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance expert

“AI-enhanced monitoring systems make continuous improvement achievable by easily identifying patterns, trends, anomalies, or deviations, and opportunities. By using machine learning algorithms and historical data, organizations can also implement preventative measures”.

- Use governance as a foundation for agility, enabling your teams to respond to emerging trends with clarity and lead industry change responsibly.
- Adopt new practices and technologies in ways that elevate performance while preserving the rigor and intent at the heart of quality.

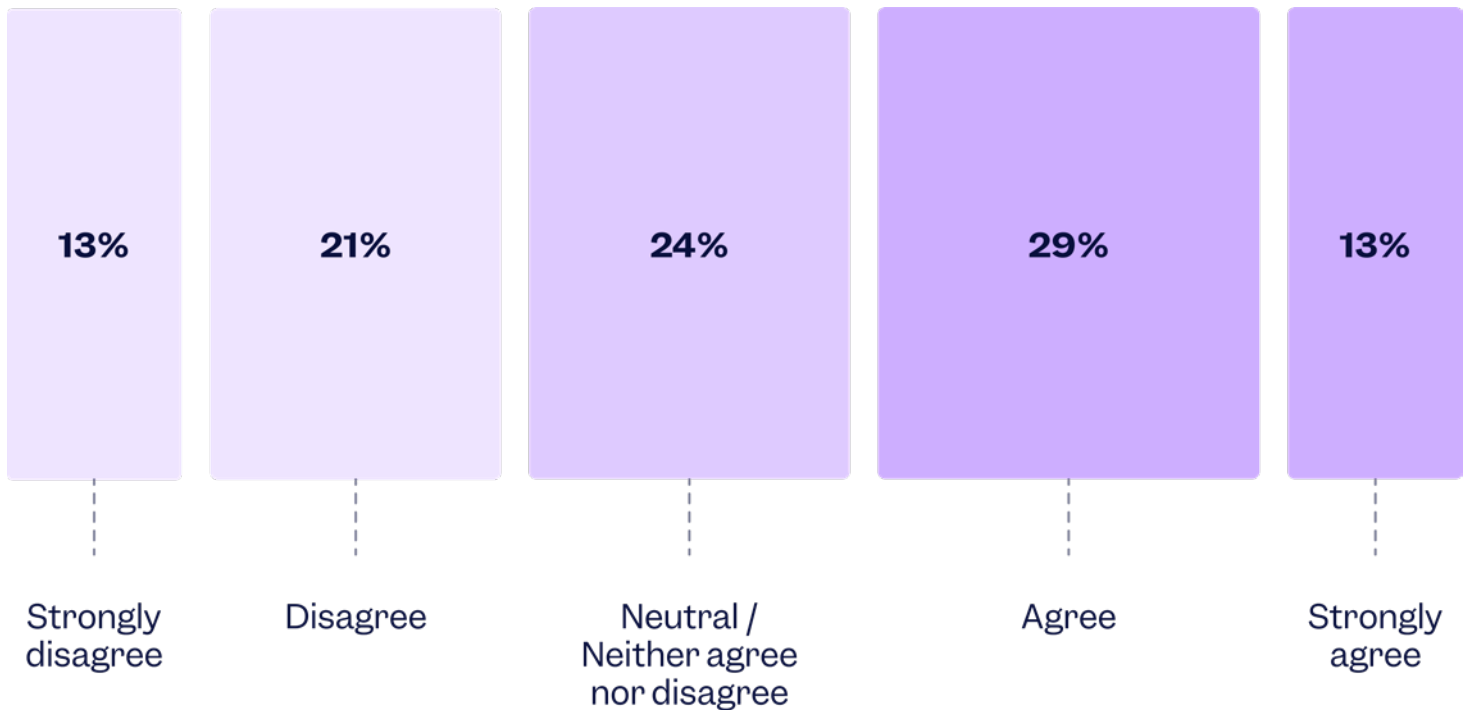
Continuous improvement and quality processes

Quality can't thrive where culture stands still



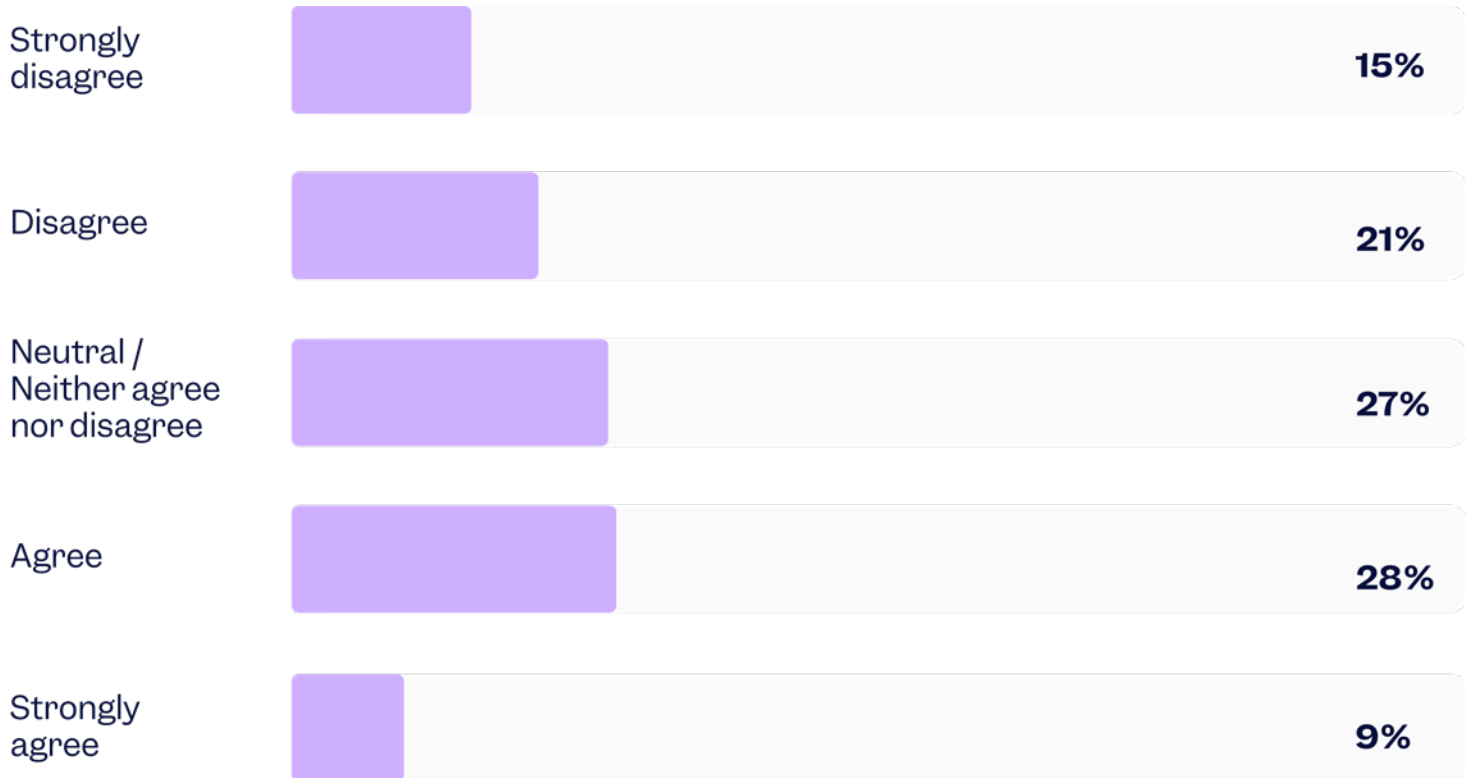
Continuous improvement is often described as a process, but in practice it is a mindset. One shaped by culture, clarity, and the systems that support daily work. In today’s life sciences landscape where digital tools, data, and AI expand what teams can see and predict, continuous improvement becomes even more essential. It is the mechanism that turns insights into action, and action into learning. The organizations that succeed are those that create the conditions for people to refine processes thoughtfully, challenge assumptions openly, and build reliability over time.

We track corrective and preventive actions (CAPAs) implemented for effectiveness and lead to sustained improvements.



Whilst most companies have strong quality processes in place, these cannot go very far when embedded into a culture of blame and finger pointing. Only a culture of trust and openness can lead to continuous improvement and quality excellence.

Employees across all levels are trained and encouraged to report issues that trigger the CAPA process.



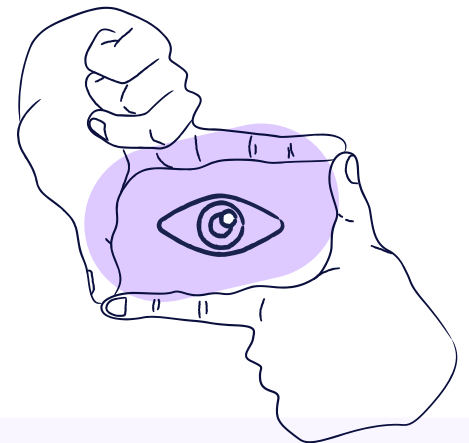
- Although 28% respondents are somewhat confident in their quality processes, there are still some gaps in organization-wide CAPA training and reporting engagement.
- As seen above, over 36% companies still lack a culture where employees feel safe reporting issues.
- Focusing on systemic understanding empowers teams to speak up, collaborate, and drive real improvement.



Georg Digel,
Founder at elevate CAPA

“Effective CAPA escalation is a shared responsibility: Quality leadership defines direction and criteria, but each functional area’s leadership remains accountable, providing the technical depth, resources and operational reality needed for decisions and lasting solutions.”

Insider view: **How to foster trust and continuous improvement**



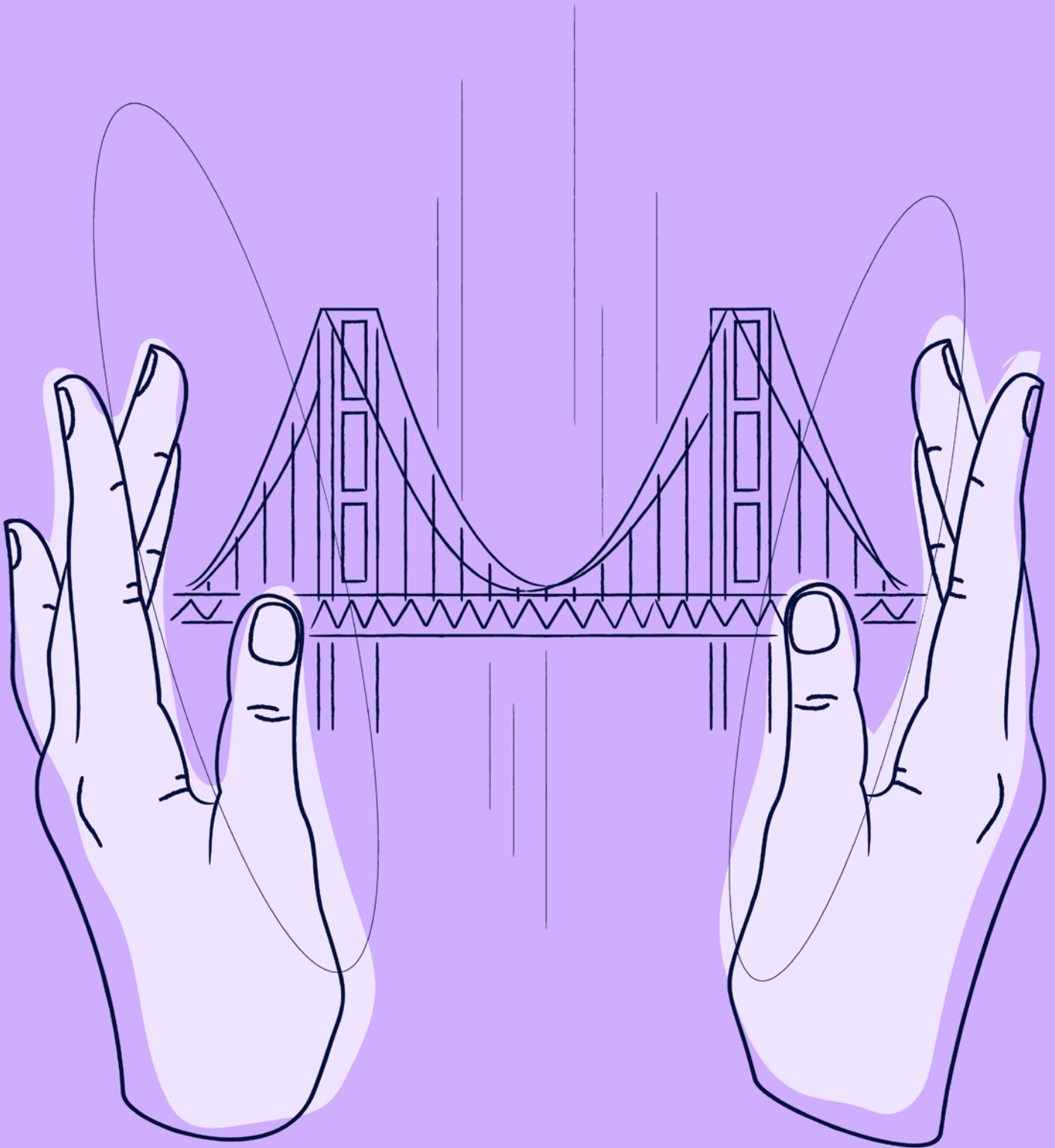
Continuous improvement and quality processes

Quality can't thrive where culture stands still

- Nurture a culture of openness and shared responsibility. Trust grows when people feel safe to surface issues early, learn from them, and see quality as a collective commitment rather than a departmental task.
- Adopt digital tools that remove friction from daily work. Automating routine tasks creates space for teams to focus on strategic thinking and cross-functional collaboration.
- Use leading indicators and advanced analytics to stay ahead of risk. Predictive insights help teams shift from reacting to problems to anticipating them, strengthening reliability and resilience.
- Approaches like Lean, Six Sigma, and others are most powerful when applied with intention, supporting teams in refining processes and elevating performance over time.

People management and quality culture

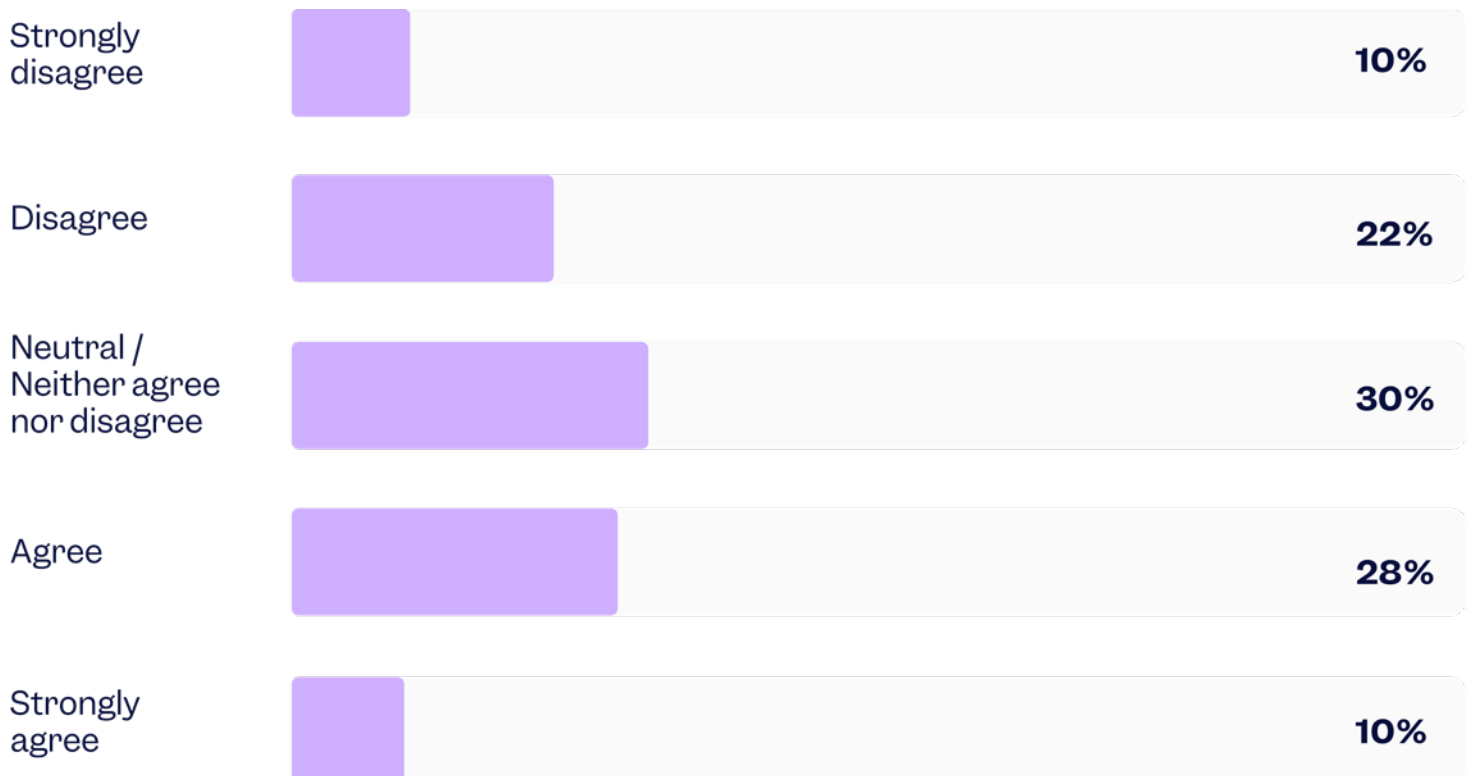
**Bridging the gaps towards
a proactive quality culture**



Quality culture has long been spoken about, yet rarely understood in its full depth. Many organizations acknowledge its value, but their day-to-day realities still treat quality as a regulatory obligation, a task to complete, a responsibility assigned to QA alone.

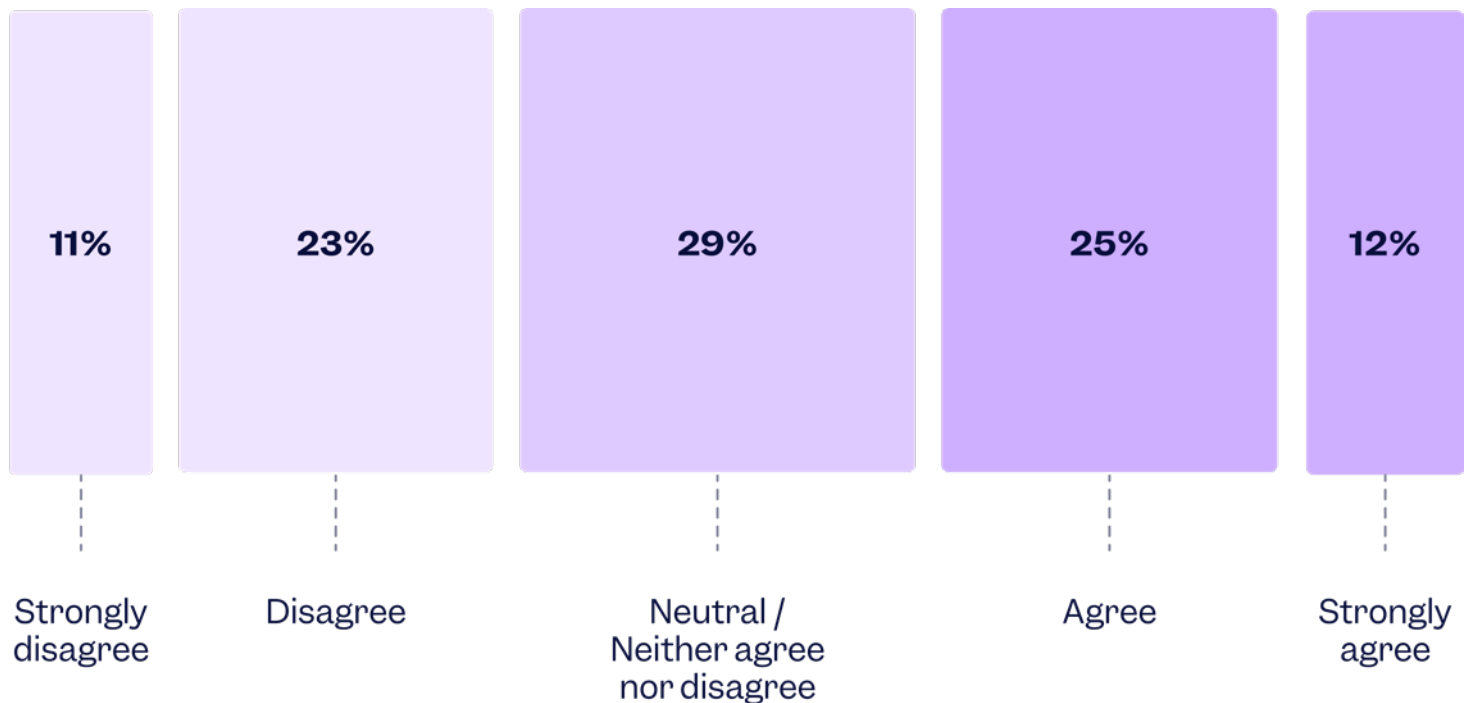
This narrow view isolates the very function meant to unify teams, creating gaps that weaken learning and slow improvement. A proactive quality culture demands something different: not one-off training, but continuous, practical learning embedded into everyday work. In a sector where every decision carries real human consequence, culture isn't abstract. It is the mechanism through which quality becomes visible, lived, and collectively upheld.

Everyone at my organization understands the value of quality, and their role contributes to it.



In a mature quality culture, people's behaviors, skills, and engagement all reinforce continuous improvement and a shared commitment to quality. Yet even though most respondents report having well-defined quality roles, many still perceive quality as solely the responsibility of the QA department, which is often viewed, at best, as the "compliance police."

My organization clearly defines and communicates roles and ownership related to quality management.



- 29% respondents felt that the value of quality is somewhat understood and defined, and there's a level of contribution to it. However, there's plenty of room for improvement.
- 11% view quality as mere regulatory compliance, reducing QA to a box-ticking task.
- In many companies, quality is viewed as the QA department's responsibility only.
- This mindset limits innovation and isolates the quality team, risks patient safety, increases non-conformities, recalls, and loss of trust.

Insights from our in-house expert



Àngel Buendia,
Knowledge Manager at Scilife

“There is a real opportunity to make learning more practical, continuous, and embedded into daily work. Instead of long, one-off sessions, create short, focused lessons people can use right away. After a CAPA or audit, capture key insights in your QMS as quick lessons, videos, or checklists. Follow up later to see what has improved. This turns training into part of daily work, helping people do their jobs better, not just check a box.”

How frequently does my organization provide training to employees to foster a strong quality culture?



- 36% respondents answered that regulatory training occurs at least once a year.
- However, training often becomes a checkbox exercise, **not conducive to foster a mature and proactive quality culture.**
- Real learning happens through experience and collaboration. Practical methods like microlearning and on-the-job training make learning stick and foster a quality-driven culture.

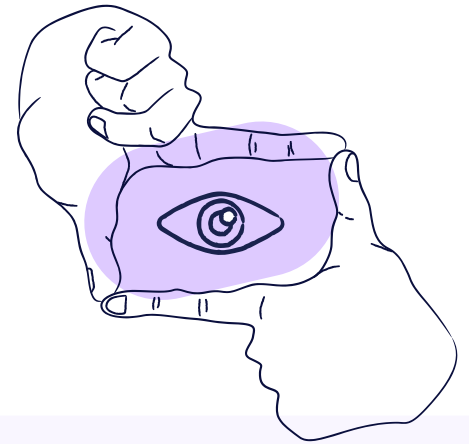


Chris Martin,

Director RP and RPi at Christa GDP Pharma Ltd

“Compliance doesn’t live in a piece of paper. It lives in people’s behaviour. To track the success of your trainings, use measurement tools like questionnaires to find out what participants apply from what they’ve learned and how this has affected metrics. Check impact regularly and don’t just count who showed up to the training, but what has changed after they showed up.”

Insider view: **Building a culture of accountable ownership**



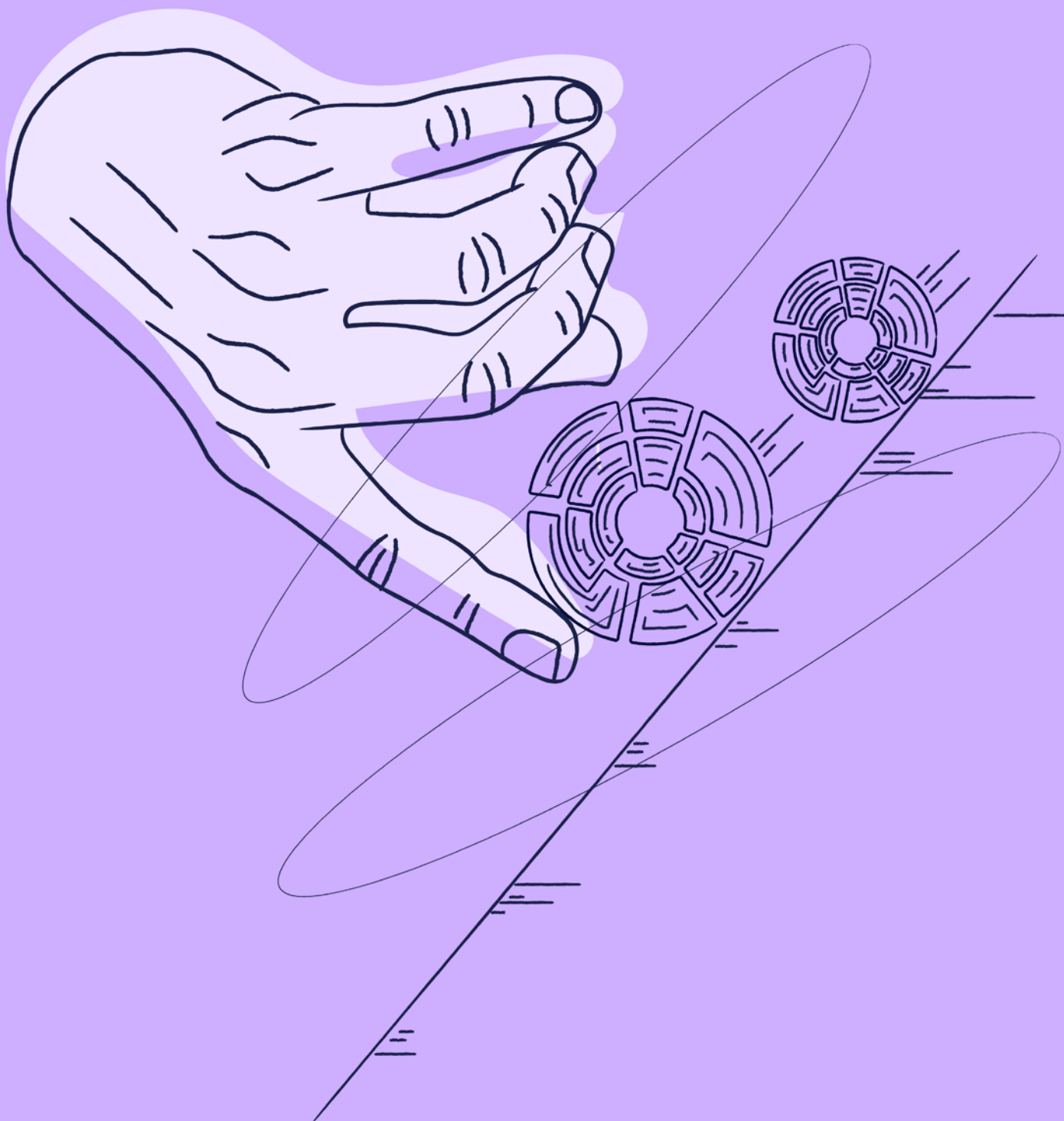
People management and quality culture

Bridging the gaps towards a proactive quality culture

- Recognize and reward thoughtful improvement, not just outcomes. When progress is seen and valued, quality becomes a shared aspiration rather than an obligation.
- Cultivate internal champions; individuals who naturally model curiosity, rigor, and continuous improvement. They help quality principles take root across teams and functions.
- Develop structured quality training and boost awareness through workshops. Evolve learning beyond formal training. Foundations matter, but real capability develops through experience: shadowing, reflective practice, microlearning, and the everyday moments where judgment is shaped.
- Align quality with business intent. Ownership grows when teams understand not only how to follow quality practices but why those practices support responsible growth and trustworthy decisions.

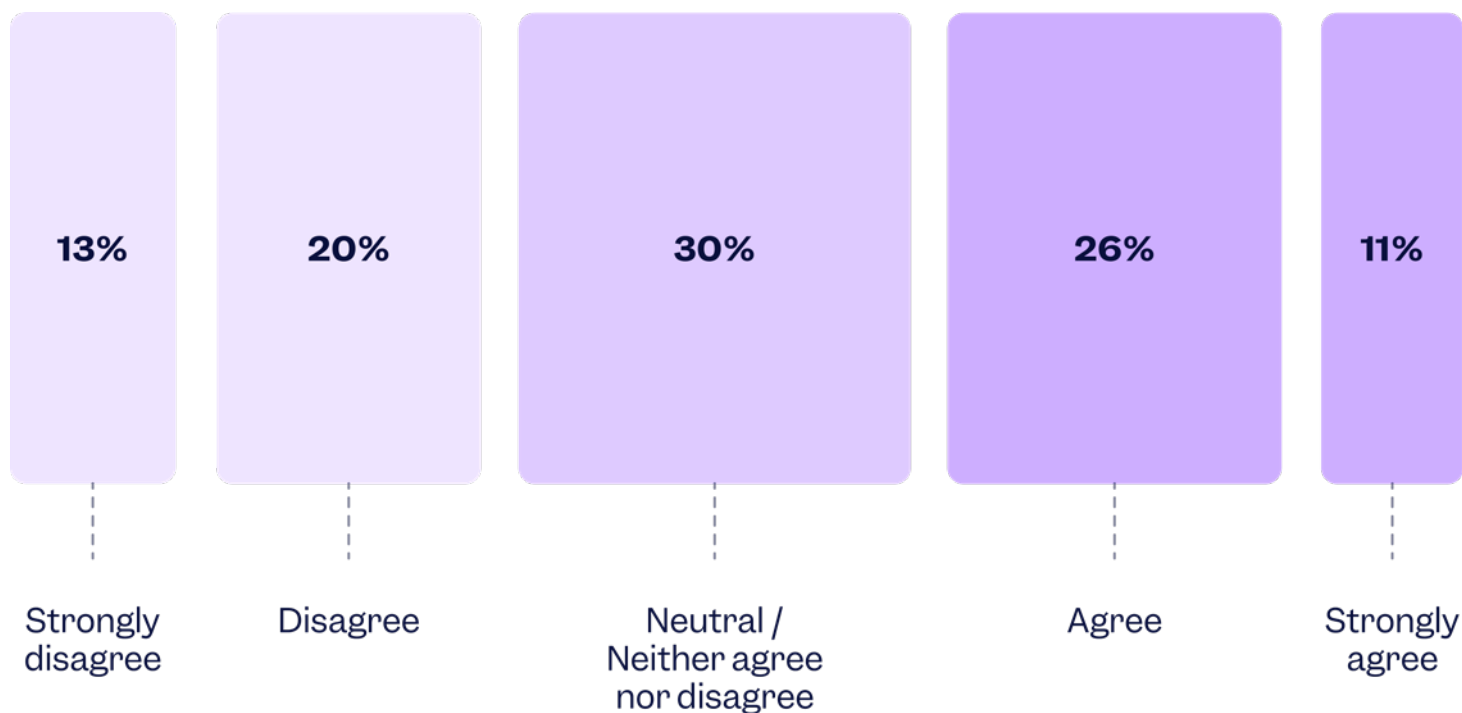
Leadership and quality commitment

QA still faces heaps of resistance from leadership



Leadership buy-in remains one of the biggest barriers to true quality maturity. Many organizations claim to champion a quality-centric vision, yet that commitment often weakens at the top. QA teams still face resistance when seeking the resources needed to shift from reactive compliance to proactive quality. This gap is largely driven by limited understanding of QA's strategic value.

My organization has a vision supported by leadership for implementing a quality-centric workflow.



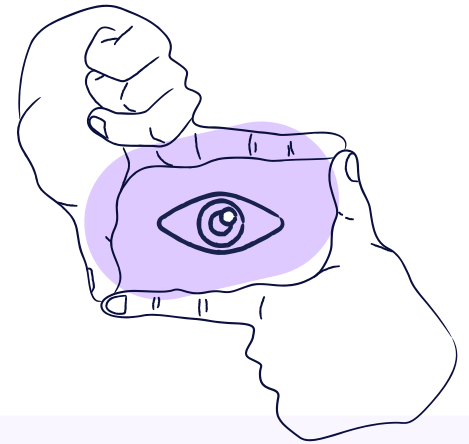
- As we can see, while some alignment exists, quality has yet to gain a strong foothold at the leadership level.
- QA professionals often face resistance from leadership, who control the QA budget.
- This resistance usually stems from a lack of understanding of QA's value.
- Poor communication about how quality protects patients and saves resources fuels the gap.
- Overcoming it requires stronger relationships and clearer storytelling to show the value of quality investments.



Lesley Worthington,
Communication and Leadership Coach

“Influence is about exchange. You want something, so what are you going to give in exchange? It depends on who you’re dealing with. You have to know their goals, what they need.”

Insider view: **Leading the change that makes quality everyone's business**



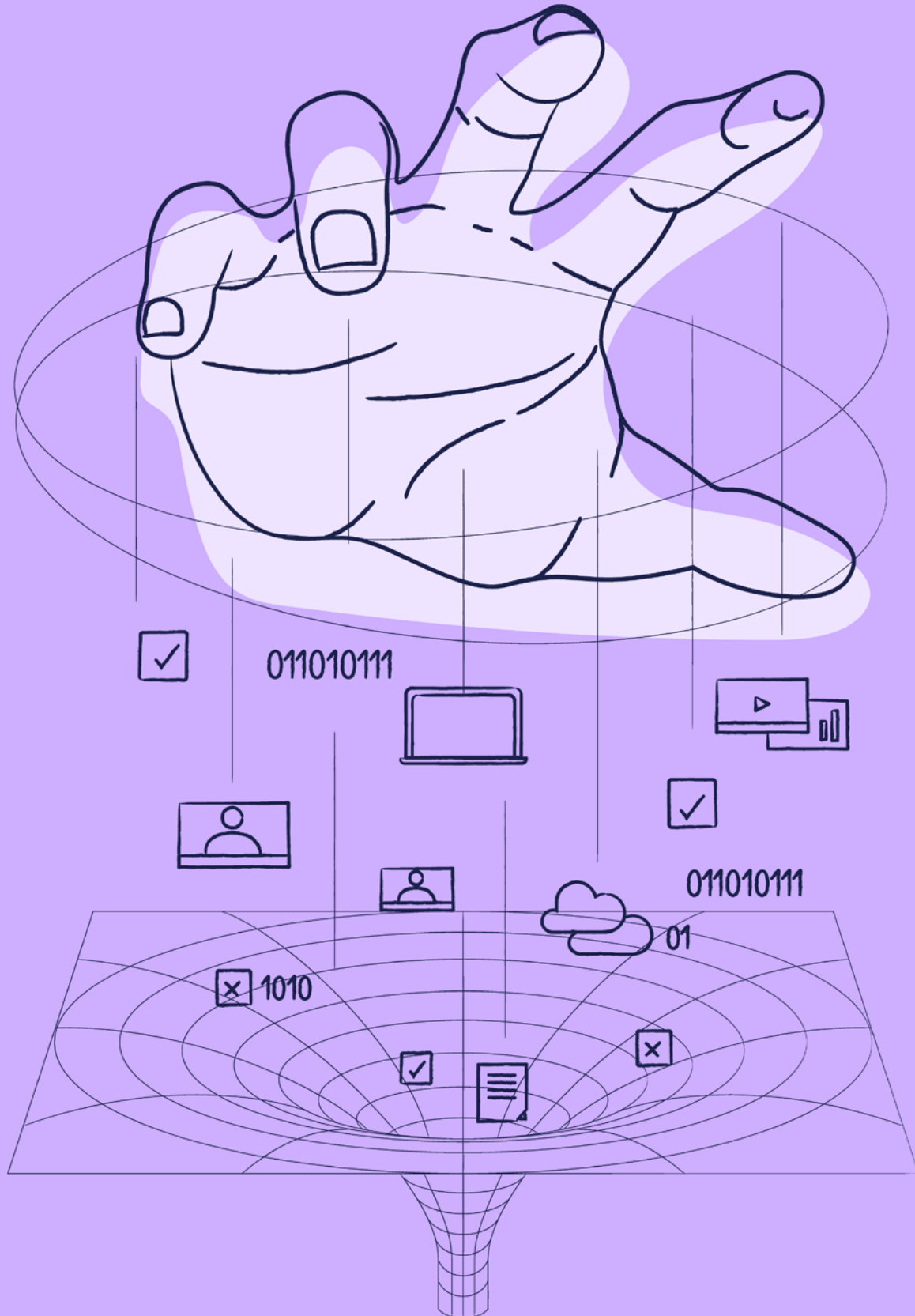
Leadership and quality commitment

QA still faces heaps of resistance from leadership

- Show the impact of addressing quality issues proactively. Start with minor, manageable improvements, strengthen reliability, and build confidence across teams.
- Invite senior management to participate in quality initiatives to increase engagement. When top management takes part in quality conversations and initiatives, it signals that quality is not a department's duty but an organizational value.
- Share case studies or success stories from other organizations where quality has accelerated growth, reduced risk, or strengthened trust. These narratives help teams understand that excellence is not theoretical; it is achievable and transformative.

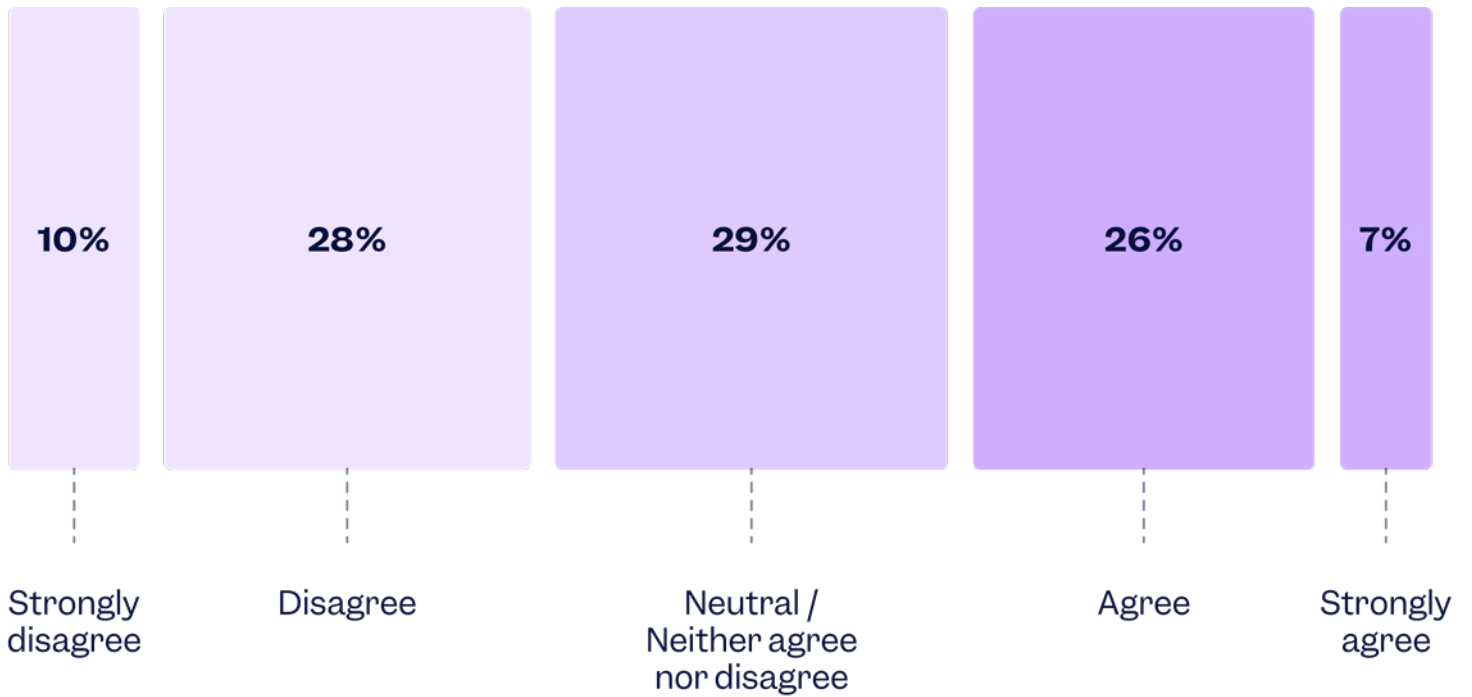
Data governance

Analog data management fuels disconnection



Outdated data practices continue to weaken quality maturity. Although many organizations aspire to data-driven decision-making, quality data often remains siloed, inconsistent, or difficult to analyze. Without integrated, real-time systems, insights stay disconnected from business strategy, slowing response times, increasing risk, and limiting the impact of quality management.

We consistently use data to drive decision-making in quality management within my organization.



- At least 38% organizations still struggle to embed data-driven decision-making consistently in quality management.
- Data is often trapped in silos, limiting holistic insight and cross-functional analysis.
- When data isn't integrated, quality insights are disconnected from business strategy.
- Poor or inconsistent practices hinder analysis, disrupt supply chains, and risk compliance and sensitive data.
- On the other hand, lack of real-time data analytical tools means errors aren't detected straight away.

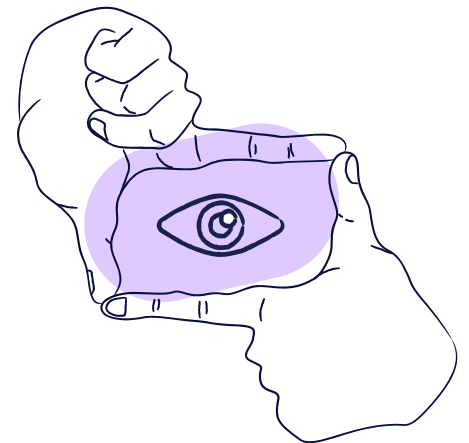


Kurt In Albon,

Founder and Principal Consultant at INK Pharma Consult LLC

“When it comes to data governance, companies can only thrive by going digital. The advantages of electronic data are clear, as it’s far easier to review and analyze information through an interactive dashboard than by flipping through binders page by page.”

Insider view:
**Combining human insight
and tech to strengthen
data integrity**



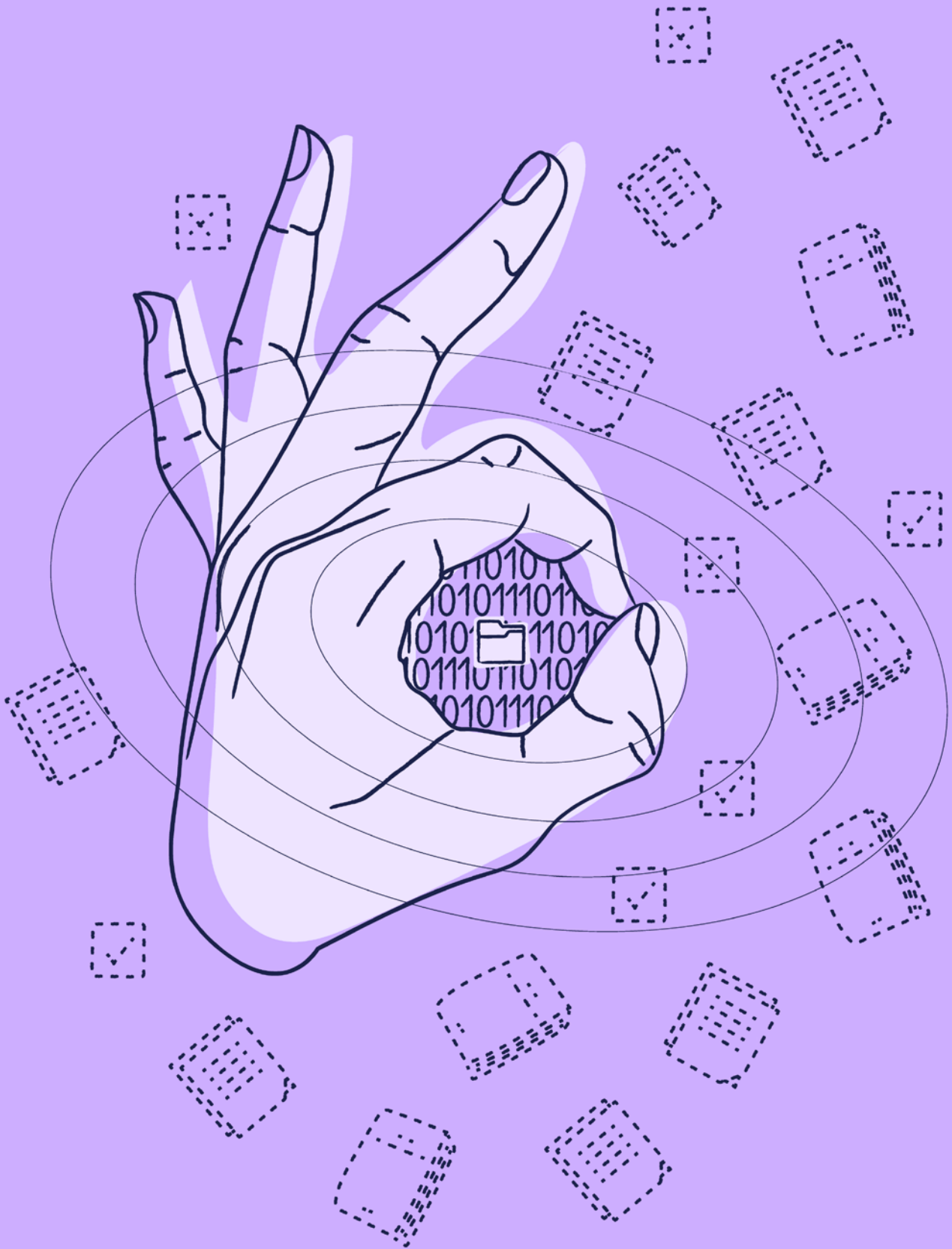
Leadership and quality commitment

QA still faces heaps of resistance from leadership

- Strengthen data governance with an ALCOA+ framework, clear roles, validated workflows, and controls that ensure complete, consistent, accurate, attributable, and traceable data throughout the lifecycle.
- Use validated digital systems that enforce data integrity by design through audit trails, secure access, real-time traceability, and controlled changes.
- Apply advanced analytics only to verified datasets to spot trends, risks, and failure patterns, enabling proactive, QMM-aligned improvement.
- Feed data-driven insights into a risk-based QMS, supporting CAPA effectiveness, management reviews, and quality KPIs to keep improvements compliant and aligned with business goals.

Technology capabilities

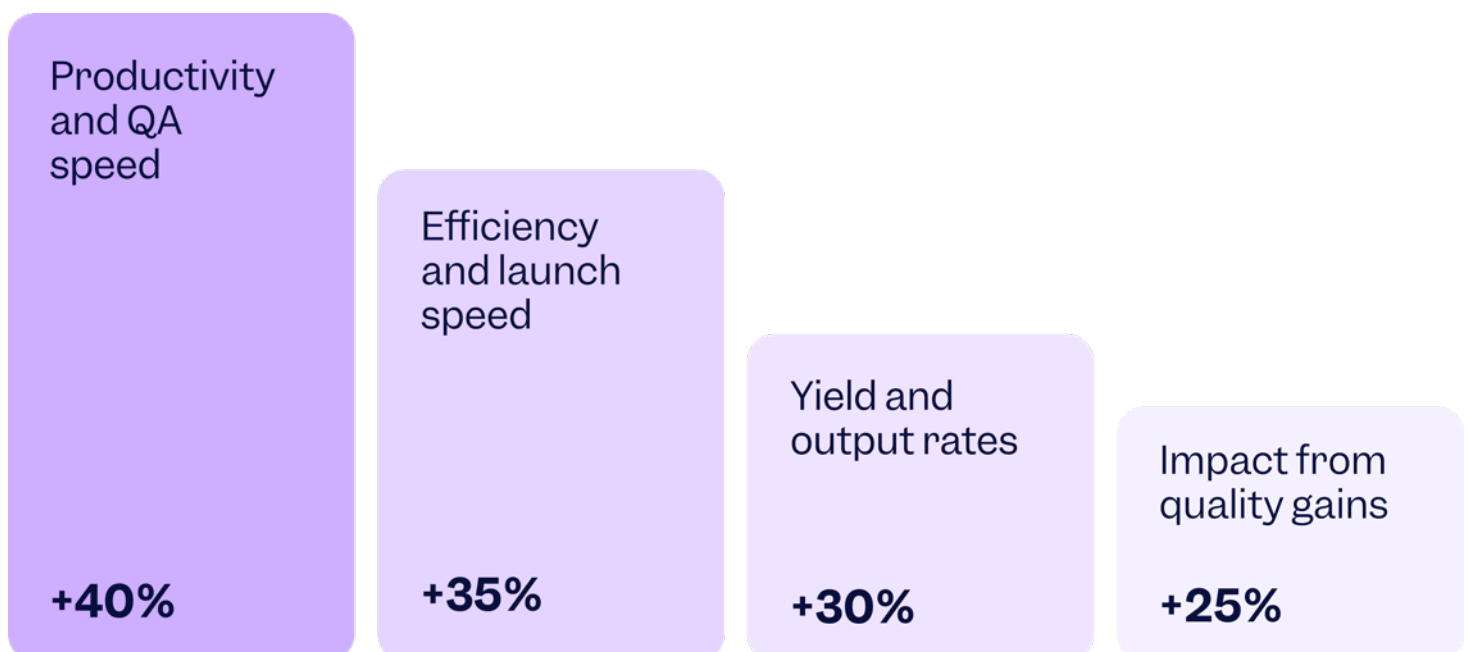
Many struggle to go digital
(but those who do thrive)



Clearly, digitalization is reshaping life sciences quality. Yet, although most organizations understand the value of modern, connected systems, yet many still struggle to bridge the digital gap. Legacy systems, scattered data, and solutions that were built for another purpose naturally create friction, slow operation, and limit visibility.

At the same time, teams that have begun adopting eQMS solutions and modernizing their technology foundations report meaningful gains — clearer insights, stronger collaboration, and more predictable quality outcomes. The data shows an emerging divergence: organizations that embrace digital enablement build momentum, while those operating with fragmented tools often face greater operational strain.

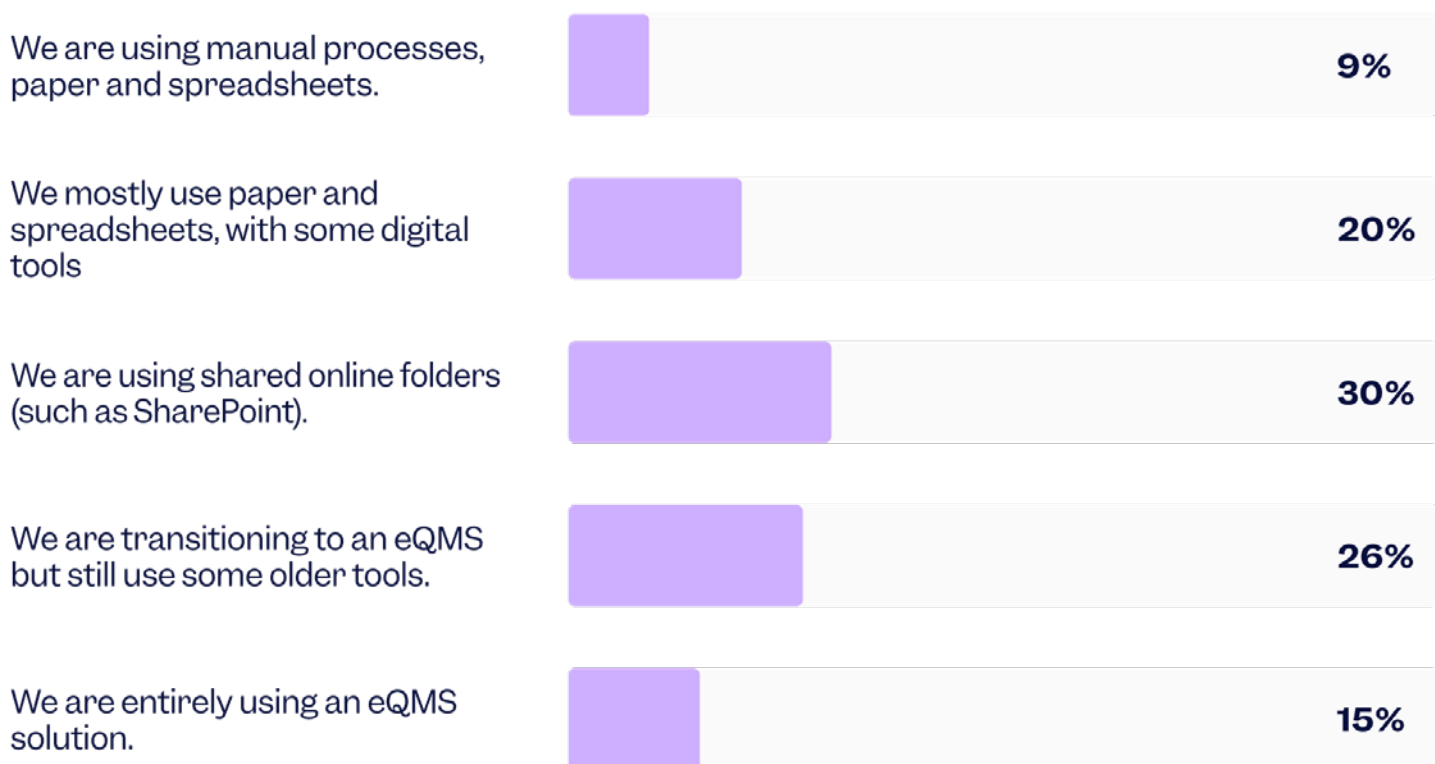
Here's what quality professionals who have adopted eQMS systems report:



From "[Smart Quality: Reimagining the way quality works](#)", McKinsey & Company

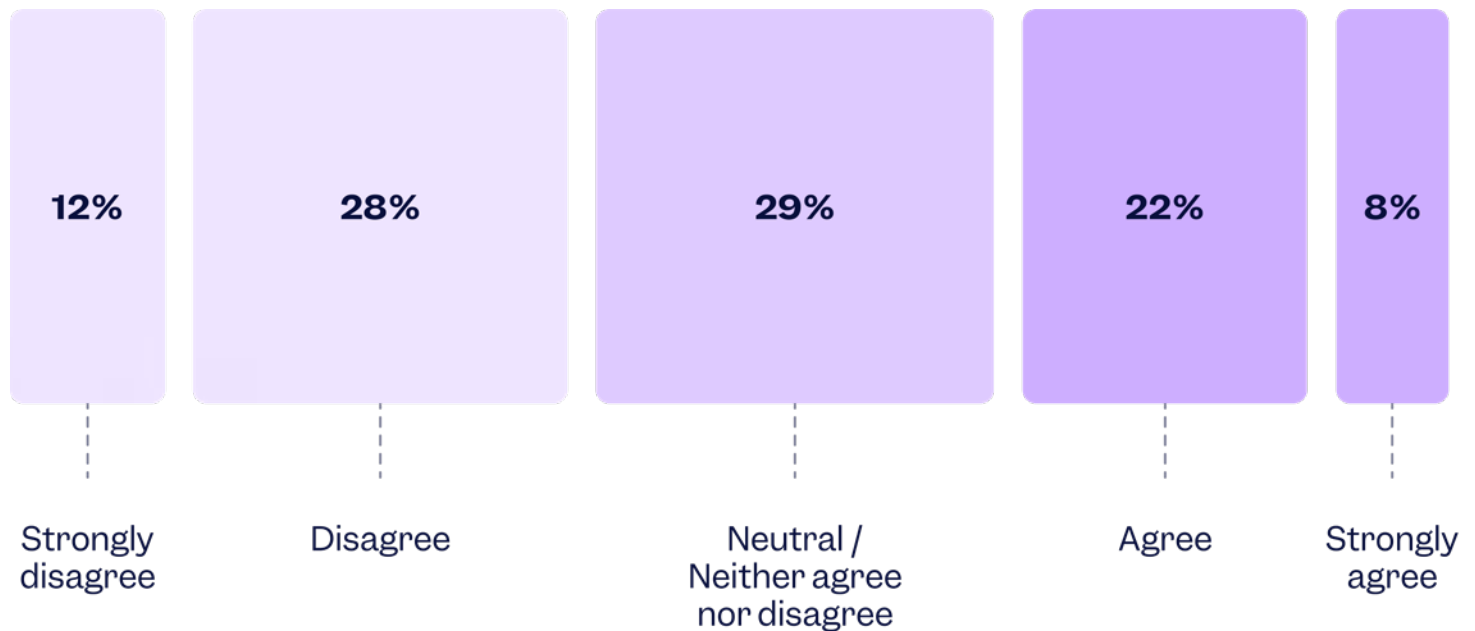
However, as shown below, many life sciences companies have yet to make the leap to digitalization:

How would you describe your organization’s current tools for quality management?



The difference is not simply having technology in place, but knowing how to integrate it into a quality system shaped by human judgment, accountability, and purpose.

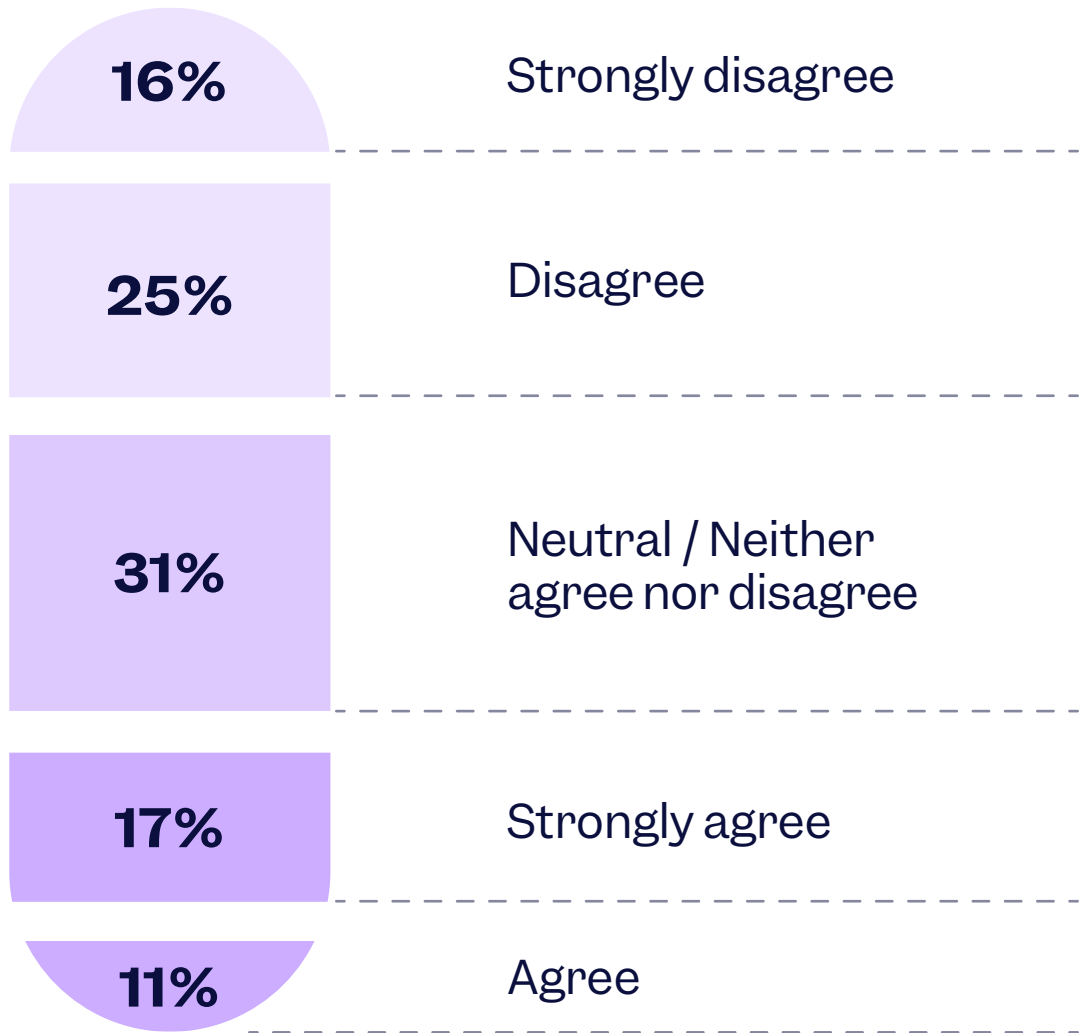
My organization effectively uses technology to enhance collaboration on quality issues and compliance at scale.



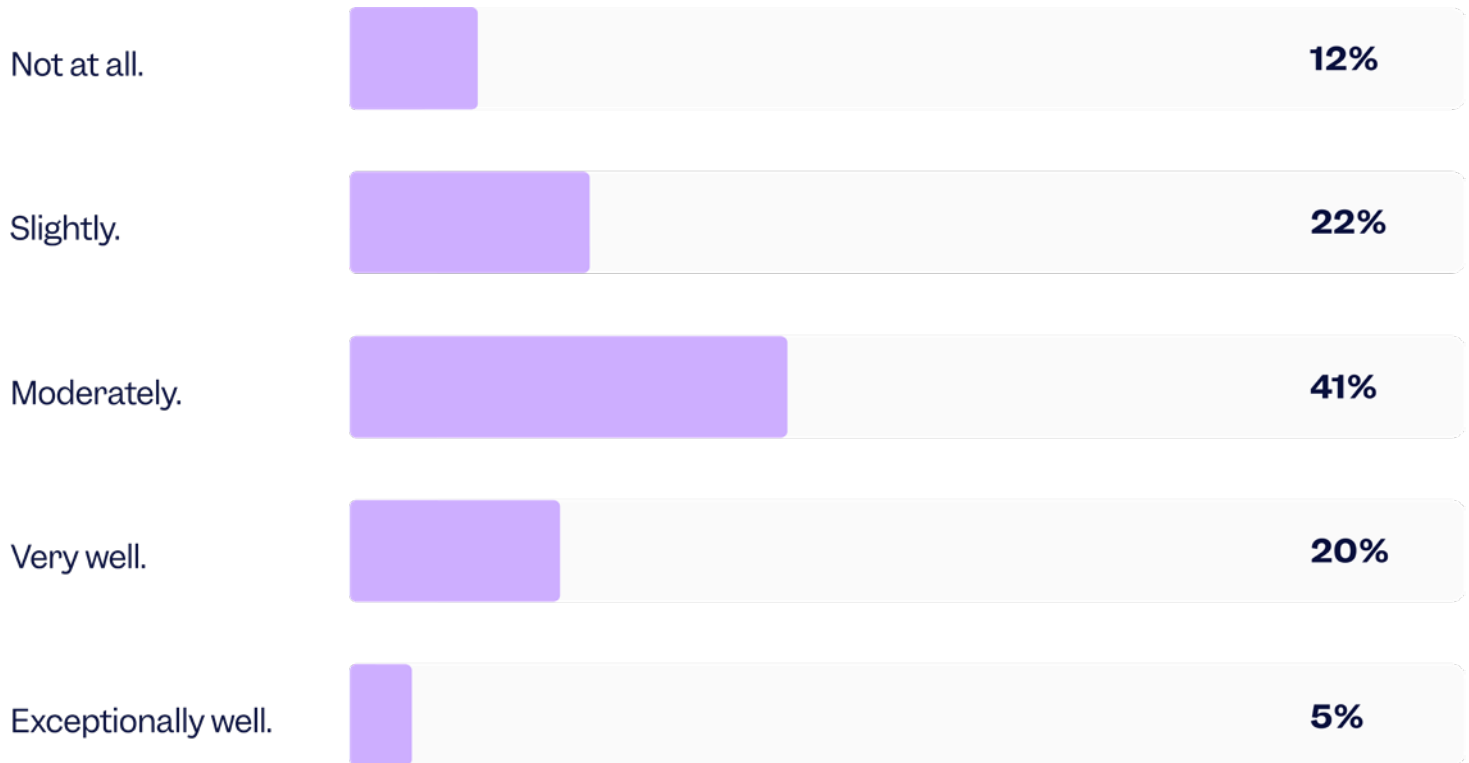
Ivan Perez Chamorro,
Founder and CEO at MedBoard

“In just the past year, there have been over 1,300 regulatory updates, 500 new guidelines, and 100 new regulations worldwide. For a company operating in Europe, this could mean writing at least 100 impact assessments. They need to access global data, coordinate reviews and actions, and process information quickly and accurately. Achieving that requires centralized repositories, automation, and seamless data integration, something that’s nearly impossible through manual work.”

Tools and processes for quality management are seamlessly integrated into our way of working and with other business systems.

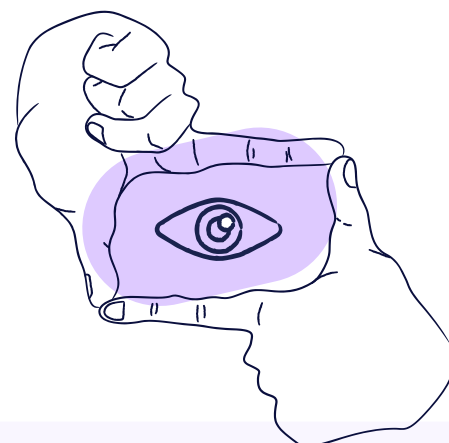


How well does your organization capture and provide real-time visibility into quality metrics?



- Over 58% respondents feel like their companies remain behind in digitalizing core operations, especially when it comes to quality initiatives.
- Over 72% respondents feel their teams still lack integrated systems for seamless quality collaboration.
- However, with the evolution of the regulated industries and emerging tech like AI, modernization is no longer optional but essential for sustainable quality management.
- In fact, [updated EU GMP guidelines](#) emphasize the need for validated, connected systems for data integrity and compliance.
- Lastly, only 20% respondents have real-time visibility into quality metrics to drive decisions and prevent issues.

Insider view: **Here's how to elevate your tech capabilities**



Technology capabilities

Many struggle to go digital (but those who do thrive)

- Raise awareness about how digitalization enhances quality management and educate teams on its benefits. Help teams see how modern tools, including emerging AI capabilities, can enhance clarity, consistency, and decision-making when paired with human judgment.
- Create alignment through standardized systems. When technology supporting quality processes is unified across the organization, it reduces variability, strengthens reliability, and builds the foundation for more advanced digital and AI-enabled workflows.
- Use automation, analytics, and AI thoughtfully. Automate where it adds meaningful efficiency, and leverage data and AI-driven insights to identify emerging risks earlier, always ensuring humans remain the interpreters of context and intent.
- Evaluate whether your current infrastructure supports your goals. For many organizations, this may be the moment to consider an eQMS that can streamline processes, improve visibility, and provide a stable foundation for more proactive quality work.

Takeaways

All that said, what's next in 2026?



AI, ML, digital QMS, and predictive analytics will drive real-time monitoring, early risk detection, and data-driven decision support.

New QMSR, EU rules, and FDA guidance will raise the bar for traceability, data integrity, and explainable AI.

ATMPs, advanced biologics, and personalized medicine will increase regulatory complexity, while distributed manufacturing will demand stronger digital oversight.

Human-centered digital transformation will link systems, data, and people, evolving QA roles into hybrid professionals combining regulatory, digital, and analytical skills.

Remote audits, digital supplier management, and global quality networks will become standard practice.

Leadership, empowerment, and transparency will sustain transformation through culture.

Quality visibility and digital maturity will elevate QA from compliance enforcer to business performance driver.

Continuous learning and digital fluency will be as critical as compliance expertise, positioning QA as the integrator of a connected quality ecosystem.

What does the future of connected quality look like?

The pressures shaping our industry (accelerating regulation, AI-assisted decision-making, and increasingly complex digital environments), demand a level of maturity that goes far beyond compliance. They call for systems that are transparent, connected, and guided by people who understand both the promise and the limits of technology.

As we look ahead into 2026, it is clear that quality, culture, leadership and digitalization have to join forces as the foundation of resilient quality maturity. And quality leaders will be at the forefront of this alliance, transforming QA into a strategic ecosystem where technology, data, and people converge to ensure transparency, trust, and continuous improvement.

Quality maturity = business maturity.

Digital quality transformation is now a strategic imperative.

The future of quality is proactive, connected, and data-driven.

And that future will be shaped by the minds of trailblazing quality leaders.

Technology will continue advancing, and regulatory expectations will rise alongside it. Tools will accelerate reviews, uncover patterns, and predict risks, but they will not replace the judgment required to understand intent, evaluate impact, or protect the trust that defines our sector.

As digital capabilities expand, the foreword's central idea remains constant: **quality is, and will always be, a profoundly human endeavor.**

The leaders who succeed in this new era, the QA Agents of the future, will be those who can integrate human insight with digital intelligence to bring clarity where uncertainty appears and stability where speed increases.

And that's the real outlook for 2026: a future where quality is not a function on the periphery, but the connective tissue of the organization, a shared commitment, a source of confidence, and the quiet infrastructure that makes innovation safe, sustainable, and worthy of the trust patients place in us.

About Scilife

Quality in life sciences is entering a new era shaped by AI, powered by data, and pushed forward by professionals who understand how technology can accelerate insight, but never replace judgement.

At Scilife, we strongly believe that **the future of quality belongs to those who pair digital intelligence with human discernment**, transforming QA into a strategic force that protects patients, strengthens trust, and enables responsible innovation.

We exist to empower the next generation of QA Agents: the people who lead with clarity, think critically in the face of complexity, and use technology as a catalyst for deeper understanding and better decisions.

We're here to grow that future with you, as your partner in building a connected, resilient, and profoundly human quality ecosystem.

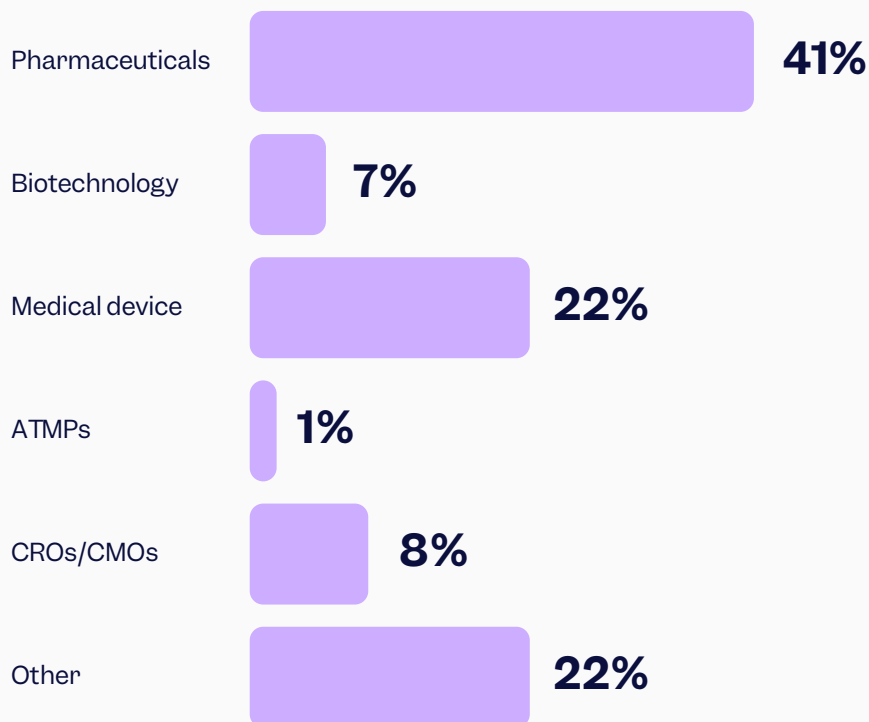
Ready to redefine quality?
So are we.

Let's connect

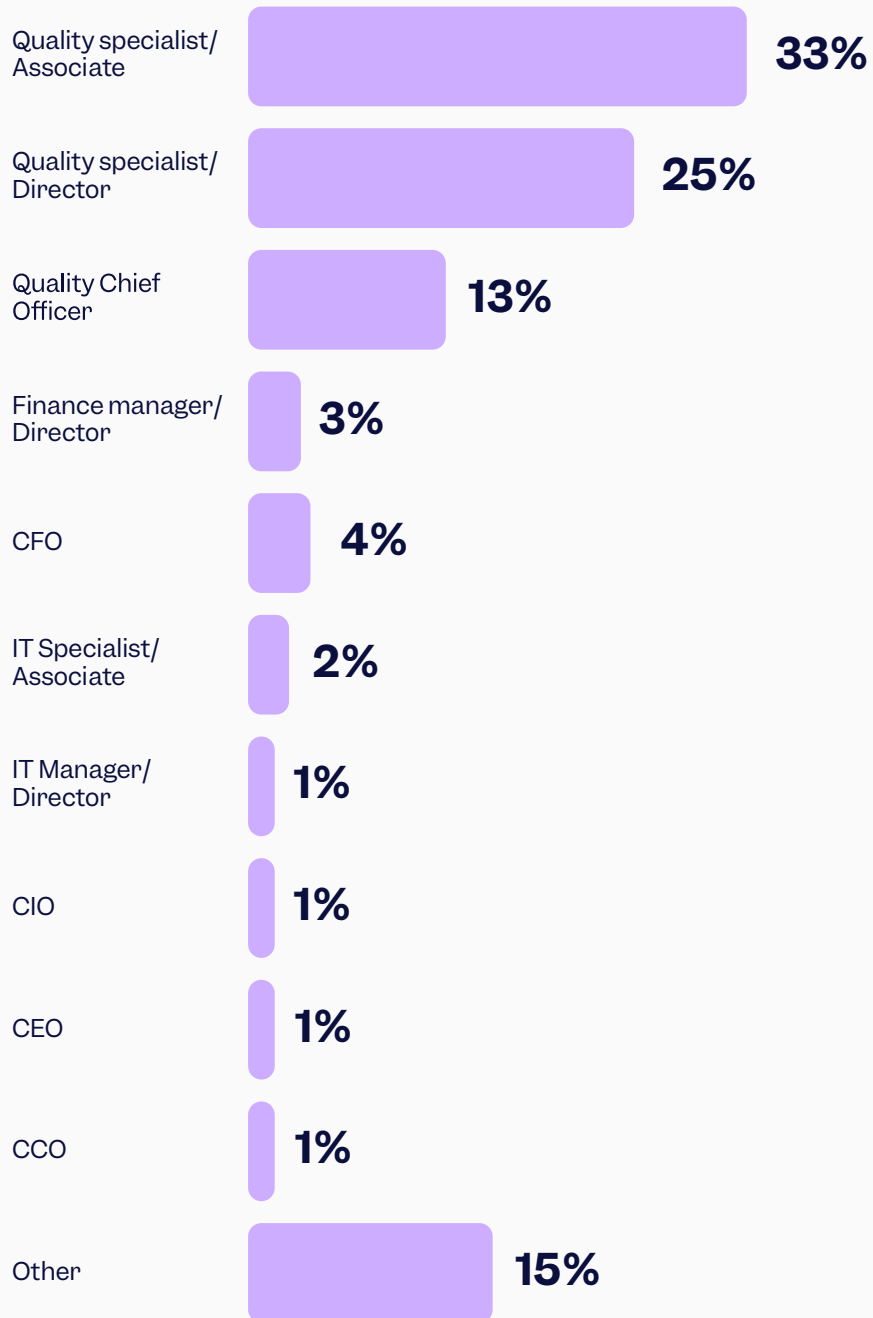
Methodology

Through our Quality Management Maturity Scan, we helped hundreds of quality professionals across the life sciences assess the readiness of their quality processes and systems to determine their level of quality maturity.

This report presents their collective insights, revealing where the industry stands today, how organizations are advancing along their digital quality journeys, and which best practices are enabling higher



What is your role within the organization?

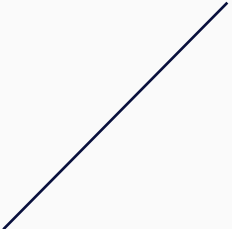


Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the quality professionals who completed the Quality Maturity Scan and generously shared their experiences. Your insights, perspectives, and contributions brought this report to life and helped illuminate the evolving reality of quality across the life sciences.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to our in-house experts, Angel Buendía and Neeru Bakshi, whose guidance and contributions continue to elevate our understanding of what human-led quality truly means.

We are equally grateful to the wider QA community—the leaders, practitioners, auditors, analysts, and change-makers—who continuously push the industry forward. Your day-to-day commitment to raising the bar are what truly shape the future of quality. This report is a reflection of your collective wisdom, your challenges, and your determination to build a stronger quality culture across life sciences.



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