

# The Perception of Quality Improvement in GP trainees in Leicestershire, Northampton and Rutland

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## Introduction

Improvement Science is a fundamental approach for improving services in the most efficient way possible.

The Royal College of General Practitioners states this is considered to be 'essential knowledge' for primary care workforce to understand and apply<sup>1</sup>.

## Aim of the study

To determine the awareness, knowledge and training of GP trainees in Leicestershire, Northampton & Rutland region.

## Methodology

An anonymous on-line survey with 10 MCQ questions was distributed across 277 LNR trainees between 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October.

The questions explored understanding of QIP's, QI methodology and training.

Respondents were asked to rank according to a scale of frequencies and provide suggestions.

## Results

From the 277 questionnaires sent, the response rate was 26.2%.

All respondents had undertaken a Quality Improvement Project (QIP)

QI and Improvement Science cycle was perceived to be "an audit" by 20%.

Although 2/3rds of the trainees have received QI training at some point yet this does not involve teaching QI methodology

76% had never used QI methodology.

72% had never heard of Pareto chart

78% had never heard of Statistical process chart (SPC)

Trainees who undertook QIPs appreciated evidence based improvements, better patient outcomes from improved care and patient satisfaction.

For improvement in training, mandatory teaching at medical school and/or foundation years was strongly recommended.

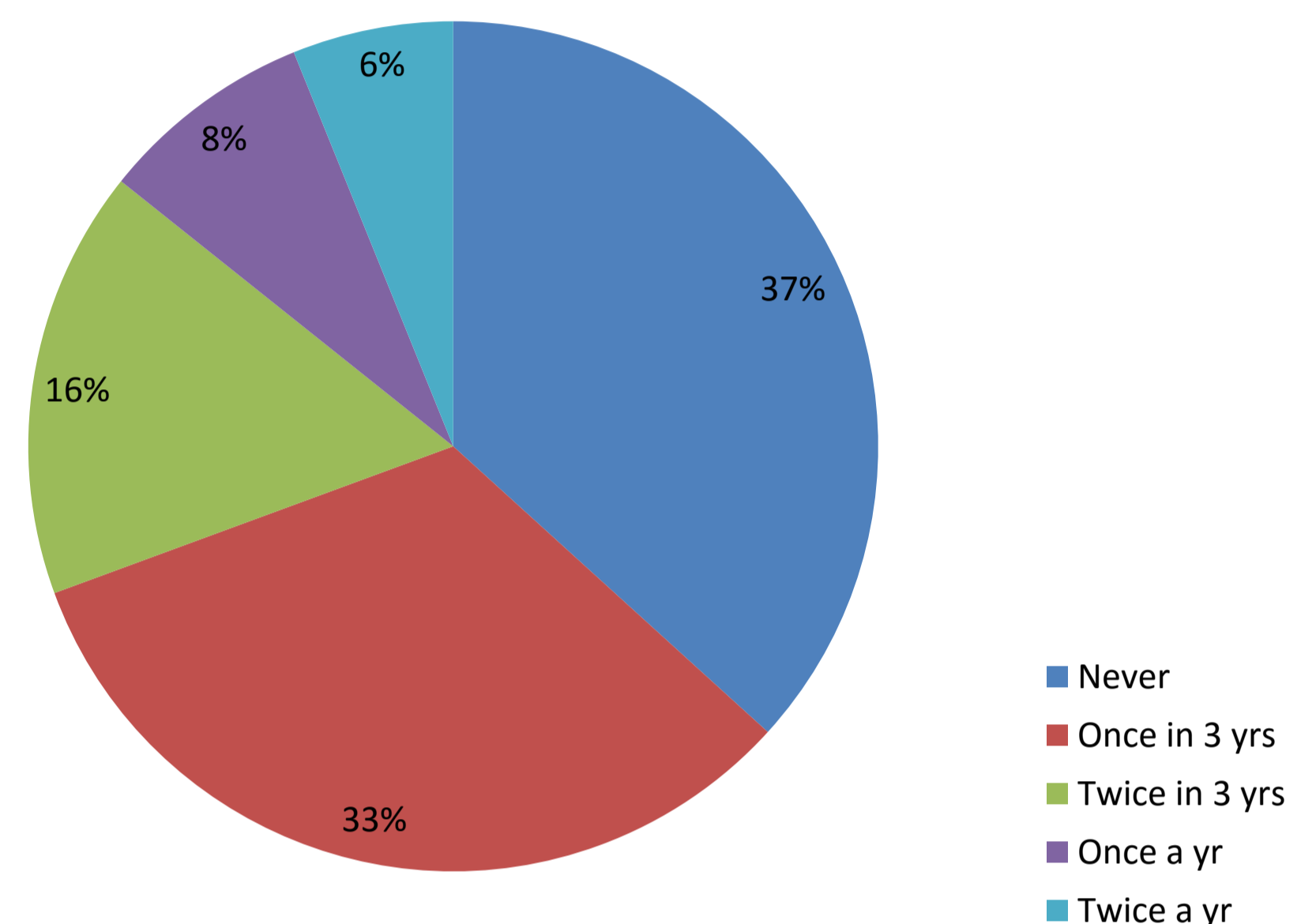
Encouragement was key word frequently used.

Regular formal debriefing and consultant support for QIPs needed improvement.

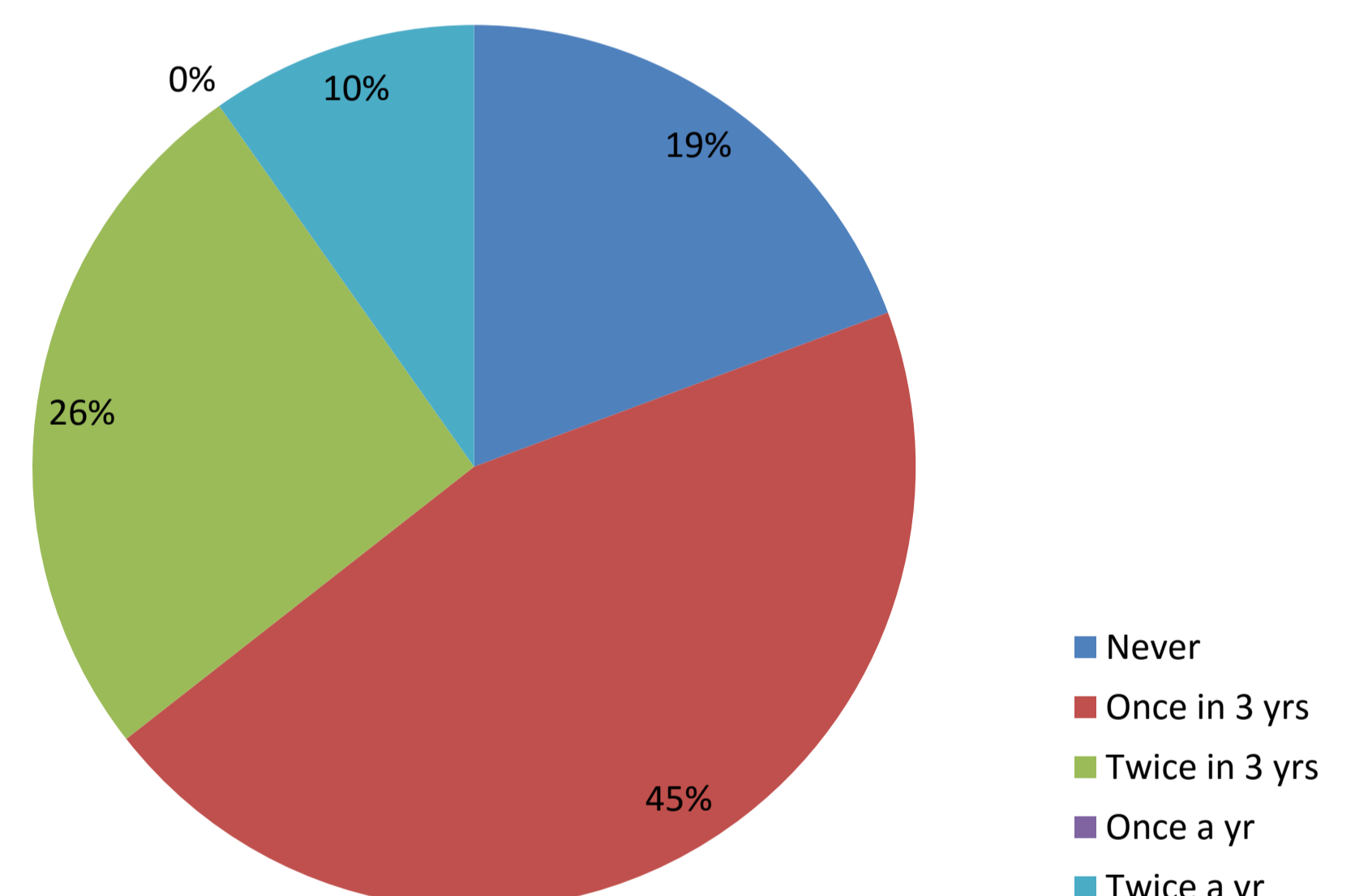
Only 2% of respondents were aware of lean-six sigma

The trainees who are aware of lean-six sigma had received training outside the NHS.

% Trainees perception of receiving formal QI training



% Trainees perception of receive informal QI training



## Conclusion

The questionnaire has demonstrated a low knowledge of QI and Improvement science amongst GP trainees. Massive culture shift is required to encourage trainees to do QIPs. Structured approach towards education of QI methodology can start from medical school and get detailed during the course of GP VTS. Majority of the trainees are unaware of Improvement Science and major impetus is required to create awareness leave alone training.

## References

1. Taylor, B and Bircher, J - RCGP QI Guide for GP's (2015)