



Worksite Depression Screening and Treatment: An Innovative, Integrated Program

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*Silicon Valley Leadership Group
4th Annual Workplace Wellness Summit*



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Sandia Depression Program

- Who Are We?
- Why Did We Decide to Initiate this?
- What Do We Do?
- How Did We Implement the Program?
- Where Does the Program Occur?
- What Are Our Outcomes?



Who We Are

- **Sandia National Laboratories:**
 - Major National Research & Development Laboratory
 - Part of the U.S. Department of Energy Nuclear Weapons Complex
 - Headquarters – Albuquerque, New Mexico, with second lab in Livermore, California and other sites in the U.S. and abroad
 - FY 2013 operating costs \$2.6 billion
 - 9,500 regular employees – 5,400 hold advanced degrees
 - Major responsibilities: nuclear weapons, defense systems, energy & climate, international, homeland and nuclear security
 - History: Inception in 1945 as a division of Los Alamos (“Z” Division) and became Sandia Laboratory in 1948. California site opened in 1956

Who We Are

- Unique Population
 - High levels of stress, routine work burnout
 - Highly educated workforce, over 50% with advanced degrees
 - Majority of workforce are required to hold DOE Security Clearances for their jobs. This requirement has ongoing implications for seeking mental health services although as a general rule encouraged by the clearance issuers
 - A majority of the workforce is involved in jobs that impact national security. They work in complex environments and are subject to frequent changes in conditions and demand
 - Other National Laboratories include Los Alamos, Oak Ridge (Y-12), Hanford, Pantex, Lawrence Livermore

Sandia HBE Health Services

OCC
MED

UCC

HMC

EAP

PH

Special
Programs

X-Ray
Lab
PT

Diabetes
Hypertension
Hyperlipidemia
Depression
Sleep

Short-term
Counseling/Referral
Recovery Program
Crisis Intervention
Management
Consultation
FFD

Wellness
Stress-
Management
Nutrition
Exercise
Conditioning

The Scope of the Problem

- Major Depressive Disorder is the leading cause of disability in the US for ages 15-44
- MDD affects approximately 15 million adults (6.7 %) age 18 and older annually
- Median age of onset is 32
- Suicide is the 10th ranking cause of death in US
- Average of 1 person every 14 minutes dies by suicide, over 1 million attempts annually
- Services Gap – only 22% of those diagnosed receive adequate treatment

» NIMH, 2012; JAMA, 2003

Depression & Chronic Disease

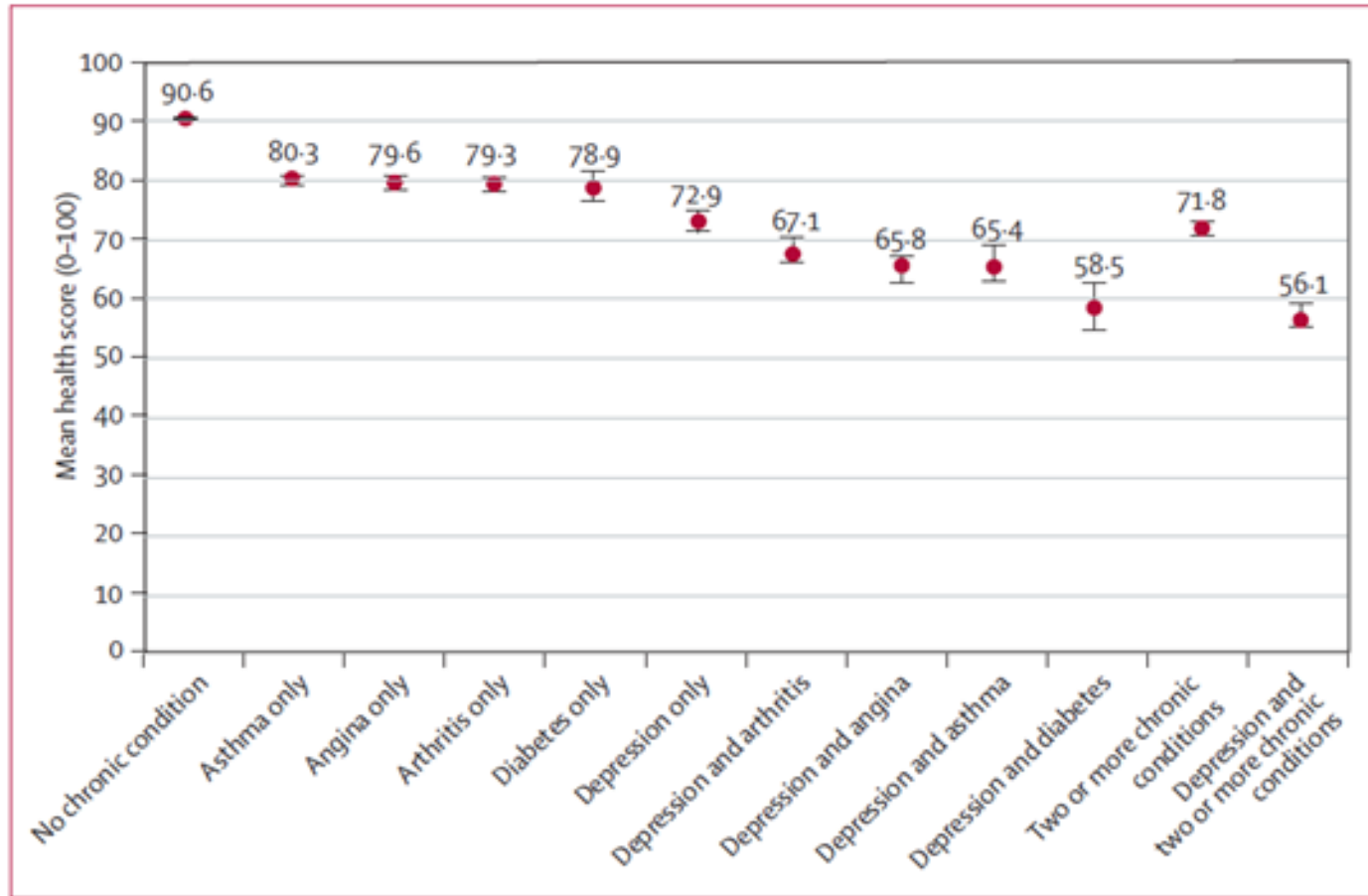


Figure: Global mean health by disease status
Data from WHS 2003.

In **2008**, we asked ourselves these **questions**:

“Is it possible to develop and implement a comprehensive, **multidisciplinary screening and treatment program for depression** for our employees?”

“Is there an **organizational need** for this?”

“Do the **benefits** outweigh the **risks**?”

“Can we **model** it after other comprehensive worksite based healthcare programs?”

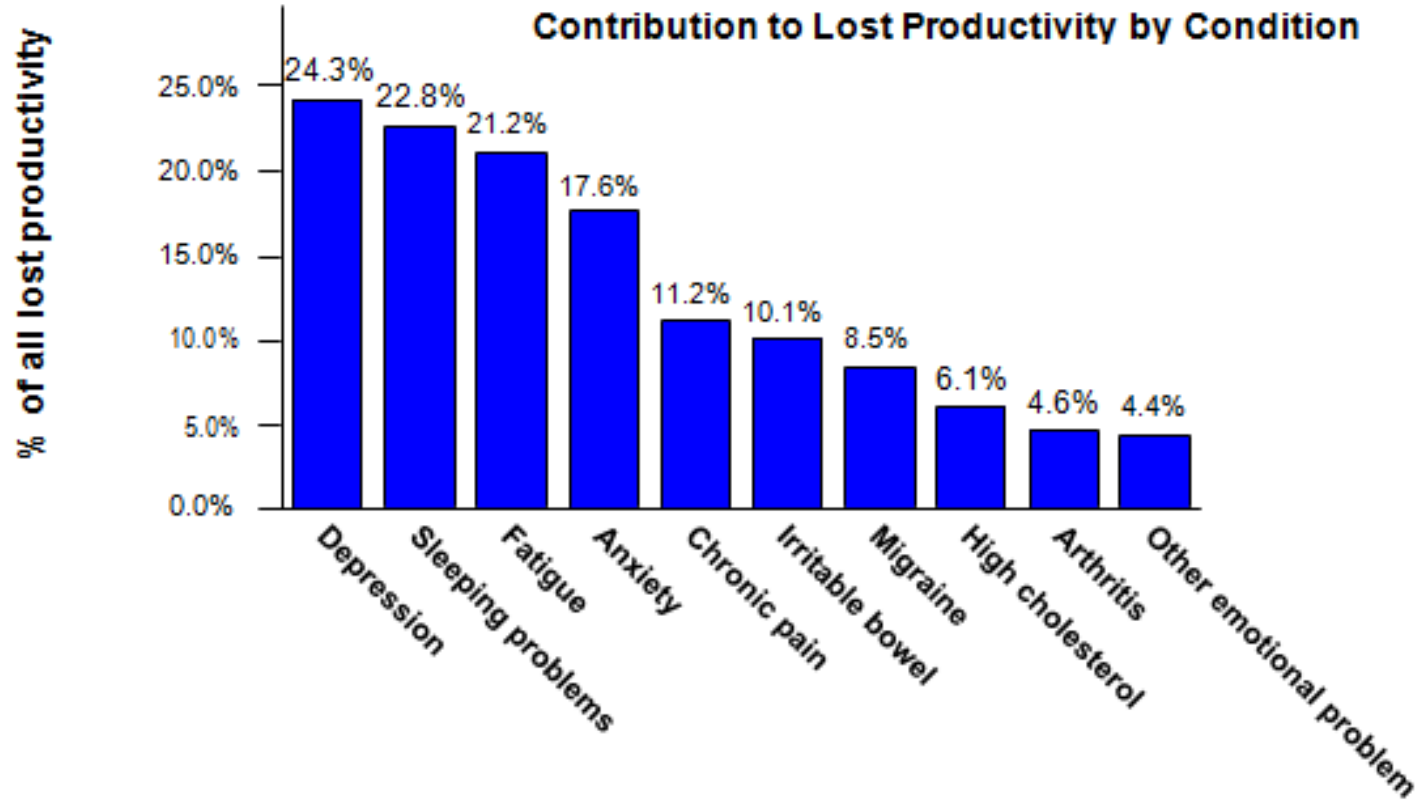
“**How** do **we** do it?”

Groundwork – Organizational Need?

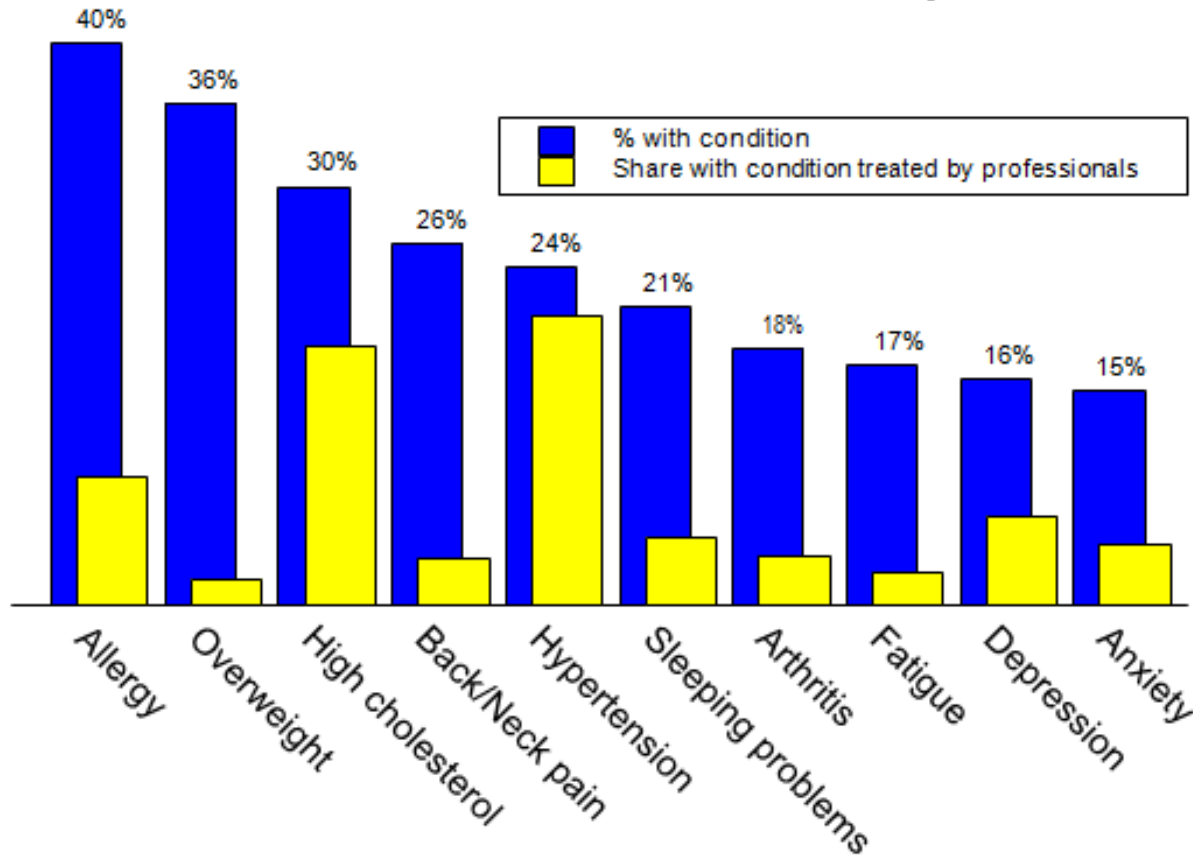
- Reviewed proposal with key stakeholders
 - Management, Legal, HR
 - Assessment of average wait times for mental health appointment in the area
 - Albuquerque = 5-6 weeks
 - Bay Area = 6-8 weeks
 - Self-study regarding internal capabilities
 - Also – ability to address needs of our unique population
 - Anticipated cost-benefit
 - Improved access
 - Time savings
 - Expense: health plan vs. onsite providers
 - The Answer - YES
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Health & Productivity Questionnaire

- Completed in 2011 (HPQ-Select)
- Study completed by the University of Maryland with IBI evaluated and broadly summarized the health and productivity of Sandia's workforce
 - \$12,860,263 in health related **lost productivity**, of which 24.3% is a direct impact from depression
 - Also – **health plan costs** associated with depressive disorders = \$372,198 (medication cost)



Prevalence and Treatment of Top 10 Conditions



Depression Program Overview

- **Comprehensive and Integrated Program**
 - HMC, EAP, Clinic, PH all work together for program success
 - Communication is vital – cross referral/use of EHR
 - Independent Psychiatric Case Review

- **We reviewed guidelines for programs similar to what we wanted to do:**
 - DIAMOND Initiative (“Depression Improvement Across Minnesota”)
 - ICSI – Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement
 - TMAP – Texas Medication Algorithm Project
 - APA – American Psychiatric Association Guidelines
 - Institute of Medicine (IOM) 2001 – *convenience, timeliness, interdisciplinary coordination of care*

Collaborative Care Model

- Critical Features of the Collaborative Care Model for treatment of depression:
 - Standard and reliable use of a **validated screening tool** for, screening, assessment and ongoing management:
 - Patient Health Questionnaire – 2 (PHQ-2)
 - Patient Health Questionnaire – 9 (PHQ-9)
 - **Systematic** patient follow-up **tracking and monitoring**, based on repeat PHQ9 results
 - Use of **evidence-based approaches** to depression care
 - Use of **EAP** for counseling and case management
 - Use of the **Care Manager** for ongoing education, support and monitoring of treatment response
 - **Relapse prevention** plan
 - Monthly **psychiatric consultation**
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How Do We Train the Care Managers?



- Rationale for training
- Live group training model
- Six sections
- Trainers include staff psychologists, physician, consulting psychiatrist
- Clinic physicians and mid-level providers also attend
- Didactic, case studies and small group discussions
- Pre-test/Post-test format for mastery
- Special section for unique concerns associated with depression treatment in a high security environment

Screening Process

- **Step 1 Initial Screening** – occurs through our Clinics and is embedded within the Physical Examination process
 - (U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends regular screening of adults when staff-assisted depression care support is in place)
 - The PHQ-2 is embedded in these initial medical examinations
 - The PHQ-2 is administered by the clinic support staff as the patient is being roomed
 - Total score of 3 or more is considered to be a positive screen and reflects a 75% likelihood that the individual has a depressive disorder
 - A positive PHQ-2 score is reviewed by the support staff with the patient

Assessment

- **Step 2 Clinical Assessment of Depression by EAP**
 - Results of PHQ-2 discussed and positive score explained
 - Administer PHQ-9
 - Positive results trigger follow-up assessment by a **clinician**
 - If patient meets diagnostic criteria for either Major Depressive Disorder or Dysthymic Disorder (DSMV) then treatment options are discussed and referral is made as appropriate (note: a positive PHQ9 by itself does not constitute a diagnosis)
 - Assess potential medical causes of symptoms
 - Thyroid disease, diabetes, CAD, neurological disorders, cancer, chronic fatigue
 - Assess substance abuse potential
 - Assess for psychiatric co-morbidity
 - Anxiety, OCD, mood/bipolar disorder, eating disorder
 - Evaluate patient safety: suicide risk, risk to others, self-care

Enrollment & Referral

- **Steps 3 & 4 Enrollment/Initiation of Treatment**
 - Onsite or Offsite options – patient choice regarding treatment
 - HMC or Clinic physician, EAP for onsite
 - External PCP, community therapist for offsite
 - Review the Depression Program with patient
 - Care Manager assigned and orders entered into the system
 - Patient Education regarding depression and treatment
 - Contact schedule clarified – more frequent in early phases
 - Review of planned follow-up
 - Review of goals – remission and return to prior level of functioning

Treatment

- **Treatment – Acute Phase (6 to 12 weeks)**
- **Goals: remission, return to prior level of functioning**
- **Choice of treatment:**
 - **Psychotherapy**
 - As solo treatment for mild-moderate MDD
 - CBT, Interpersonal, Problem-solving, Psychodynamic are evidence-based
 - Onsite or offsite – patient choice, needs, convenience and financial considerations
 - **Pharmacotherapy**
 - Indicated with severe MDD
 - Can also be used in mild – moderate MDD
 - **Combination Therapy (Pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy)**
 - Indicated with moderate to severe MDD
 - Can also be used in mild MDD

Treatment

■ Monitoring – Acute Phase

- Provider meets with patient every 1-2 weeks
- Care manager contacts weekly and notify provider of any issues that need to be addressed
 - Items for monitoring throughout treatment: *symptoms, quality of life, functional status, manic “switch”, co-occurring disorder including SA, medical status, treatment response, medication side effects, adherence*

■ Education

- Causes, symptoms, natural history
 - Expectations during treatment – duration, medications, therapy
 - Self-management
 - Role of family
 - Role of exercise, sleep, nutrition
-

Treatment

- **Non-Response During Acute Phase**
 - **After 4-8 weeks of therapy, consider the following:**
 - Is the diagnosis correct?
 - Complicating conditions (medical, psychosocial)?
 - Adherence to therapy?
 - Side effect issues?
 - Are therapy sessions at appropriate level of frequency?
 - Does there need to be a medication change or dose adjustment?
 - If response to treatment has not occurred in 4-8 weeks then review with psychiatric consultant

Treatment

- **Continuation Phase (4 to 9 month period beyond Acute Treatment Phase)**
- **Goals: maintain remission, continue improved functional level**
- **Treatment:**
 - Continue psychotherapy
 - Continue medication 4-9 months at therapeutic dose
 - Depression-focused CBT has best support
- **Monitoring**
 - Appropriate follow-up interval agreed on by patient and provider
 - Monitor for relapse – common in first 6 months following remission
 - 50% after 1 episode, 70% after 2, 90% after 3
 - Educate patient/family re: relapse and seek care early
 - PHQ9 repeated 6 months after remission achieved

Treatment

- **Maintenance Phase: Period Beyond the Continuation Phase**
 - **Goals: maintain remission, continue improved functional level**
 - **Maintenance Phase:**
 - Individuals who have had 3 or more episodes or chronic depression
 - Consider if there are risk factors: early age of onset, psychosocial factors
 - Some individuals may prefer to remain on maintenance in the absence of risk factors
 - **Treatment**
 - Maintenance of medications – consider dose reduction as appropriate
 - Psychotherapy at a reduced level of frequency

What Are Our Outcomes?

- **Program initiation late 2009**
- As of June 30, 2014:
- Total Enrollees = **235**

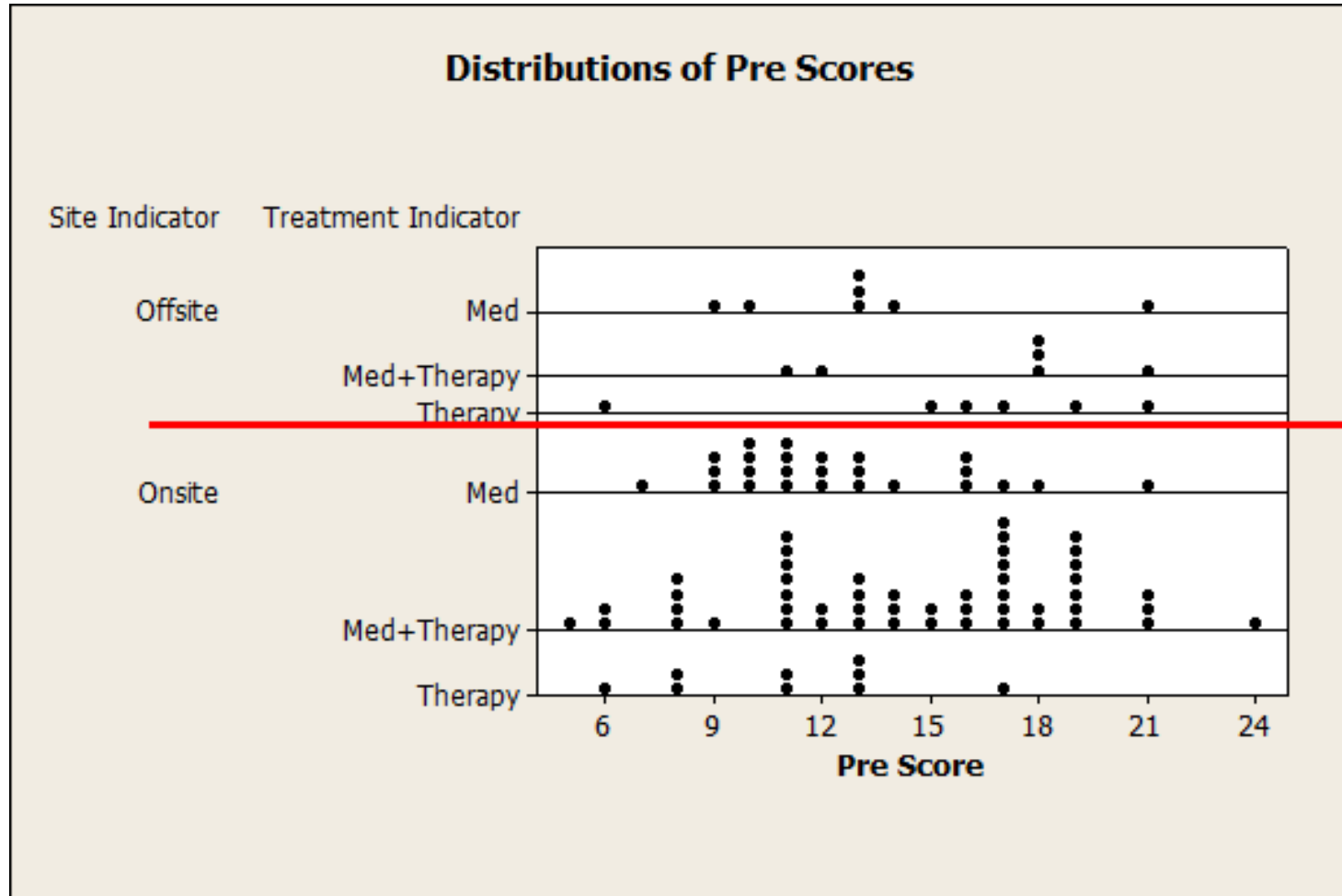
- Total Enrollees with validated positive PHQ9/diagnosis = **210**

- Total Enrollees completing program = **161**
 - **49** did not complete due to voluntary discontinuation, premature disenrollment due to retirement, moving, changing jobs

What Are Our Outcomes?

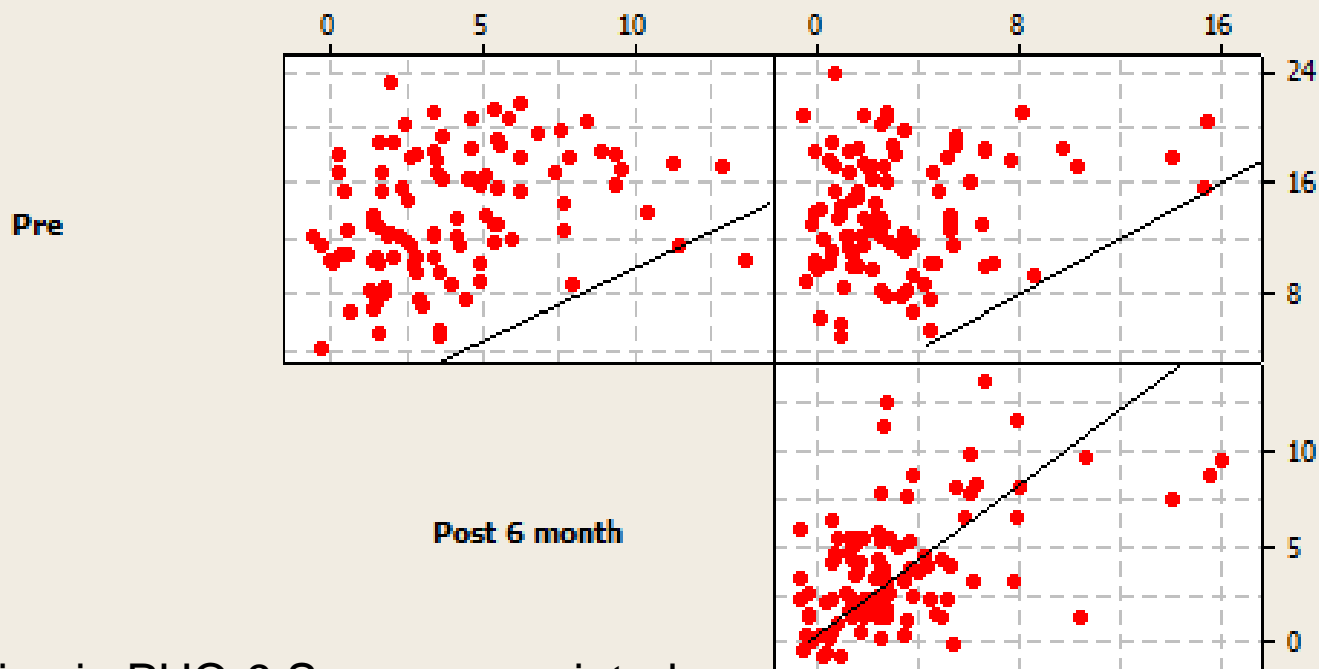
- Of the 161 completing program we were able to analyze **103** cases, with 58 rejected due to missing information
- **Remission**
 - Cases maintaining full remission @ 12 months, as defined by a PHQ9 score of less than 5 and Case Manager verification = **82**
 - **79%** remission rate @ 12 months (as compared with typical published rates of 47% to 65%)
 - » *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry (2005) – meta-analysis*

Distributions of Pre PHQ-9 Scores



Comparison of Pre and Post PHQ-9 Scores (cont'd)

Matrix Plot of Pre, Post 6 month, Post 12 month



Clear reduction in PHQ-9 Scores associated with treatment Note: Post (12 month) scores tended to be lower than Post (6 month) scores

Post 12 month

Note: Jitter added to reveal all observations

Outcomes Summary

- Distribution of PHQ-9 (Pre) scores are similar across treatment sites(locations)
- Treatment offsite placed somewhat more (proportionately) subjects into “therapy only” treatment and somewhat fewer subjects into “med+therapy” treatment
- Level of depression (measured by PHQ-9 score) is reduced by treatment
 - No evidence that level of reduction in PHQ-9 scores is preferentially affected by age, gender, treatment, or treatment location

Presentation Summary

- We have been able to successfully implement a comprehensive, integrated, worksite screening and intervention program for depression
- Positive outcomes demonstrated with high rate of remission and PHQ9 data
- The comprehensive nature of the program appears to enhance effectiveness – variables such as age, gender, type of treatment or location of treatment are not significant factors

Questions?

