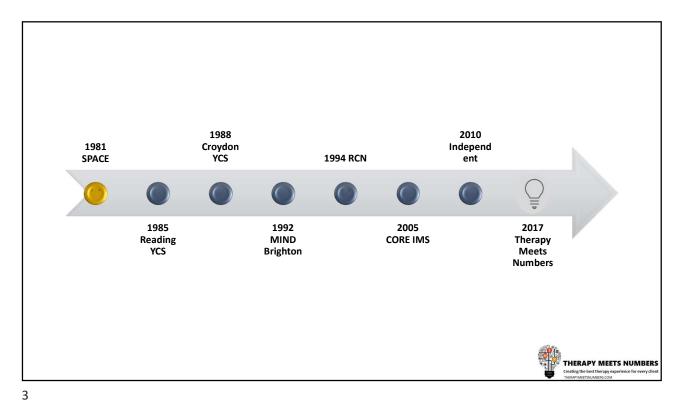


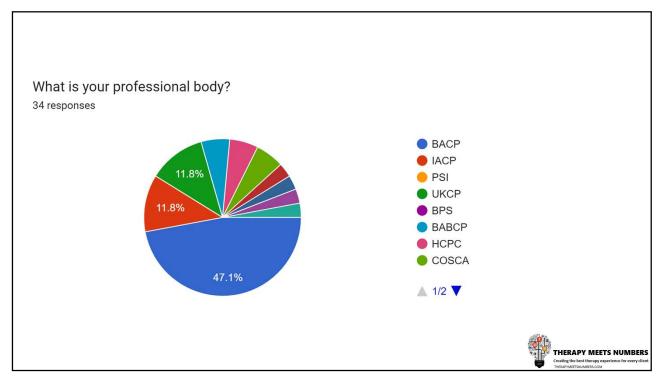
# Outline

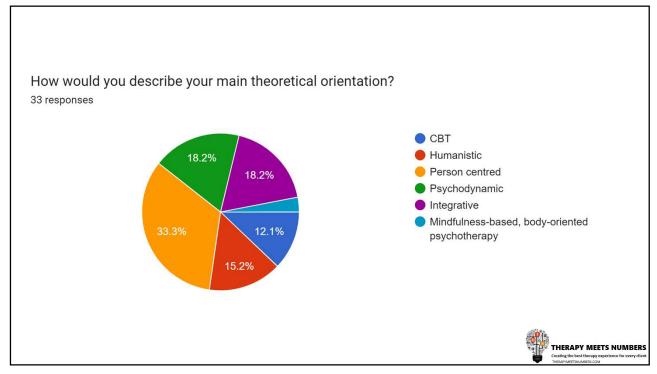
- A bit about me
- Completed surveys thank you! (we'll profile through this presentation)
- Complaints: The fear, the true prevalence, and what leads clients to complain
- How therapy ends the ideal world and the real world
- Dropout, alliance ruptures, and how we know the client is getting what they came for
- Securing client engagement and good outcomes, and reducing dropout and the likelihood of complaints, and.......
- ......What part different measures might play in giving us feedback toward those aims

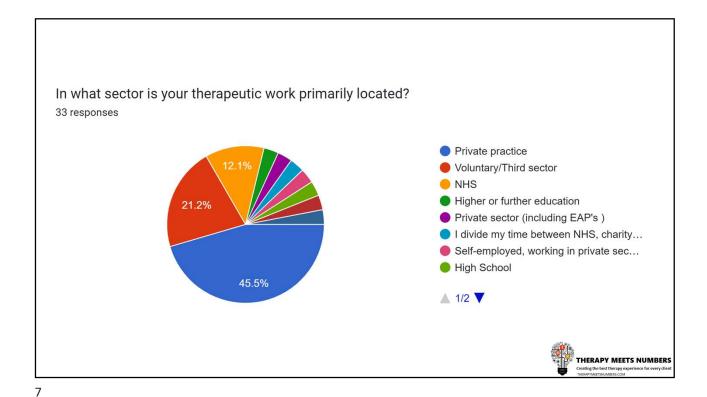




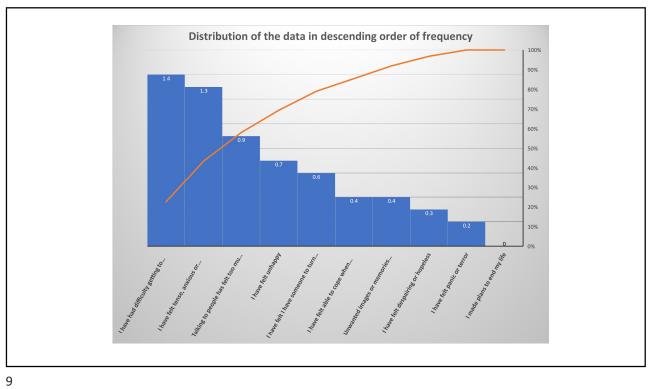
WELCOME ABOUT TMN BLOG **TMN BLOG** ★☆☆☆☆ RECENT POSTS Is CBT losing its shine? Even 'super-shrink' has a weak spot. And you? Is CBT losing its shine? When ideology meets reality Jan 13, 2023 | benchmarking, feedback, IAPT, therapy evaluation, using measures in practice Oct 30, 2022 | dropout, IAPT, Apr 11, 2018 | evidence, manualised therapies service and practitioner development What do the ex-The 2021 - 22 IAPT Chancellor of the Ongoing research is Annual Report Exchequer Kwasi Are You Any Good...as a Therapist? suggesting that delivered an Kwarteng and the expertise may be founding principles of the Improving Access unexpected surprise. domain or disorder Set against other specific, rather than therapy modalities, and to Psychological reflecting a core RECENT COMMENTS its own past Therapies Programme https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/tmn-blog/ THERAPY MEETS NUMBERS

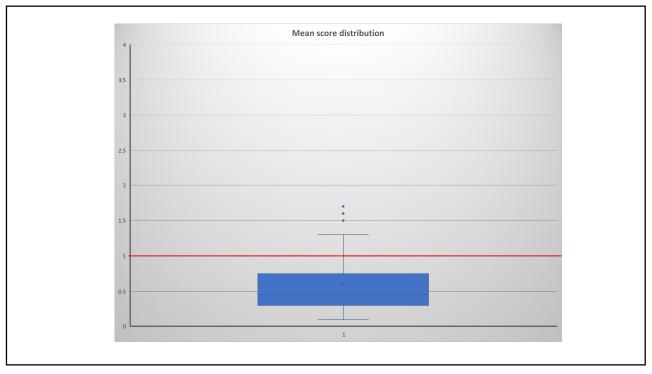




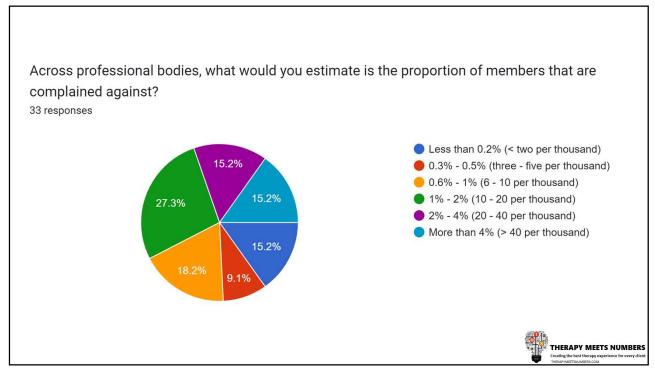


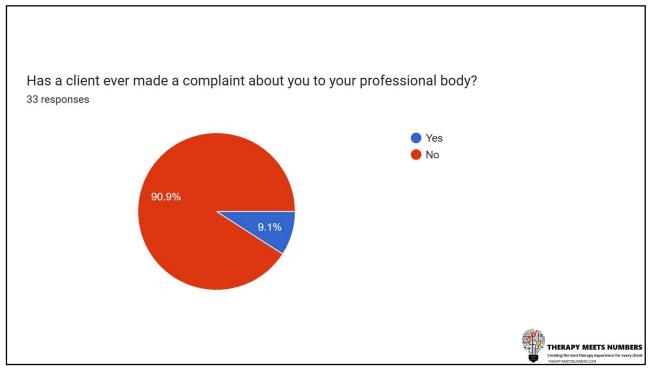
Over the last week... 1 I have felt tense, anxious or nervous 0 1 2 3 4 2 I have felt I have someone to turn to for support when needed \_4 \_ 3 \_ 2 \_ 1 \_ 0 3 I have felt able to cope when things go wrong 4 Talking to people has felt too much for me 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 5 I have felt panic or terror 6 I made plans to end my life 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 7 I have had difficulty getting to sleep or staying asleep 8 I have felt despairing or hopeless 0 1 2 3 4 9 I have felt unhappy 0 1 2 3 4 10 Unwanted images or memories have been distressing me 0 1 2 3 4

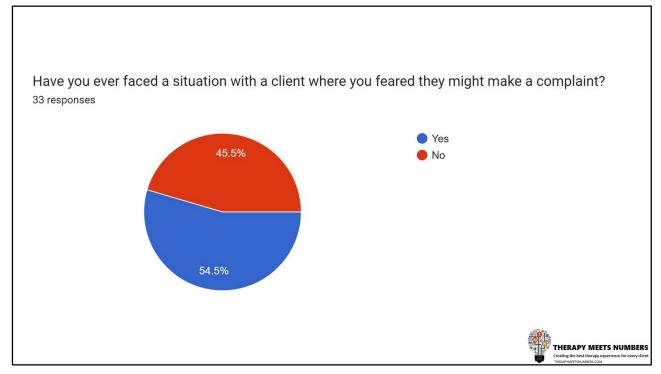


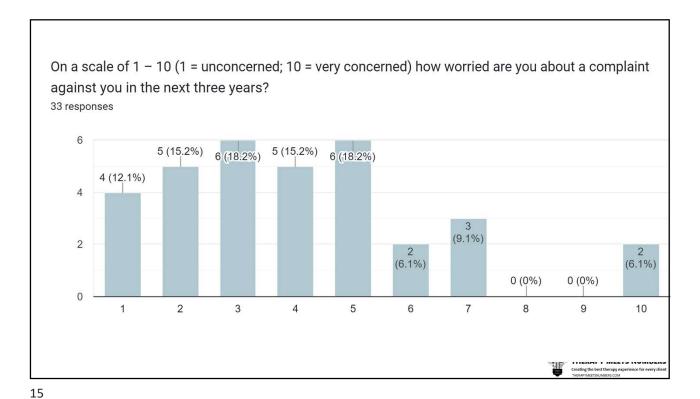












What complaints tell us Information and support based on recent complaints As part of our work to protect the public and promote high standards of practice, we're committed to capturing learning from the queries or complaints we receive from clients who are dissatisfied with their therapy or therapist. While complaints may be stressful for all parties, they are a valuable source of learning and information to support and improve client work and enhance client experience and safety. **Current resources** These resources draw on complaints upheld in 2022 and identify some common themes to inform and support members in their practice. They Boundaries are also available for the public, to inform their understanding of good · Competence and fitness to practise practice and what to expect from counselling and psychotherapy. • Confidentiality Sharing this learning online with our practitioners and the public is part Contracting of our upstream complaint prevention strategy. • Endings • Therapeutic interventions Each resource gives an overview of the type of complaints received and thoughts on how these might have been prevented in the first place. We hope practitioners find these useful as reflective pieces to help you identify any areas of your work where the potential for complaint could https://www.bacp.co.uk/about-us/protecting-the-public/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-complaints-tell-us/professional-conduct/what-conduct/whTHERAPY MEETS NUMBERS



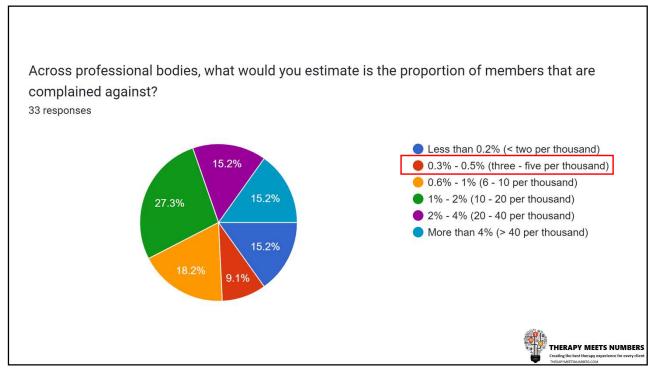
In 2020 we received 191 complaints of which 129 became cases. The proportion of BACP members who had concerns raised about their conduct remained low at 0.34%. 22 further complaints were received and were not taken forward. (The table below shows why they were not processed.)

In 2021 we received 228 complaints under the Professional Conduct Procedure. The proportion of BACP members/registrants who had concerns raised about their conduct remained low at 0.38%. 53 complaints were received and were not taken forward.

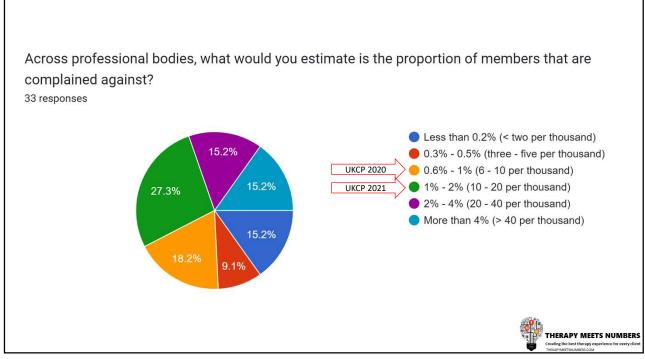
	2020	2021
Complaints	191	228
% of membership	0.34%	0.38%
Complaints per member	298	250



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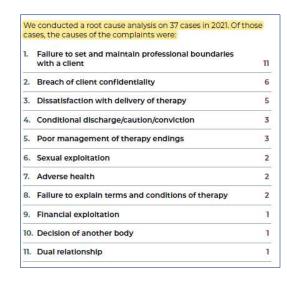






Statistically, our chances of being complained against are very low.

But are those chances equal? Of course not...





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Research has demonstrated three things that should make us all a little humble about our therapeutic impact.

- We're as likely as any profession to have an over-inflated sense of our professional ability and impact.
- 2. We struggle early on to predict which clients are likely to drop out.
- 3. Therapists with higher levels of professional humility get better outcomes.



# #1. Self-assessment bias



 $\underline{\text{https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/self-assessment-bias-in-psychotherapy/}}$ 



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#### Question 1

Compared to other mental health professionals within your field [with similar credentials), how would you rate your overall clinical skills and performance in terms of a percentile (out of 0-100%: e.g., 25% = below average, 50% = average, 75% = above average)?



(>>) In response to question 1, on average respondents rated themselves at the 80th percentile. In other words, better than 79% of their peers. Twenty-five percent rated themselves at or above the 90th percentile. The most common rating was the 75th percentile. Just 8.4% percent rated themselves below the 75th percentile. None rated themselves below the 50th percentile, or, in other words, below average.

Walfish S, McAlister B, O'Donnell P, Lambert MJ. 2012. An investigation of self-assessment bias in mental health providers. Psychological Reports · April 2012

http://therapymeetsnumbers.com/self-assessment-bias-in-psychotherapy/







#### Question 2

What percentage (0-100%) of your clients get better (i.e., experience significant symptom reduction during treatment? What percentage stays the same? What percentage gets worse?]



(>>) On average, these practitioners believed that 77% of their clients improved significantly as a result of therapy. Fifty-eight percent believed that 80% or more of their clients improved, and just over one in five (21%) that 90% or more of their clients showed improvement. Almost half of practitioners (47.7%) believed that none of their clients deteriorated.

"It is common to think of ourselves as somewhat remarkable compared to others"

Walfish S, McAlister B, O'Donnell P, Lambert MJ. 2012. An investigation of self-assessment

http://therapymeetsnumbers.com/self-assessment-bias-in-psychotherapy/



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# #2. Can we predict drop out?

- Of 550 clients attending at least one session, only 3 were predicted by therapists to deteriorate.
- Outcome data, however, showed that 40 clients deteriorated by the end of therapy, and only one those predicted to deteriorate actually had.
- The test somewhat overpredicted potential treatment failure, but proved to be far more accurate than the therapists' judgements.

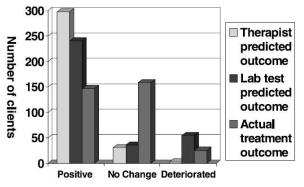


Figure 2. Comparison of therapist-predicted, lab-test-predicted, and actual client outcomes after psychotherapy.

Hannan C et al. A lab test and algorithms for identifying clients at risk for treatment failure. Journal of Clinical Psychology 2006; 61(2): 155–163.





# #3 - Humility

tion between PSD and self-affiliation predicted change significantly. Therapists who reported more self-doubt in their work facilitated change in patient interpersonal distress to a greater extent if they also reported to have a self-affiliative introject. Incidentally, those who combined low scores on PSD with higher scores of self-affiliation contributed to the *least* change. The findings imply that a

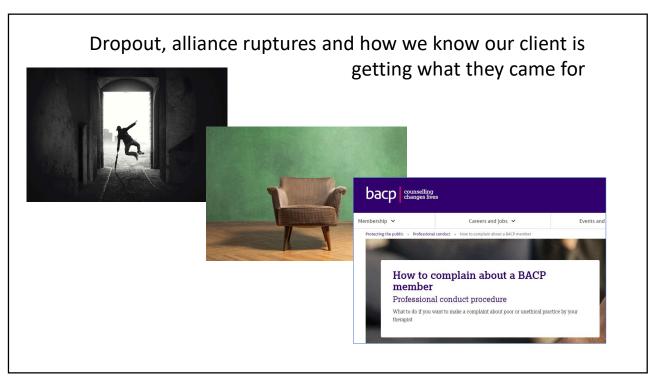
Kønnestad & Skovholt, 2013).

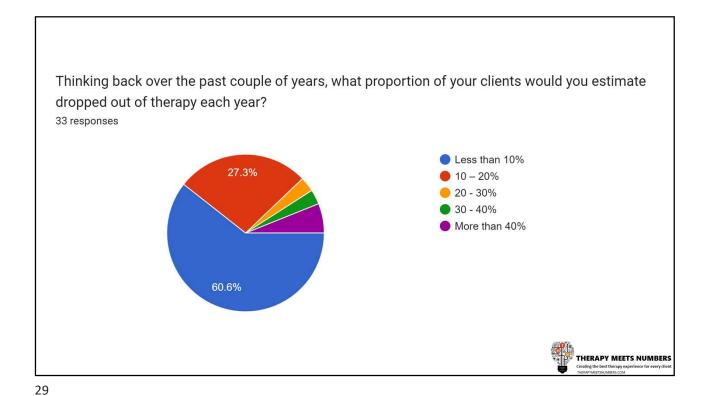
A contrast to professional self-doubt may be a sense of exaggerated self-confidence, which likely arises as a defense against feelings of incompetence or lacking in therapeutic mastery; feelings most therapists encounter in their professional work. The concept of 'premature

1.Nissen-Lie HA et al. Love Yourself as a Person, Doubt Yourself as a Therapist? Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy 2015; 24(1): 48–60.



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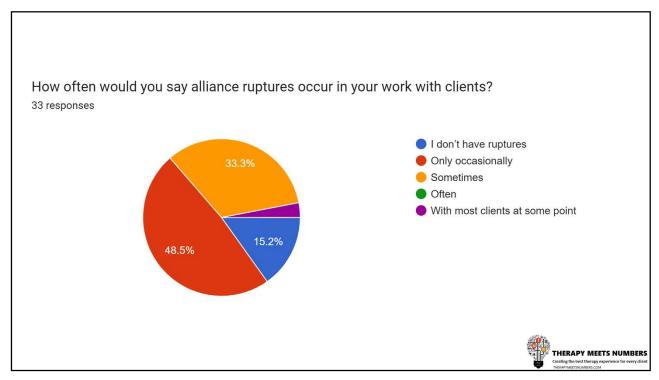


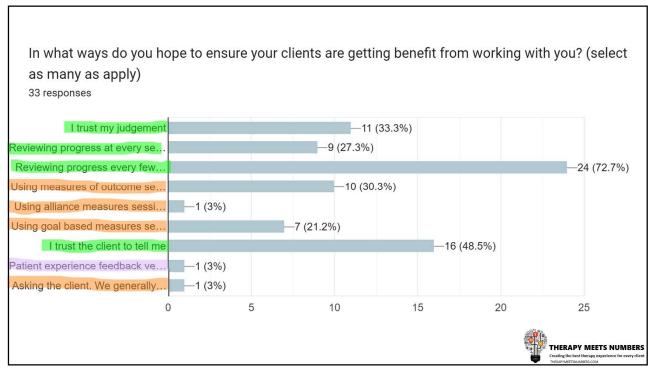


Which is the most important component of securing client engagement?

33 responses

Agreement on the goals or purpose of therapy
Agreement on the means, methods or overall approach of therapy
The therapeutic bond
They're all equally important





## To summarise

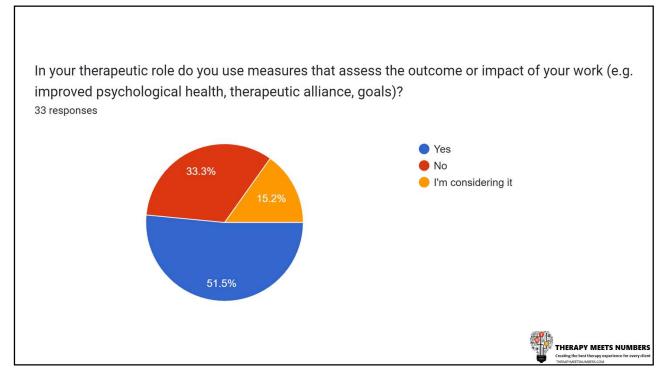
- 50% of you estimate that fewer than 10% of clients drop out
- 4 in 10 estimate that between 10% 20% drop out
- 1 in 10, that more than 20% drop out
- Ways we ensure clients benefit those based on trust and judgement outnumber those based on some form of measure by a factor of 4:1

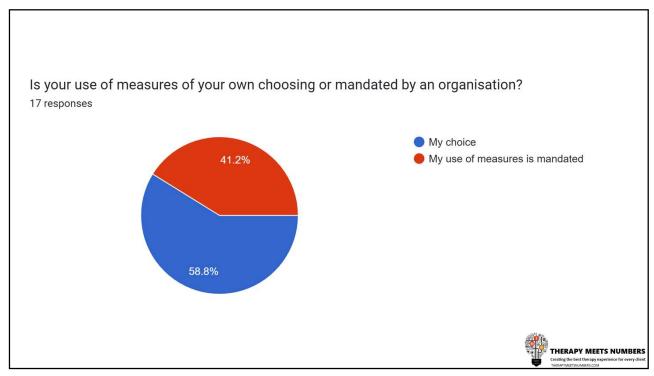
## What level of dropout is OK?

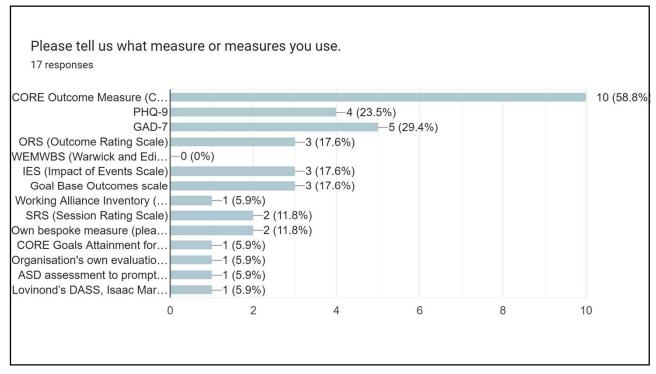
- What do we consider acceptable?
- · What is it costing?
- Is dropout an inevitable consequence of the therapy endeavour?
- Can we do anything to reduce it?
- What part might measures play in that process?

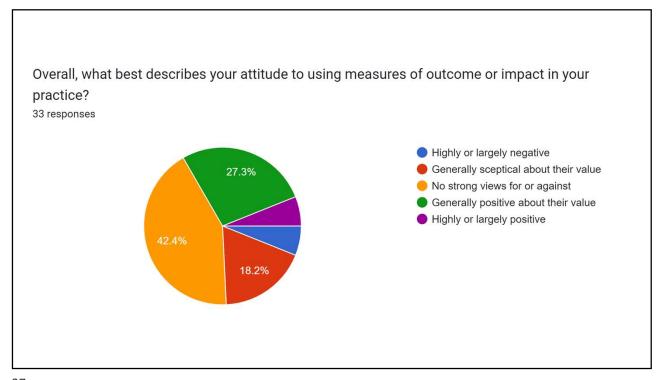


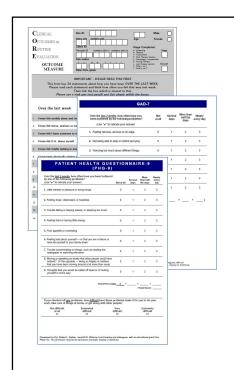
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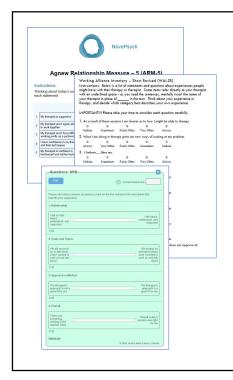




## Measures of outcome

- Global measures of distress (e.g. CORE, OQ-45)
  - o Wellbeing, problems and symptoms, functioning, risk
- Symptom specific measures (e.g. GAD-7 and PHQ-9)
  - o Anxiety and depressive symptoms respectively
- Others
  - o Ultra brief measures (e.g. Outcome Rating Scale)
  - Humanistic and person-centred focused e.g. Strathclyde Inventory, WEMWEBS
  - o Diagnostic tools (e.g. IES, Rosenberg SES)



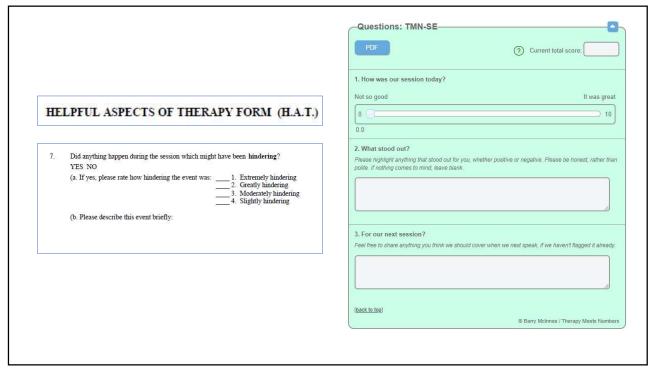


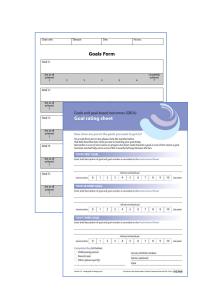
## Process measures

- Working alliance measures e.g. Agnew Relationship Measure (ARM), Working Alliance Inventory (WAI) and Session Rating Scale (SRS)
  - Goals, methods or tasks, bond + other aspects such as confidence and general feedback on session
- Experiential measures
  - Helpful Aspects of Therapy Form (during therapy)
  - IAPT Patient Experience Questionnaire: PEQ (post therapy)
  - Bespoke client feedback forms (generally post therapy)



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# Goal focused measures

- Goal based measures
  - Measuring sessional or periodic progress towards client-defined goals
  - o Goal Form
  - o <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/286928866">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/286928866</a>
    <a href="mailto:Goals">Goals</a> Form
  - o Goal Based Outcomes tool
  - o https://www.goals-in-therapy.com/



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 $\frac{https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/introducing-measures-into-working-with-clients/}{}$ 



How to choose a therapy outcome measure

https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/how-to-choose-a-therapy-outcome-measure/



 $\frac{https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/made-to-}{measure-core/}$ 



 $\frac{https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/teacher-craftsperson-or-gardner-which-therapist-are-you/}{} \\$ 



Measures are the instrument of control of an topdown, target driven management culture that values data over people, processes over relationships and is ruthless in pursuit of volume and efficiency.



Given that we are ultimately human, and our judgements fallible, can measures be another way that we can elicit feedback from clients that helps to support (and sometimes challenge) our felt sense of progress?



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Can we incorporate measures into our way of working in a way that will help us to improve our outcomes, reduce our level of dropout

who knows, reduce the risk of a complaint being made against us?

....even....





# What's the evidence for using measures?

### What we know about improvement trajectories

- Most improvement occurs in the early stages of therapy.
- Clients who don't show early improvement are significantly less likely to subsequently improve
- A large managed care study found that clients showing no improvement by the third session didn't (on average) improve over the course of therapy. Those showing deterioration by the third session were twice as likely to drop out as they were to progress
- Falkenström et al: Assessed relationship between early alliance strength and outcomes using the
  using the WAI and the CORE-OM at each session. Working alliance, measured at session three,
  significantly predicted subsequent symptom change across the rest of the treatment, even while
  controlling for prior symptom improvement

https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/wake-up-and-smell-the-evidence/https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/the-therapeutic-alliance-part-two/



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# What's the evidence for using measures?

#### What we know about the impact of using measures

Lambert et al: Summarised the effects of providing feedback on clients at risk of treatment failure. The highest rates of improvement were evident when progress feedback was given to both client and therapist. They concluded:

"It seems likely that therapists become more attentive to a patient when they receive a signal that the patient is not progressing."

 De Jong et al: Meta analysis (58 studies) found a small but significant effect in favour of progress feedback v. TAU control. Effect for clients not on track marginally larger. Dropout in feedback groups was 20.9%, compared with 24.5% control groups. Corresponds to a 20% increased chance of dropout in the TAU groups.

https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/wake-up-and-smell-the-evidence/ https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/progress-feedback-how-much-difference-does-it-make/





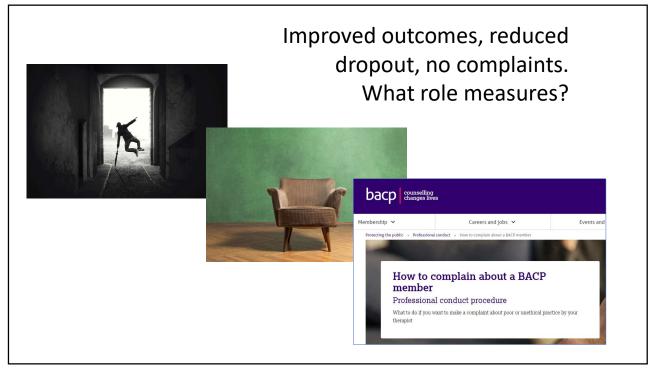
## What's the evidence for using measures?

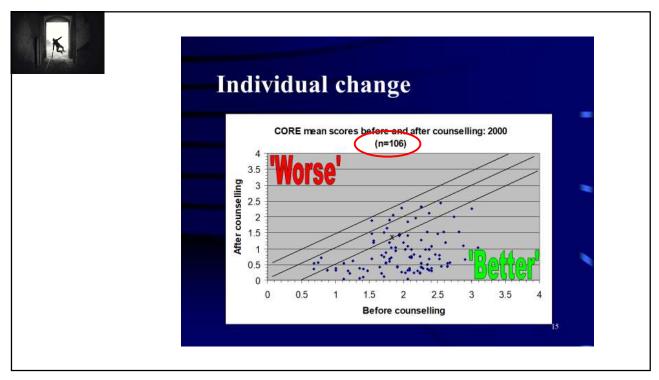
## What we know about the impact of using measures

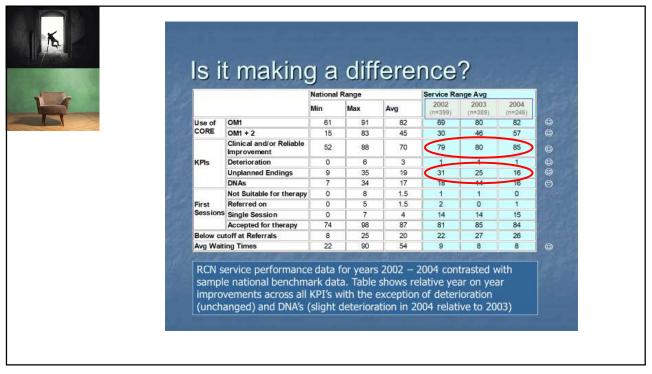
- Delgadillo et al: Comparison of existing (control) and enhanced system (OF group) for progress tracking in IAPT, including NOT alert for therapists. Results: No difference in symptom change, RCSI or dropout between the groups, but a significantly higher rate of NOT clients and session utilisation in the control group. Clients in the OF group used just over one-third less sessions than those in the control group
- Whipple et al: Clients at risk of a negative outcome were less likely to deteriorate, more likely to stay in treatment longer, and twice as likely to achieve clinically significant change when their therapists had access to information on outcome and alliance.
- Miller et al: Introduced ORS and SRS in an international EAP. At early phase, 20% of clients at intake had ORS but not SRS data. They were three times less likely to return for a 2<sup>nd</sup> session and have significantly poorer outcomes. Improving a poorly rated alliance early in therapy correlated with significantly better outcomes by the end of therapy.

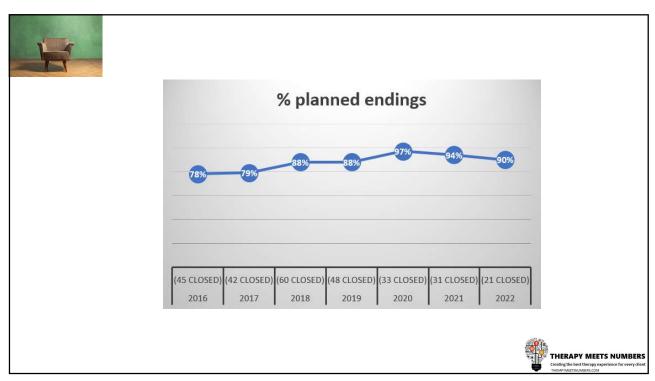
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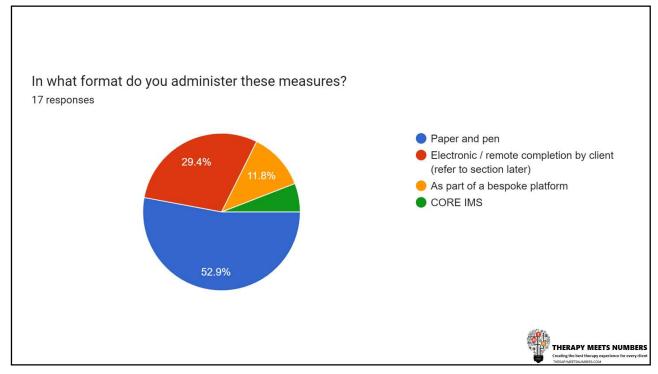
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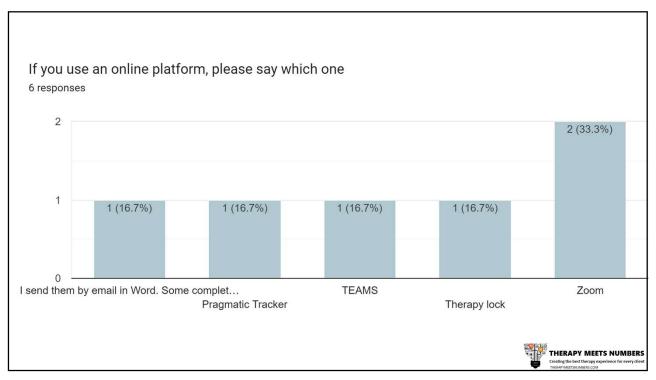


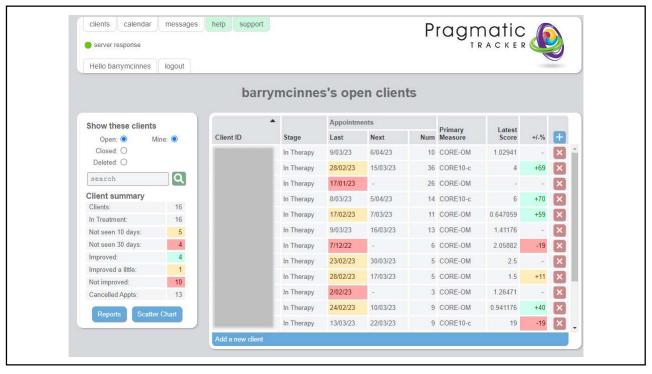


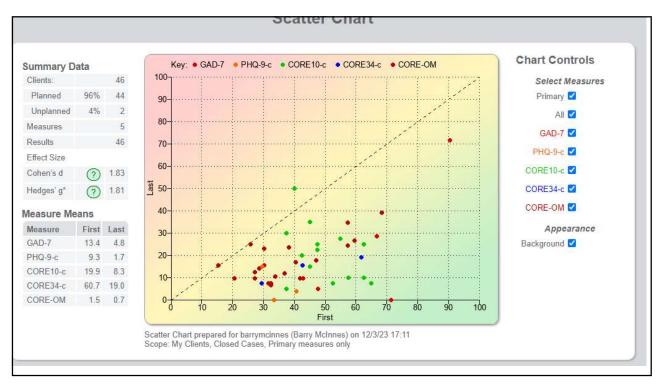


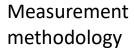








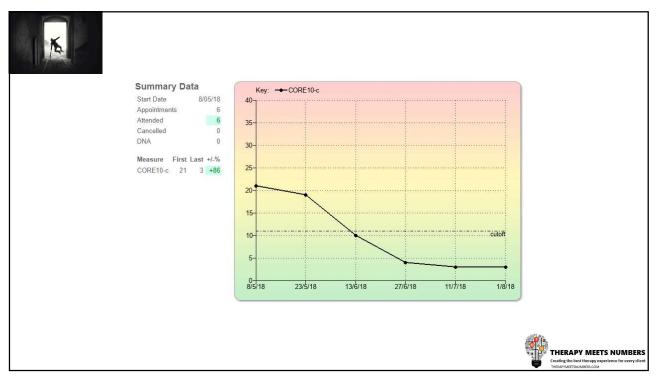


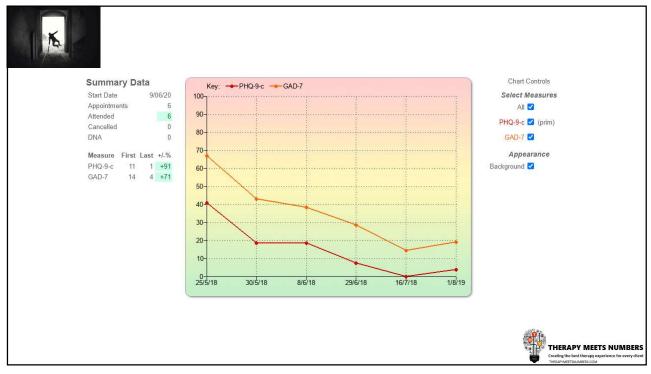


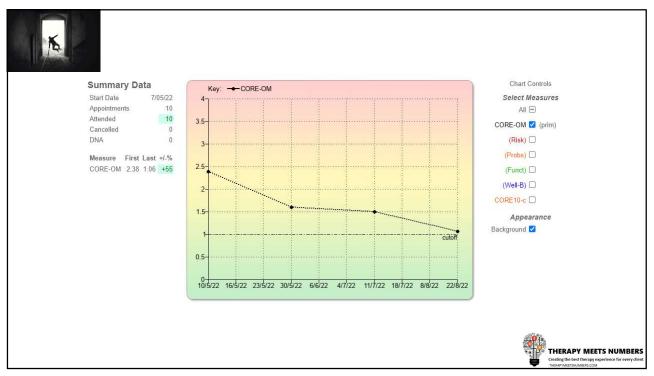
Is there a one size fits all?

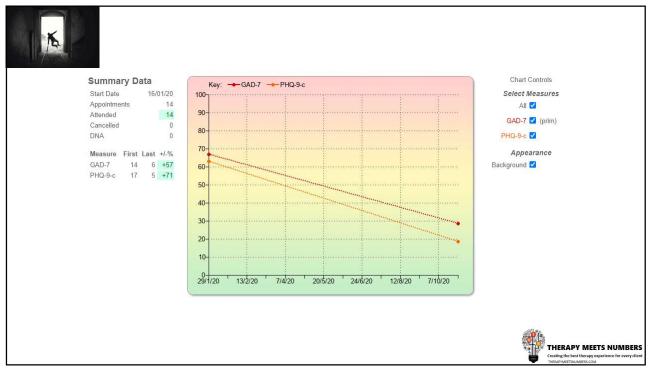


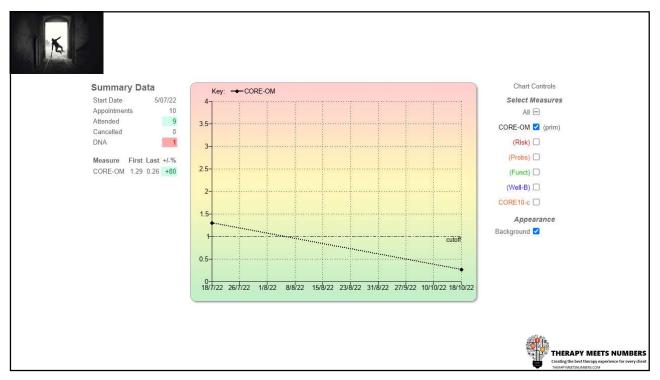


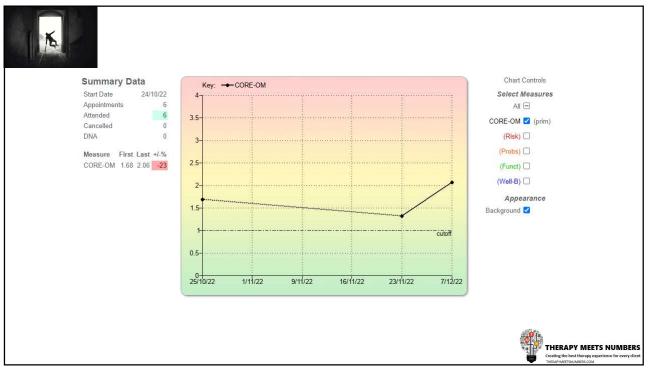


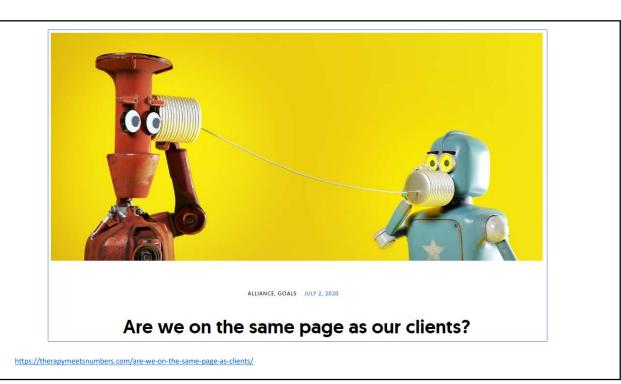














- Lack of goal clarity was significantly higher when initial treatment goals were discussed less frequently during therapy, and higher also when treatment progress was not evaluated on a regular basis.
- Lack of goal clarity was strongly linked to clients' views on the quality of the therapeutic alliance. In particular, greater lack of goal clarity was related to lower levels of client/therapist agreement on the treatment goals and task dimensions of the Working Alliance Inventory, as well as a lower level of bond with the therapist.
- Higher levels of perceived lack of goal clarity were related to higher levels psychological symptoms and problems in interpersonal relationships and functioning

 $\underline{\text{https://therapymeetsnumbers.com/are-we-on-the-same-page-as-clients/}}$ 



"You could listen."

Tony Rousmaniere, PsyD is Clinical Faculty at the University of Washington and has a private practice in Seattle. He hosts the clinical training website www.dpfortherapists.com, and is the author/editor of four books on clinical training: Deliberate Practice for Psychotherapists, The Cycle of Excellence: Using Deliberate Practice to Improve Supervision and Training, Using Technology to

"Of course I ask for feedback from my clients. I do it every session!" Every therapist believes they ask for client feedback. True for you too? Then tell me why your last three dropouts happened.

Another fruitless session had just ended with Anne, and I was pretty sure that she was about to drop out, I handed her a feedback form and asked her to complete it. She looked at the piece of paper, snorted and said, "Are you kidding me?" As a beginning therapist, I have a lot of practice hiding my nervousness. I replied, "I need your feedback in order to learn how to help you better, but also to become a better therapist overall, so I appreciate your time and candor in filling this out." Anne norted again, rolled her eyes, and completed the Session Rating Scale, an ultra-brief tool that measures the working alliance along four dimensions. She handed the form back to me and I saw that our working alliance, as I would have guessed, was a sinking ship. I asked what specifically I could do to help her better. Anne replied,

She looked at the piece of paper, snorted and said, "Are you kidding me?"

https://www.psychotherapy.net/article/psychotherapy-dropouts#section-anne:-a-case-study

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