

# Modeling to Learn

Test. Don't guess.

## Session 1: Helping Teams Find Local Improvements to Meet Veterans' Needs



 **@LZPhD**

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Created by  VA Team PSD  
1



# Team

## Participatory System Dynamics

### Co-Investigators

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### VAPOR (Veteran VA Consumer) Board

DC Barlow, Ren Kramer & Erik Ontiveros

### Georgia Health Policy Center

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Julie Sydow MA, Cate Wright, and Lara Dolin

# Poll 1: I am a...

Please select all that apply.

- A. Veteran
- B. Frontline provider or clinician
- C. Researcher
- D. Healthcare leader/policy maker
- E. Another professional role



This is session 1 of a four part series.

Date	Title	Focus
<p><b>May 2, 2019</b>  <b>12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern</b></p>	<p><b>Introducing <i>Modeling to Learn</i></b>  <b>Helping Teams Find Local</b>  <b>Improvements to</b>  <b>Meet Veterans' Needs</b></p>	<p><b>mtl</b>  <a href="http://mtl.how">mtl.how</a></p>
<p><b>May 9, 2019</b>  <b>12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern</b></p>	<p><b>Introducing Measurement</b>  <b>Based Stepped Care for</b>  <b>Suicide Prevention</b></p>	<p><b>mtl</b> session 6  <a href="#">systems story</a></p> <p><b>mtl</b> session 7  <a href="#">base case</a></p>
<p><b>May 16, 2019</b>  <b>12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern</b></p>	<p><b>Comparing Measurement</b>  <b>Based Care and Stepped Care</b>  <b>for Suicide Prevention</b></p>	<p><b>mtl</b> session 8  <a href="#">dynamic hypothesis</a></p> <p><b>mtl</b> session 9  <a href="#">compare alternatives</a></p>
<p><b>May 22, 2019</b>  <b>12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern</b></p>	<p><b>Putting it Together:</b>  <b>Combining Measurement</b>  <b>Based Stepped Care for</b>  <b>Suicide Prevention</b></p>	<p><b>mtl</b> session 10  <a href="#">systems thinking</a></p>

# Poll 2: I am here to...

Please select all that apply.

- A. ...learn more about suicide prevention.
- B. ...learn more about measurement based care.
- C. ...learn more about stepped care.
- D. ...learn more about *Modeling to Learn*.
- E. ...get continuing education credit.



Registration

This is session 1 of a four part series.

Date	Title	Focus
<p>May 2, 2019 12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern</p>	<p>Introducing <i>Modeling to Learn</i> Helping Teams Find Local Improvements to Meet Veterans' Needs</p>	

## Session 1 Learning Objectives

1. Describe the advantages of teams testing their own hypotheses about improvement plans using local team data.
2. Compare the advantages of team simulation learning against to trial-and-error learning in the real-world.
3. Identify ways systems thinking helps teams evaluate both the risks and benefits of clinic changes over time.

Registration

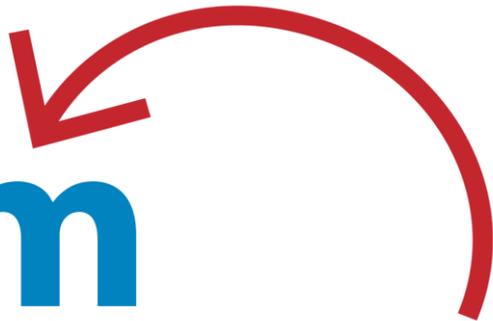


<https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-upcoming.cfm>

# Modeling to Learn

overall learning objectives  
include activities and competencies that...

- 1. ...are meaningful for you and align your learning goals with your team**
- 2. ...develop systems thinking skills and help you to see how several things fit together and understand causes that are hard to see without data and modeling resources**
- 3. ...make VA data, initiatives and standards transparent to you**
- 4. ...empower you to realize ongoing improvements in team quality of care and team quality of work life**



# Team

## Participatory System Dynamics

Principles of the open science movement:

- collaborative
- free and open
- transparent and reproducible science.

# Modeling to Learn



Test. Don't guess.

## *Modeling to Learn* Links

1. [www.mtl.how/live](http://www.mtl.how/live) - *Modeling to Learn* Live Sessions - Adobe Connect Room
2. [www.mtl.how/data](http://www.mtl.how/data) - Team Data User Interface - \*\*Internal for VHA Providers Only
3. [www.mtl.how/demo](http://www.mtl.how/demo) - Simulation Demonstration Self-Registration
4. [www.mtl.how/sim](http://www.mtl.how/sim) - Simulation User Interface for Teams in *MTL Live*
5. [www.mtl.how/menu](http://www.mtl.how/menu) - *Modeling to Learn* Menu - RedCap Survey of Team Needs/Priorities
6. [www.mtl.how/facilitate](http://www.mtl.how/facilitate) - MTL Facilitator Dashboard at Forio Epicenter
7. [www.mtl.how/github](http://www.mtl.how/github) - This page - MTL GitHub Repository of Resources
8. [www.mtl.how/video](http://www.mtl.how/video) - MTL "How To" videos at YouTube
9. [www.mtl.how/team](http://www.mtl.how/team) - Team Participatory System Dynamics - The MTL Research & Development Team
10. [www.mtl.how/lzim](http://www.mtl.how/lzim) - MTL and Team PSD Lead - Lindsey Zimmerman, PhD
11. [www.mtl.how/tms](http://www.mtl.how/tms) - VA TMS 2.0 Learning System for Accreditation
12. [www.mtl.how/refs](http://www.mtl.how/refs) - MTL References
13. [www.mtl.how/pubs](http://www.mtl.how/pubs) - Publications & Presentations on MTL by Team PSD

Our series will focus on these two resources.

**mtl**  
→  
mtl.how

Session guides,  
links, and  
cheatsheets.

**mtl**  
→  
mtl.how/demo

Self-register  
*Course Code: cybersem*

## Poll Question 3: This four part series focuses on which two *MTL* resources?

Please select all that apply.

- A. Modeling to Learn *Live*
- B. Modeling to Learn *Demo*
- C. Modeling to Learn *Data*
- D. Modeling to Learn at *mtl.how*
- E. All of the above

# Modeling to Learn →

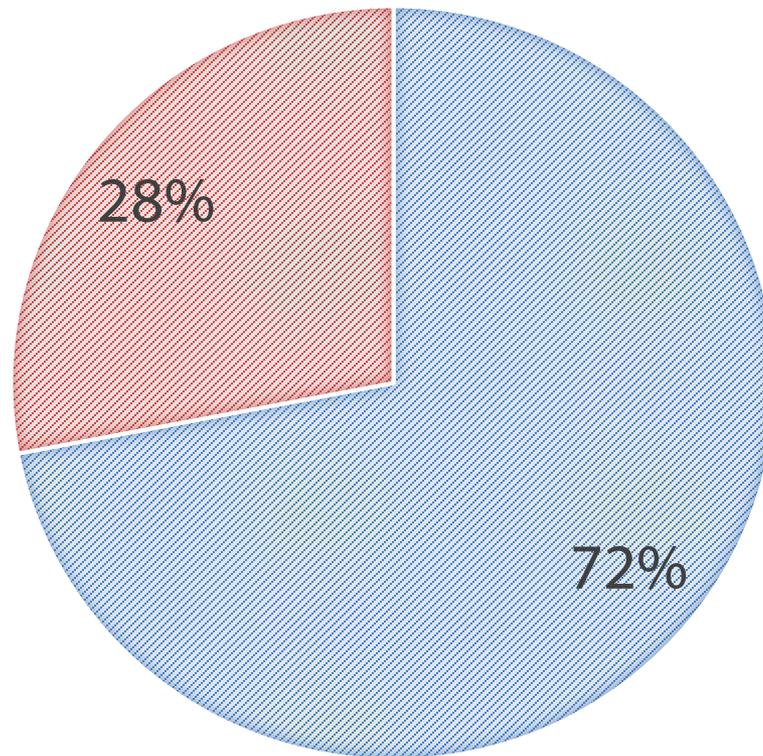
We will have new learning opportunities this year. But, these are not covered in this HSRD Cyberseminar.

**mtl**  
→  
Live

**mtl**  
→  
Video

# How can we reach more patients with our highest quality care?

■ Other services     ■ Evidence-based practices



Source: VA Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning, FY 2017



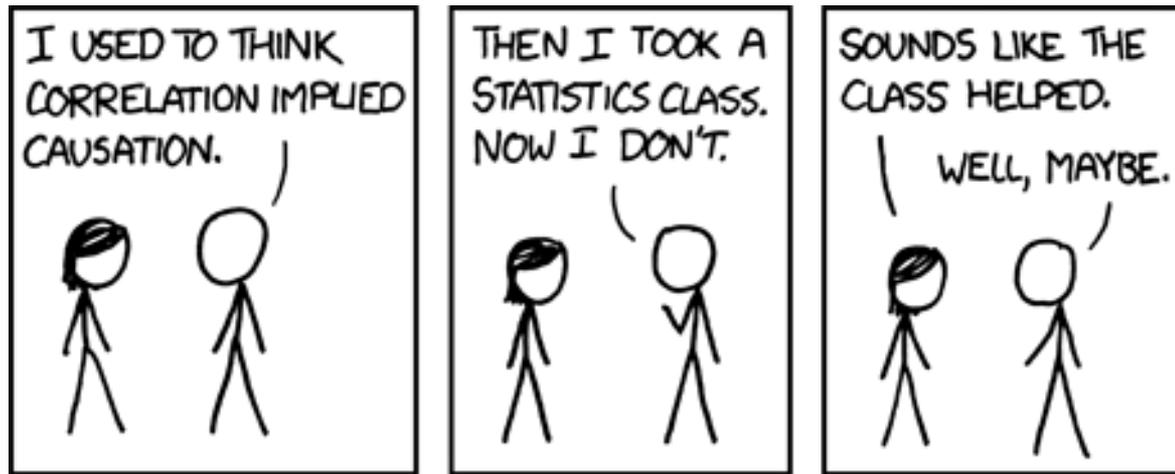
# Veterans Health Administration

## Model of a US National Health Care System

*American J. Public Health 97, 2007*

1. VA innovates with national dissemination efforts to train providers in evidence-based mental health practices
2. Enterprise-wide quality measures
3. Clinical practice guidelines and mandates for evidence-based care
4. National electronic health information system
5. Mental health care coordinated in multidisciplinary teams

What works to improve EBP reach,  
why, and under what conditions?



xkcd.com

Understanding causes of EBP reach, in local context,  
is critical to our stakeholders.

National Center for PTSD

VA Employee Education Services

Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

# ***OUR STAKEHOLDERS***

VA policy-makers, patients, and providers from psychiatry, psychology, social work, nursing & certified peer support specialists

Veteran Patients (VAPOR)

Office of Healthcare Transformation

Directors of Outpatient Mental Health & VISN MH Leads

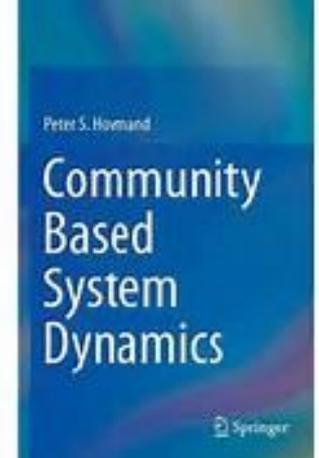
Core Modeling Group of Frontline Staff

Frontline Teams

# mtl



VAPOR introduces Modeling to Learn



Our PSD approach –  
Participatory Research:  
A partnership approach to research that equitably involves stakeholders in all aspects of the research process and in which all partners contribute expertise and share decision-making and ownership.

# Participatory Research is an epistemology.

- Scientific inquiry that that actively considers the scope of current knowledge, its limits and validity.
- Participatory research asks, what knowledge is privileged or absent?

# **MTL focuses on learning among frontline teams making EBP-related care decisions.**

*Drawn from Hovmand 2014 & Scaccia et al., 2015*

<b>Scientific Model</b>	<b>Problem</b>	<b>Why problems persist</b>
<b>General Capacity</b>	<b>Learning</b>	Stakeholders cannot or do not learn and adapt to their situation.
	<b>Coordination</b>	Conflict or lack of stakeholder consensus.
<b>EBP Specific Capacity</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	Policies are inconsistent with the real system constraints.
	<b>Restructuring</b>	The underlying structure of the system prevents workable solutions.

## Target State: Lean SMART Goal

By April 2015, 40% of patients newly seen in outpatient mental health at Menlo Park for depression, PTSD, or anxiety disorders will have two psychotherapy visits completed within 28 days from time of intake assessment.

**Specific.**

**Measurable.**

**Actionable:** if never achieved morale may suffer.

**Realistic:** with the available resources.

**Time frame:** A due date.

**mtl**

mtl.how

# Local clinic strategies are needed to address local differences.

Clinic 1	Clinic 2
<b>3548 unique patients/year</b>	<b>2043 unique patients/year</b>
Lower caseload per provider	Higher caseload per provider
Rare wait for initial appointment	Occasional waitlist to get into clinic
<b>5.2 psychiatrists per 9 EBPsy providers</b>	<b>3.0 psychiatrists per 4 EBPsy providers</b>
Higher EBPsy providers/MD ratio	Lower EBPsy provider/MD ratio
Higher EBPsy base rate	Higher EBPharm base rate
<b>Providers often self refer for EBPs</b>	<b>Referrals to other providers by necessity</b>
<b>Multiple on-site specialty programs</b>	<b>Only telehealth specialty care</b>
<b>Training program site multiple disciplines</b>	<b>No trainees providing care</b>
<b>Most groups "open" (ongoing enrollment)</b>	<b>Most groups "closed" (infrequent opening)</b>
Shorter time to next available appointment	Longer time to next available appointment

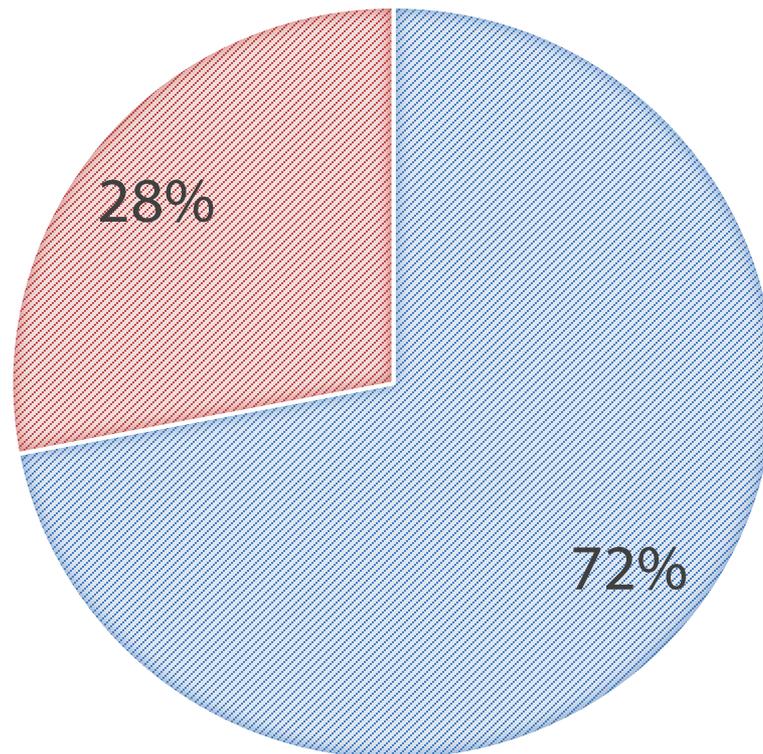
# Our aims.

- develop a systems understanding of VA mental health services and the limited reach of evidence-based mental health care.
- empower mental health stakeholders to make locally optimized quality improvement decisions.

Systems Science: interdisciplinary  
theory and methods for  
understanding complexity.

We define limited reach of high quality care among our patient population as a system behavior.

■ Other services      ■ Evidence-based practices



Source: VA Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning, FY 2017

Find out more about our early work by downloading this paper at [mtl.how/demo](http://mtl.how/demo).

Adm Policy Ment Health  
DOI 10.1007/s10488-016-0754-1

ORIGINAL PAPER



## Participatory System Dynamics Modeling: Increasing Stakeholder Engagement and Precision to Improve Implementation Planning in Systems

Lindsey Zimmerman<sup>1,2</sup> · David W. Lounsbury<sup>3</sup> · Craig S. Rosen<sup>1,4</sup> · Rachel Kimerling<sup>1</sup> · Jodie A. Trafton<sup>4,5</sup> · Steven E. Lindley<sup>4,6</sup>

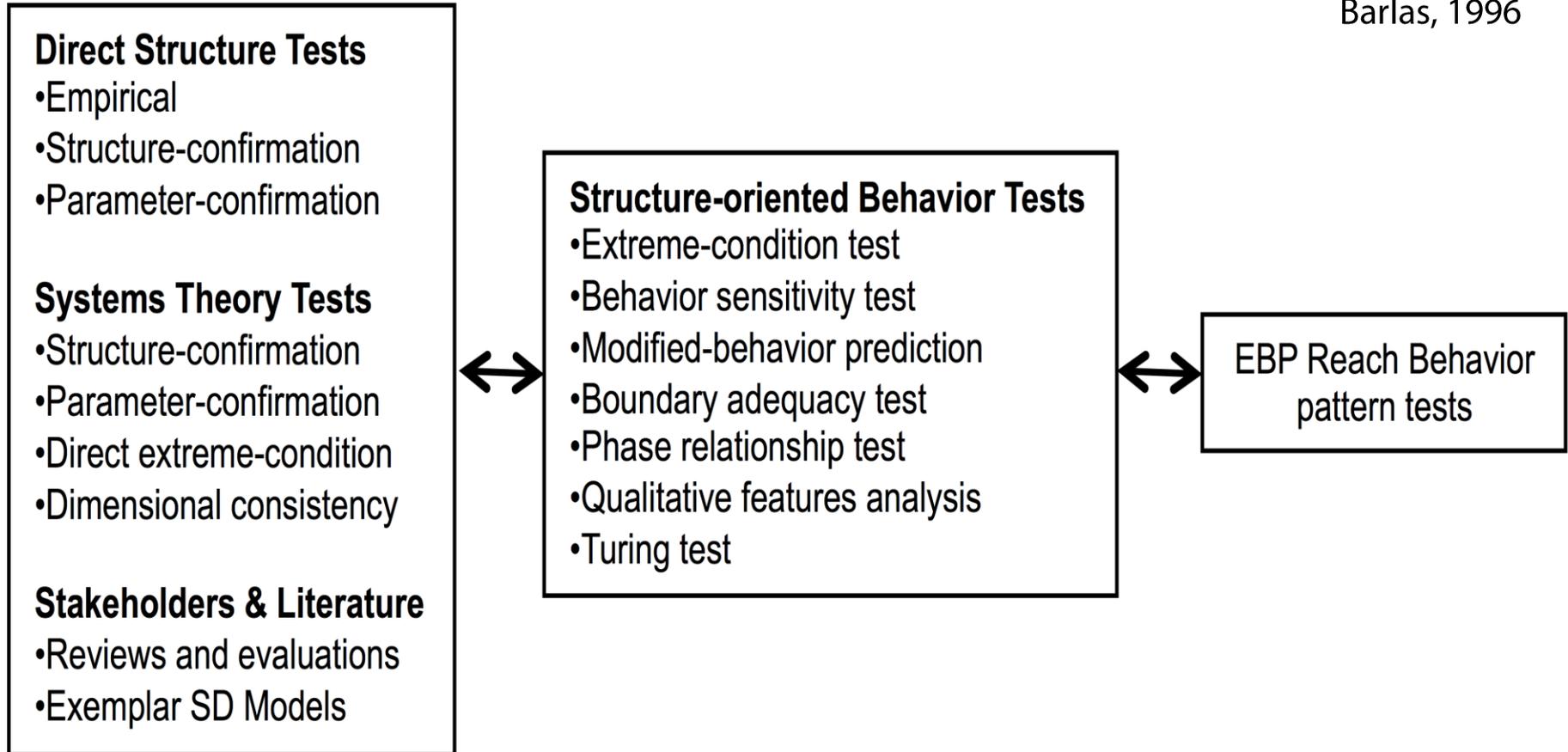
Springer

[mtl.how/demo](http://mtl.how/demo)



# Saturation achieved during structural behavioral validity testing.

Barlas, 1996

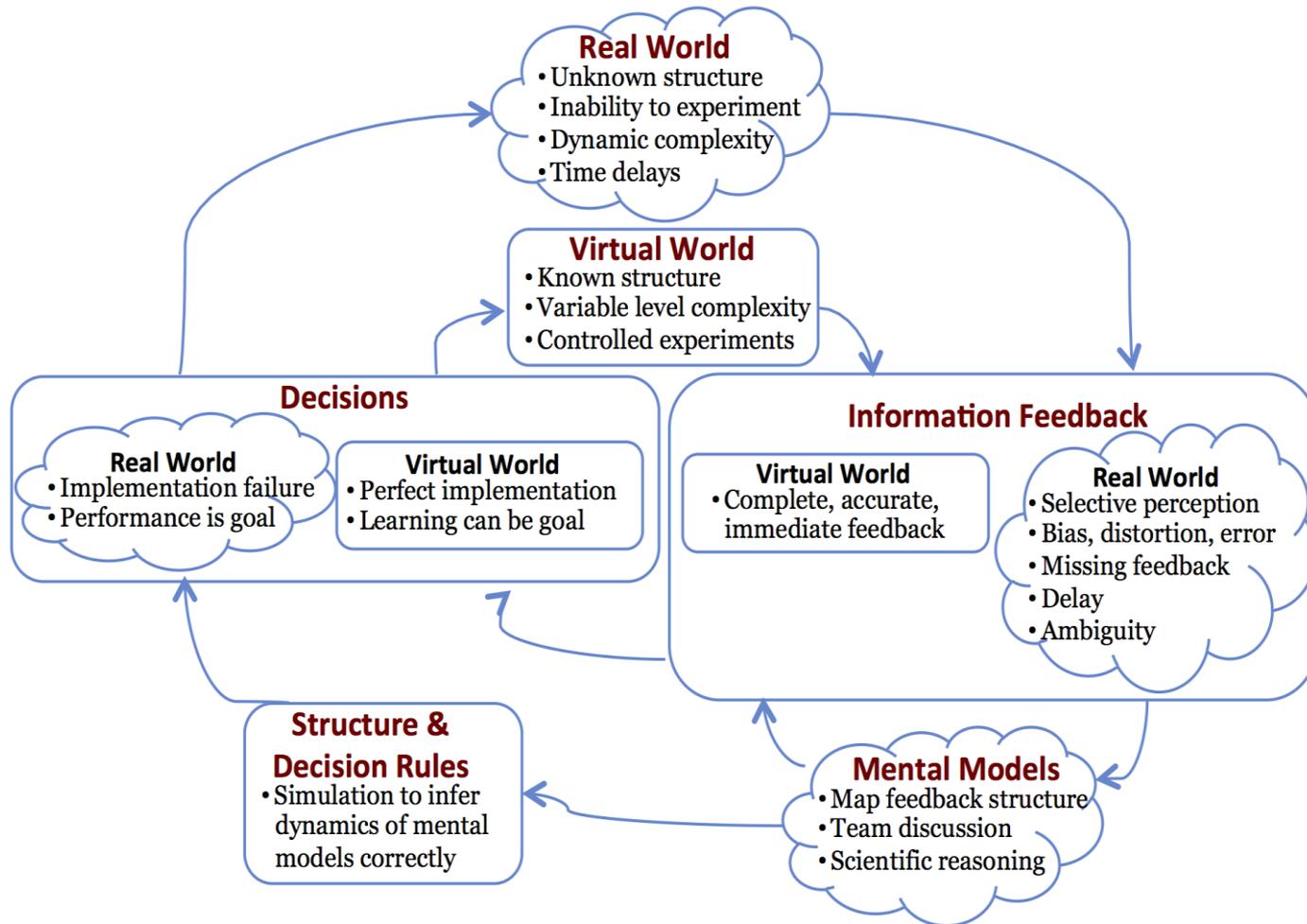


STRUCTURE

BEHAVIOR

# Why is PSD effective?

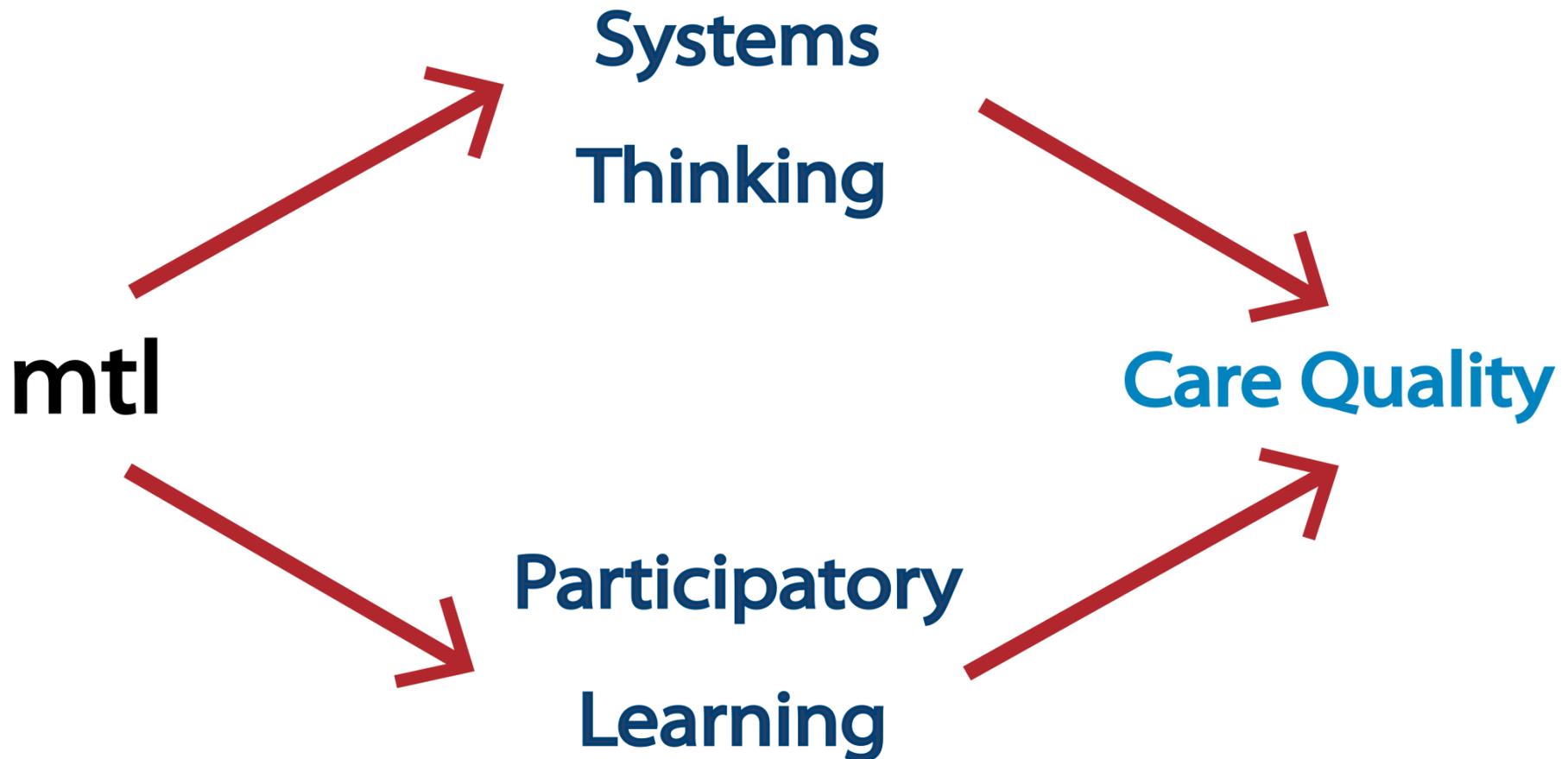
## Two Causal Theories: Systems and Decision Science



Nilsen, 2015; Sterman, 2000, 2006

# Modeling to Learn

Theory of Change



# Modeling to Learn



Test. Don't guess.

Virtual Facilitation

Transparent Local  
Data

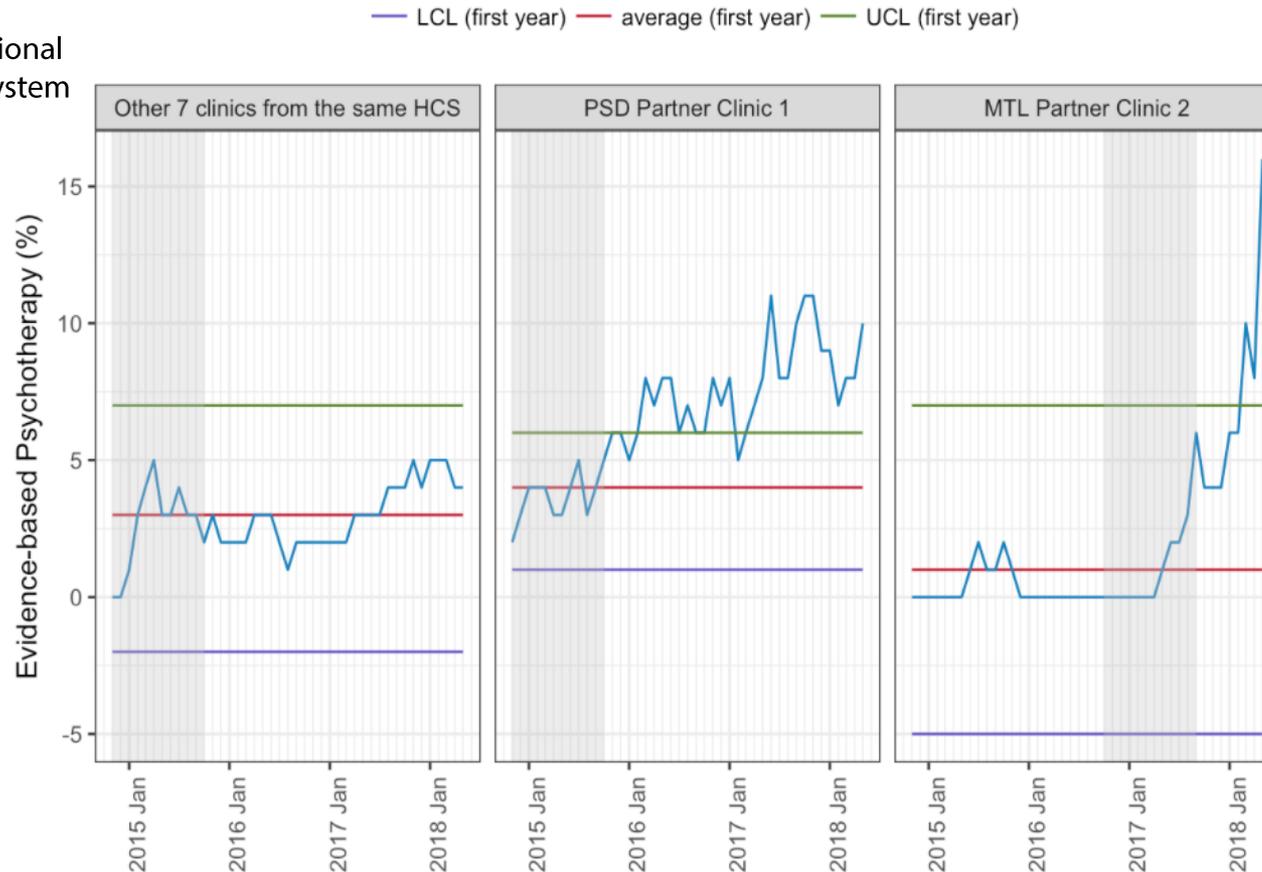
Real-time  
Simulation

1. Equitable access to resources.
2. Mutual learning.
3. Shared decision-making.

# Is *MTL* effective for improving quality?

## Strong preliminary signal in pilot clinics.

\*HCS = Regional health care system



**12 mos.** sustained sig. improvement + 3 SD ( $\alpha = .003$ )

**8 mos.** sustained sig. improvement + 3 SD ( $\alpha = .003$ )

Key:

- Green = Upper control limit (UCL)
- Red = 12-month pre-PSD EBP proportion
- Purple = Lower control limit (LCL)
- SD = standard deviations





# *Participatory Learning to develop Systems Thinking.*

## MTL Fidelity Checklist for 12-session Plan

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### Sesson Summaries across *MTL* Modules

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session 01. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to align our **team vision**.

session 02. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to check our **patient data** and **team trends**.

session 03. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to produce **team data** for simulation.

session 04. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to prioritize **team needs**.

session 05. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to log-in to our **team world**.

session 06. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to tell a **systems story**.

session 07. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to evaluate our **base case** of no new decisions.

session 08. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to test a **dynamic hypothesis**.

session 09. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to **compare alternatives**.

session 10. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to use **systems thinking**.

session 11. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to make future **team decisions**.

session 12. Today we're *modeling to learn* how to turn **team learning** into a **team plan**.

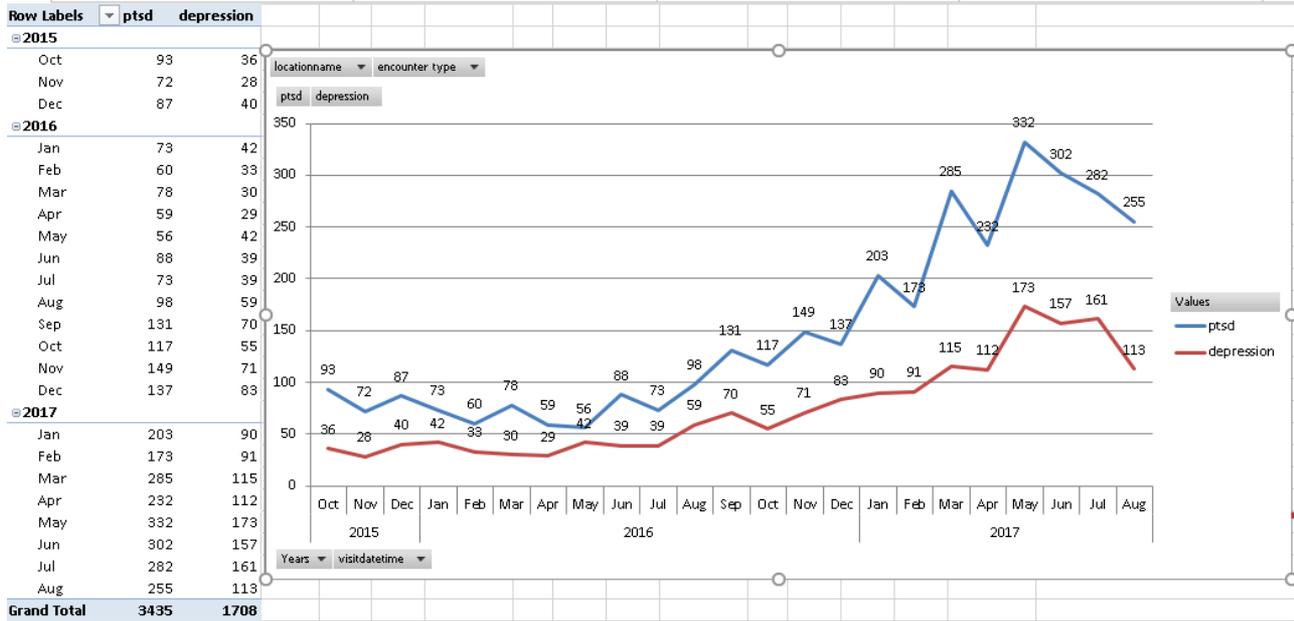
# We developed a secure website for reviewing team trends over time.



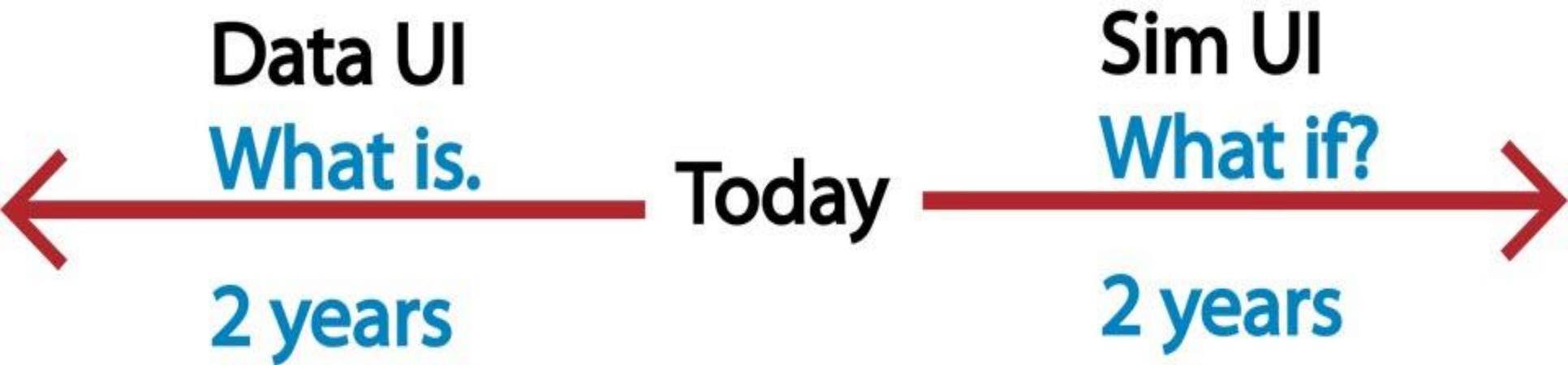
- Pages
- Administrative
- User Guide
- Contact Us
- Site Contents

## Select Your VISN

VISN 1	VISN 2	VISN 4	VISN 5	VISN 6
VISN 8	VISN 9	VISN 10	VISN 12	VISN 15
VISN 17	VISN 19	VISN 20	VISN 21	VISN 22

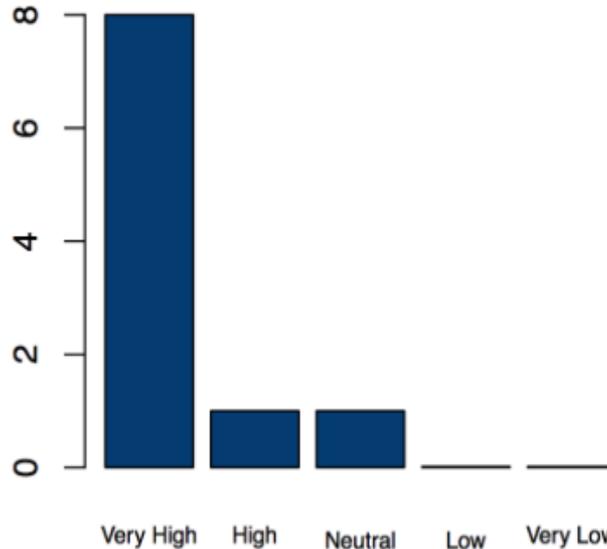


*MTL* resources help teams  
look back two years  
and look ahead two years.

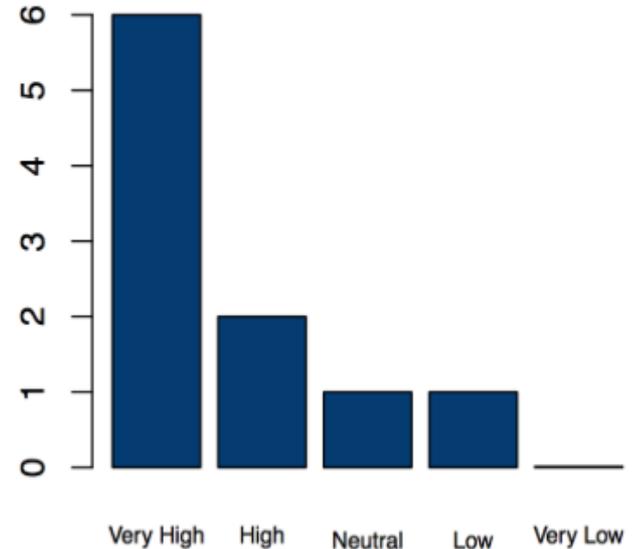




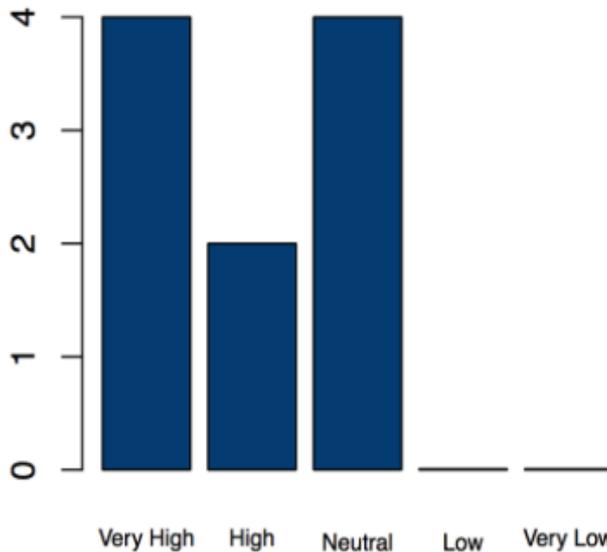
**Schedule – How to manage team schedules (i.e. clinics/grids) to meet patients needs.**



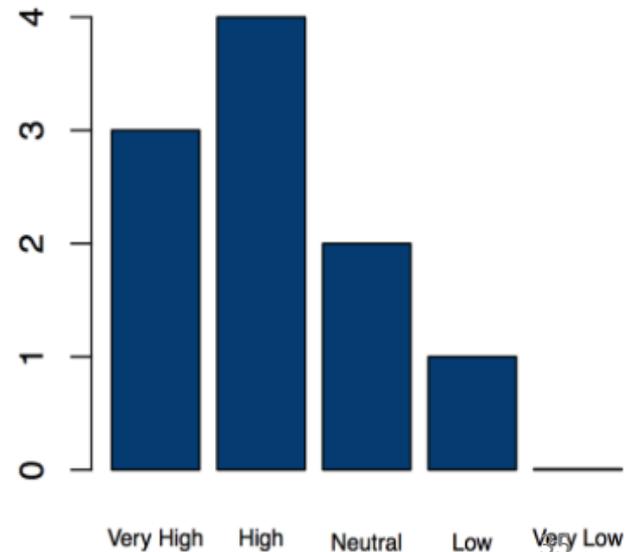
**New patients – How to get new patients in care, while meeting existing patients needs.**



**Return to clinic – How return to clinic orders free free us to get patients to the right treatment at the right time.**



**Overwork – How overbooking or overworking increases patient no shows.**



**Session**

**Join Current Session**

*Suicide Prevention -- Week 0*

*100a1\_abc\_teama\_2018\_1\_01.xlsx*

**Start a New Session**

- Care Coordination
- Medication Management
- Psychotherapy
- Aggregate
- Suicide Prevention

**Play**

# Why is *Modeling to Learn* effective?

Outputs samplefile.xls < BACK

 Medication Management

### Our Question

Briefly describe what your team wants to learn from this experiment.

If we get an increase in opioid use disorder referrals, will it increase the wait-time for 

Save Copy Export

Calendar - Week 02

0  010

  Advance End Wks

### Our Hypothesis

Outline the systems story your team believes will cause the outcomes your team expects to observe.

### Our Findings

Describe your team's findings, insights and conclusions from this experiment.

### Our Decisions

Based on what was learned in this experiment, what changes is the team ready to make in their practice?

# “Staff” and “Time” barriers as dynamics.

### Experiment Timeline

Today 1 Year 2 Years

Reset Run Advance End Quarters

#### Reveal Complexity

- Balancing Patients
- Overbooking Affects No-Shows
- Wait Time Affects Referrals

#### Display Patient Cohort

AUD  DEP  OUD  Other

### Engagement Pattern

#### Return Visit Interval

AUD Week

BC BC 0 16

DEP Week

BC BC 0 16

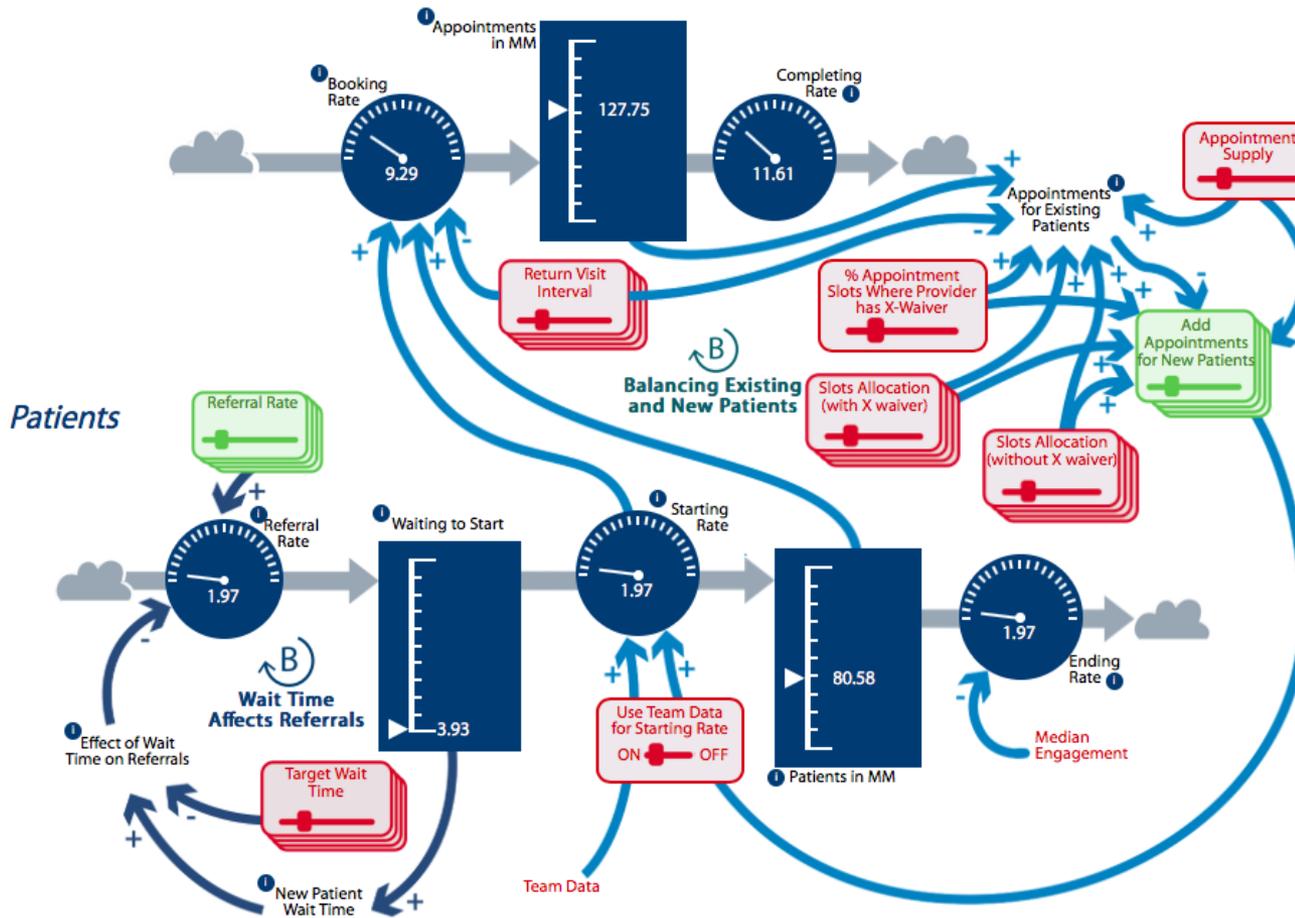
OUD Week

BC BC 0 16

Other Week

BC BC 0 16

# Causal mechanisms (dynamics) are made transparent for local learning.



- Red =
- Read in from existing team data
  - Standardized

[mtl.how/sim](http://mtl.how/sim)

necessary.



### Our Hypothesis

Outline the expected outcomes of your team's experiment in measurable terms.



### Our Results

Describe what results and understandings your team achieved from the experiment.



### Our Decisions

Briefly describe the decisions your team arrived at to support your hypothesis

## Results Dashboard

### Control Panel

#### Control Panel View

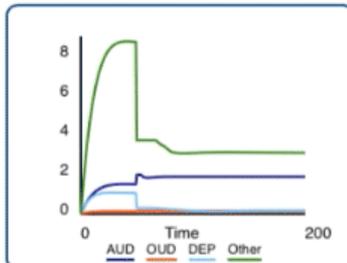
- Model Run Alternatives Comparison
- Inter-Model Run Variable Comparison

#### Current Run Decision Values

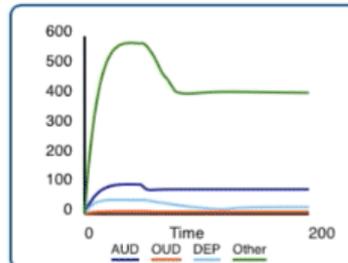
- 0.50 Change in the True Missed Appointments(AUD)
- 0.50 Change in the True Missed Appointments(DEP)
- 0.50 Change in the True Missed Appointments(OD)

#### Select Variables

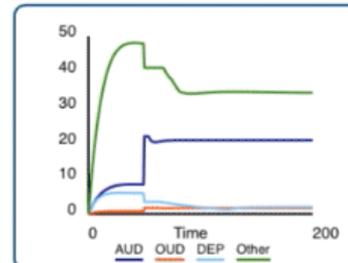
- Alcohol Use Disorder(AUD)
- Opioid Use Disorder(OD)
- Depression(DEP)
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder(Other)



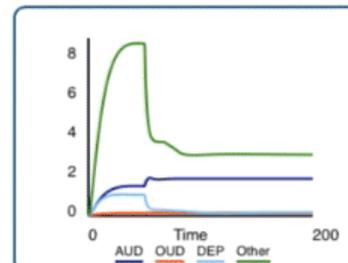
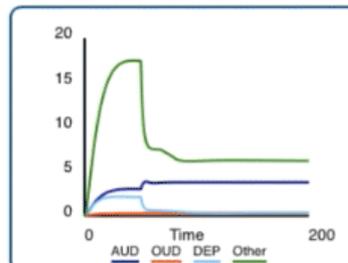
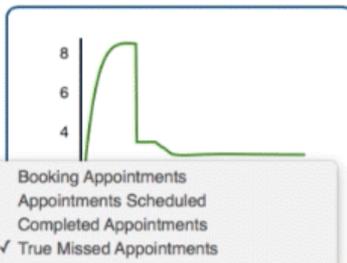
True Missed Appointments



Appointments Scheduled



Completed Appointments



Appointments to Reschedule

Rescheduling Rate

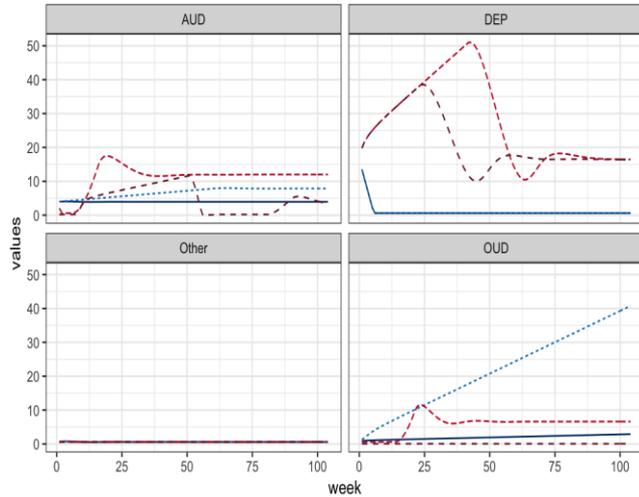
- Booking Appointments
- Appointments Scheduled
- Completed Appointments
- True Missed Appointments
- Appointments to Reschedule
- Rescheduling Rate
- Referral Rate
- Waiting to Start

# MTL tools helps frontline staff find the best local changes faster.



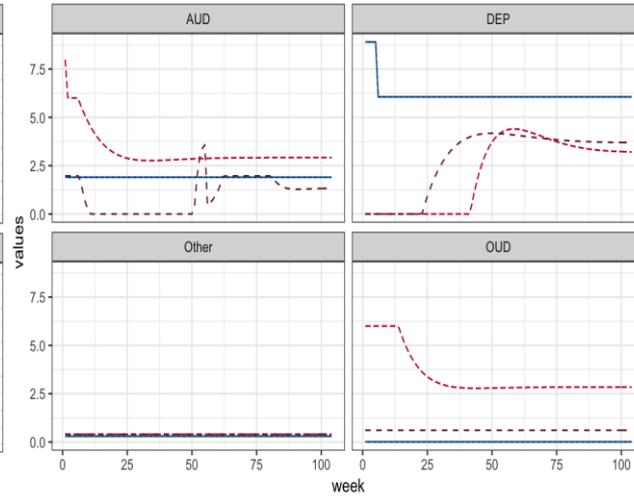
Compare Patient Cohort: Waiting to Start

— Base Case ··· Experiment 1 - - - Experiment 2 - - - Experiment 3



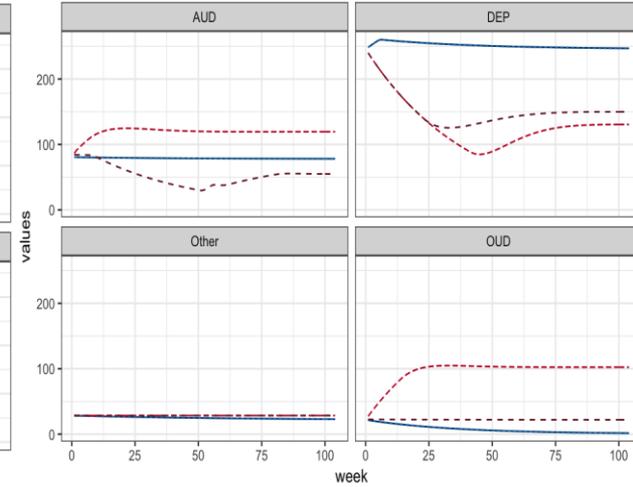
Compare Patient Cohort: Starting Rate

— Base Case ··· Experiment 1 - - - Experiment 2 - - - Experiment 3



Compare Patient Cohort: Patients in MM

— Base Case ··· Experiment 1 - - - Experiment 2 - - - Experiment 3

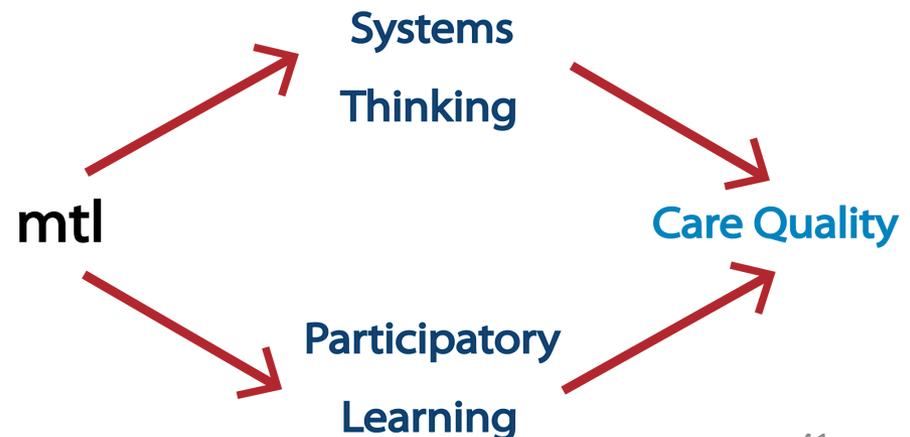


*MTL* shows whether things may get better before worse or worse before better.

# Poll 4: Which is likely most useful for team learning?

Please select all that apply.

- A. Facilitation
- B. Team data
- C. Simulation
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above



# Modeling to Learn

Test. Don't guess.



*Look before you leap.*



*Measure twice cut once.*

Five ways to improve MTL usefulness.

**Email:** [mtl.info@va.gov](mailto:mtl.info@va.gov)

**Subject line:** Learning

1. MTL Live Team/Clinic
2. Pilot Review EES materials (e.g., Video, Guides)

## Design

3. Data User Interface ([mtl.how/data](http://mtl.how/data))
4. Simulation User Interface ([mtl.how/demo](http://mtl.how/demo))

## Research

5. Advisory Board and other opportunities

# Optional Poll 5: I am interested in

Please select all that apply.

- A. Partnering to improve *MTL* Learning
- B. Partnering to improve *MTL* Design
- C. Partnering to improve *MTL* Research
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

**[mtl.info@va.gov](mailto:mtl.info@va.gov)**

# Session 1 References

- **Barlas, Y.** (1996). Formal aspects of model validity and validation in system dynamics. *System Dynamics Review*, 12(3), 183–210.
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# Resources and Help



Session guides, links, and cheatsheets.

Self-registration for simulation demo. *Course code: cybersem*



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