

# The Effects of Social Media and Apps in the Treatment of Mental Health Disorders

John Torous MD MBI

# Conflicts of Interest

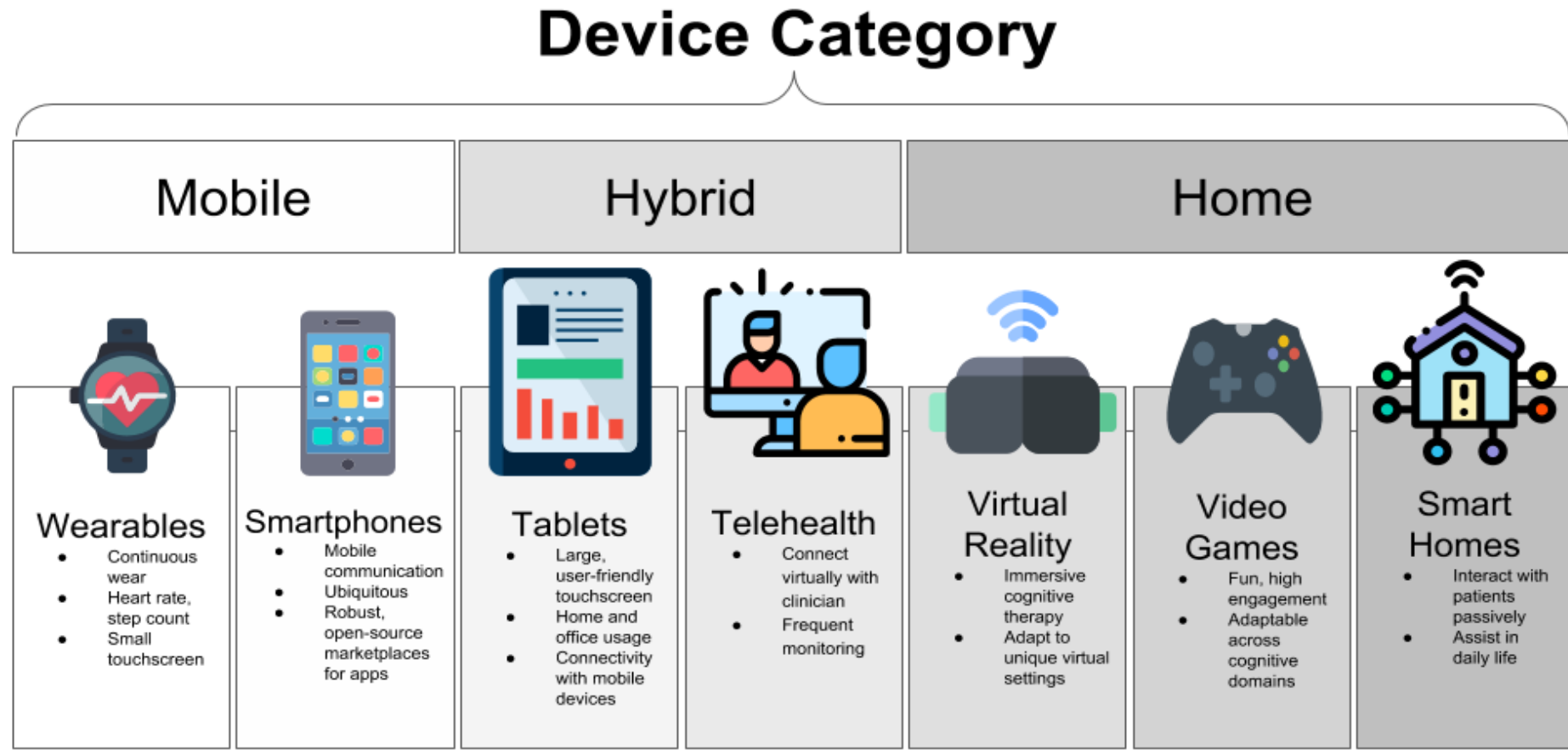
- Investigator Initiated Study on Abilify MyCite Supported by Otsuka

# Outline

- State of Smartphones and Mental Health
- Digital Phenotyping and Social Media
- App Evaluation
- Informed Consent in the Digital Age



# Finding Focus in Digital Mental Health

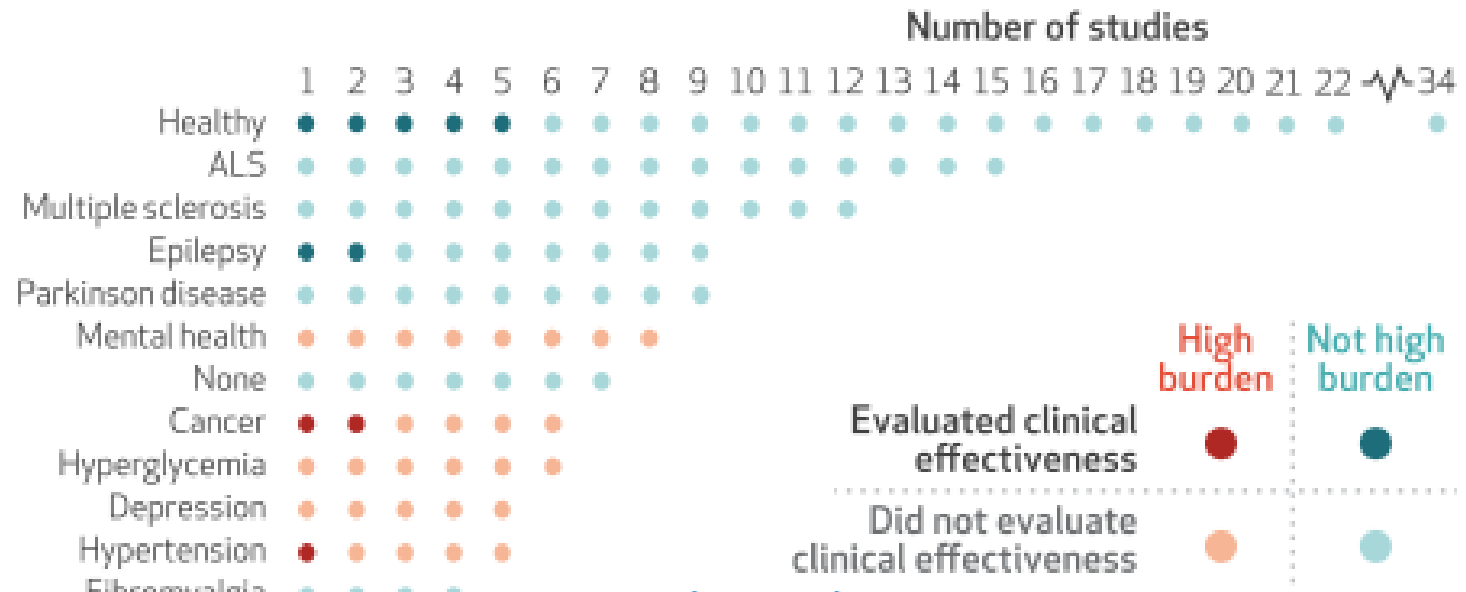


# State of Smartphones and Mental Health

- Number of Mental Health Apps: **10,000**
- Number of FDA Approved Mental Health Apps: **1**

Studies by the twenty top-funded privately held US-based digital health companies, by burden level and clinical effectiveness and by population, condition, or risk factor

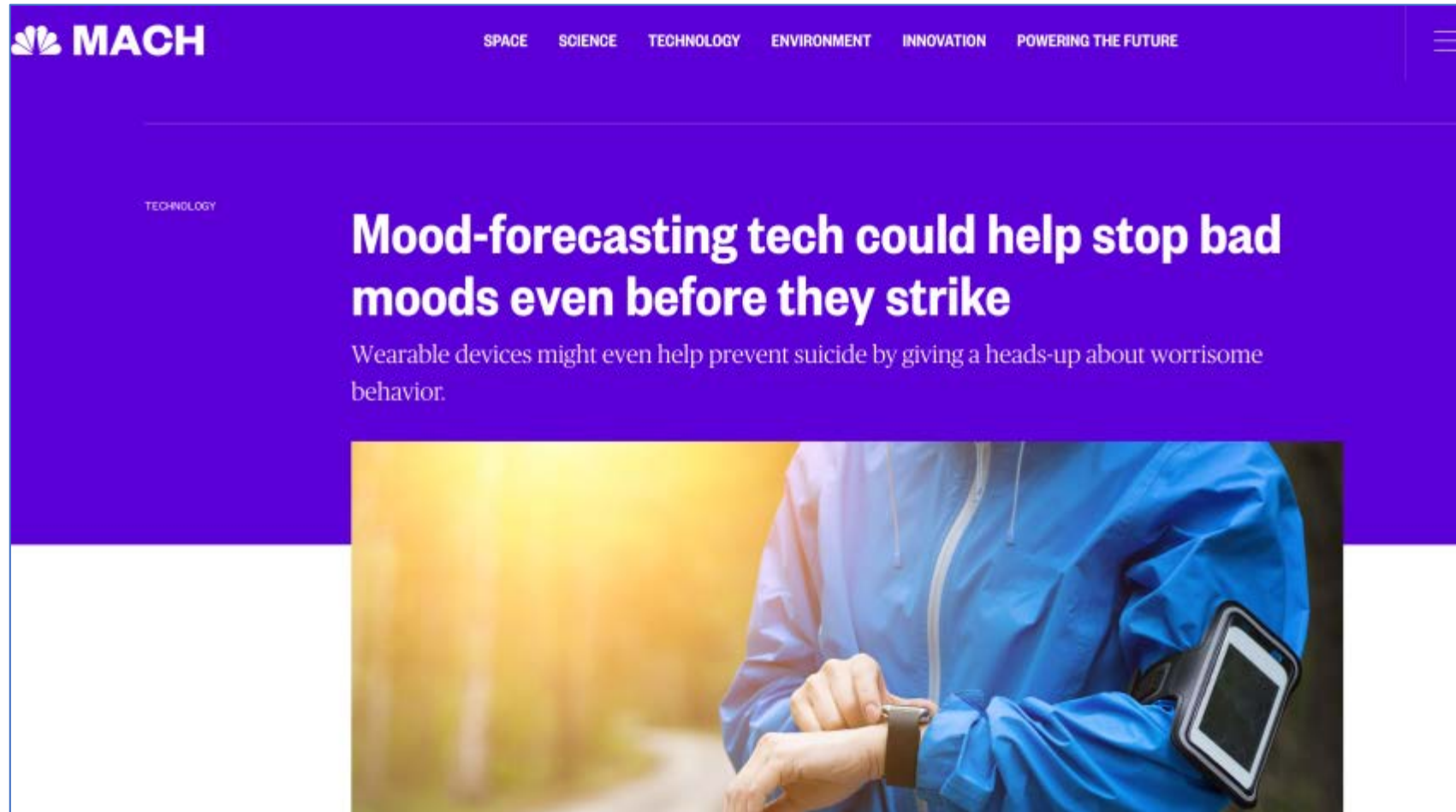
- Industry Studies ->



Torous J, Roberts LW. Needed innovation in digital health and smartphone applications for mental health: transparency and trust. JAMA psychiatry. 2017 May 1;74(5):437-8.

Safavi K, Mathews SC, Bates DW, Dorsey ER, Cohen AB. Top-Funded Digital Health Companies And Their Impact On High-Burden, High-Cost Conditions. Health Affairs. 2019 Jan 1;38(1):115-23.

# State of Smartphones and Mental Health



Feb 19th, 2019

Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

# State of Smartphones and Mental Health

## NHS to launch first internet addiction clinic

**Exclusive: centre in London will focus on gaming disorders, with plans to expand**



June 22, 2018

## Instagram Bans Suicidal or Self-Harm Related Content After Outrage Following Death of 14-year-old UK Girl

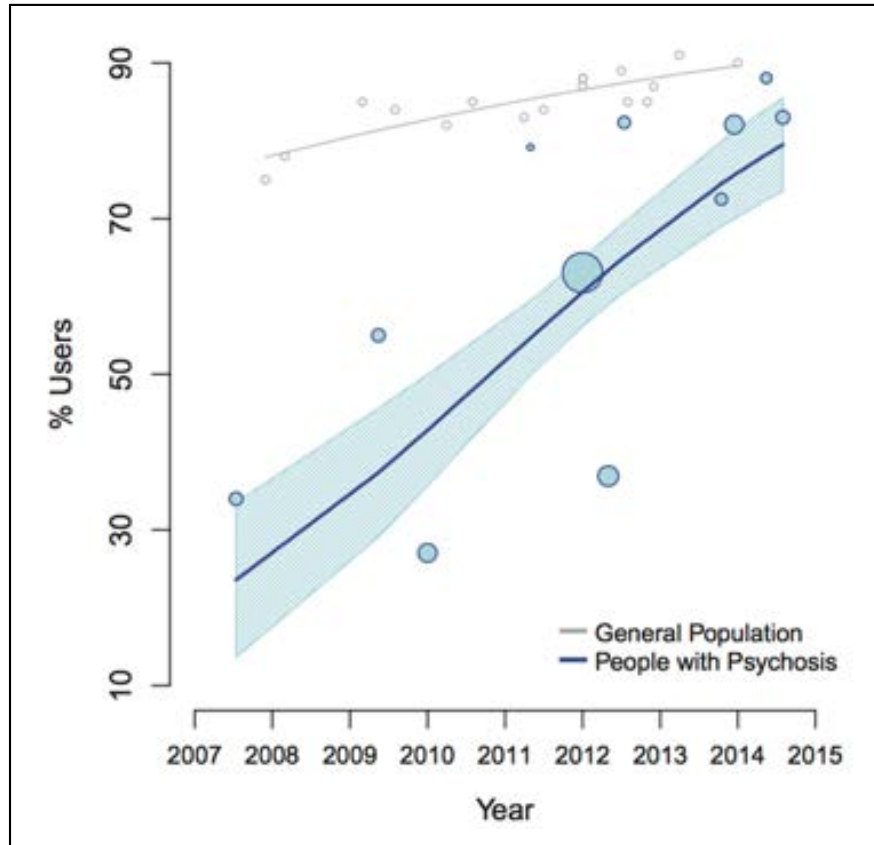
Molly Russel's death, which sparked an international outrage against Instagram, was linked to the graphic content that she was posting and apparently consuming on the platform.

News18.com | Updated: February 20, 2019, 1:35 PM IST



Feb 20, 2019

# State of Smartphones and Mental Health



Mobile Phone Ownership and Endorsement of “mHealth” Among People With Psychosis: A Meta-analysis of Cross-sectional Studies. J Firth, J Cotter, J Torous, S Bucci, JA Firth, AR Yung. Schizophrenia Bulletin. 2016


mobihealthnews GLOBAL EDITION TOPICS Search

## Study: Majority of mental health patients would consider giving clinicians access to phone behaviors, locations

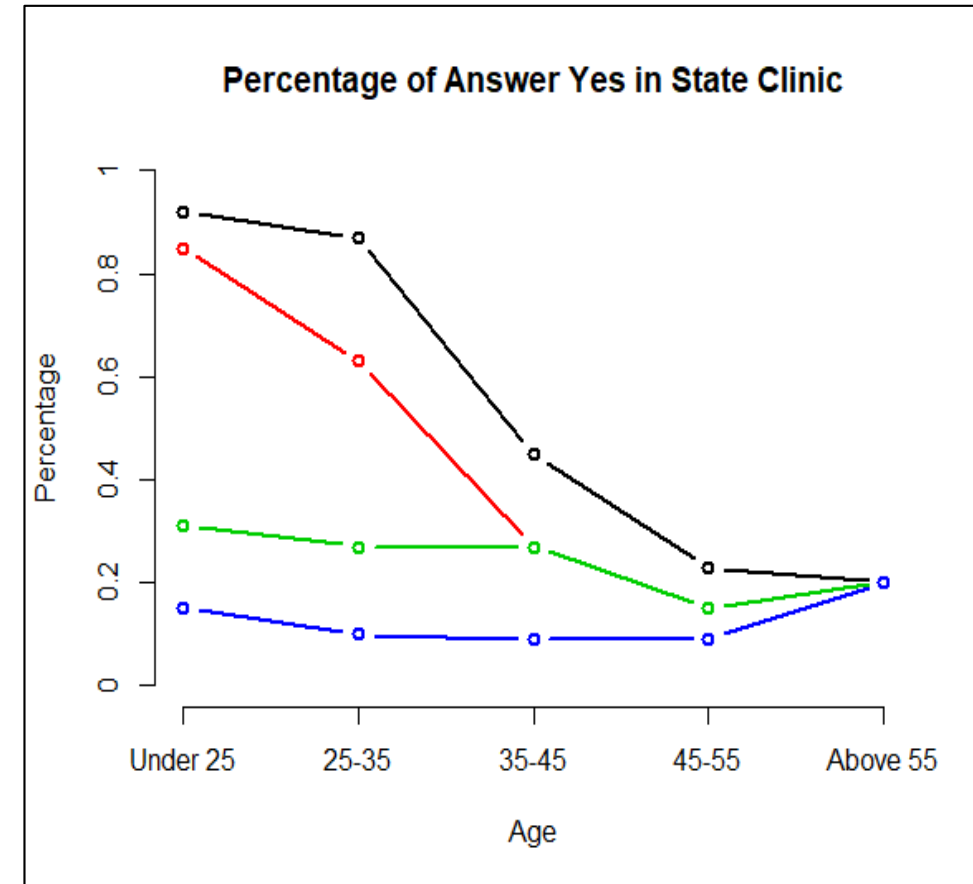
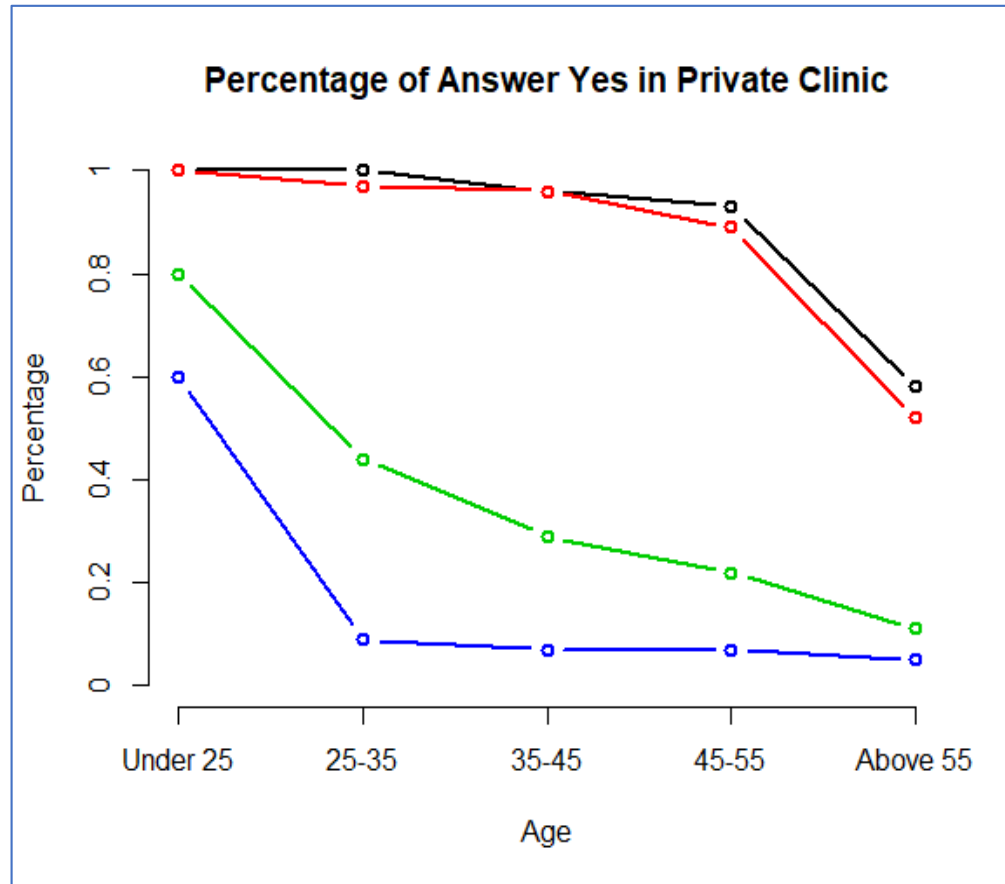
A small study published in JMIR Mental Health found that 84 percent of surveyed patients living mental illness were willing to use apps that would collect and share biomarkers.

By [Laura Lovett](#) | September 04, 2018

SHARE 243



# State of Smartphones and Mental Health

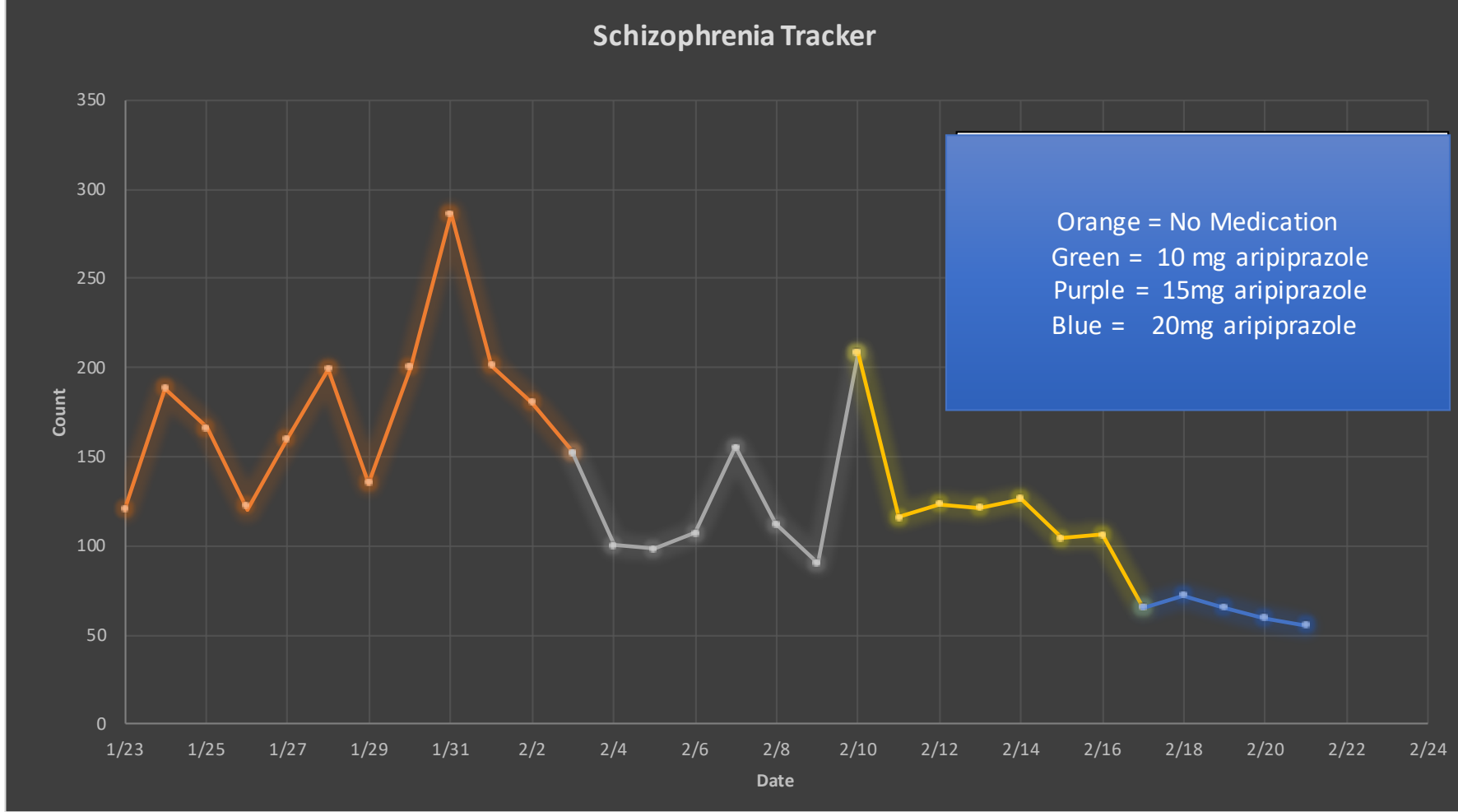


Torous J, Wisniewski H, Liu G, Keshavan M. Mental Health Mobile Phone App Usage, Concerns, and Benefits Among Psychiatric Outpatients: Comparative Survey Study. JMIR Mental Health. 2018;5(4):e11715

# State of Smartphones and Mental Health

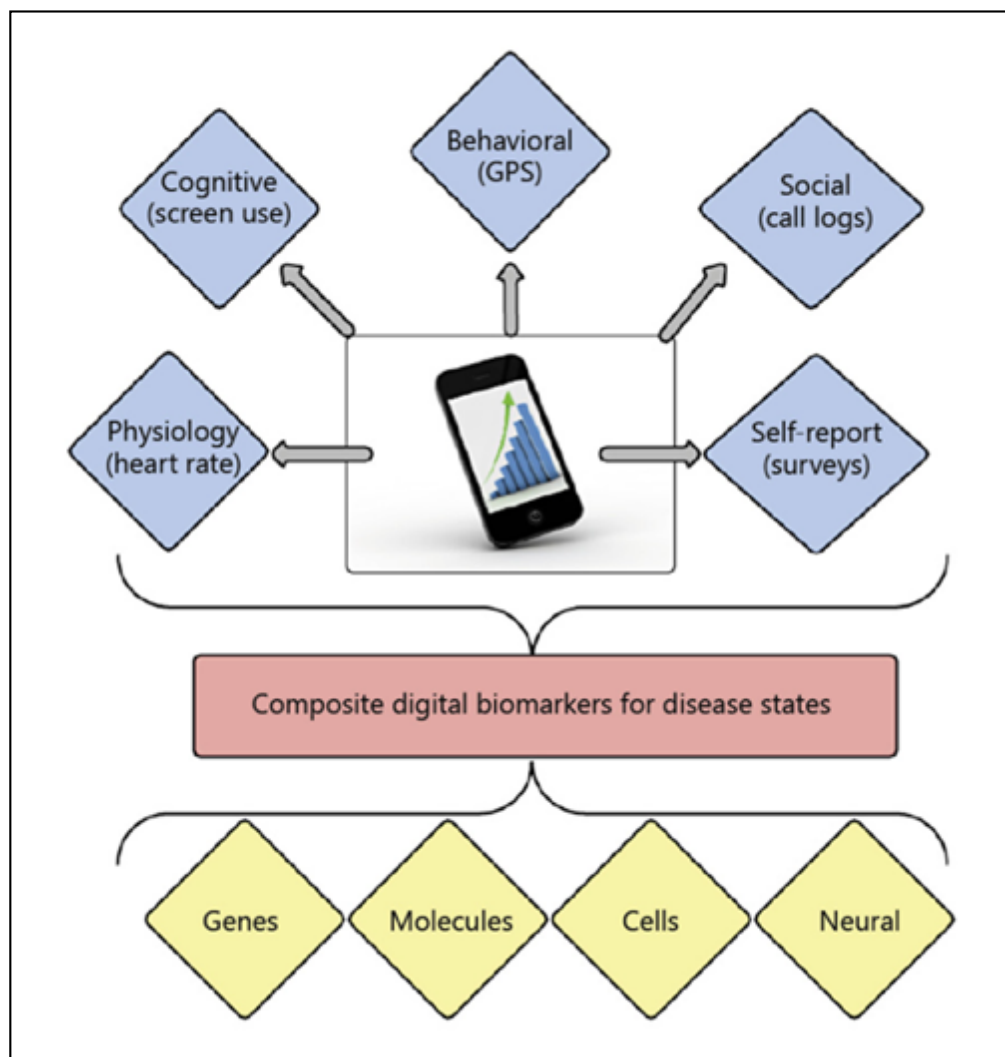


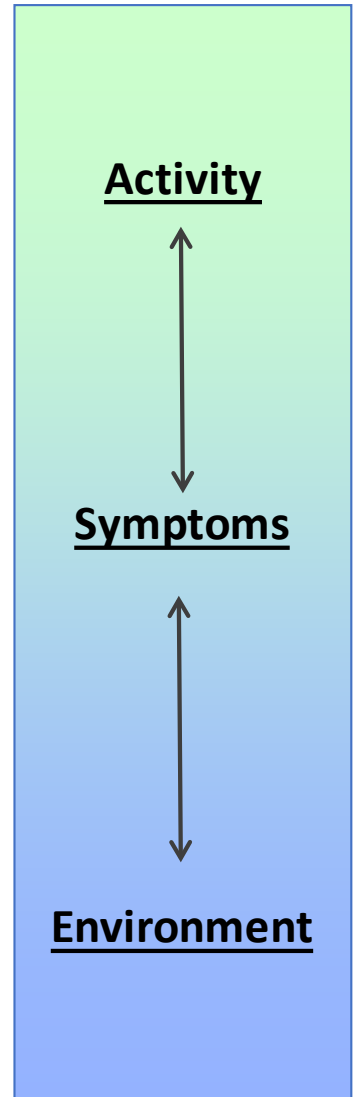
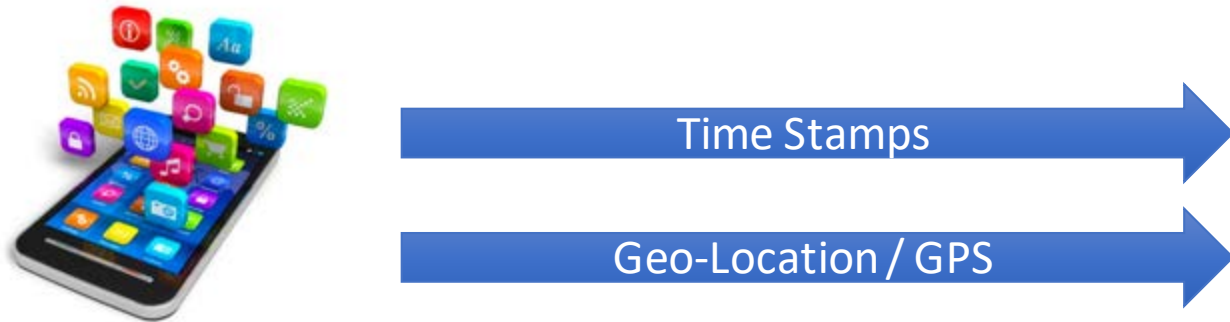
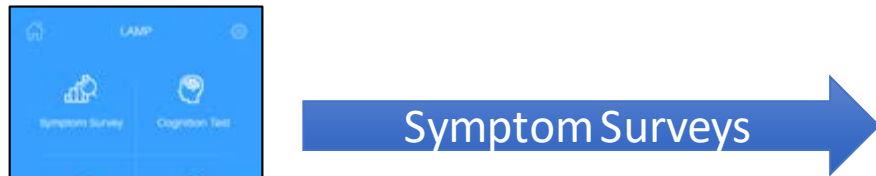
# State of Smartphones and Mental Health



Torous J, Roux S. Patient-driven innovation for mobile mental health technology: Case report of symptom tracking in schizophrenia. JMIR mental health. 2017 Jul;4(3).

# State of Smartphones and Mental Health





# Smartphones -> New Longitudinal Symptom Data

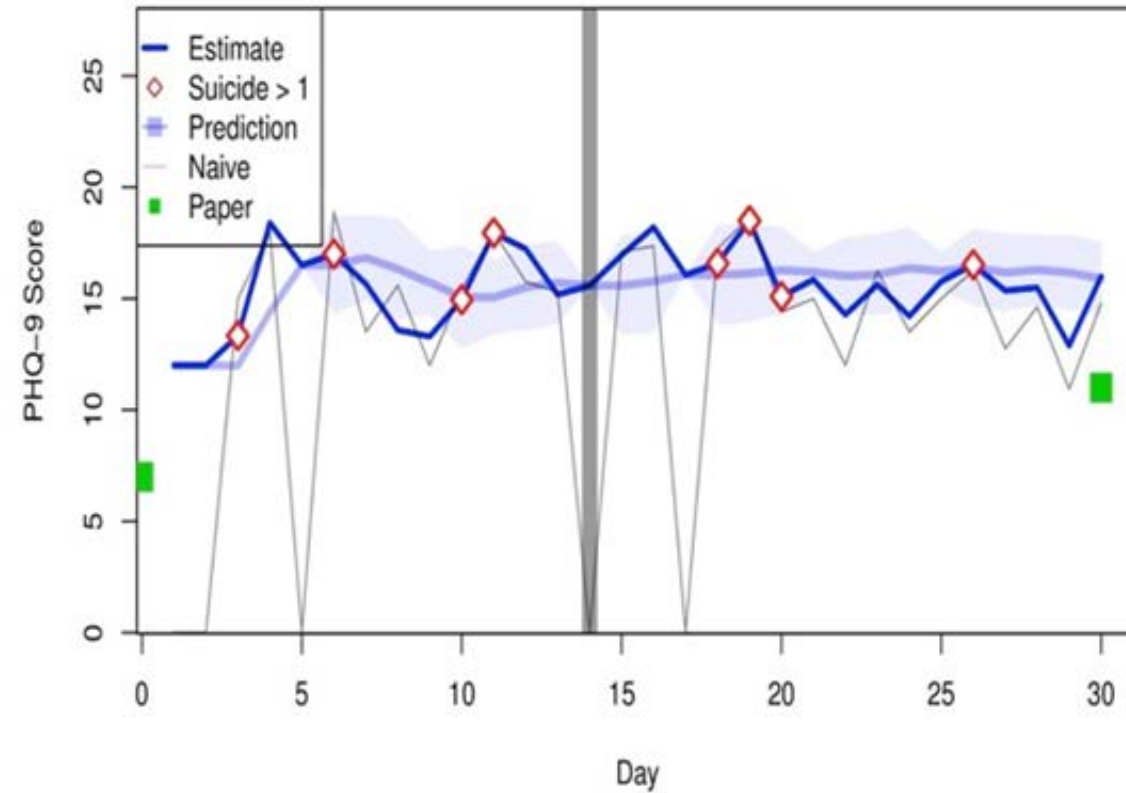
●●●● T-Mobile LTE 9:45 PM

Back Please rate the following statements. Submit

I have been sleeping well

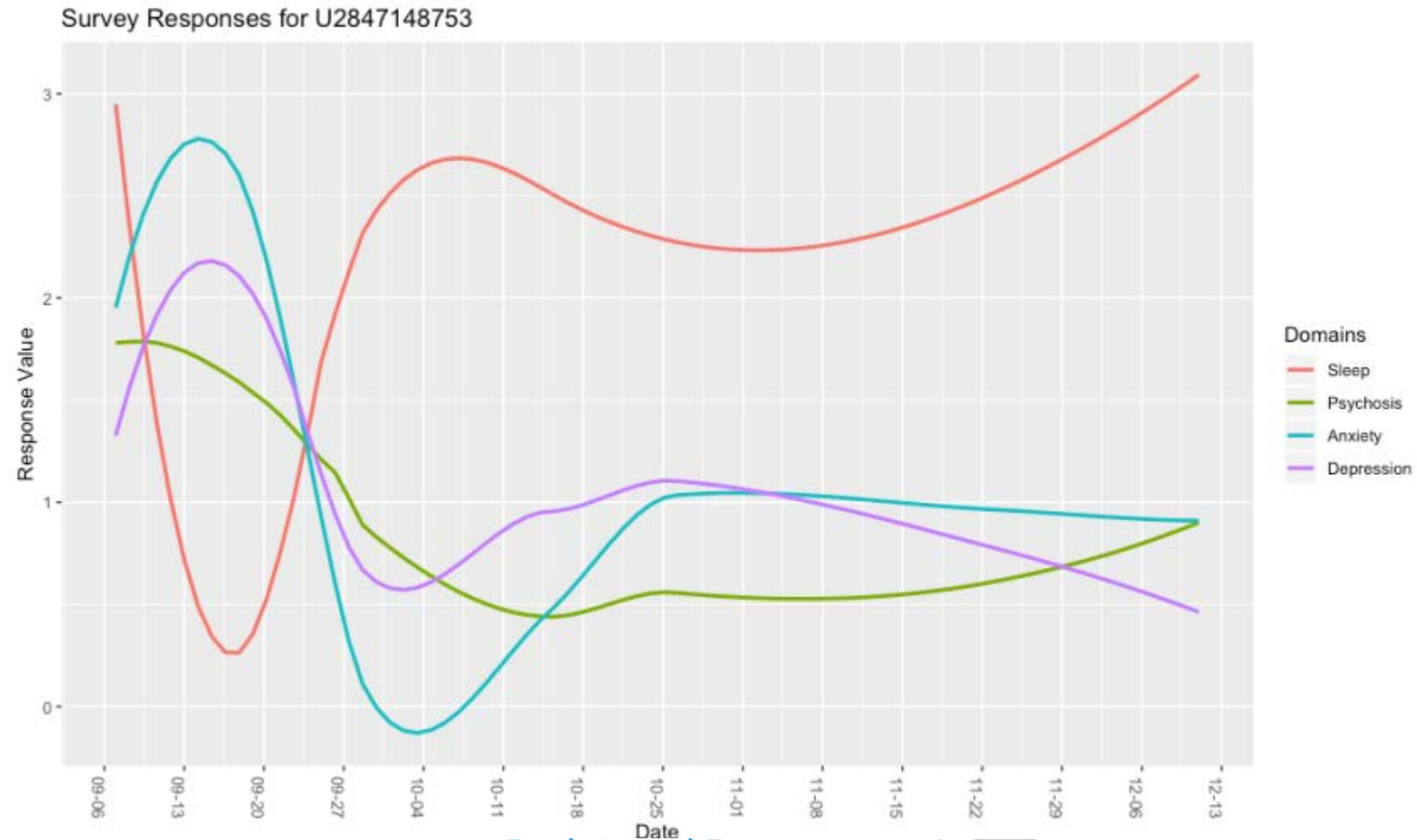
I would be better off dead or hurting myself

I have trouble concentrating



Torous J, Staples P, Shanahan M, Lin C, Peck P, Keshavan M, Onnela JP. Utilizing a Personal Smartphone Custom App to Assess the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) Depressive Symptoms in Patients With Major Depressive Disorder. JMIR Ment Health 2015;2(1):e8

# Smartphones -> New Longitudinal Symptom Data



# Smartphones -> New Longitudinal Symptom Data

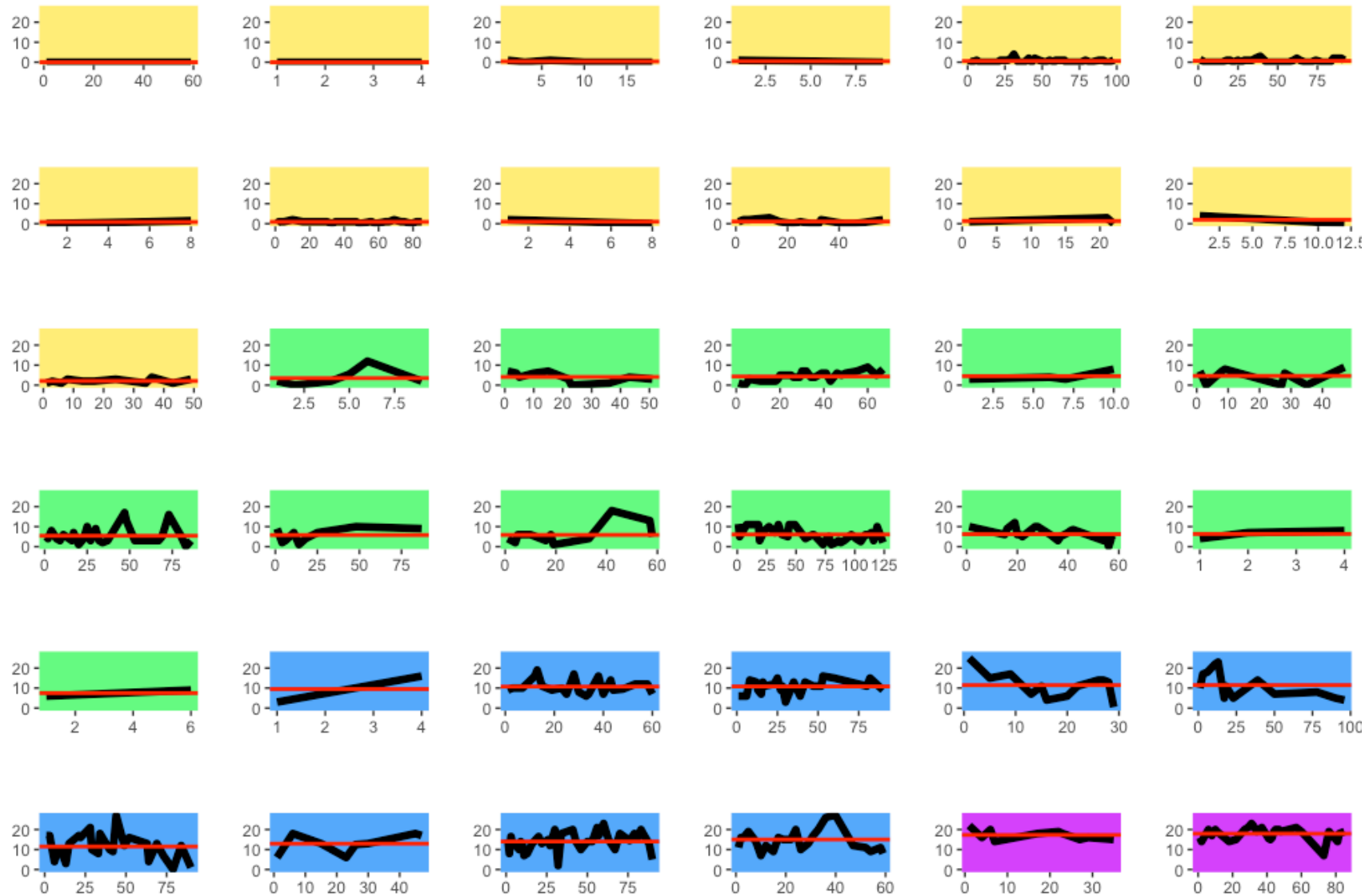
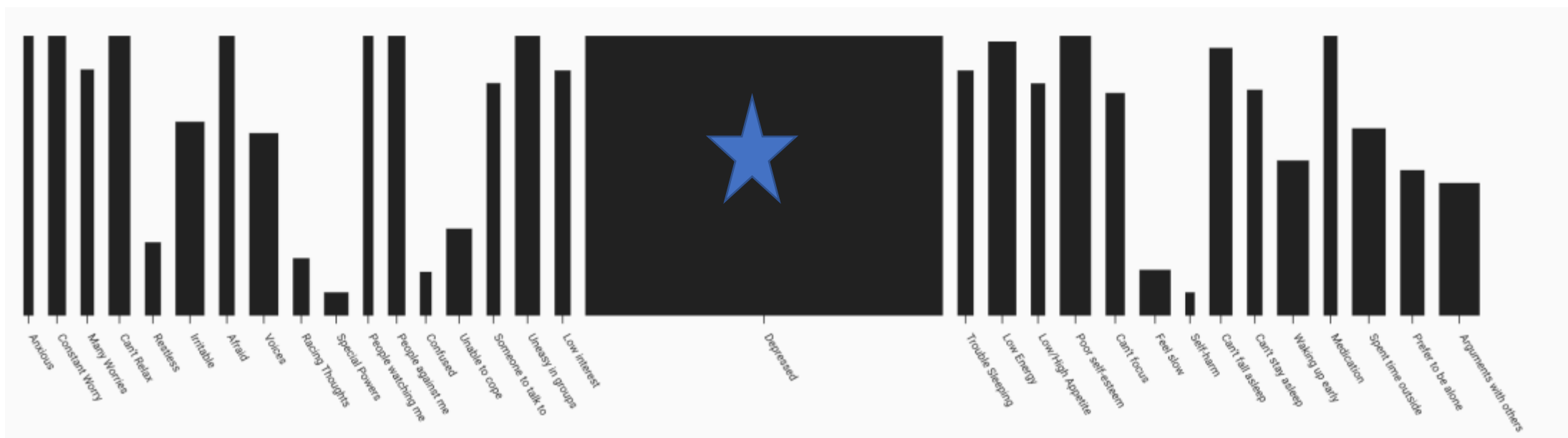
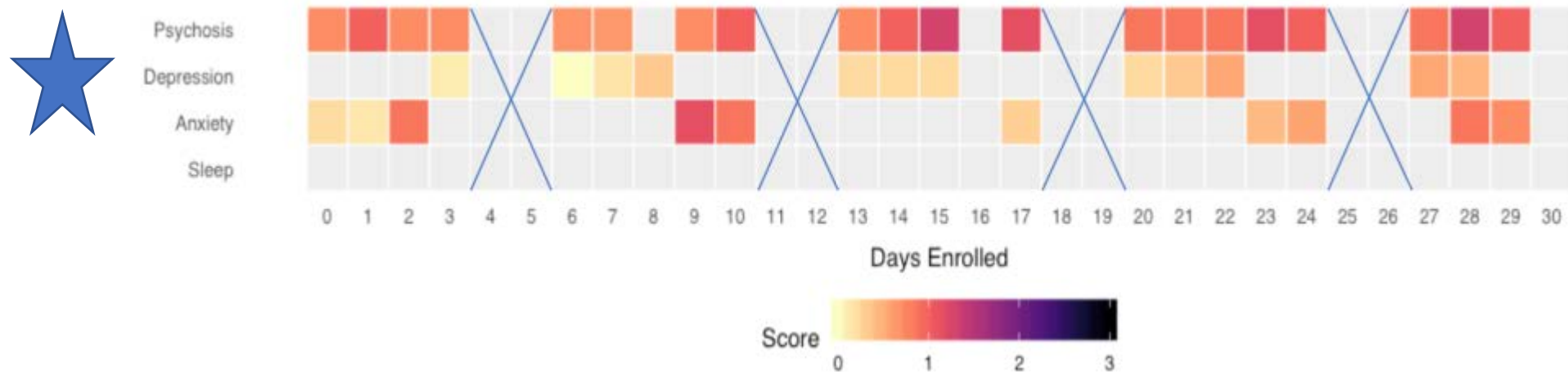
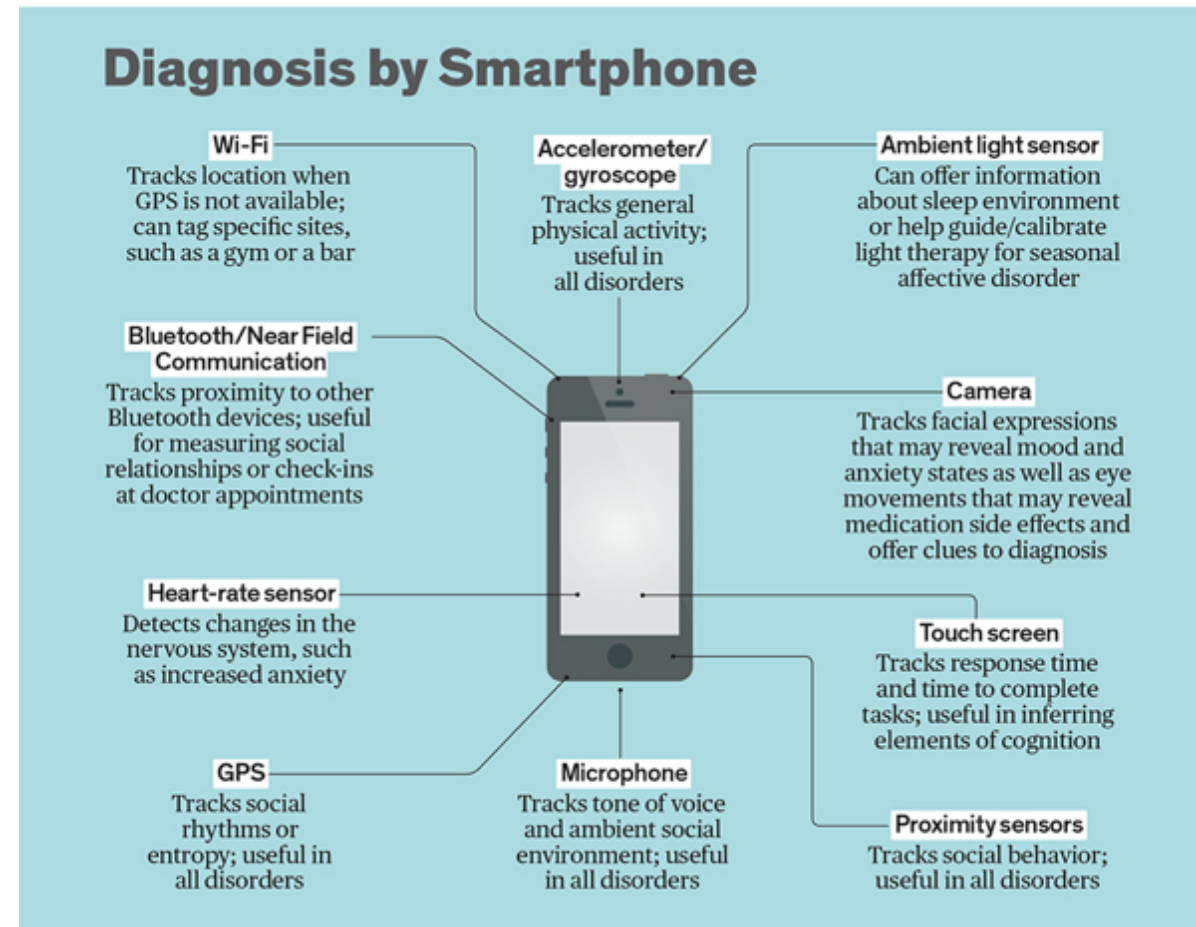


Figure by Philip Henson, BIDMC Digital Psychiatry

# Smartphones -> New Longitudinal Symptom Data

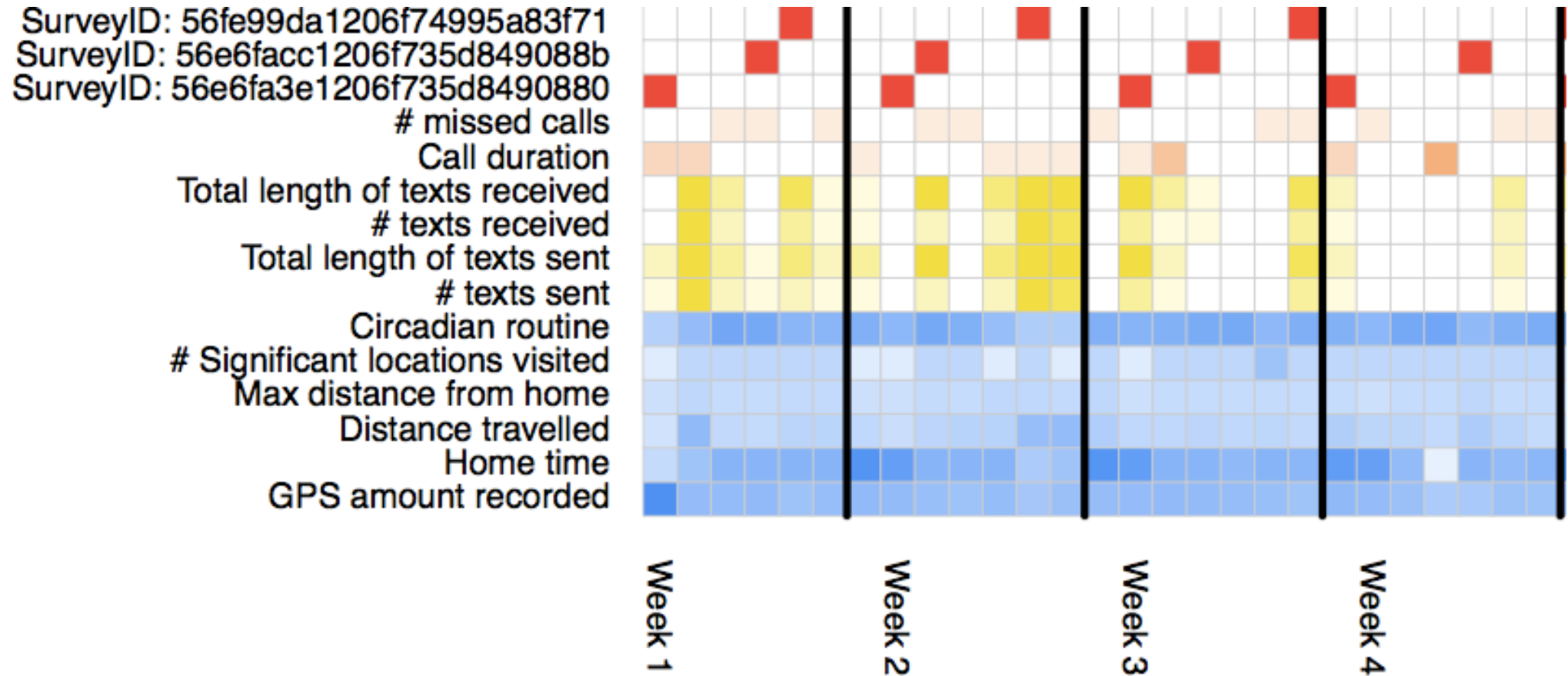


# Smartphones -> New Functional Data

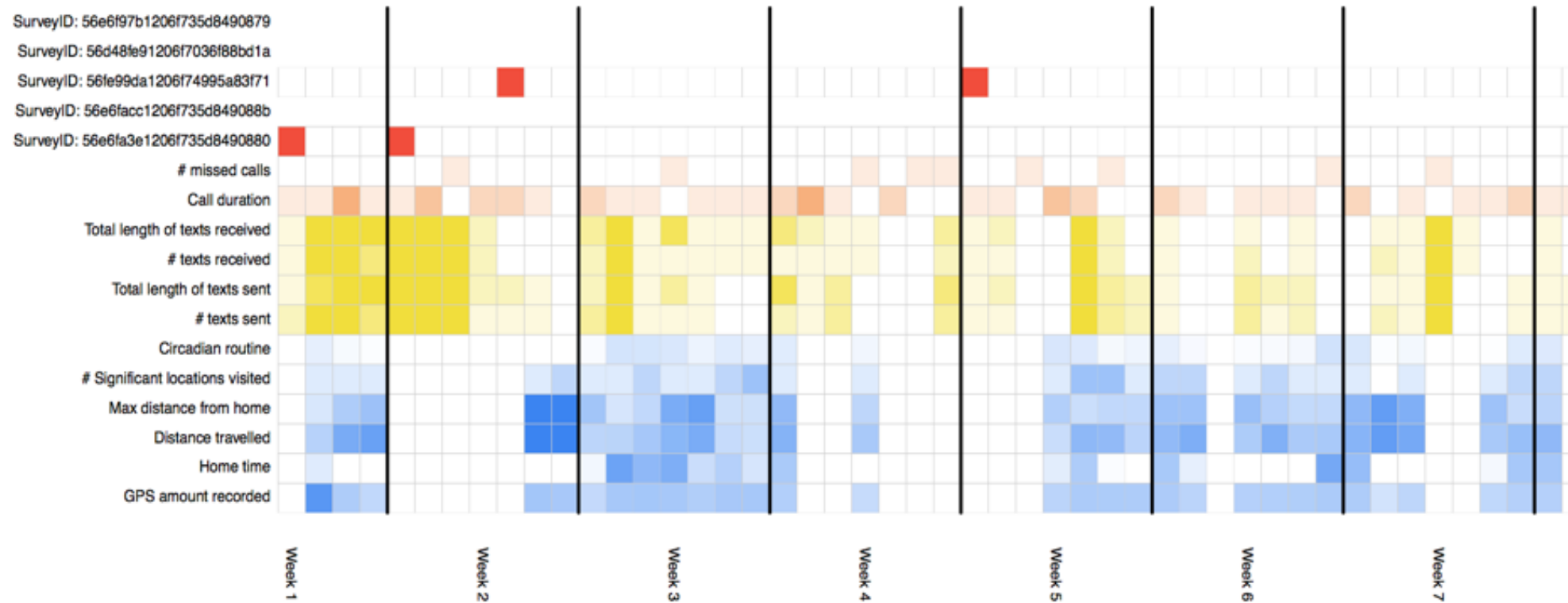


A Software Shrink: Apps and Wearables Could Usher In an Era of Digital Psychiatry. IEEE Spectrum. 2017.

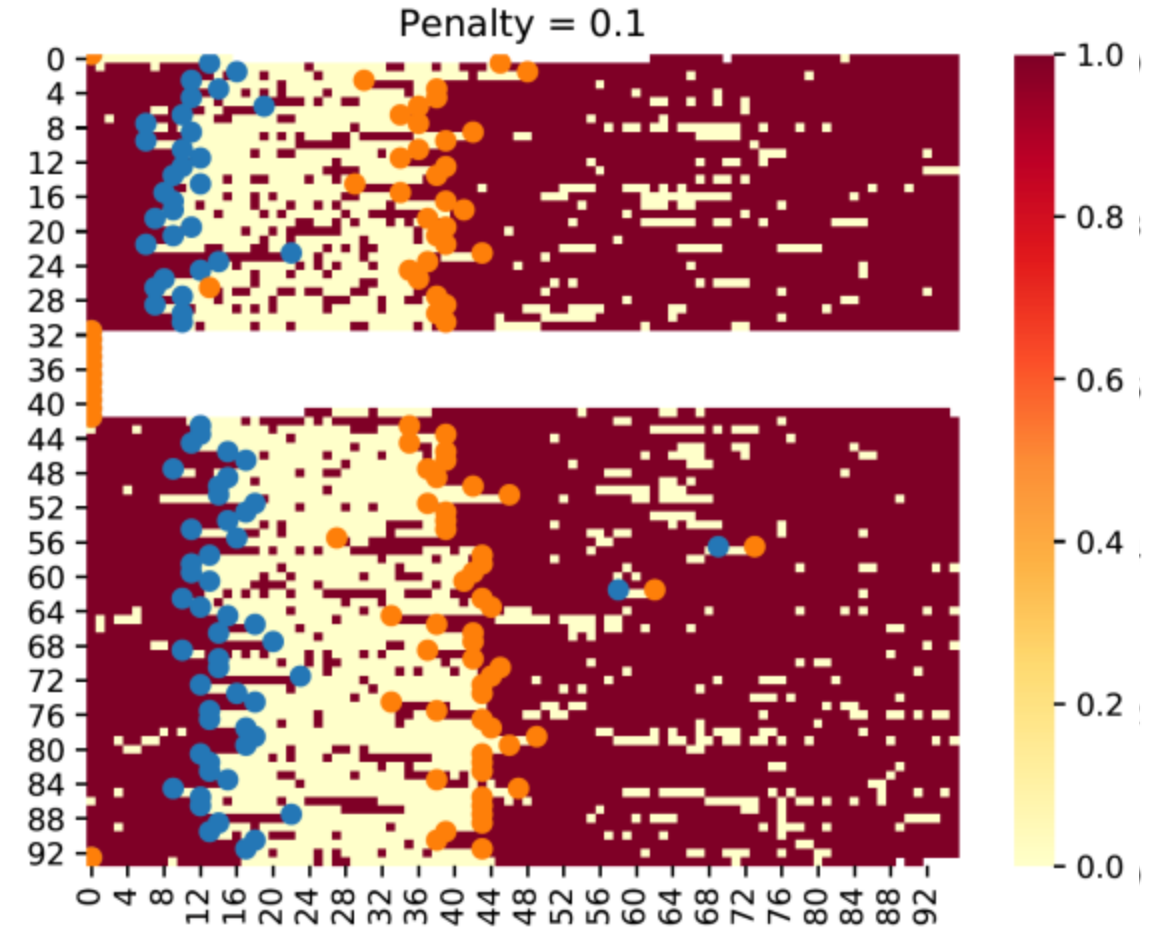
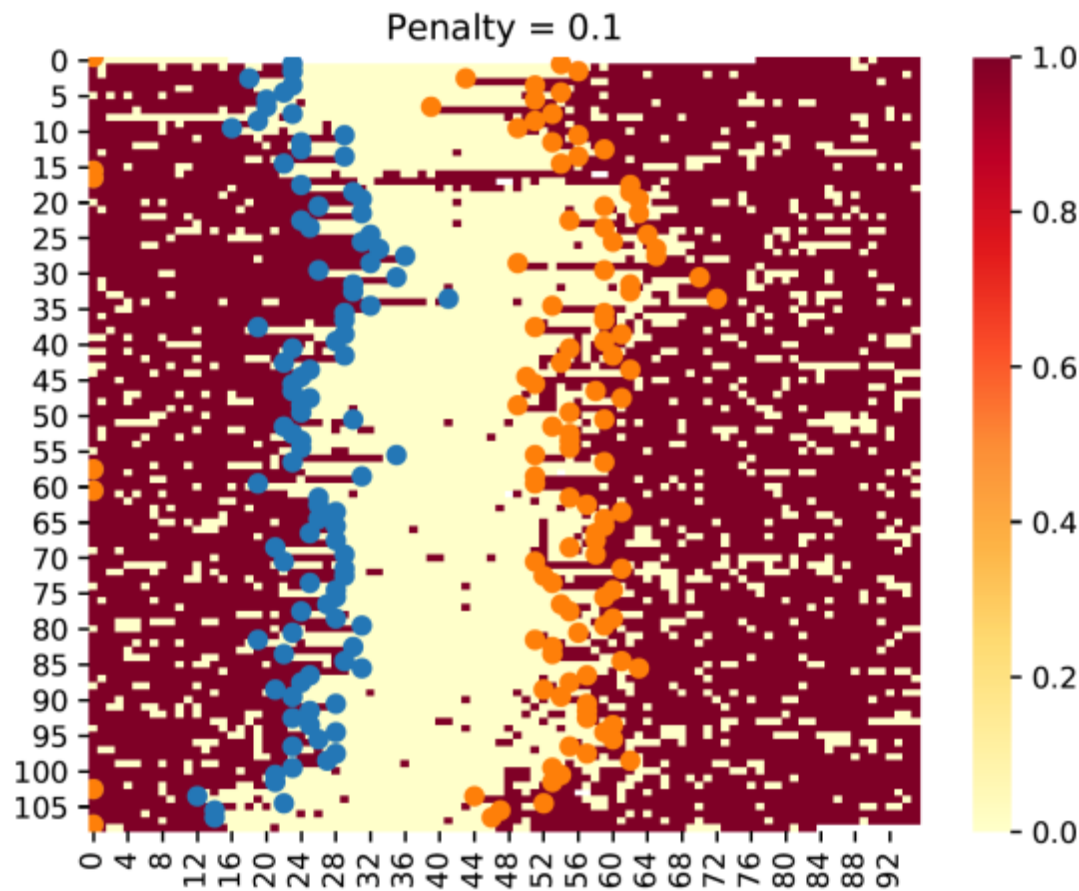
# Active and Passive (n= 1 example)



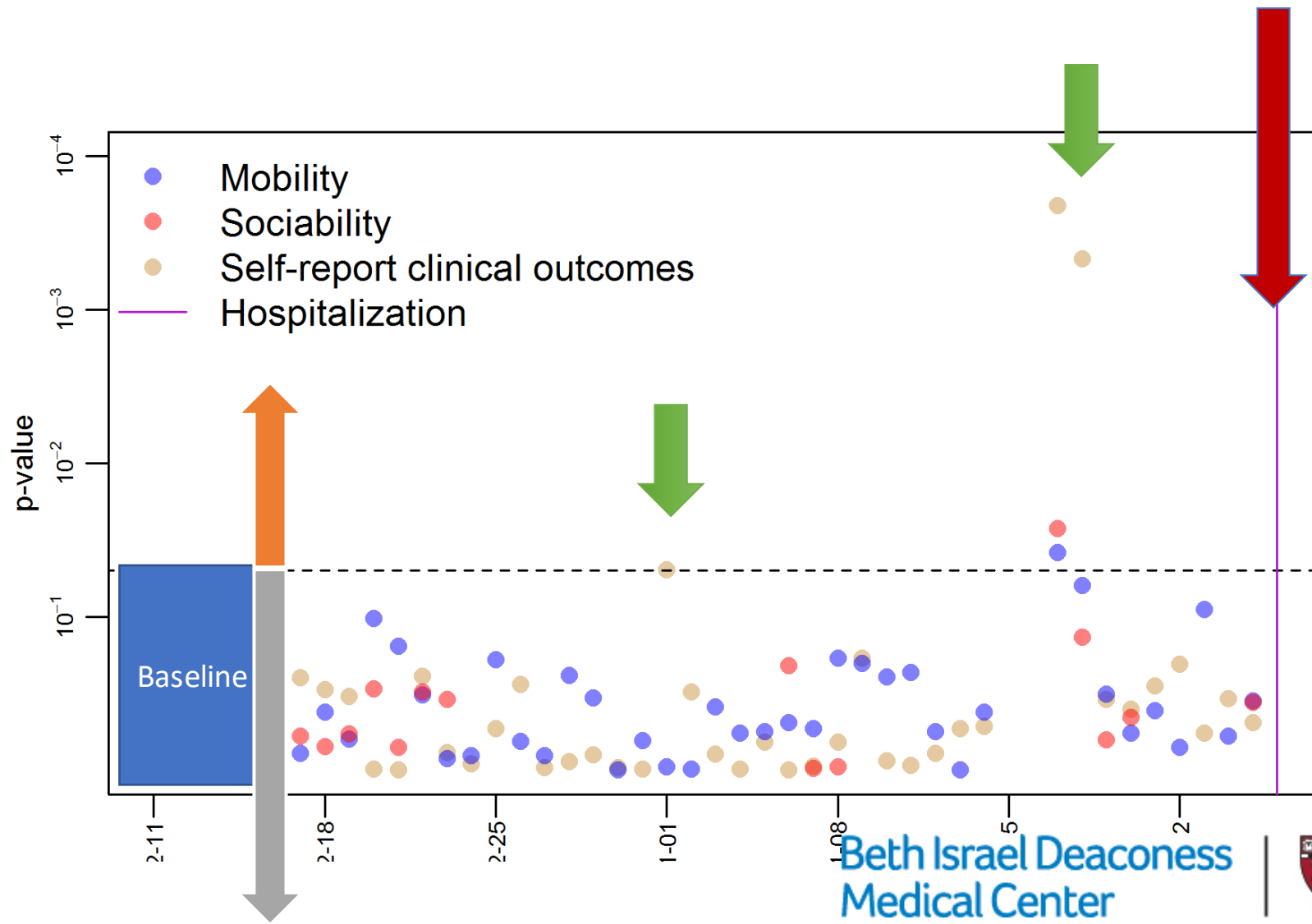
# Active and Passive (n= 1 example)



# Towards Sleep from Sensors

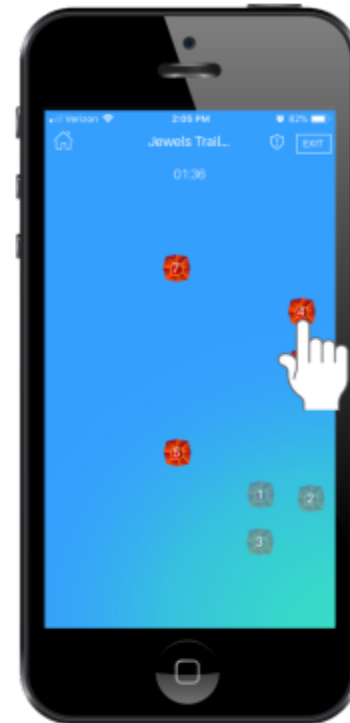
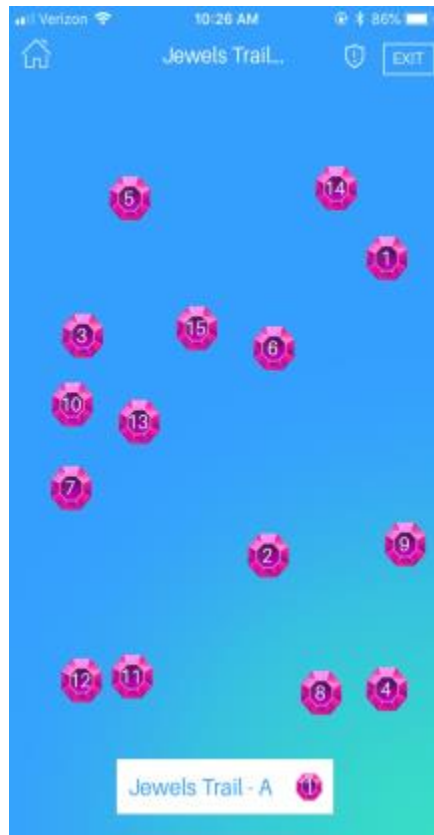


# Smartphones -> New Functional Data



Barnett I, Torous J, Staples P, Sandoval L, Keshavan M, Onnela JP. Relapse prediction in schizophrenia through digital phenotyping: a pilot study. Neuropsychopharmacology. 2018 Feb 22:1.

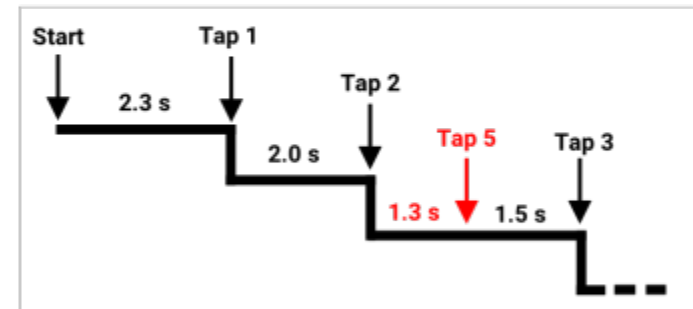
# Smartphones -> New 'Cognitive' Data



**Part 1:** User taps jewels during cognitive test

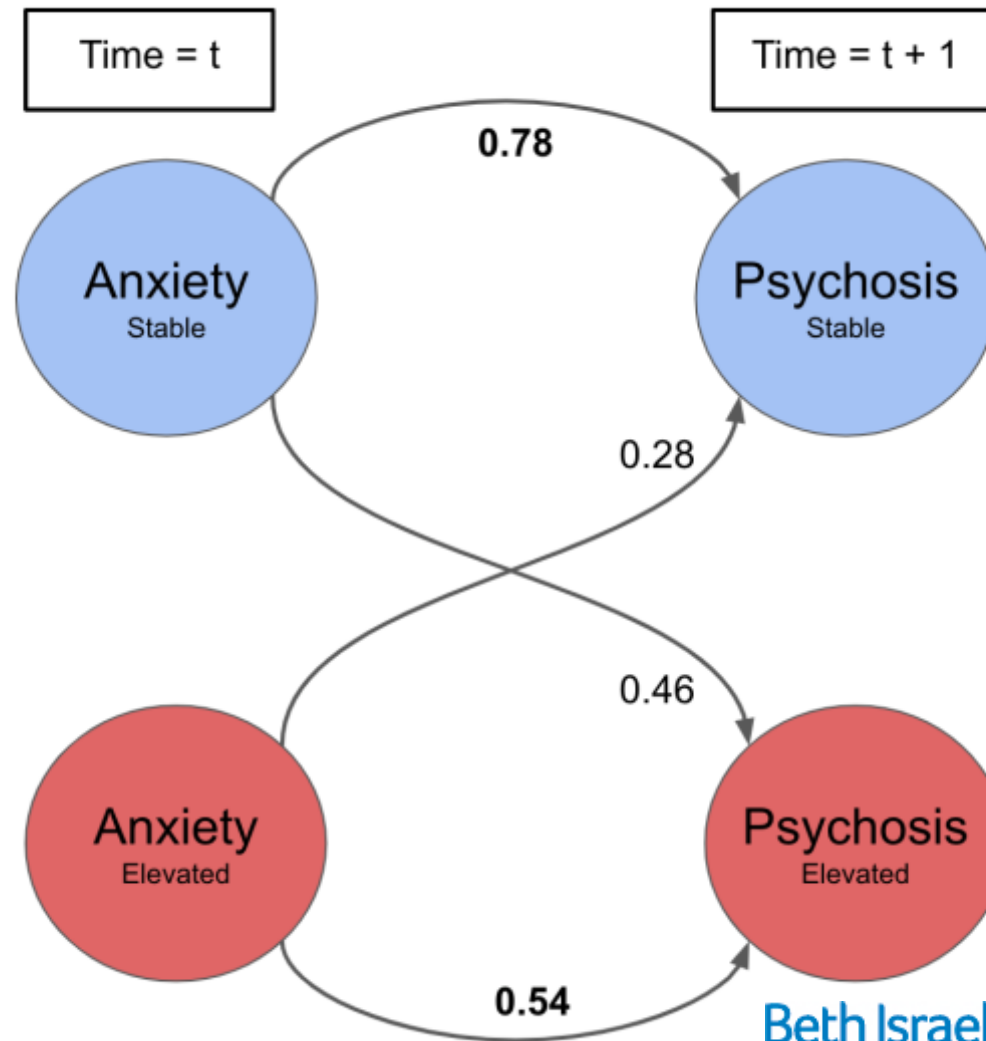
Start	0.0 s
✓ 1	2.3 s
✓ 2	2.0 s
X 5	1.3 s
✓ 3	1.5 s
✓ 4	...

**Part 2:** Record time taken between taps and errors

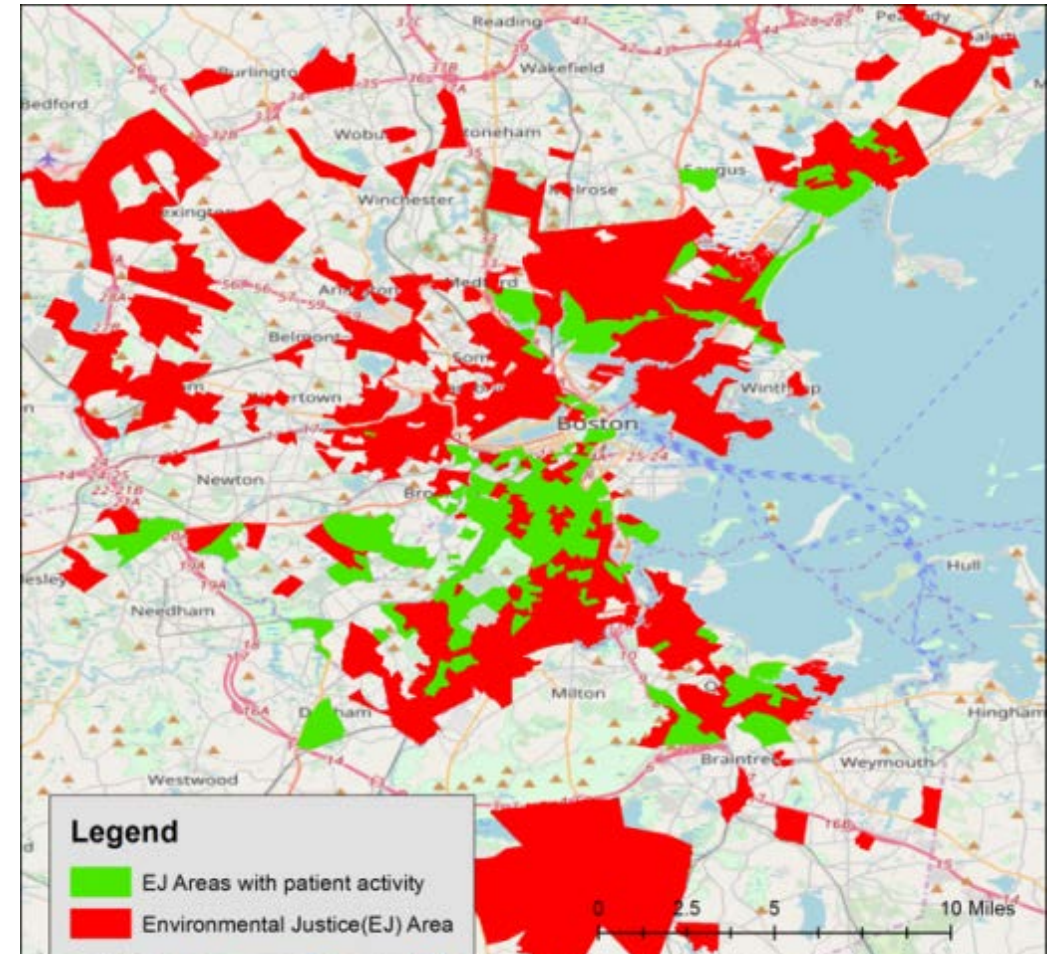
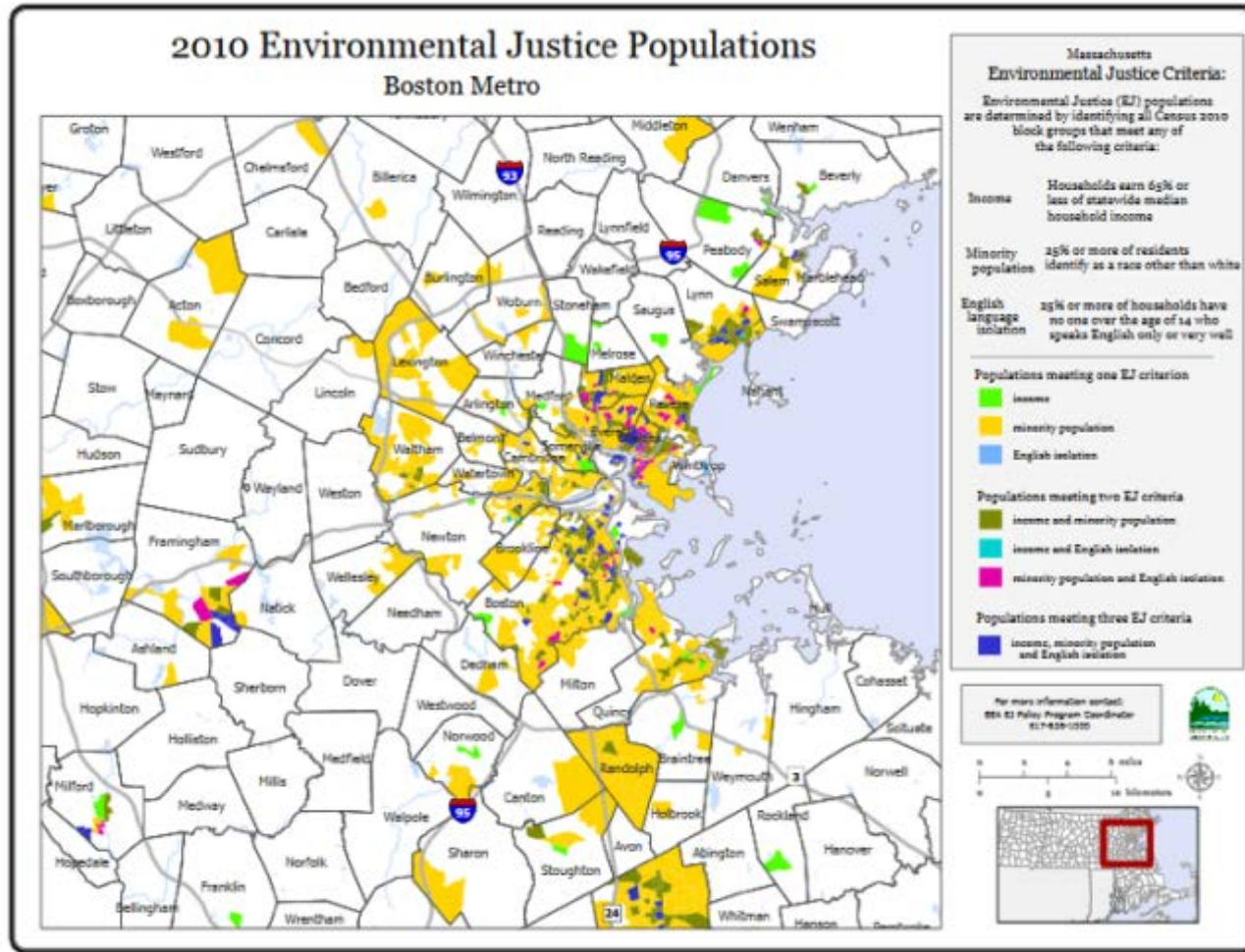


**Part 3:** A tap profile emerges for each person and can be used to generate values for cognition

# Prediction of Future Clinical State

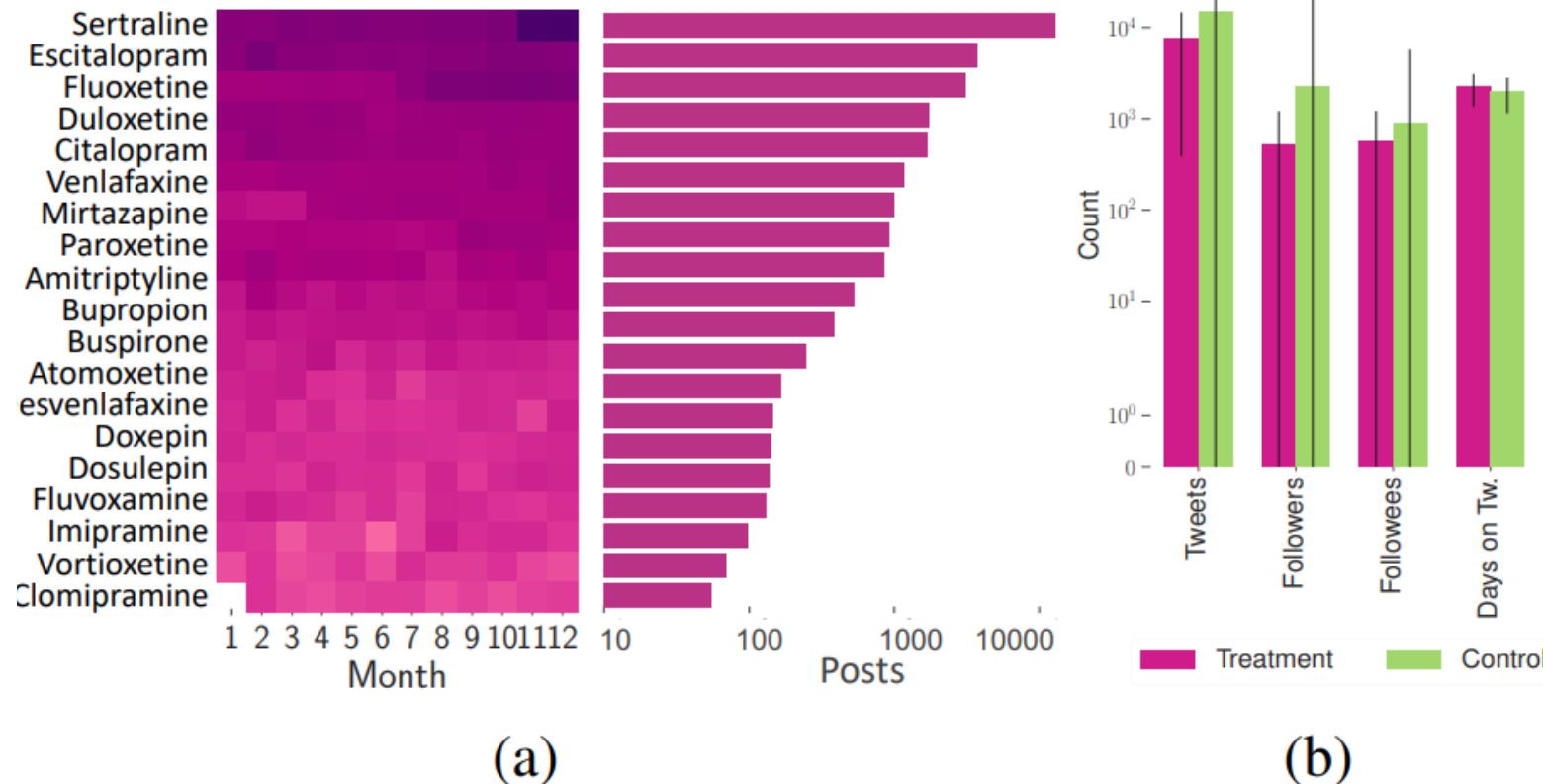


# Towards Population Level Mental Health



# Social Media Data and Medications

- The above 93,275 medication usage posts were posted by 52,567 unique users from whom we then collect Twitter.



# Social Media Data and Medications

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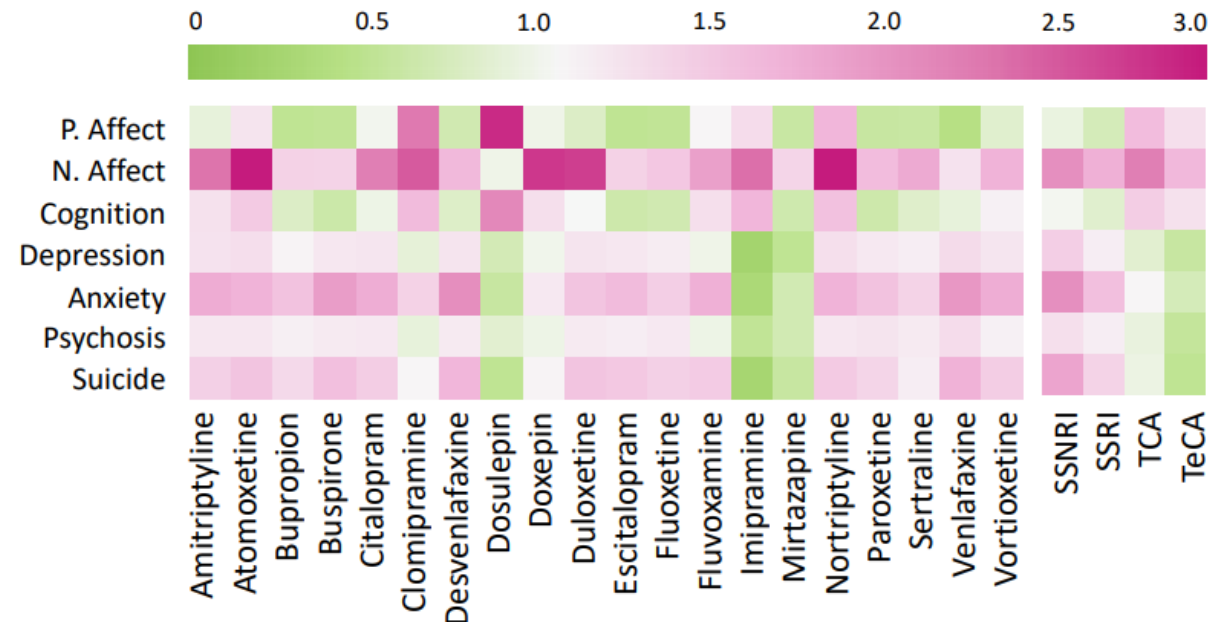
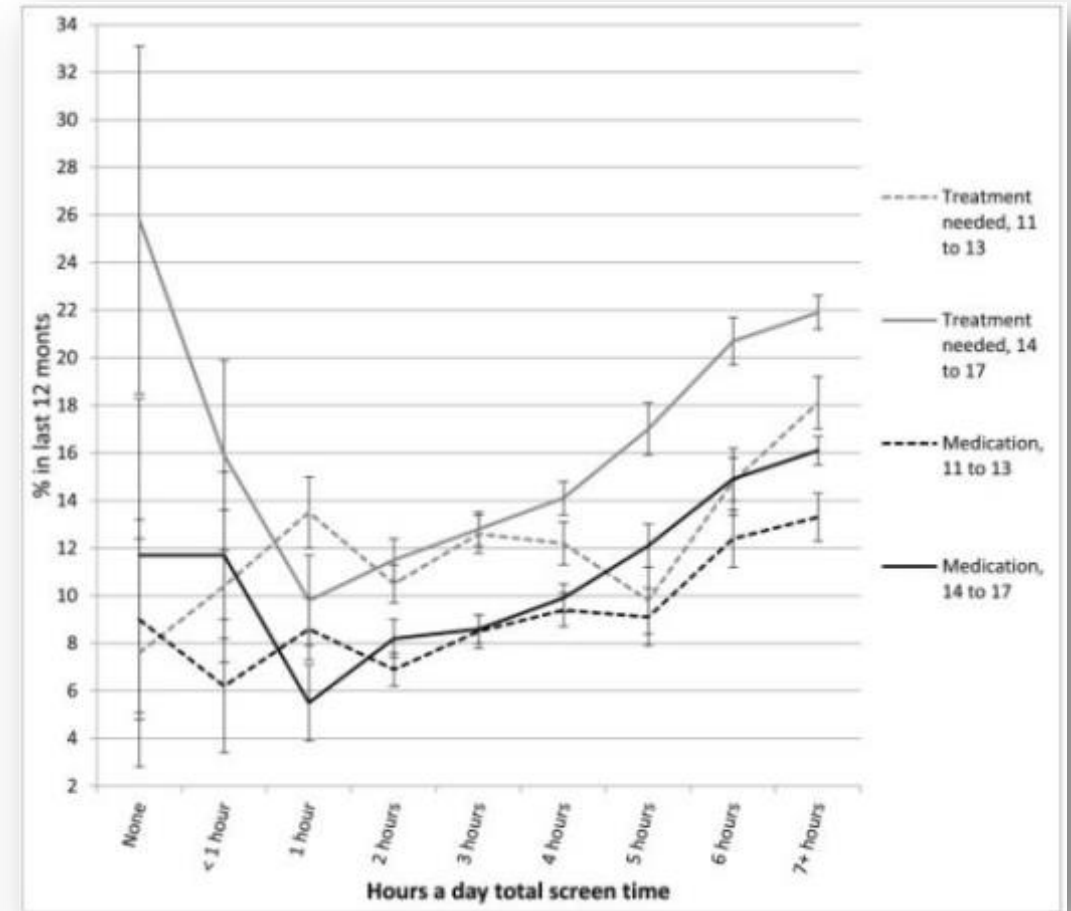
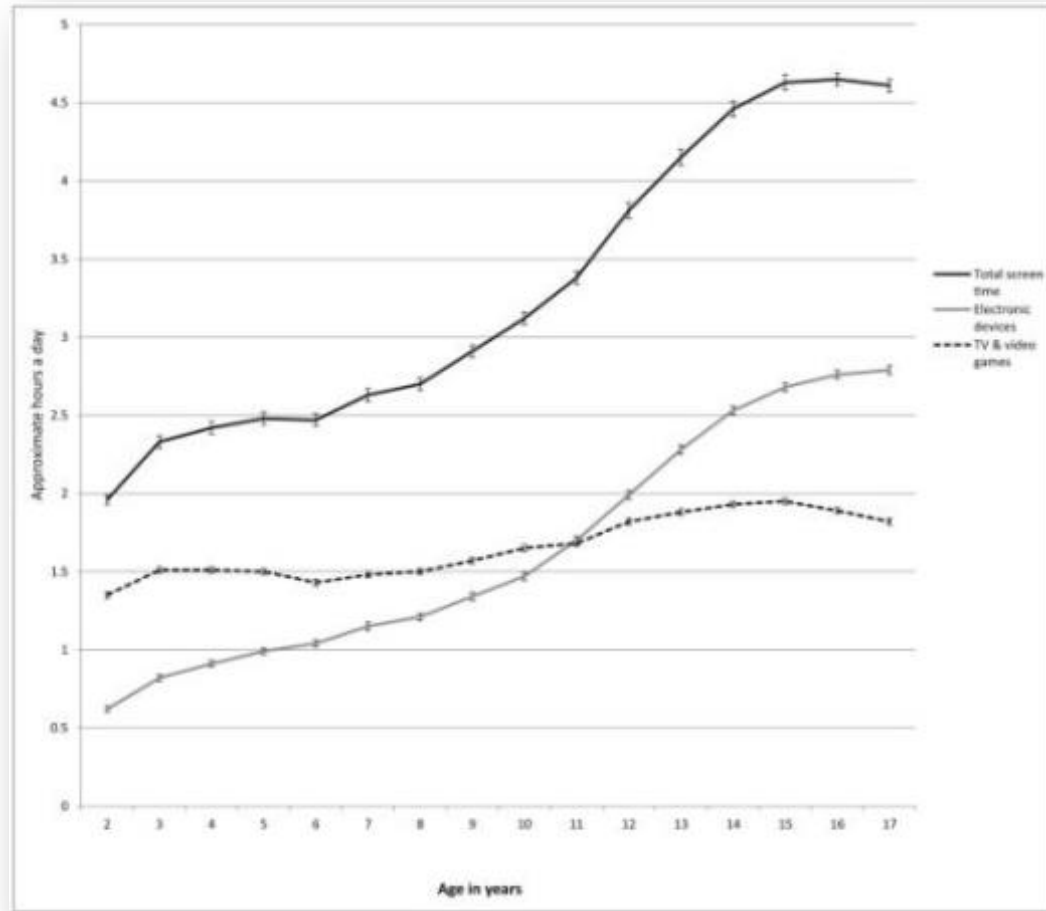


Figure 6: Relative Treatment Effect on the outcomes per 20 most popular drugs (left), and drug families (right).

# Too Much Social Media?



Twenge JM, Campbell WK. Associations between screen time and lower psychological well-being among children and adolescents: Evidence from a population-based study. Preventive Medicine Reports. 2018 Oct 18.

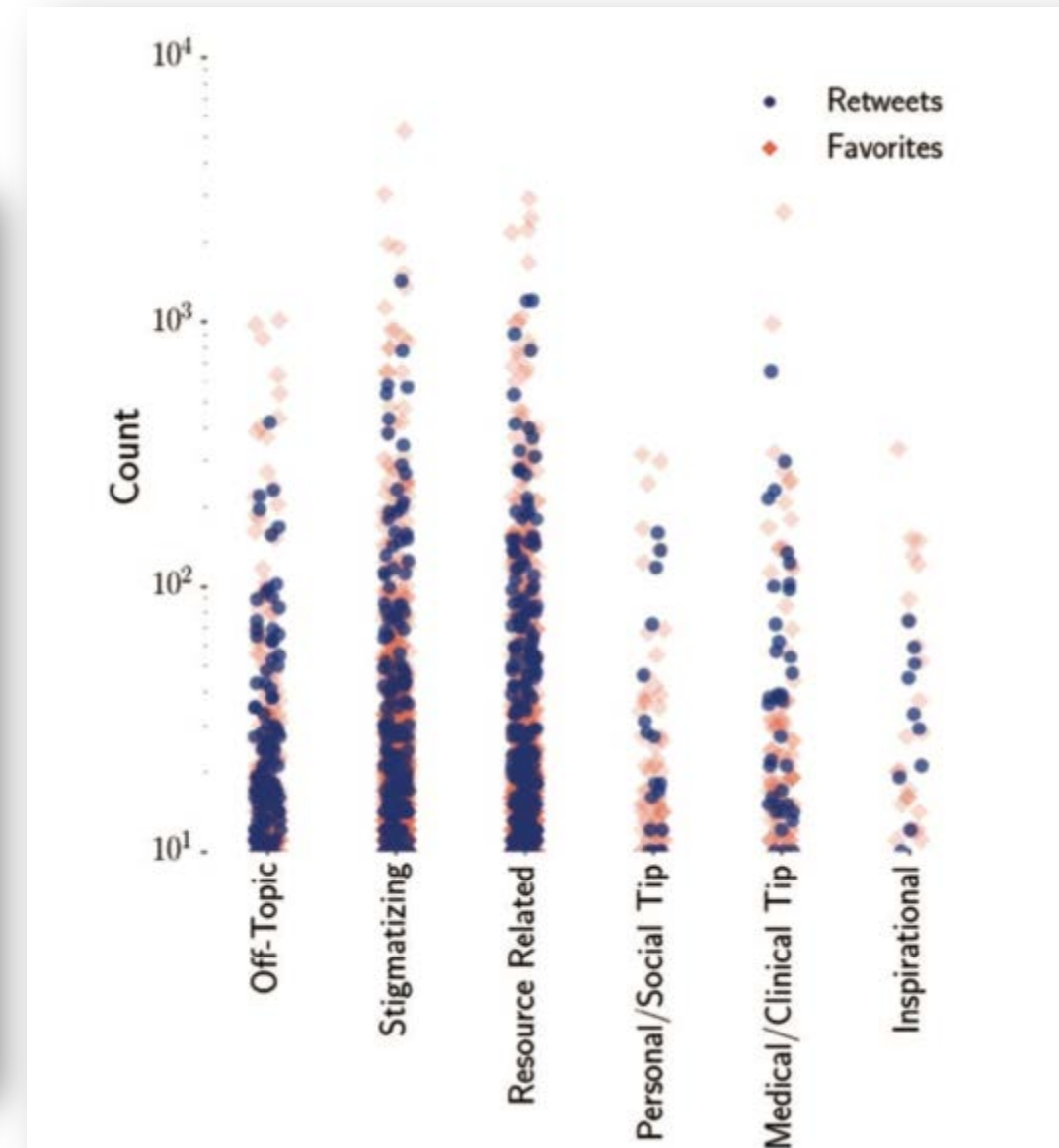
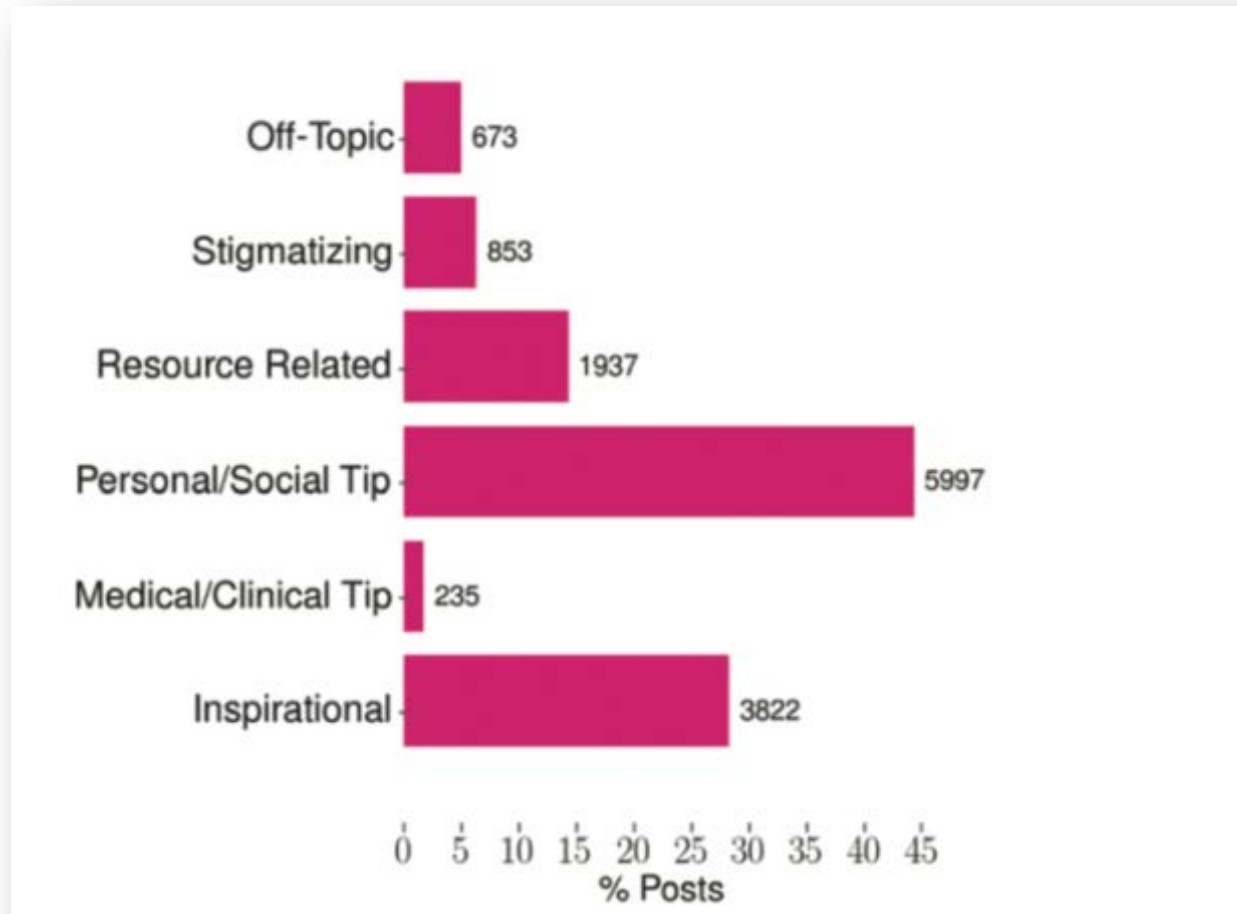
# Too Much Social Media?

- National survey of 1,787 young adults on use of: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter ... Instagram, Snapchat



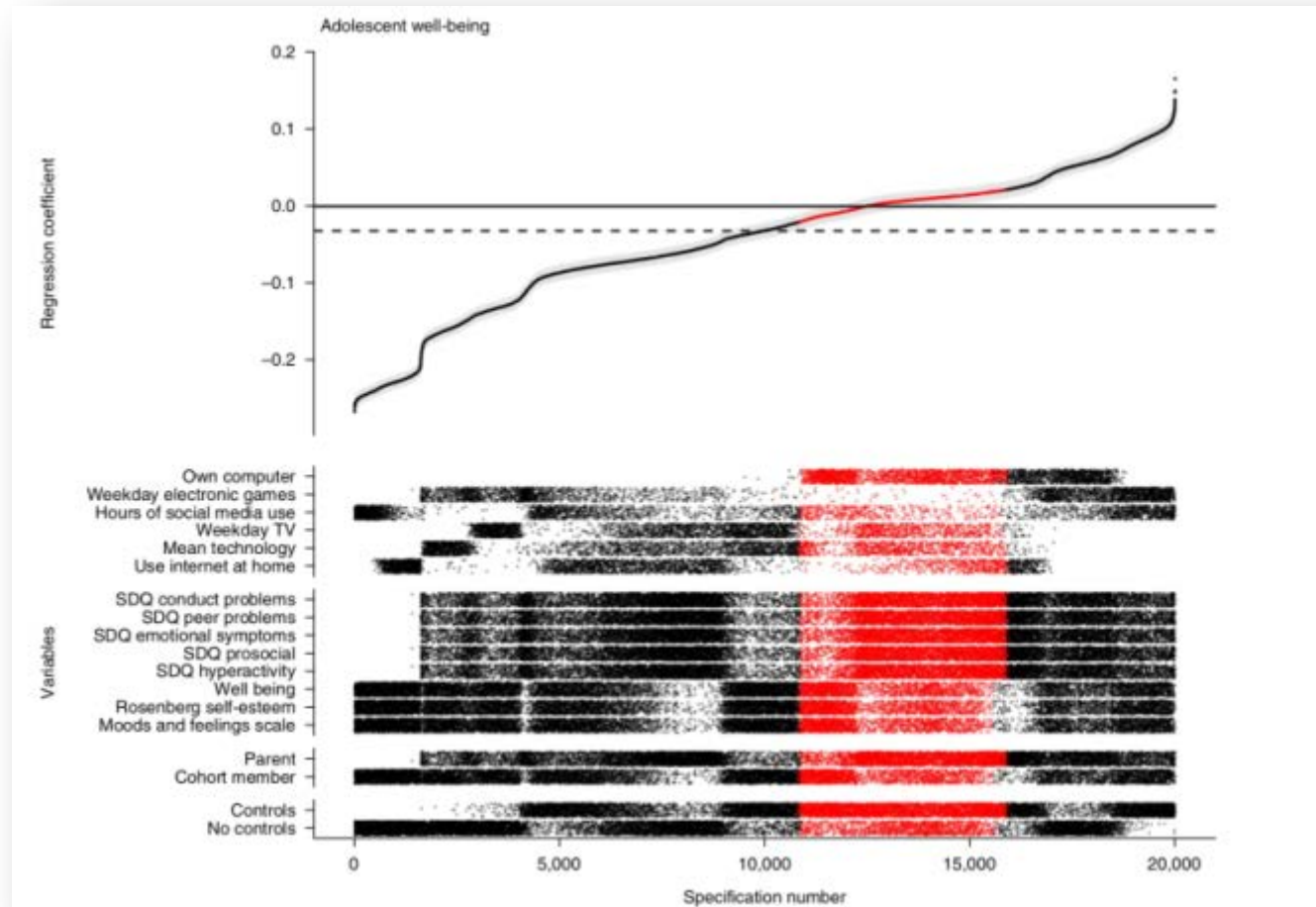
- People using the most platforms (7 to 11 different ones) had more **x3** risk of depression and anxiety.

# Social Media and Stigma?



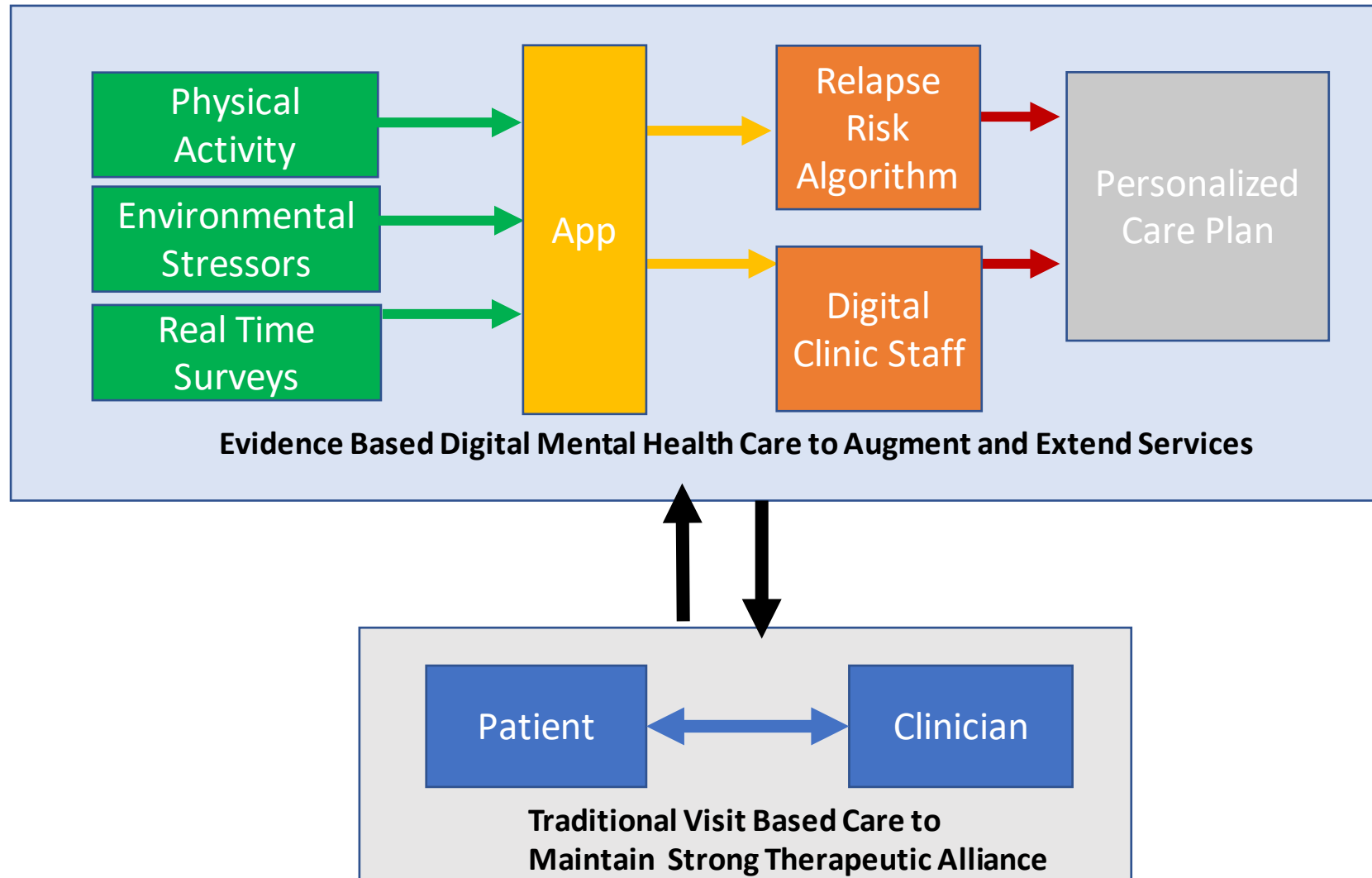
Saha K, Torous J, Ernala SK, Rizuto C, Stafford A, De Choudhury M. A computational study of mental health awareness campaigns on social media. Translational Behavioral Medicine. 2019.

# A Mixed Picture?



Orben A, Przybylski AK. The association between adolescent well-being and digital technology use. Nature Human Behaviour. 2019 Jan 14:1.

# Towards a Digital Clinic



# Towards Digital Skills Groups



## Session 1: Smartphone Fundamentals and Your Health Goals



Learn how apps may help you towards your health goals // Learn about mental health apps and other digital resources // Access and download apps // Keep your personal data secure // Remove harmful apps // Use alarms, maps, and reminders on the phone available for

## Session 2: Smartphones for Health and Wellness



Set up mental health apps // Collect your own data on mood, anxiety, sleep, and steps // Learn to use wearables and smartwatches // Learn to explore and discover local services via apps // Learn how to connect with peers and family with apps (without a data plan)

## Session 3: Smartphones for Personal Health



Access and learn from your personal data // Learn how to share your data with who you want and how to protect what you don't want to share // Customize apps to your needs // Develop a digital mental health toolkit to support your recovery // Evaluate apps that may be of help

## Session 4: Smartphones for Your Recovery



Develop insights into your recovery with digital data and smartphone tools // Finalize your digital toolkit // Help peers with technology // Use apps to access community resources and services // Action planning with apps // Identify barriers and solutions to technology use

# Teaching Digital Skills

4. I know **where** to find helpful health resources on my smartphone

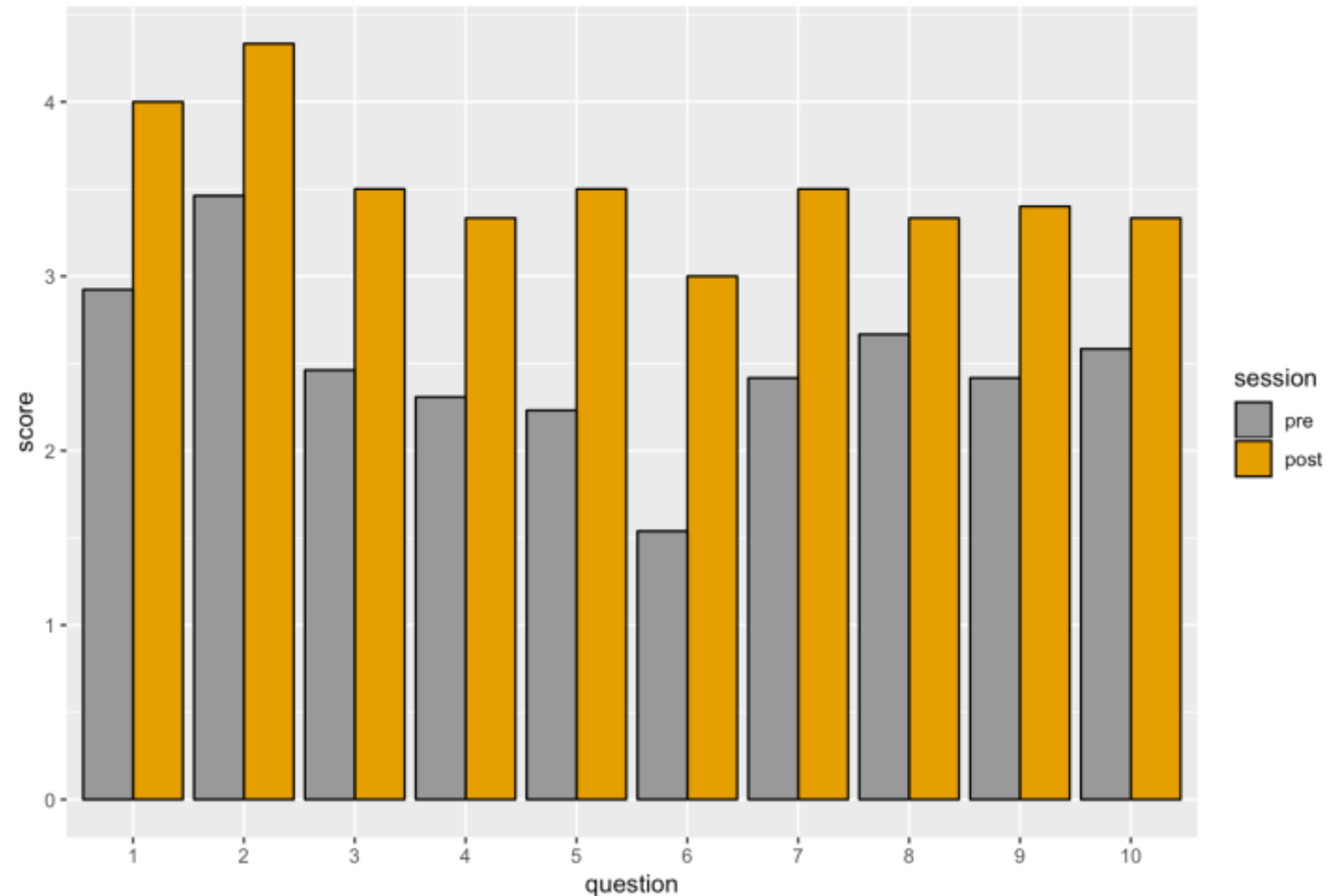
- 1) ☐ Strongly Disagree
- 2) ☐ Disagree
- 3) ☐ Undecided
- 4) ☐ Agree
- 5) ☐ Strongly Agree

5. I know **how** to find helpful health resources on my smartphone

- 1) ☐ Strongly Disagree
- 2) ☐ Disagree
- 3) ☐ Undecided
- 4) ☐ Agree
- 5) ☐ Strongly Agree

6. I know **how to use** my smartphone to answer my questions about health

- 1) ☐ Strongly Disagree
- 2) ☐ Disagree
- 3) ☐ Undecided
- 4) ☐ Agree
- 5) ☐ Strongly Agree

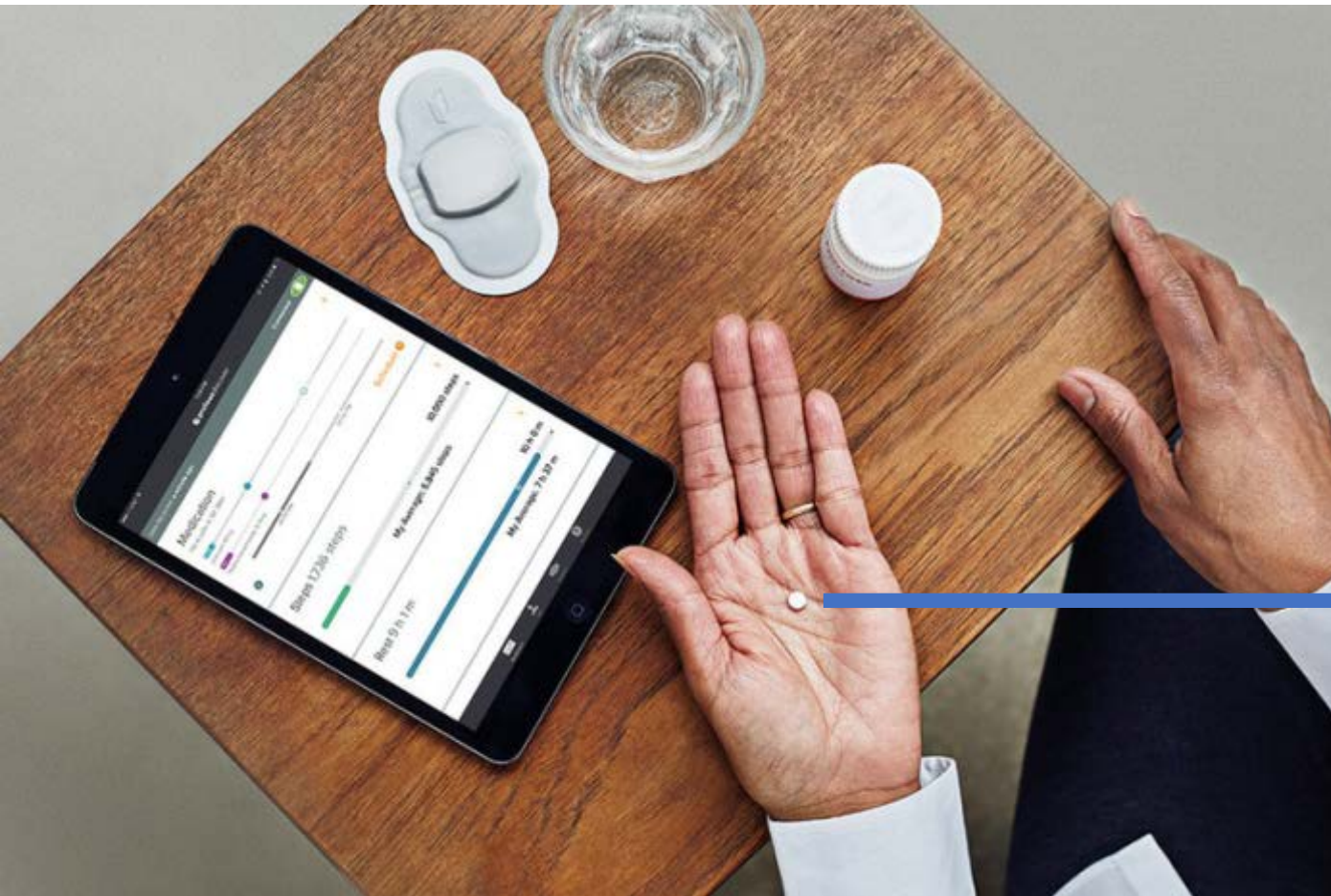


# Towards New Questions

Do you remember why you did not  
remember to take your medications?

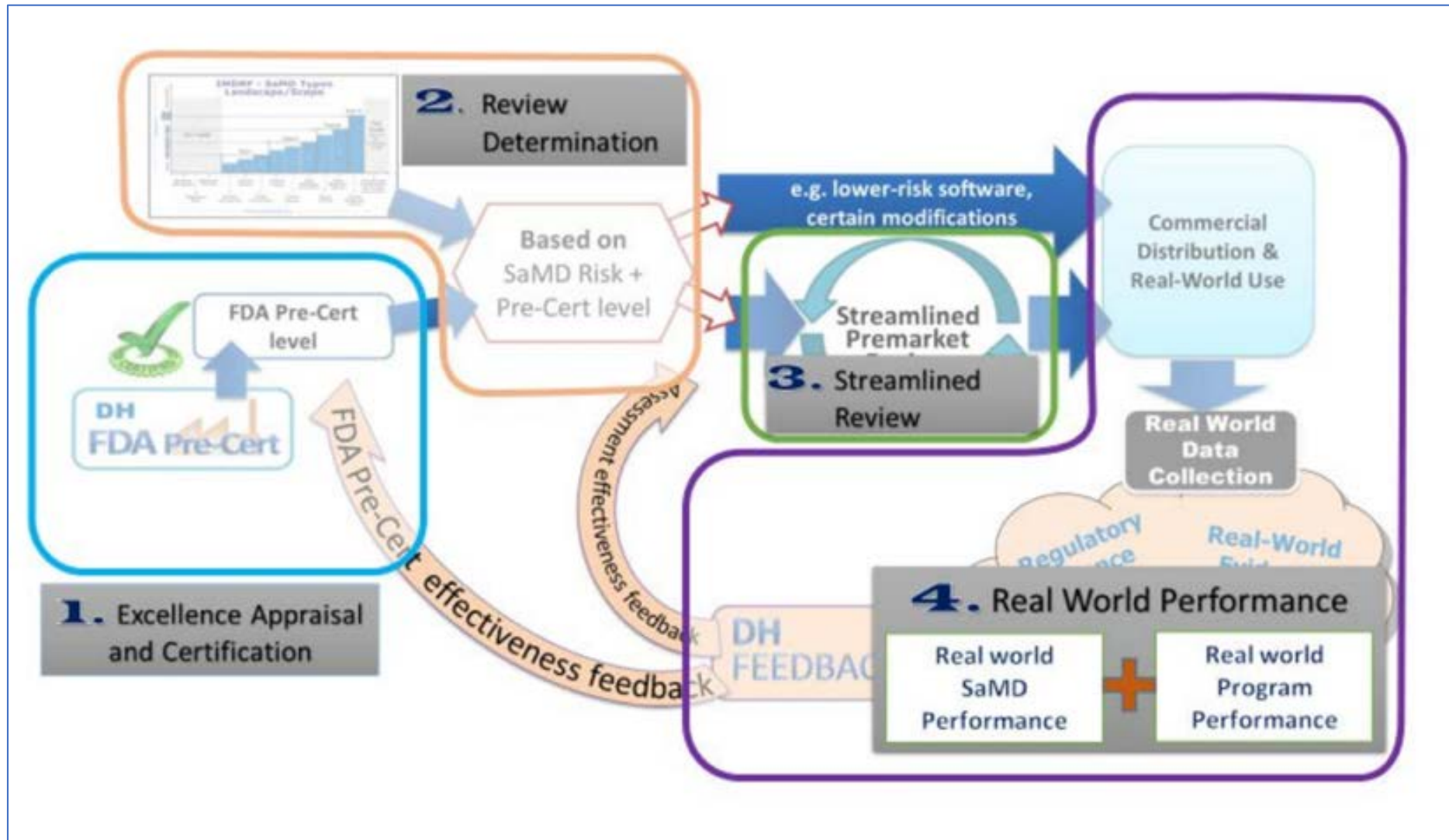
What would you want to learn?

# Towards Digital Pills

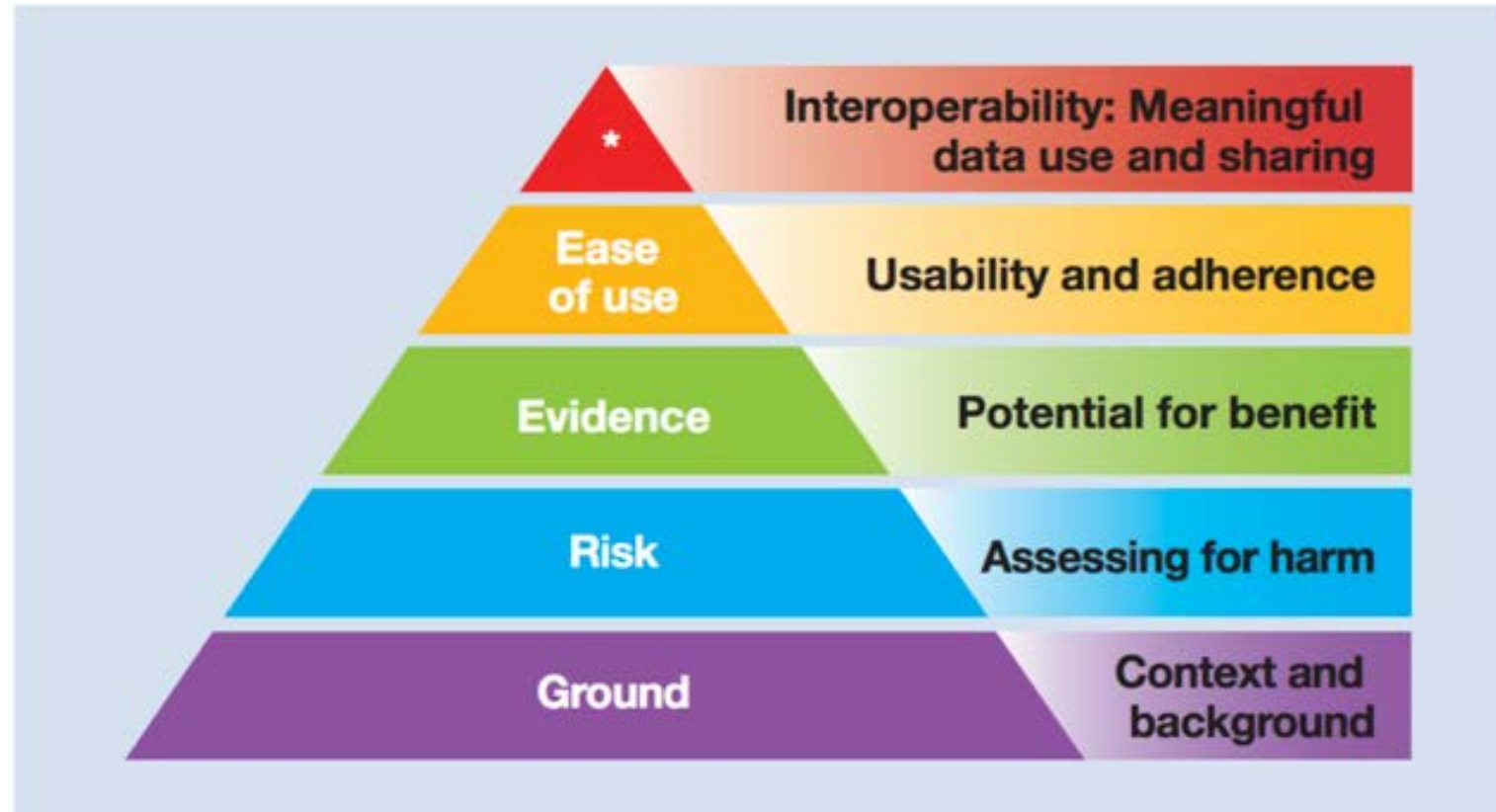




# The FDA To the Rescue ?




# Informed Decision Making Around Apps



Torous JB, Chan SR, Gipson SY, Kim JW, Nguyen TQ, Luo J, Wang P. A hierarchical framework for evaluation and informed decision making regarding smartphone apps for clinical care. *Psychiatric Services*. 2018 Feb 15;69(5):498-500.

# Informed Decision Making Around Apps



PSYCHIATRISTSRESIDENTS & MEDICAL STUDENTSPATIENTS & FAMILIES

» Psychiatrists » Practice »

Psychiatrists

Education

Practice

Practice Management

Professional Interests

DSM

Telepsychiatry

Risk Management

Clinical Practice Guidelines

Ethics

Quality Improvement

Parity

Research

Transition to Practice

Mental Health Apps

Why Rate Mental Health Apps

## Mental Health Apps

The expanding use of mobile health (mHealth) technologies is unprecedented in the history of medicine. Every month, companies and researchers release new smartphone apps, smart watches, and sensor technologies for the healthcare market. Psychiatry has been no exception to this trend. There has also been growing patient, clinical, government, and payer interest in the potential of mHealth technologies for psychiatric clinical care. Psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, psychotherapists, and other mental health clinicians are increasingly faced with questions regarding the efficacy and risks of mobile and online apps.

APA is helping Psychiatrists and other mental health professionals navigate these issues to ensure all important factors are considered and ultimately determine whether an app works for you and your patients. The material provided here covers why it is critical to rate an app, how best to evaluate an app and an opportunity to seek additional guidance on apps and/or the evaluation process.

### Why Rate Mental Health Apps?

Learn why it is important to rate mental health apps for you and your patients.

Learn More >

Explore Mental Health Apps

Why Rate Mental Health Apps?

App Evaluation Model

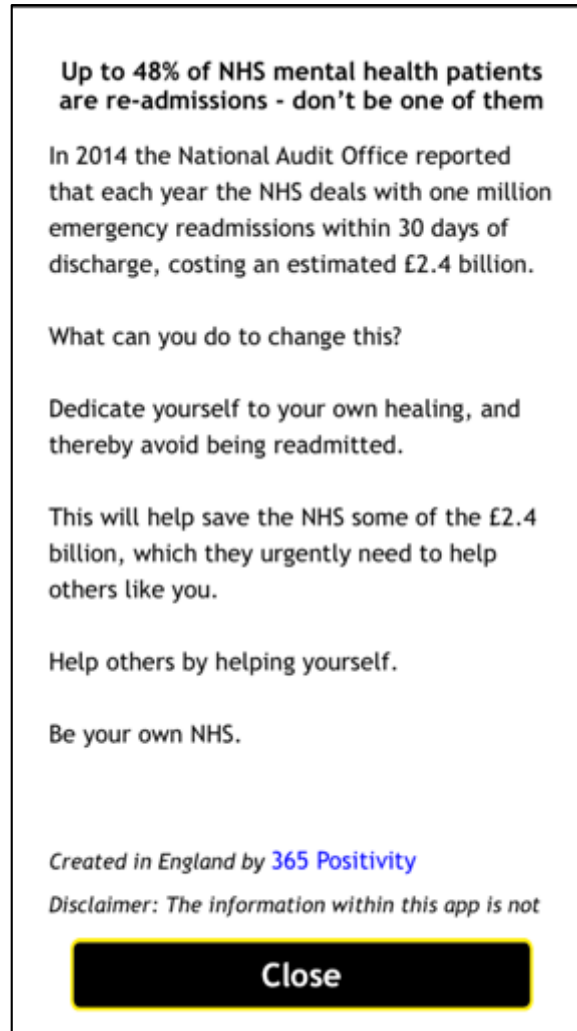
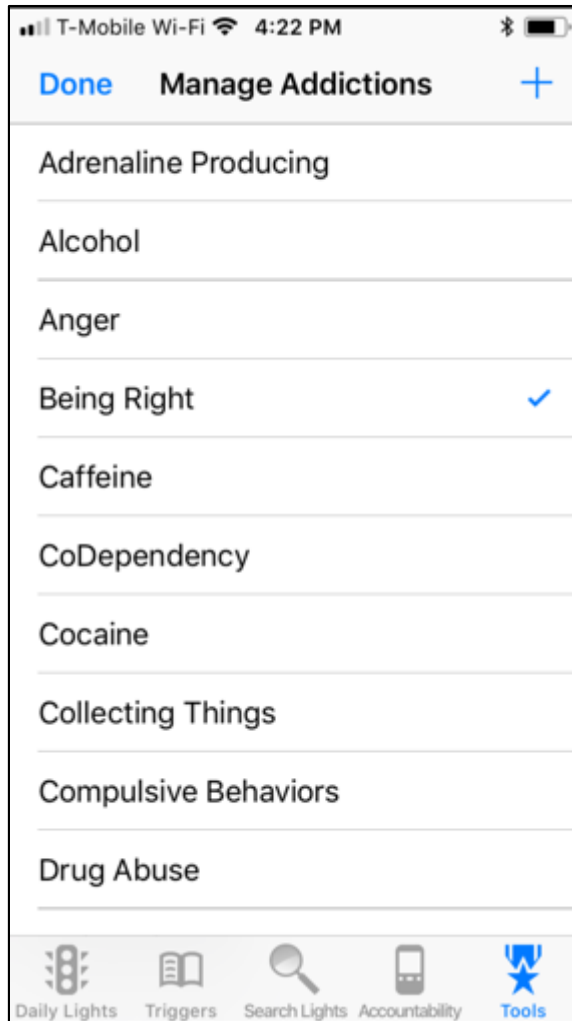
App Evaluation Example

Need help rating apps?

Please contact us if you need assistance in rating an app.

Contact Us

# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 1



# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 1



<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/12/10/business/location-data-privacy-apps.html>

# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 1

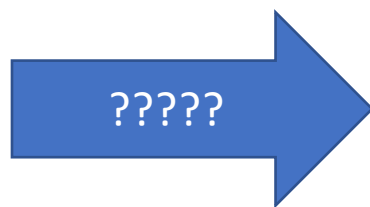


Table 2. Counts and Proportions of Apps Transmitting Data to a Third Party and Whether This Was Disclosed in a Privacy Policy

	No. (%)			
	Apps With Privacy Policy			Apps Without Privacy Policy
Destinations	Transmission Occurred, Disclosed in Policy	Transmission Occurred, Not Disclosed in Policy	Transmission Occurred, Policy States Won't	Transmission Occurred
Any destination type <sup>a</sup>	16 (44)	5 (14)	3 (8)	9 (25)
Advertising or marketing services	10 (28)	2 (6)	2 (6)	8 (22)
Analytics services	14 (39)	5 (14)	1 (3)	4 (11)
Google destinations	13 (36)	5 (14)	3 (8)	7 (19)
Google advertising services <sup>b</sup>	6 (17)	2 (6)	1 (3)	6 (17)
Google analytics services <sup>c</sup>	12 (33)	5 (14)	1 (3)	4 (11)
Facebook analytics	9 (25)	2 (6)	0 (0)	1 (3)
Others	15 (42)	1 (3)	0 (0)	4 (11)
Mixpanel	3 (8)	0	1 (3)	0
AppNexus	2 (6)	0	0	1 (3)
Twitter Mopub	3 (8)	0	0	0
Yahoo Flurry Analytics	3 (8)	0	0	0
AdColony	1 (3)	0	0	1 (3)
AppsFlyer	1 (3)	0	1 (3)	0
Kiip	1 (3)	0	0	1 (3)
Branch	1 (3)	0	0	0
AddThis	1 (3)	0	0	0
Amplitude	1 (3)	0	0	0
Manage.com	1 (3)	0	0	0
Singular/Apsalar	1 (3)	0	0	0
UserVoice	1 (3)	0	0	0
Unknown destination <sup>d</sup>	0	0	0	1 (3)

<sup>a</sup> Percentage of apps included in study (n = 36).

<sup>b</sup> Identified services were AdSense, AdWords, and DoubleClick.

<sup>c</sup> Identified services were Google Analytics and Crashlytics.

<sup>d</sup> Identity or ownership information for the domain startappexchange.com could not be established.

JAMA Network Open. 2019;2(4):e192542. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.2542

April 19, 2019 5/10

Huckvale, Torous, and Larsen....In Press with JAMA Open

Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



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# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 2

Search term	Identified in searches (n=1435)		Screened (n=350)	
	Android	iOS	Android	iOS
Anxiety	249	200	40	40
Depression	250	200	40	40
Schizophrenia	250	32	40	32
Self-harm	85	29	40	29
Substance use	131	9	40	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>150</b>

Coding element	n (%) of apps
<b>3. Positive claims</b>	<b>59 (81%)</b>
3.a. Claims of effectiveness	47 (64%)
3.a.i. Detection or diagnosis	7 (10%)
3.a.ii. Improvement in symptoms or mood	22 (30%)
3.a.iii. Improvement in self-management	26 (36%)
3.b. Claims of acceptability	33 (45%)

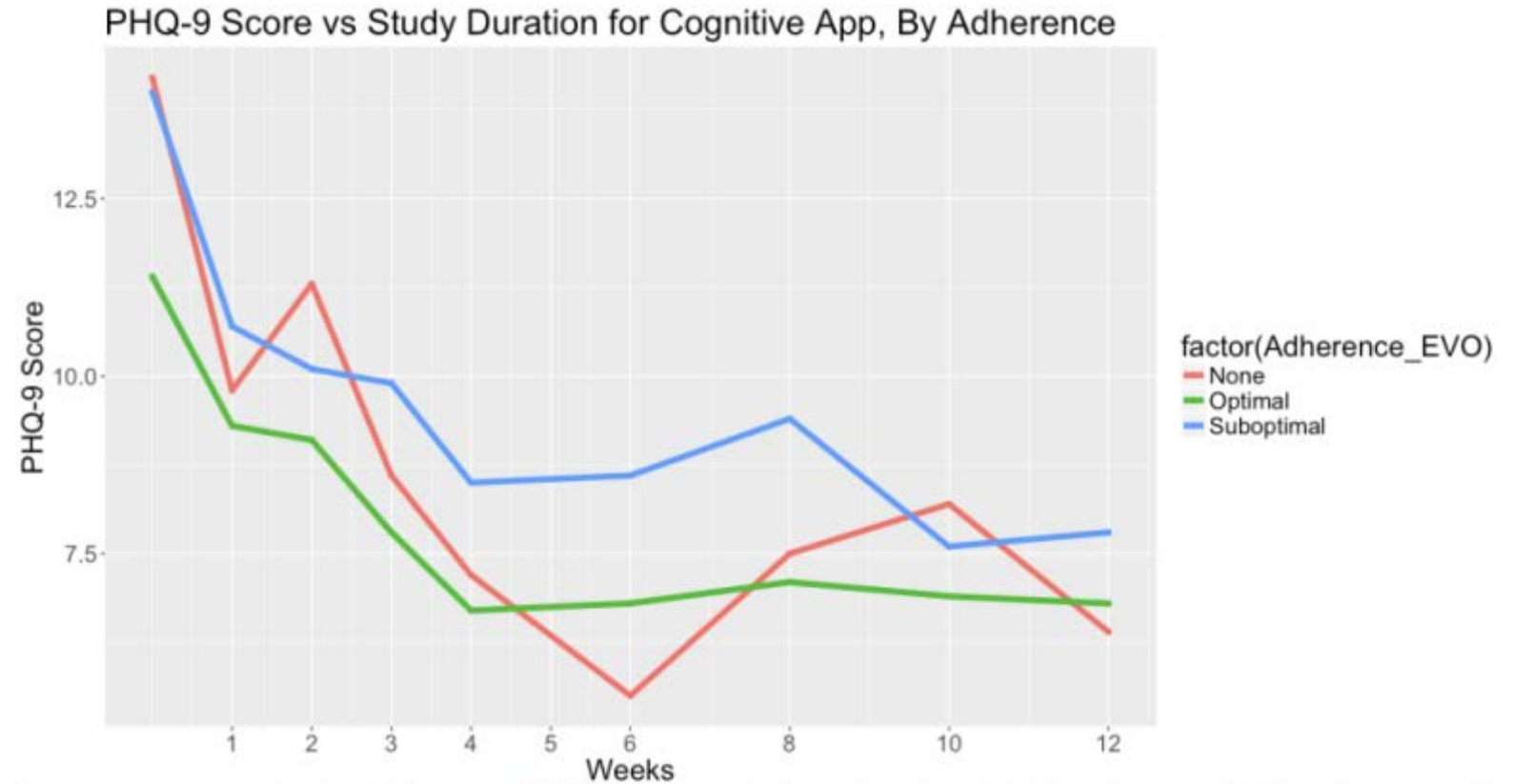
4.a. Scientific language	32 (44%)
4.a.i. Specific technique described	24 (33%)
4.a.ii. Evidence from study using app	2 (2.7%)
4.a.iii. Citation to scientific literature	1 (1.4%)
4.b. Technical expertise	23 (32%)
4.b.i. Certification or accreditation	0
4.b.ii. Prizes or awards	2 (2.7%)
4.b.iii. Credible developers	18 (25%)
4.b.iv. Credible endorsements	3 (4.1%)
4.c. Lived experience design	10 (14%)
4.c.i. Lived experience involvement	6 (8.2%)
4.c.ii. Lived experience developer	5 (6.8%)
4.d. "Wisdom of the crowd"	14 (19%)
4.d.i. Download, usage or popularity statistics	11 (15%)

# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 2

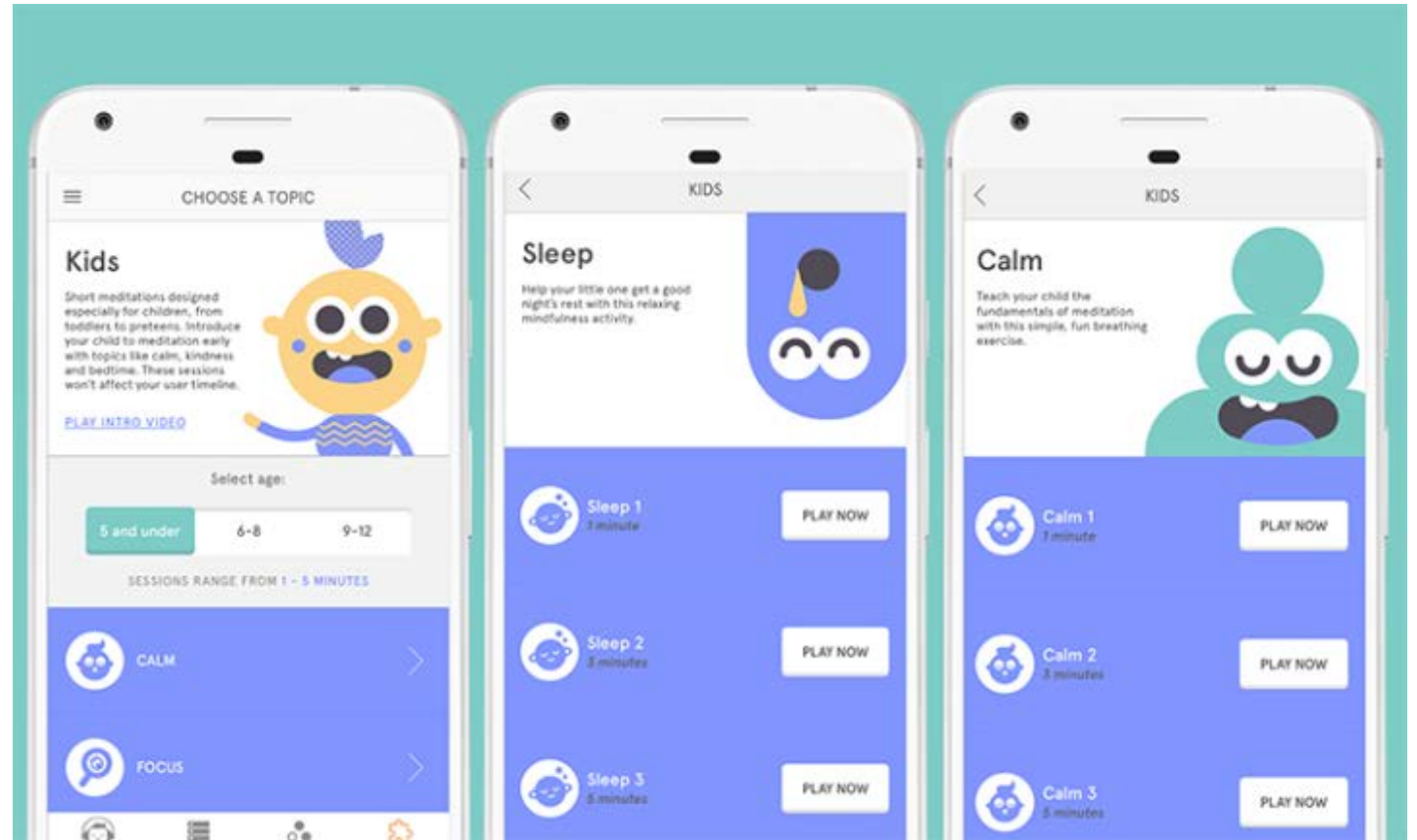
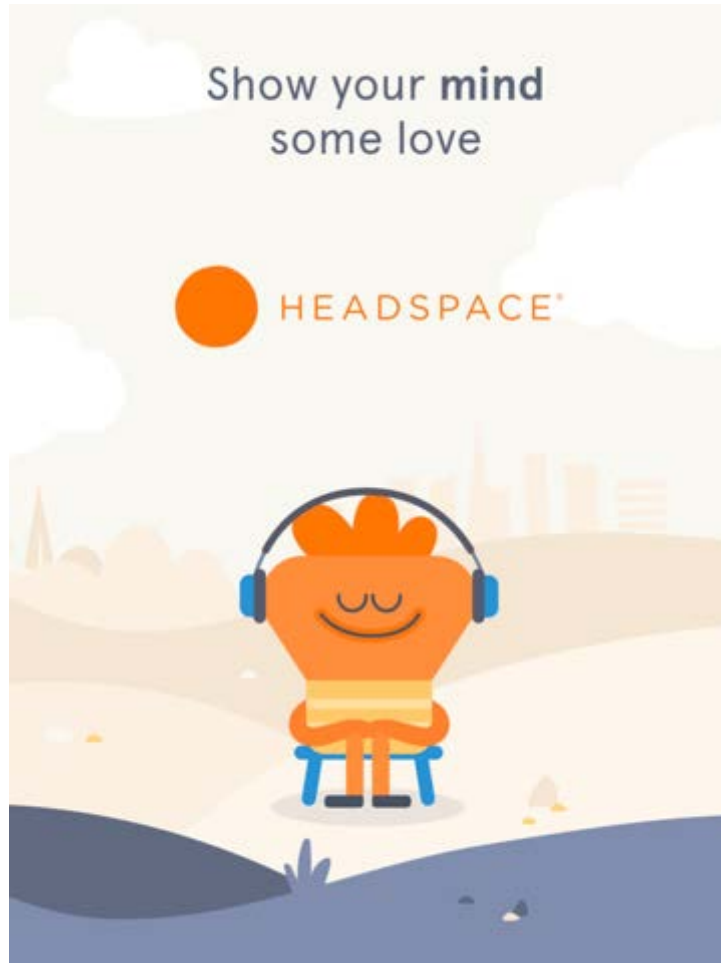


Firth J, Torous J, Nicholas J, Carney R, Pratap A, Rosenbaum S, Sarris J. The efficacy of smartphone-based mental health interventions for depressive symptoms: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. World Psychiatry. 2017 Oct 1;16(3):287-98.

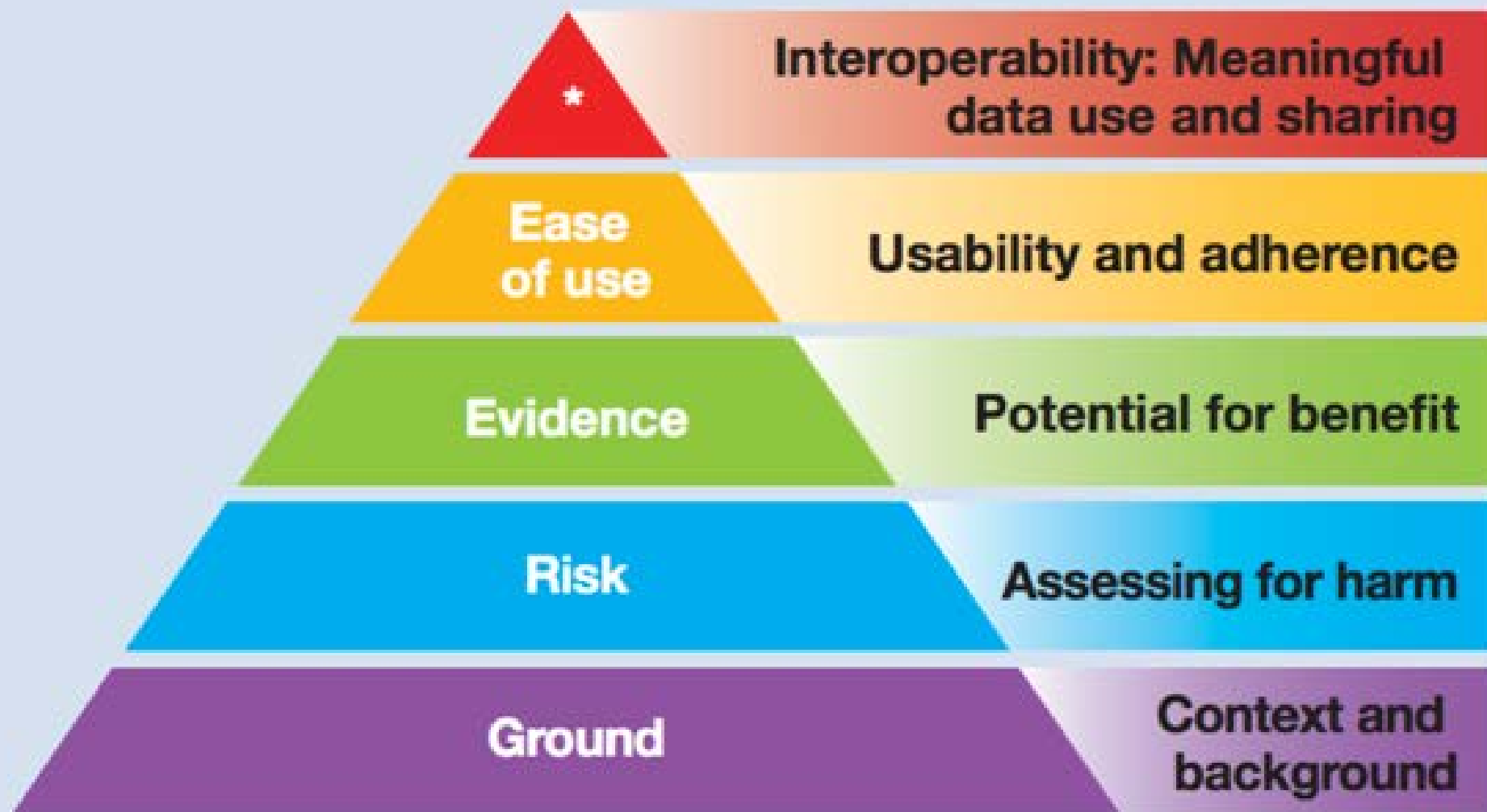
# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 2



# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 2



Noone and Hogan. A randomised active-controlled trial to examine the effects of an online mindfulness intervention on executive control, critical thinking and key thinking dispositions in a university student sample. *BPJ Psychology*. 2018



# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 3

VA » Health Care » PTSD: National Center for PTSD » Public » Mobile App: PTSD Coach

## PTSD: National Center for PTSD

▼ PTSD

PTSD Home

▼ For the Public

Public Section Home

► PTSD Overview

► Types of Trauma

Is it PTSD?

► Treatment and Coping

Other Common Problems

Family and Friends

PTSD and Communities

Paginas en Espanol

▼ Apps, Videos and More

Mobile Apps

**PUBLIC** *This section is for Veterans, General Public, Family &*

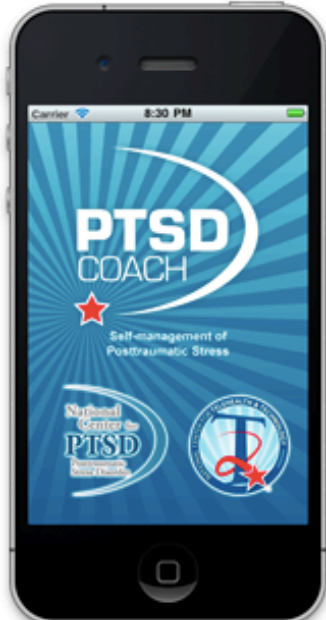
### Mobile App: PTSD Coach

***PTSD Coach has now been downloaded over 100,000 times in 74 countries around the world.***

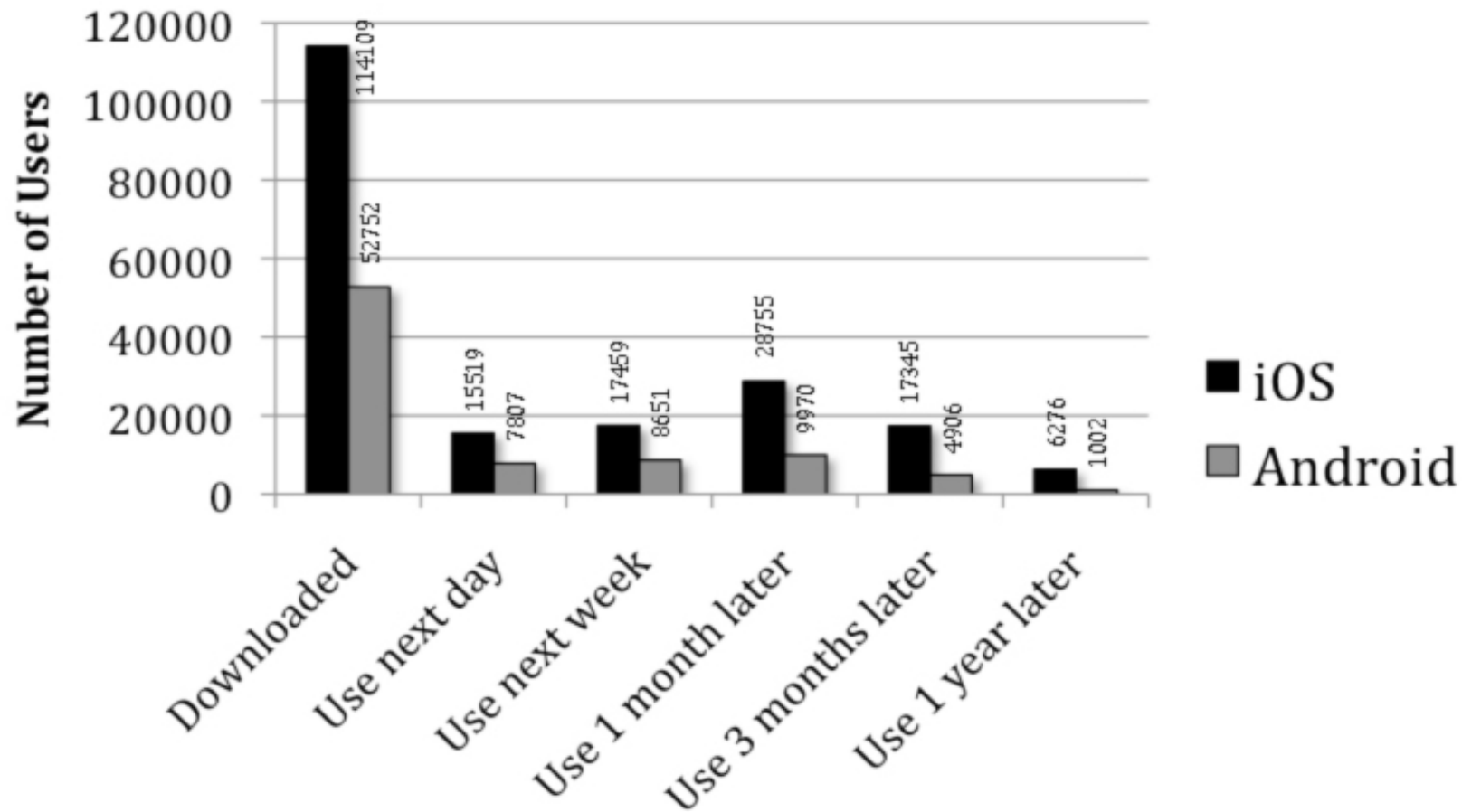
The PTSD Coach app can help you learn about and manage symptoms that often occur after trauma.

Features include:

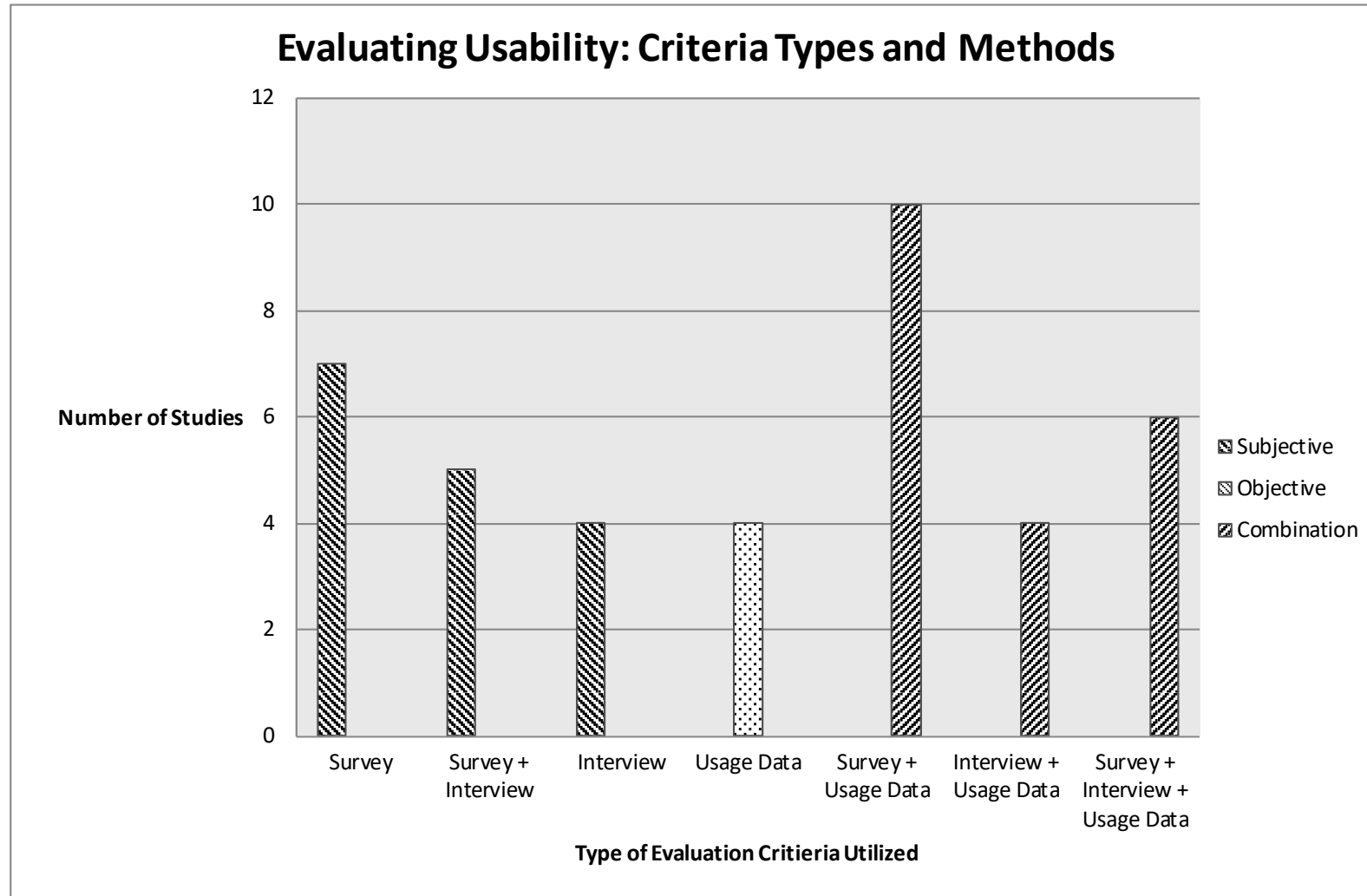
- Reliable information on PTSD and treatments that work
- Tools for screening and tracking your symptoms
- Convenient, easy-to-use tools to help you handle stress symptoms
- Direct links to support and help
- Always with you when you need it



# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 3



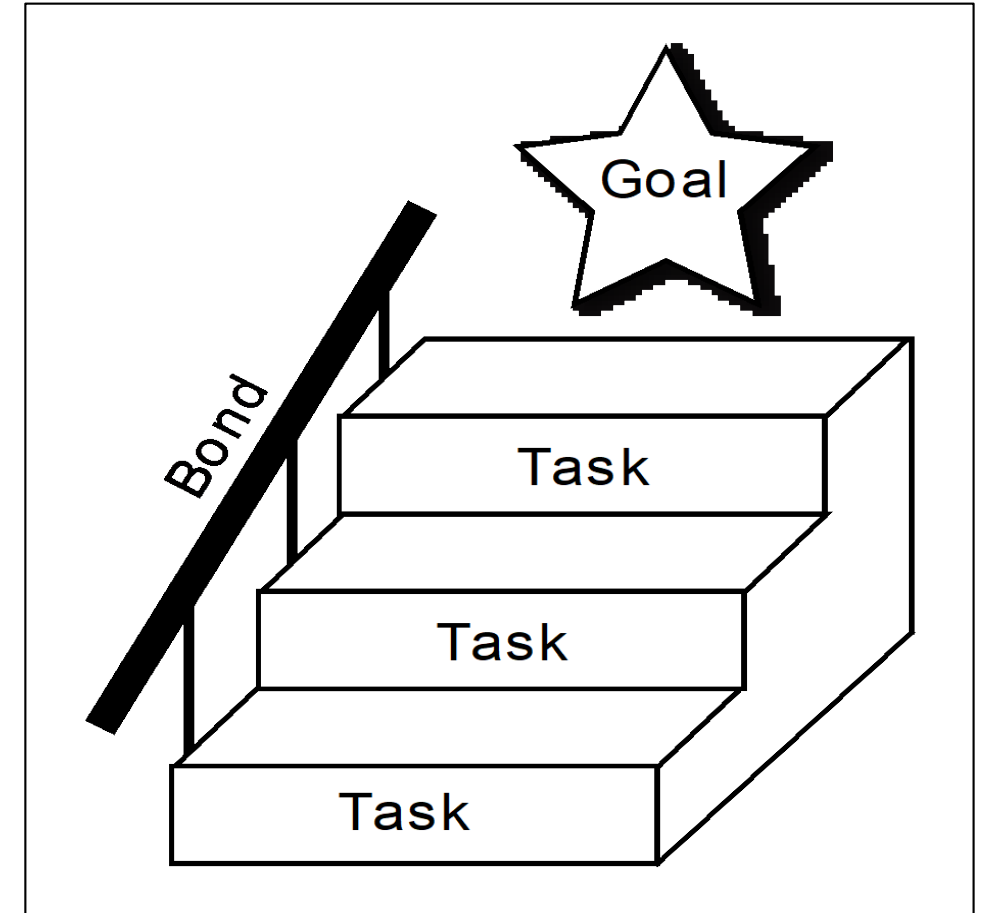
# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 3



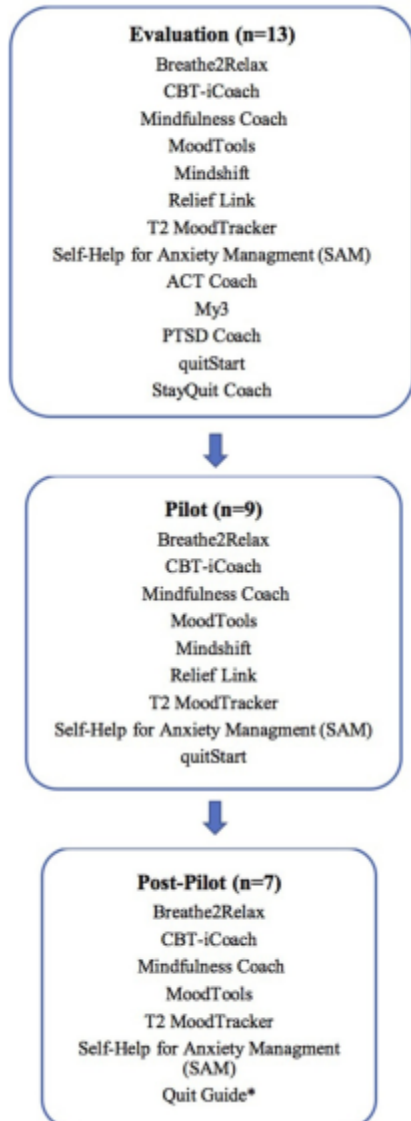
# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 4



# Informed Decision Making Around Apps: Level 4



# Informed Decision Making Around Apps



## Behavioral Health Self-Help Guide

### Free Apps & Websites\*

The following tools have been used and selected as a result of positive feedback from CHA patients.

App:	Used for:	Recommended for:	Key Features:
 Breathe2Relax	Stress & Anxiety	Learning to deep breathe with some initial guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guided breathing exercises</li> <li>Stress tracking tool</li> <li>Information about stress</li> </ul>
 Stop, Breathe & Think	Stress & Anxiety Mindfulness Sleep	A fun and easy intro to mindfulness practice through short, guided meditations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30+ free guided mindfulness meditations and yoga videos</li> <li>Interactive tool to track your emotional/physical experience</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Requires monthly subscription to unlock premium features.</p>
 Self-Help for Anxiety Management (SAM)	Stress & Anxiety	Support in managing stress/anxiety through mental and physical relaxation tools.	<p>Educational, interactive and fun tools for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep breathing</li> <li>Muscle relaxation</li> <li>Changing thinking patterns</li> <li>Tracking anxiety over time</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The "Social Cloud" feature is unmonitored; CHA does not recommend using it for this reason.</p>
 CBT-iCoach	Stress & Anxiety Mindfulness Sleep	Improving sleep through mental and physical relaxation strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on healthy sleep habits</li> <li>Guided relaxation exercises</li> <li>Sleep tracking tool</li> <li>Exercises for managing unhelpful thoughts/emotions.</li> </ul>
 MoodTools	Mood Management	Education about depression symptoms & treatment as well as strategies for boosting mood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informative TED talk videos</li> <li>Mood tracking tools</li> <li>Thought and activity logs</li> </ul>

  
MIT Relaxation Tip Phone Line

**Relaxation by phone (no smartphone required)**  
Guided three-minute relaxation exercise:  
Call 617-253-CALM (2256) for 24/7 access to this pre-recorded exercise

For questions or comments, email BHSELFHELP@challiance.org

Hoffman L, Benedetto E, Huang H, Grossman E, Kaluma D, Mann Z, Torous J. Augmenting Mental Health in Primary Care: A One-Year Study of Deploying Smartphone Apps in a Multi-Site Primary Care/Behavioral Health Integration Program. *Frontiers in psychiatry*. 2019;10:94.

# Thank You



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