



## Problem

- Interventions are affected by spiritual and dignity related distress
- The extent of the distress should be balanced among groups in clinical trials

## Purpose/Aims

- To describe dignity related and spiritual distress levels of a study sample during the first of four steps in a stepped- wedge trial of dignity therapy

## Methods

### Design:

4-Step Stepped Wedged Trial



### Setting:

- Conducted at six sites across the United States:
  - University of Florida
  - Northwestern University
  - Rush University
  - University of California San Francisco
  - Emory University
  - MD Anderson

### Sample:

- Total of 130 adults with cancer participated in Step One of trial

## Methods cont.

Variable	Percentage %
Gender	54% Female
Ethnicity	73% Caucasian 19% African American 8% Other Races 92% Non Hispanic
Age	Mean, 69 (SD=7)

### Instruments:

- Patient Dignity Inventory
- Religious and Spiritual Struggles Scale
- Demographic Questionnaire

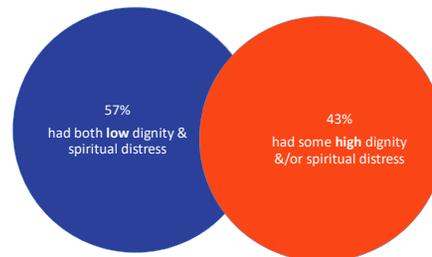
### Analysis:

- Descriptive analysis was conducted with R statistical software.

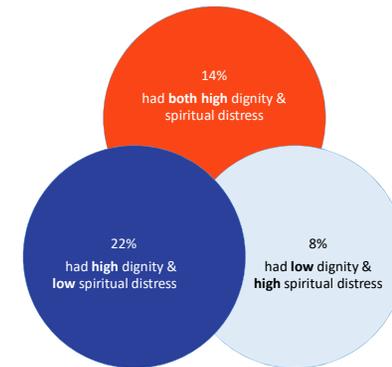
## Results

- The mean dignity-related distress score was 39.6 (SD=12.6)
- The mean spiritual distress score was 3.0 (SD=4.4)

### Proportion of Sample with Distress



### Proportion of Sample with High Distress



## Discussion and Conclusions

- Recruitment goals were for at least half the sample to report high dignity-related or spiritual distress.
- In first step of trial, recruitment goals regarding distress levels were not met.
- Floor effect on distress could have negative influence on Dignity Therapy intervention outcomes, with most patients participating in the trial reporting low distress.
- Ongoing attention to recruitment of participants with high levels of dignity-related and spiritual distress is critical to determining the efficacy of the Dignity Therapy intervention.

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