**Table 1. Supplementary Digital Content**

Descriptive Statistics for Depression SP Ryan Higgins Symptom Checklist Overall and by Group

| **Variable** | **Level** | **Overall** | **Backstory VP****(n=18, 25.7%)** | **Control VP****(n=17, 24.3%)** | **Empathy feedback VP (n=35, 50.0%)** | **Effect Size** | **p-value for difference between groups** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **I’ve been feeling bad for about three months. – n (%)** | **No** | 1 (1.43) | 0 (0.00) | 0 (0.00) | 1 (2.86) | 0.1204 | 1.0000 |
| **Yes** | 69 (98.57) | 18 (100.00) | 17 (100.00) | 34 (97.14) |
| **It started when my sister died. – n (%)** | **No** | 1 (1.43) | 1 (5.56) | 0 (0.00) | 0 (0) | 0.2046 | 0.5000 |
| **Yes** | 69 (98.57) | 17 (94.44) | 17 (100.00) | 35 (100) |
| **I dream about her every night and every time I think about her, I start to cry. – n (%)** | **No** | 8 (11.59) | 3 (17.65) | 1 (5.88) | 4 (11.43) | 0.1291 | 0.7047 |
| **Yes** | 61 (88.41) | 14 (82.35) | 16 (94.12) | 31 (88.57) |
| **I have thought about suicide. I even thought about driving my car off the road, but I’m not sure how close I really got. – n (%)** | **No** | 25 (35.71) | 5 (27.78) | 5 (29.41) | 15 (42.86) | 0.1496 | 0.4941 |
| **Yes** | 45 (64.29) | 13 (72.22) | 12 (70.59) | 20 (57.14) |
| **I’m not really thinking about suicide right now, but I don’t know how much longer I can take this. – n (%)** | **No** | 35 (50.00) | 7 (38.89) | 8 (47.06) | 20 (57.14) | 0.1541 | 0.4487 |
| **Yes** | 35 (50.00) | 11 (61.11) | 9 (52.94) | 15 (42.86) |
| **I have never attempted suicide in the past. – n (%)** | **No** | 56 (81.16) | 13 (76.47) | 12 (70.59) | 31 (88.57) | 0.1994 | 0.2441 |
| **Yes** | 13 (18.84) | 4 (23.53) | 5 (29.41) | 4 (11.43) |
| **No one in my family has ever attempted suicide that I know of… – n (%)** | **No** | 65 (94.20) | 16 (94.12) | 15 (88.24) | 34 (97.14) | 0.1552 | 0.5437 |
| **Yes** | 4 (5.80) | 1 (5.88) | 2 (11.76) | 1 (2.86) |
| **I have had trouble falling asleep and staying asleep. I only get a few hours of restless sleep per night. – n (%)** | **No** | 1 (1.43) | 1 (5.56) | 0 (0.00) | 0 (0) | 0.2046 | 0.5000 |
| **Yes** | 69 (98.57) | 17 (94.44) | 17 (100.00) | 35 (100) |
| **I am tired all day and I’m having trouble getting my work done. – n (%)** | **No** | 2 (2.86) | 0 (0.00) | 0 (0.00) | 2 (5.71) | 0.1715 | 0.7391 |
| **Yes** | 68 (97.14) | 18 (100.00) | 17 (100.00) | 33 (94.29) |
| **I feel guilty about missing my daughter’s birth and first few months. – n (%)** | **No** | 58 (84.06) | 16 (94.12) | 14 (82.35) | 28 (80) | 0.1593 | 0.4767 |
| **Yes** | 11 (15.94) | 1 (5.88) | 3 (17.65) | 7 (20) |
| **I have not been eating well. There has been no significant weight loss. – n (%)** | **No** | 17 (24.29) | 5 (27.78) | 3 (17.65) | 9 (25.71) | 0.0899 | 0.8172 |
| **Yes** | 53 (75.71) | 13 (72.22) | 14 (82.35) | 26 (74.29) |
| **I don’t care about softball or any other sports since my sister died. – n (%)** | **No** | 32 (46.38) | 8 (44.44) | 9 (56.25) | 15 (42.86) | 0.1096 | 0.7010 |
| **Yes** | 37 (53.62) | 10 (55.56) | 7 (43.75) | 20 (57.14) |
| **I don’t know of any medical problems. – n (%)** | **No** | 36 (51.43) | 8 (44.44) | 7 (41.18) | 21 (60) | 0.1730 | 0.3846 |
| **Yes** | 34 (48.57) | 10 (55.56) | 10 (58.82) | 14 (40) |
| **I’m trying to cut down but in the past week I’ve been drink a twelve-pack nearly every night. – n (%)** | **No** | 15 (21.43) | 3 (16.67) | 3 (17.65) | 9 (25.71) | 0.1048 | 0.8009 |
| **Yes** | 55 (78.57) | 15 (83.33) | 14 (82.35) | 26 (74.29) |
| **I have never done any drugs. – n (%)** | **No** | 39 (57.35) | 11 (64.71) | 7 (41.18) | 21 (61.76) | 0.1904 | 0.3275 |
| **Yes** | 29 (42.65) | 6 (35.29) | 10 (58.82) | 13 (38.24) |
| **I have never wanted to harm my wife or daughter. – n (%)** | **No** | 57 (82.61) | 14 (82.35) | 13 (76.47) | 30 (85.71) | 0.0994 | 0.7738 |
| **Yes** | 12 (17.39) | 3 (17.65) | 4 (23.53) | 5 (14.29) |
| **I missed some deadlines at work because I’m having a hard time paying attention very well. – n (%)** | **No** | 7 (10.00) | 2 (11.11) | 1 (5.88) | 4 (11.43) | 0.0779 | 1.0000 |
| **Yes** | 63 (90.00) | 16 (88.89) | 16 (94.12) | 31 (88.57) |
| **When I’m reading, I read the same page over and over. – n (%)** | **No** | 24 (34.78) | 4 (23.53) | 9 (52.94) | 11 (31.43) | 0.2282 | 0.1749 |
| **Yes** | 45 (65.22) | 13 (76.47) | 8 (47.06) | 24 (68.57) |
| **I don’t think anyone in my family has any psychiatric problems, but my biological father was a bad drug addict. – n (%)** | **No** | 49 (71.01) | 11 (64.71) | 10 (58.82) | 28 (80) | 0.2060 | 0.2635 |
| **Yes** | 20 (28.99) | 6 (35.29) | 7 (41.18) | 7 (20) |
| **I don’t ever think about the war. I don’t have nightmares or flashbacks. – n (%)** | **No** | 66 (95.65) | 16 (94.12) | 17 (100.00) | 33 (94.29) | 0.1219 | 1.0000 |
| **Yes** | 3 (4.35) | 1 (5.88) | 0 (0.00) | 2 (5.71) |

\*In our study, the SPs completed a symptoms checklist and a communication checklist at the end of each student encounter. The table above shows the results from the symptom checklist overall and for the three study groups (*backstory VP, control VP and empathy feedback VP*). The SPs were blinded to students’ group assignment.