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2-2019

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Recommended Citation

Swearingen, Natalie; Corless, Leslie; Swann, Jessica; Cox, Kailey; Lada, Diane; and Baraban, Elizabeth, "Cost Analysis of Implementing Standardized Stroke Patient Education Materials in a Large Five State Health System" (2019). *Books, Presentations, Posters, Etc.*. 53.

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Cost Analysis of Implementing Standardized Stroke Patient Education Materials in a Large Five State Health System

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Background

- Providing stroke patient education is a national quality core measure and required by all certified stroke programs.¹
- Stroke patient education booklets (SPEBs) can be developed by stroke programs or purchased from an external organization (EO).
- Certifying bodies require specific stroke education content, however organizations can decide on the development and maintenance of the material.¹
- The cost of production, maintenance and purchase in a large five state health system was found to be highly variable prompting an 18 month collaboration to standardize SPEBs across the health system.

Purpose

Analyze SPEB cost for both before and after implementation of a standardized SPEB for a large five state health system.

Methods

- Stroke program coordinators/champions responsible for developing, maintaining, and ordering SPEBs for 18 facilities were surveyed as to cost and time spent managing SPEBs per year before and after standardized SPEB implementation.
- Time in hours and cost per SPEB are reported.
- Survey was sent prior to a full year post standardization, time saved is anticipated.

Conclusions

- Production, development and maintenance of SPEBs by stroke programs is costly.
- An 18-month system wide collaboration for standardization of the SPEB significantly decreased cost per SPEB to all hospital sites and reduced hours of management/production.
- Implementation of standardized SPEBs can save facilities thousands of dollars per year.

Results

- Surveys were sent to 18 stroke program coordinators/champions representing 18 facilities with responses received from 17 facilities (94.4% response rate).
- Pre-standardization, facilities reported time spent producing or managing the SPEBs ranged from 2 to 60 hours, averaging 27 hours per year.
- Post-standardization, anticipated time saved will be between 0 and 32 hours with an average of 8.86 hours per year (Figure 1).
- Cost of production for the pre standardization SPEB ranged from \$.73 to \$15.00 per SPEB with an average of \$5.18.
- The post standardization SPEB savings ranged from \$0.38-\$14.62, with an average savings of \$4.80 per SPEB production and was lower for all facilities (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Anticipated Time Saved Post SPEB Standardization

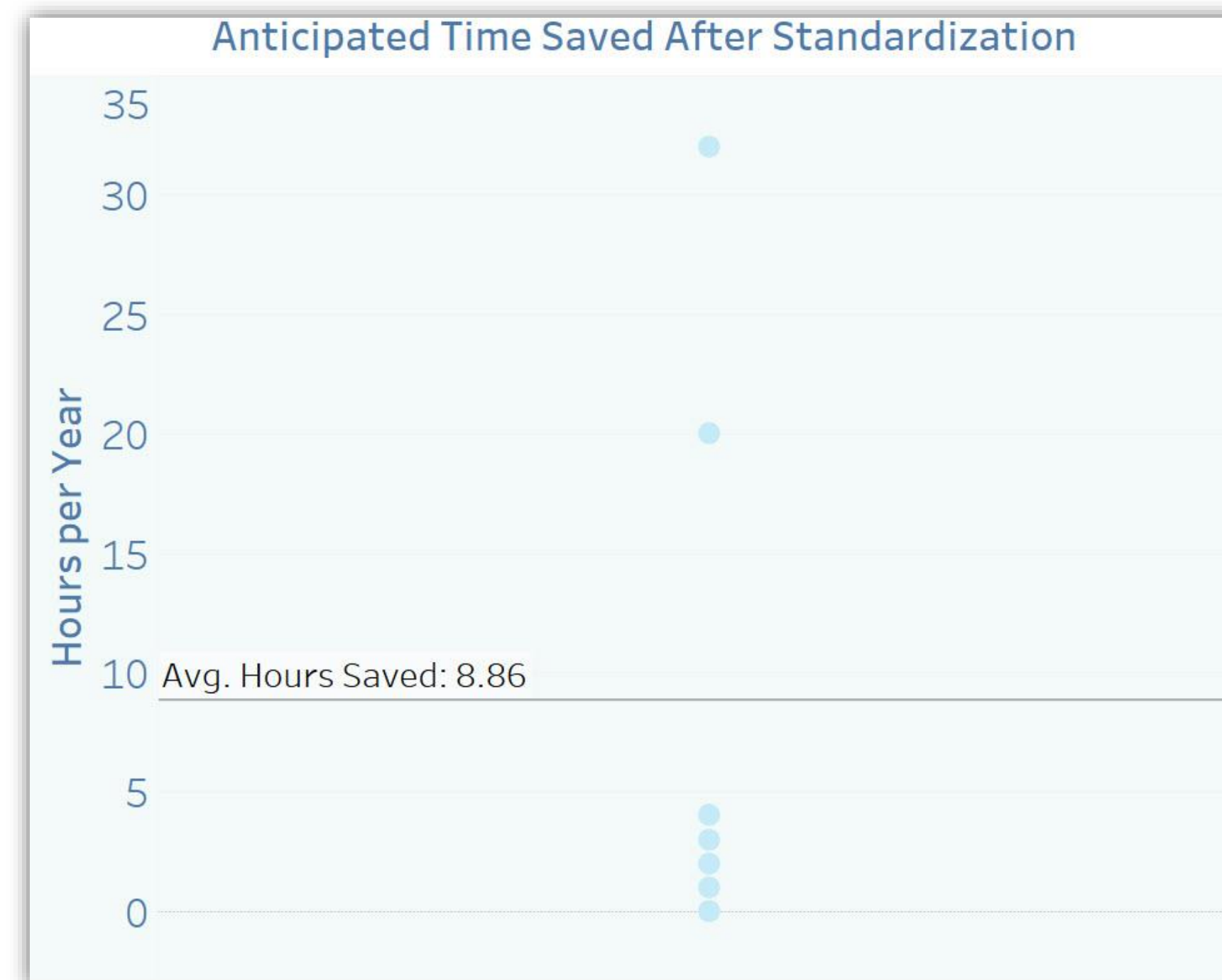
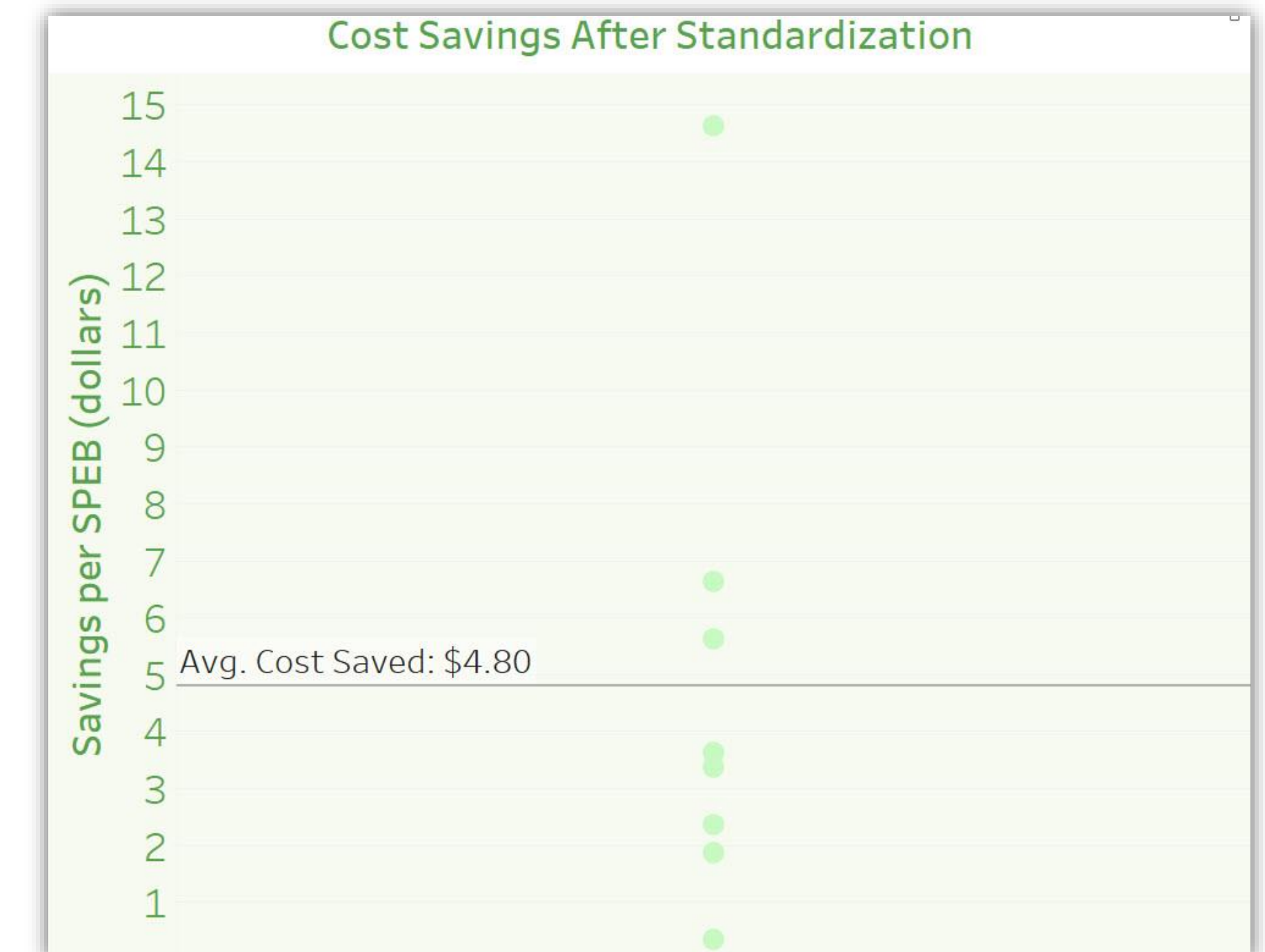


Figure 2: Cost Savings Post SPBE Standardization



References

1. The Joint Commission: *Advancing Effective Communication, Cultural Competence, and Patient- and Family-Centered Care: A Roadmap for Hospitals*. Oakbrook Terrace, IL: The Joint Commission, 2010.