

A National Evaluation of the Veterans Health Administration Diffusion of Excellence Program

Learning from Local Team Implementation and Sustainability Experiences

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INTRODUCTION

- VHA Diffusion of Excellence (DoE) hosts an annual "Shark Tank" competition, in which leaders bid on the opportunity to implement a Gold Status Practice
- Teams receive 6 months of implementation support
- Objective:** Identify factors contributing to 6-month implementation success and long-term sustainability

METHODS

- Semi-structured interviews with 88/115 Gold Status Practice implementation team members, including external implementation support, VHA implementation leaders, and key stakeholders
- 30/31 teams completed post-implementation semi-structured interviews
- Sustainability surveys emailed approximately 2 years after implementation
- Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) informed data collection and analyses to understand factors influencing implementation success and sustainability

RESULTS

- 57% of teams successfully implemented in 6-months
 - Implementation readiness barriers (insufficient approvals, staffing, resources) led some teams to partial or unsuccessful implementation.
- 63% of teams sustained their practice 2 years later
 - Staff turnover, limited resources, and competing demands were barriers that led some teams to discontinue their practice
- 57% of teams that were unsuccessful at 6-months eventually implemented and sustained their practice

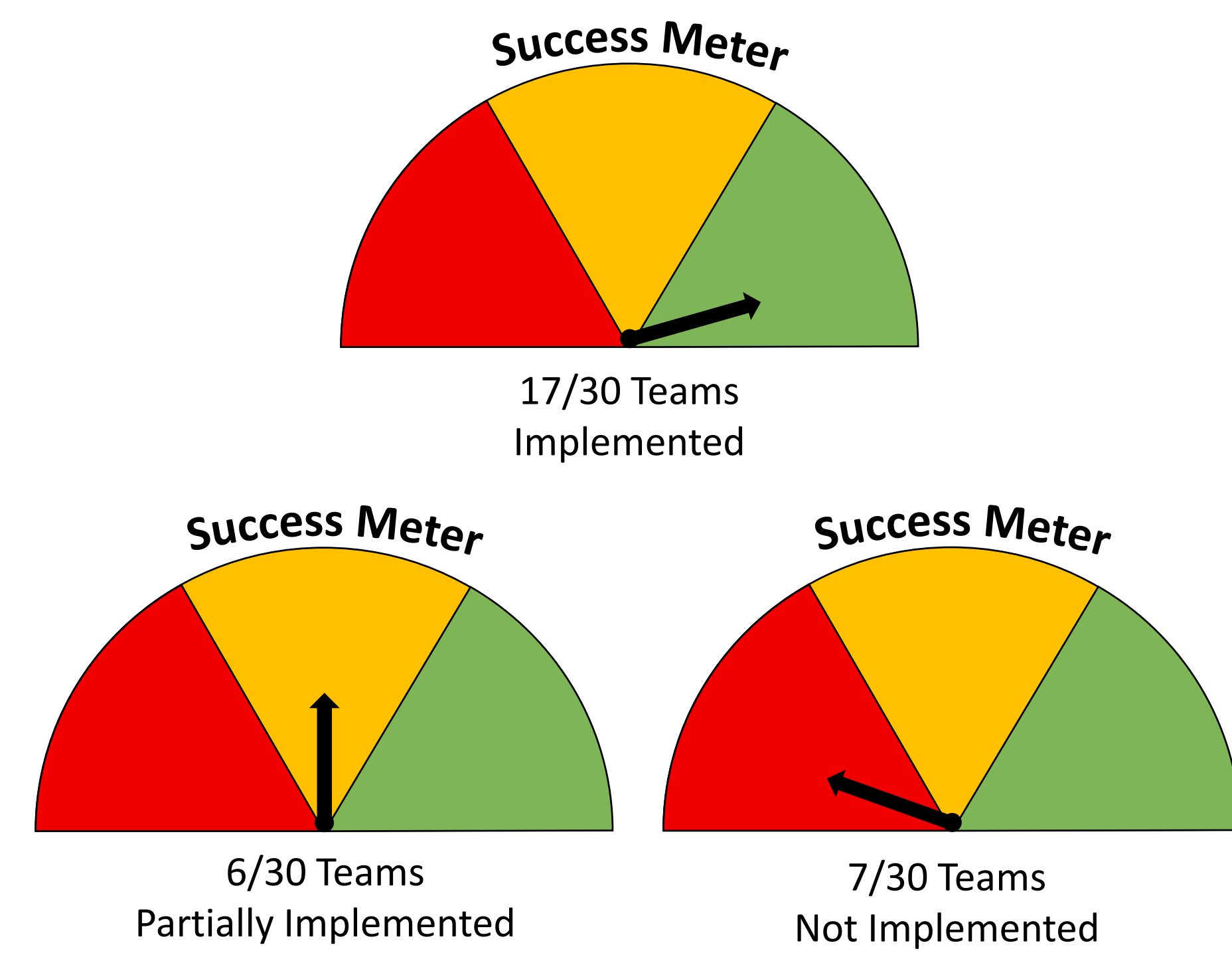
CONCLUSIONS

- High implementation success and sustainability provide evidence to support DoE as a model of diffusing best practices

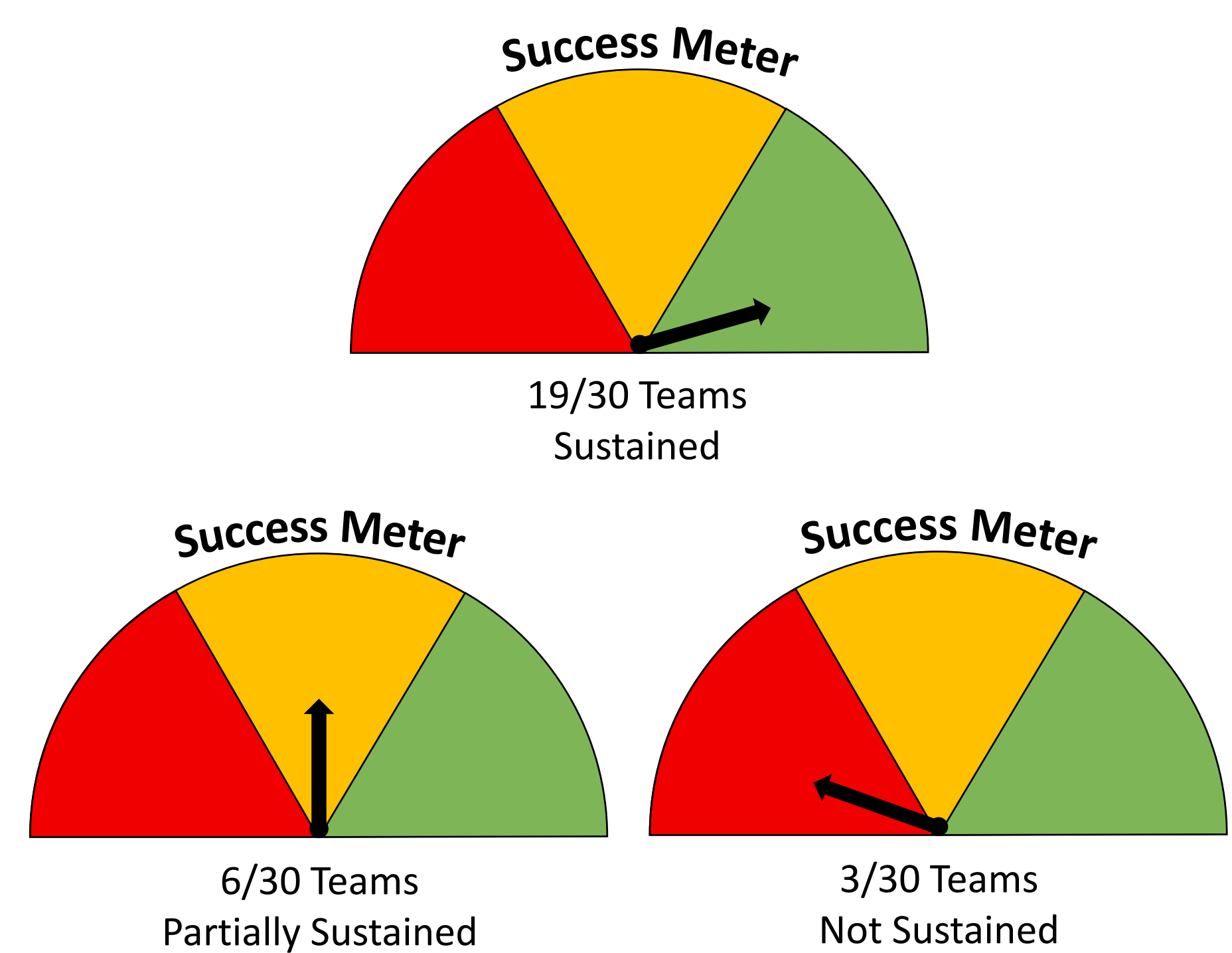


Despite initial implementation challenges, most VHA facility teams sustained their Gold Status Practice

Implementation: 6 -months



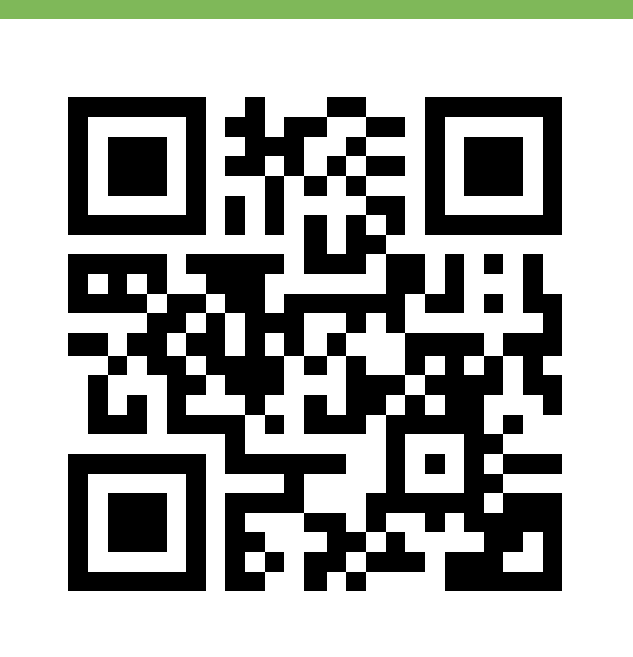
Sustainability: 2-years



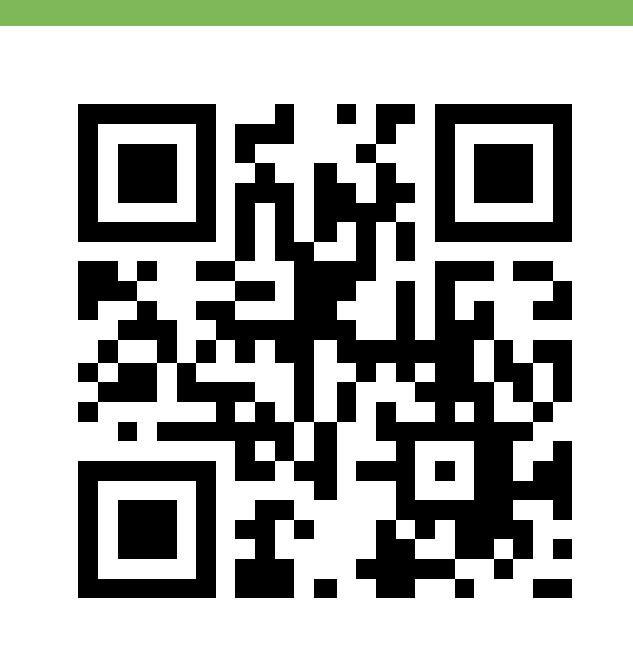
Implementation: 6-months No. (%)	Sustainability: 2 Years No. (%)				Total
	Sustained	Partially Sustained	Not Sustained	Non Response	
Implemented	12(70)	3(18)	2(12)	0(0)	17
Partially Implemented	3(50)	1(17)	1(17)	1(17)	6
Not Implemented	4(57)	2(29)	0(0)	1(14)	7
Total Number of Teams	19	6	3	2	30

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DoE Website



CFIR Website



More information
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