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The language of behaviour changes in dementia and why it matters

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Dementia is not only memory loss.
To keep highlighting memory as the
main disability keeps the myths alive.
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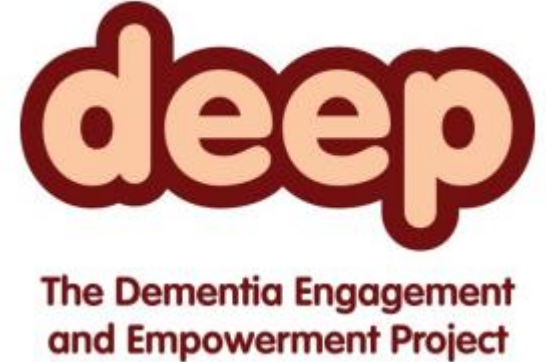




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So many different terms!

Challenging Behaviour
Unmet Needs
Distressed Behaviour
Non-Cognitive Symptoms
Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia
Behaviour that Challenges
Stress and Distress
Unusual Behaviours
Neuropsychiatric Symptoms
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour
BPSD **NPS**
Dysregulatory Behaviour



Dementia Words Matter

- The language we use to talk about dementia influences how people with dementia are viewed and also how they feel about themselves.
- People with dementia prefer words and descriptions that are accurate, balanced and respectful.

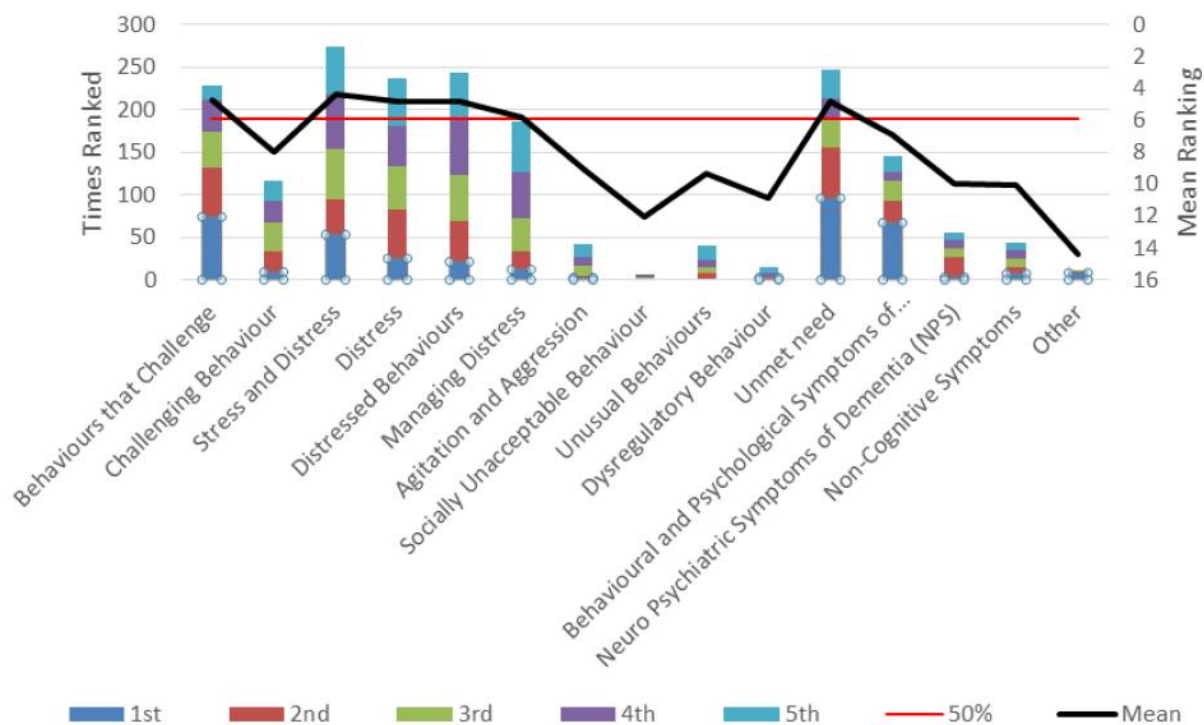
#BanBPSD

Symptoms or Needs?



Professionals

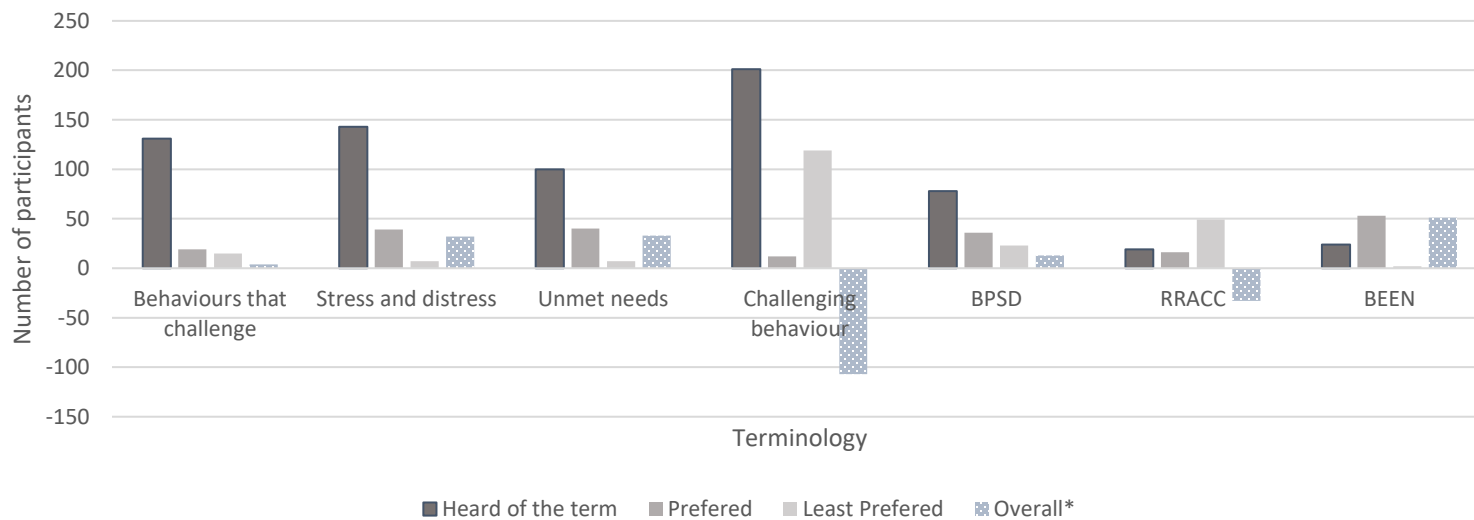
Wolverson, E., Birtles, H., Moniz-Cook, E., James, I., Brooker, D. and Duffy, F., 2019. Naming and framing the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) paradigm: professional stakeholder perspectives. *OBM Geriatrics*, 3(4), pp.1-19.



Professionals

- Not blaming
- Easy to use
- Hopeful
- Reflection emotions

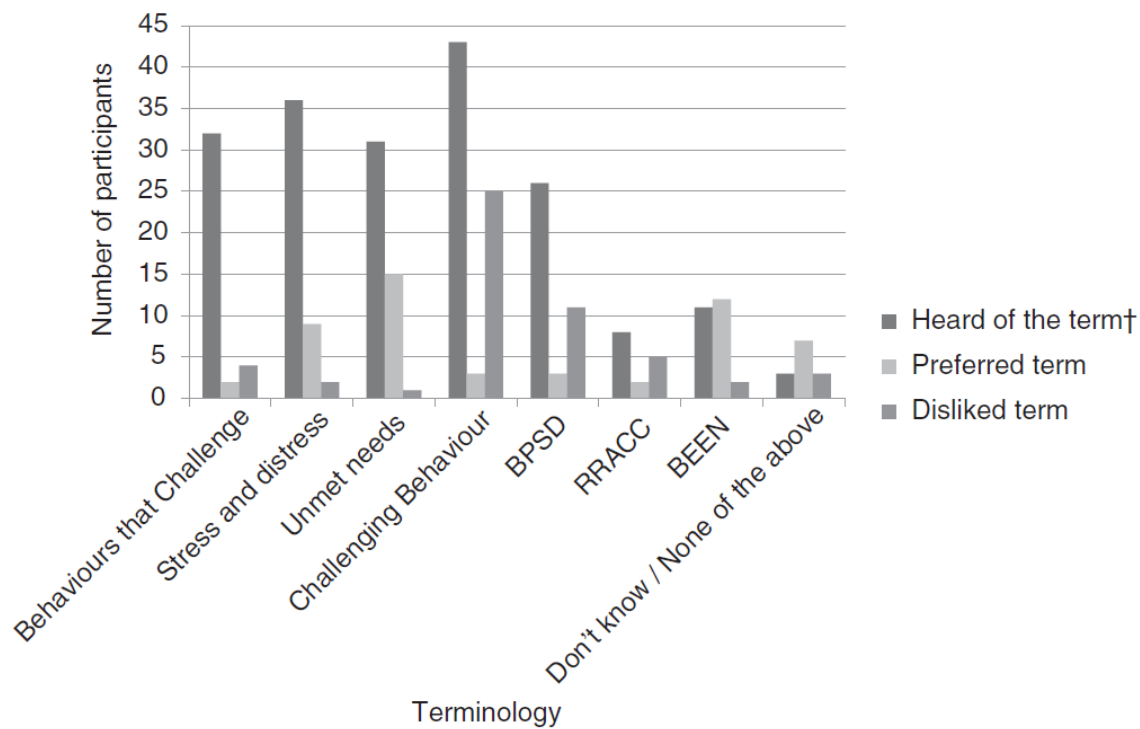
Family carers



Family Carers

- Easy to understand
- Person Centered and positive
- Recognize role of the carer

People with dementia



People with dementia

- Simple easy to understand and kind
- Some terms were hopeless and implied nothing could be done
- Some blaming and implied intent
- No acronyms

Does it matter what language we use?

- Do we all need to use the same language?
- Can professionals use their own shorthand?



Reflections:

- We need to talk about changes in behaviour
- Take time to explore peoples language preferences and understandings
- Look to use words that reflect needs
- We need to continue to review the language we use in this area