

## Background

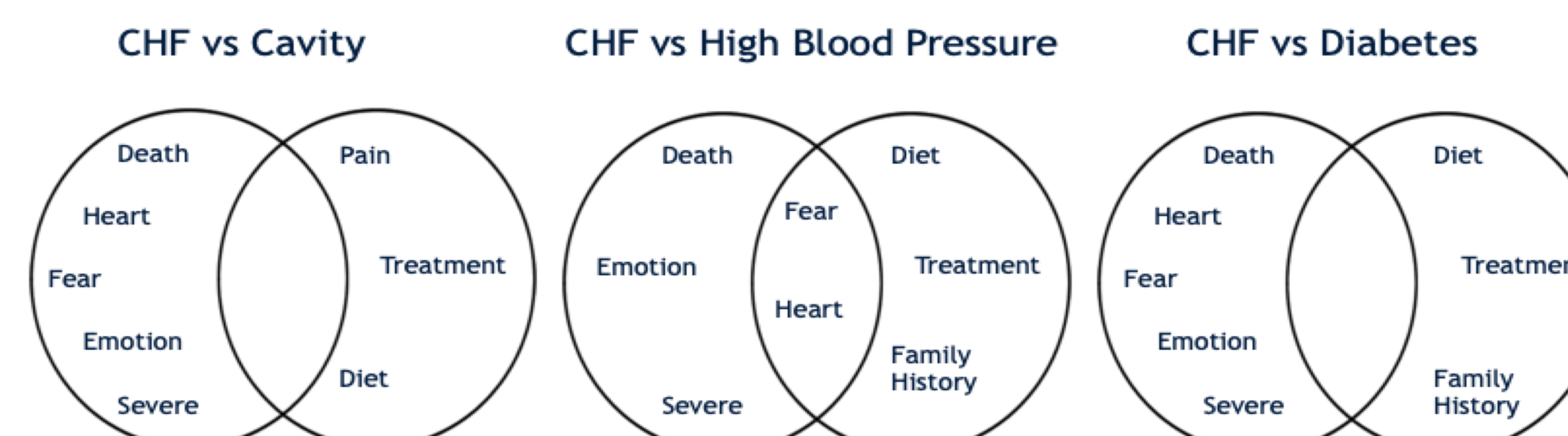
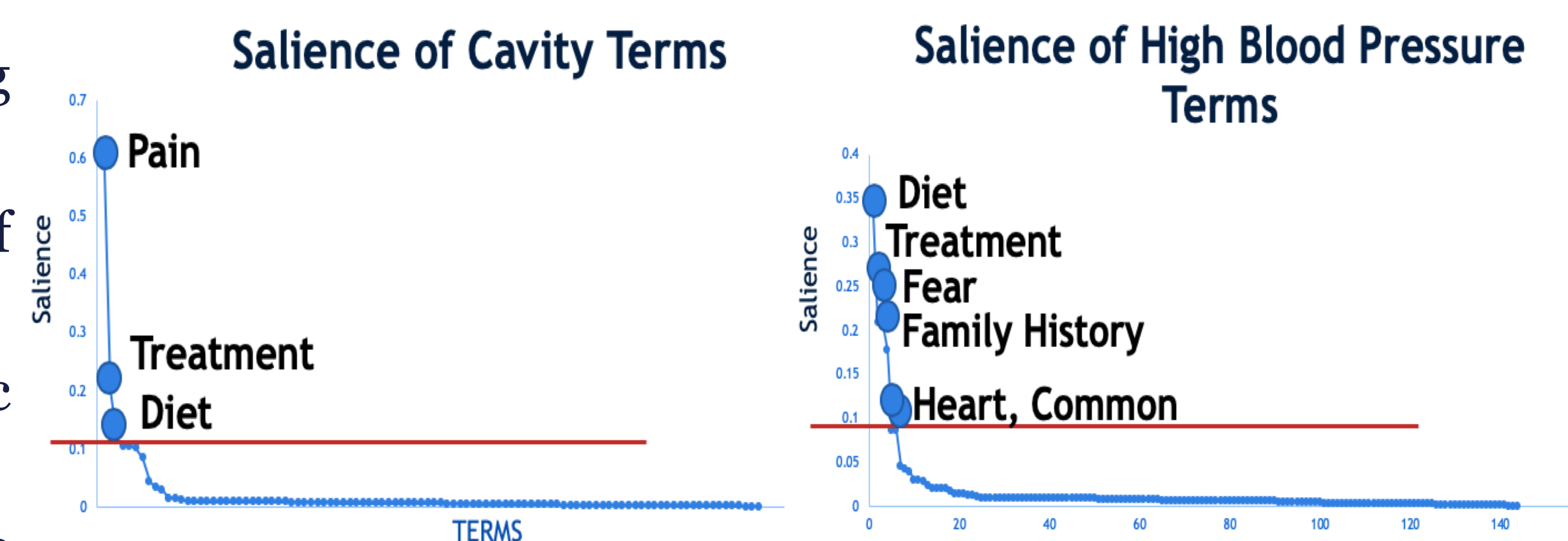
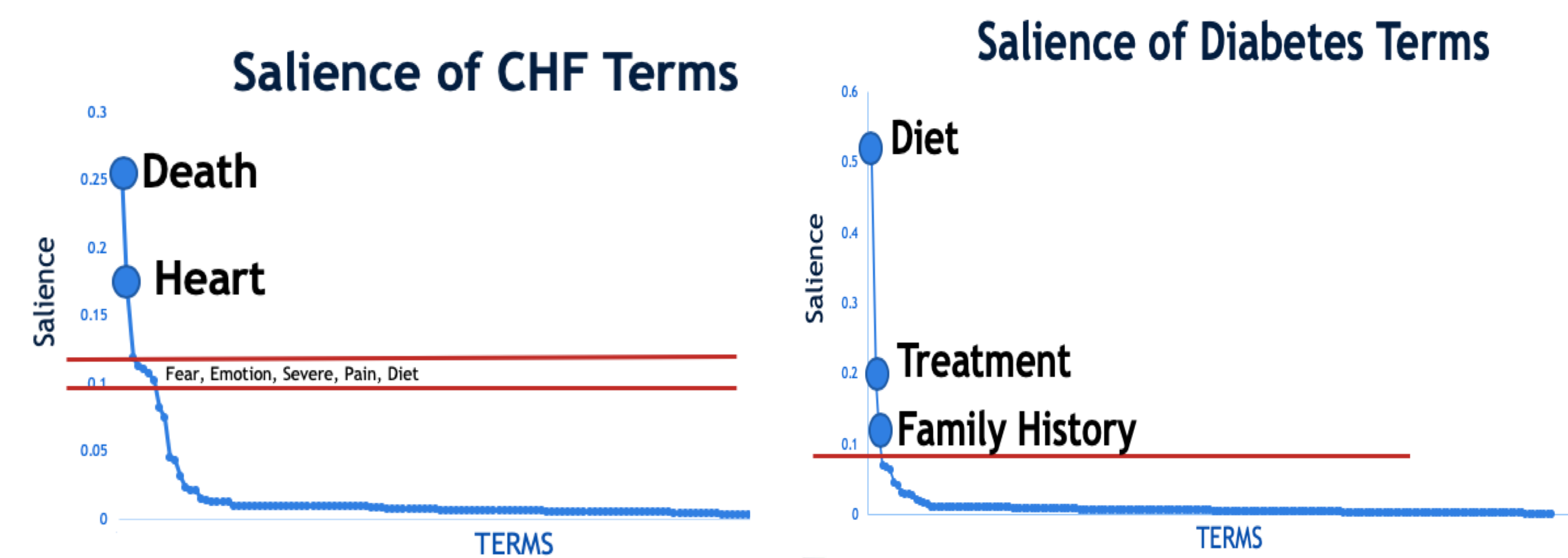
- Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) has shifted from a terminal disease to a chronic condition in the last 15 years
- Patients, however, continue to perceive CHF as a disease with high mortality
- Patients exposed to the term “heart failure”, as compared to other euphemisms report higher incidences of anxiety and depression
- There have been numerous calls for a shift in the nomenclature recently, including the European Cardiology Society and the New Zealand Heart Foundation
- With a shift in the nomenclature will come the added benefit of improved patient-provider communication and greater patient understanding of the disease

## Methods

- This study utilized the free listing method to collect and analyze participant responses
- 3 trained interviewers conducted the free listing interviews at 5 different sites
- 20 subjects were interviewed at each site for a total of 100 subjects
- Verbal consent was recorded, and basic demographic information collected
- Subjects were then given the prompt: List all the thoughts and feelings that come to mind when you hear \_\_\_\_\_
- The 4 terms given included congestive heart failure, cavity, high blood pressure, and diabetes
- Responses were cleaned and imported into Anthropic
- Frequencies and Smith’s salience index were recorded
- Smith’s salience index was plotted to determine the most salient terms

## Results

- Salient CHF terms included Death, Heart, Fear, Emotion, Severe, Pain, and Diet
- Salient Diabetes terms included Diet, Treatment, and Family History
- Salient Cavity Terms included Pain, Treatment, and Diet
- Salient High Blood Pressure Terms included Diet, Treatment, Fear, Family History, Heart, and Common



## Discussion

- This study aimed to evaluate public perception surrounding the nomenclature of the disease “congestive heart failure”
- The results of our study show that mortality and fear were among the most salient feelings produced by the terminology of CHF
- Death was not a salient term for “cavity”, “diabetes”, or “high blood pressure”. In fact, after cleaning it only came up 3 times for high blood pressure, once for diabetes, and not at all for cavity
- Next steps include publishing our findings to add to the body of literature proposing a nomenclature change
- We would also like to consult with a cardiologist to get a better understanding of feelings surrounding nomenclature change of CHF in the field

## Limitations

- Small possibility of interviewing same subject twice-multiple data collectors working at the same site at the same time
- Might have gotten a more accurate response if we had asked what the subjects’ thoughts and feeling were if they were diagnosed with CHF
- Method of data collecting may have led to biased responses-some participants may have felt they needed to give a certain amount of answers to receive the \$5 Wawa gift card

## Acknowledgements

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