

# **Behavioral Strategies in Obesity Management**

**Thomas A. Wadden, PhD**

**Perelman School of Medicine**

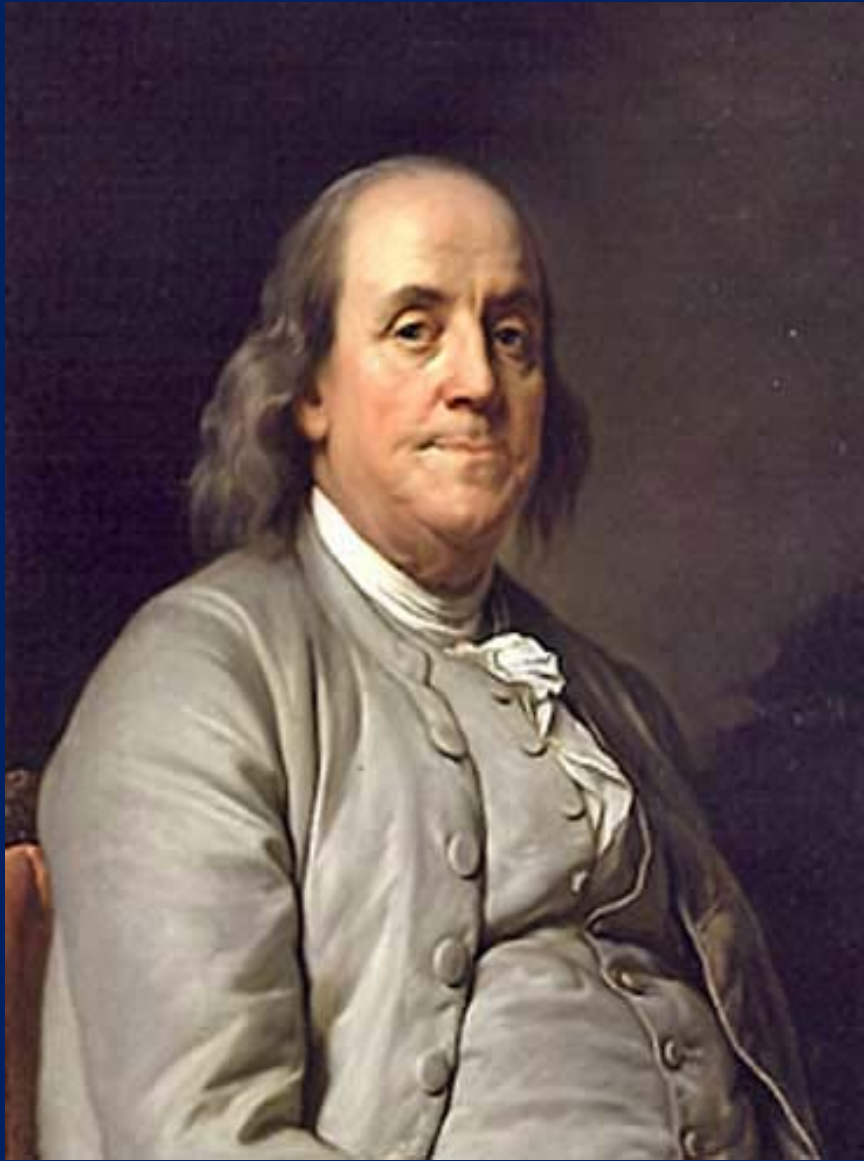
**University of Pennsylvania**

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

# Overview of Presentation

---

- Behavioral treatment for obesity
- Diabetes Prevention Program
- Improving induction and maintenance of weight loss
- Look AHEAD study
- Options for disseminating lifestyle modification



**BMI = 32 kg/m<sup>2</sup>**

## Goals of Weight Management: a 10% Loss of Initial Weight

---

“Sustained weight loss of 3% - 5% is likely to result in clinically meaningful reductions in triglycerides, blood glucose, HbA<sub>1c</sub> and the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.” “...greater loss produces greater benefits.”

# A Guide to Selecting Treatment: NIH Guidelines\*

Treatment	BMI Category				
	25–26.9	27–29.9	30–34.9	35–39.9	<sup>3</sup> 40
Diet, physical activity, behavior therapy	Yes with comorbidities	Yes with comorbidities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pharmacotherapy		Yes with comorbidities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Weight loss surgery				Yes with comorbidities	Yes

Yes\*alone indicates that the treatment is indicated regardless of the presence or absence of comorbidities. The solid arrow signifies the point at which therapy is initiated



# U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

- “The USPSTF recommends screening all adults for obesity. Clinicians should offer or refer patients with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher to intensive, multicomponent interventions.”
  - Moderate intensity = monthly contact
  - High intensity = more frequent
  - Low intensity = less frequent
- This is a grade B recommendation.

\*There is high certainty that the net benefit is moderate or there is moderate certainty that the net benefit is moderate or substantial.

# Lifestyle Modification for Obesity

---

- Consists of a set of principles and techniques to modify eating and activity habits
- New habits can be learned in same manner as a sport or musical instrument
- Treatment examines antecedents, behaviors and consequences (ABCs) associated with eating and activity

# A Sample Behavior Chain

---



# Identify Eating Habits by Self-Monitoring

---

- Types of foods
- Portion sizes
- Calories (reduce by 500-750 kcal/d)
- Times, places, and activities
- Thoughts and moods



# Comprehensive Lifestyle Intervention

- Patients who need to lose weight should receive a comprehensive lifestyle intervention (diet, physical activity, and behavior modification) of 6 months or longer.



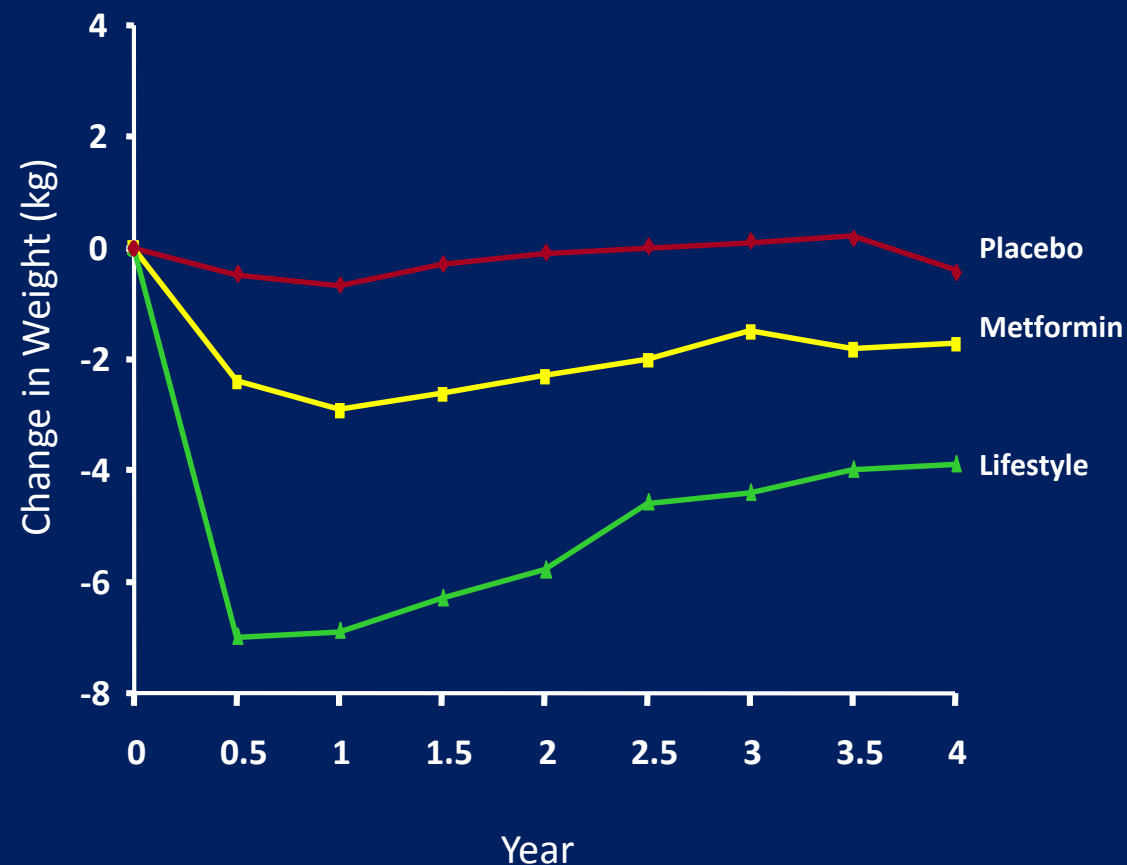
- Reduced calorie diet:  $\geq 500$  kcal/d deficit
- Physical activity: typically aerobic,  $\geq 150$  min/week
- Behavior therapy: structured behavior change program that includes monitoring food intake, activity, and weight, with regular feedback from trained interventionist

# Expert Panel's Recommendation for Losing 5-10% of Initial Weight

---

- “Advise overweight and obese individuals...to participate for  $\geq 6$  months in a comprehensive lifestyle program...”  
(Recommendation: A)
- “Prescribe on-site, high intensity (i.e.,  $\geq 14$  sessions in 6 months) comprehensive weight loss interventions provided in individual or group sessions by a trained interventionist.”  
(Recommendation: A)
- Comprehensive interventions “... produce average weight losses of up to 8 kg in 6 months of frequent (initially weekly) on-site treatment provided by a trained interventionist...”  
(Strength of Evidence: High)

# DPP: Treatment Interventions and Weight Loss



## COMPREHENSIVE LIFESTYLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM

### Weight Loss Induction:

16 individual visits over 6 months

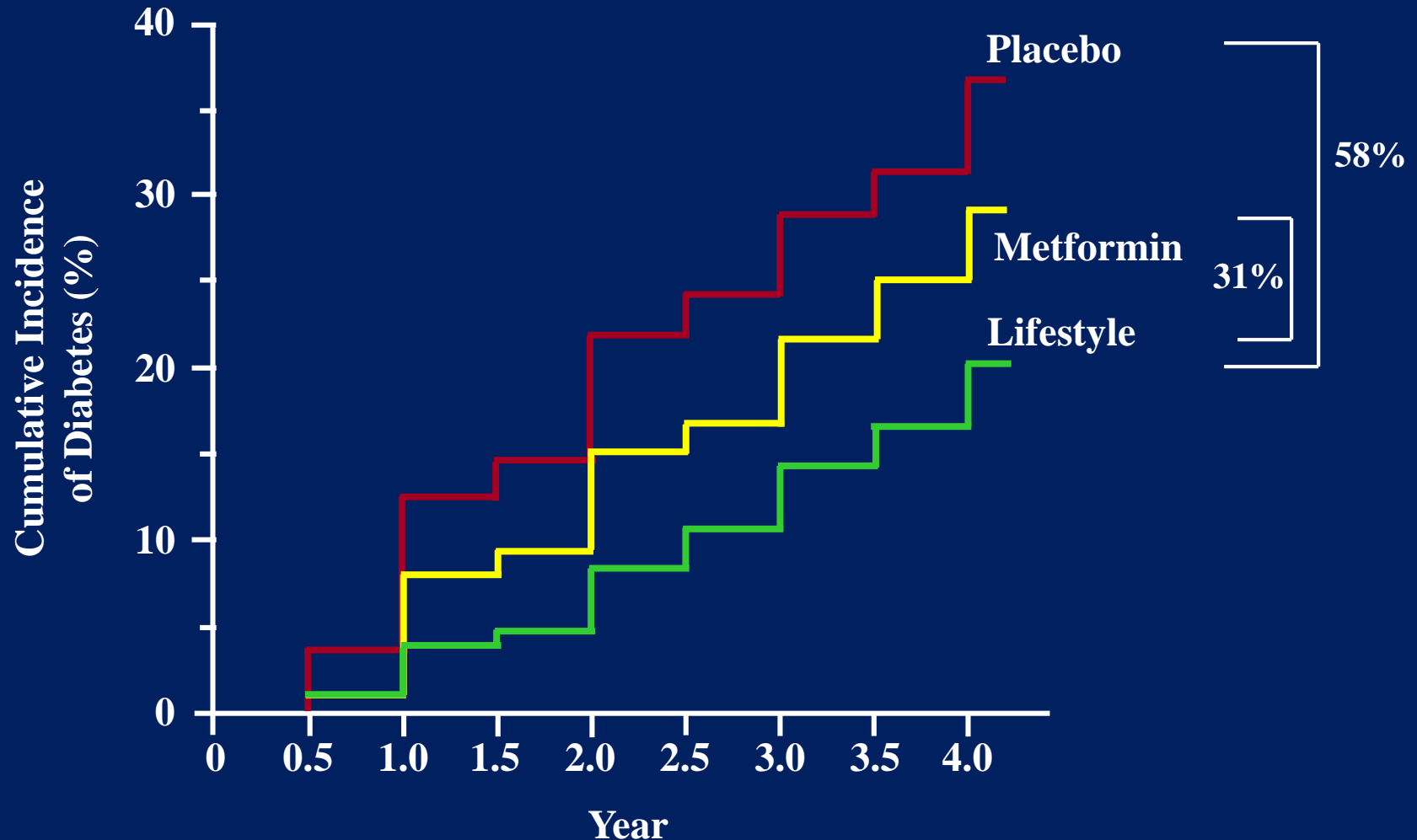
Diet: Low-fat diet, conventional foods (1200-1800 kcal/d)

Activity:  $\geq 150$  minutes/week of moderate intensity exercise

Weight Maintenance: Individual visits at least every 2 months.

- Three group classes/year for 4-6 weeks (campaigns)
- Toolbox

# Diabetes Prevention Program



# Treatment Factors Improving Weight Loss in Behavioral Interventions

---

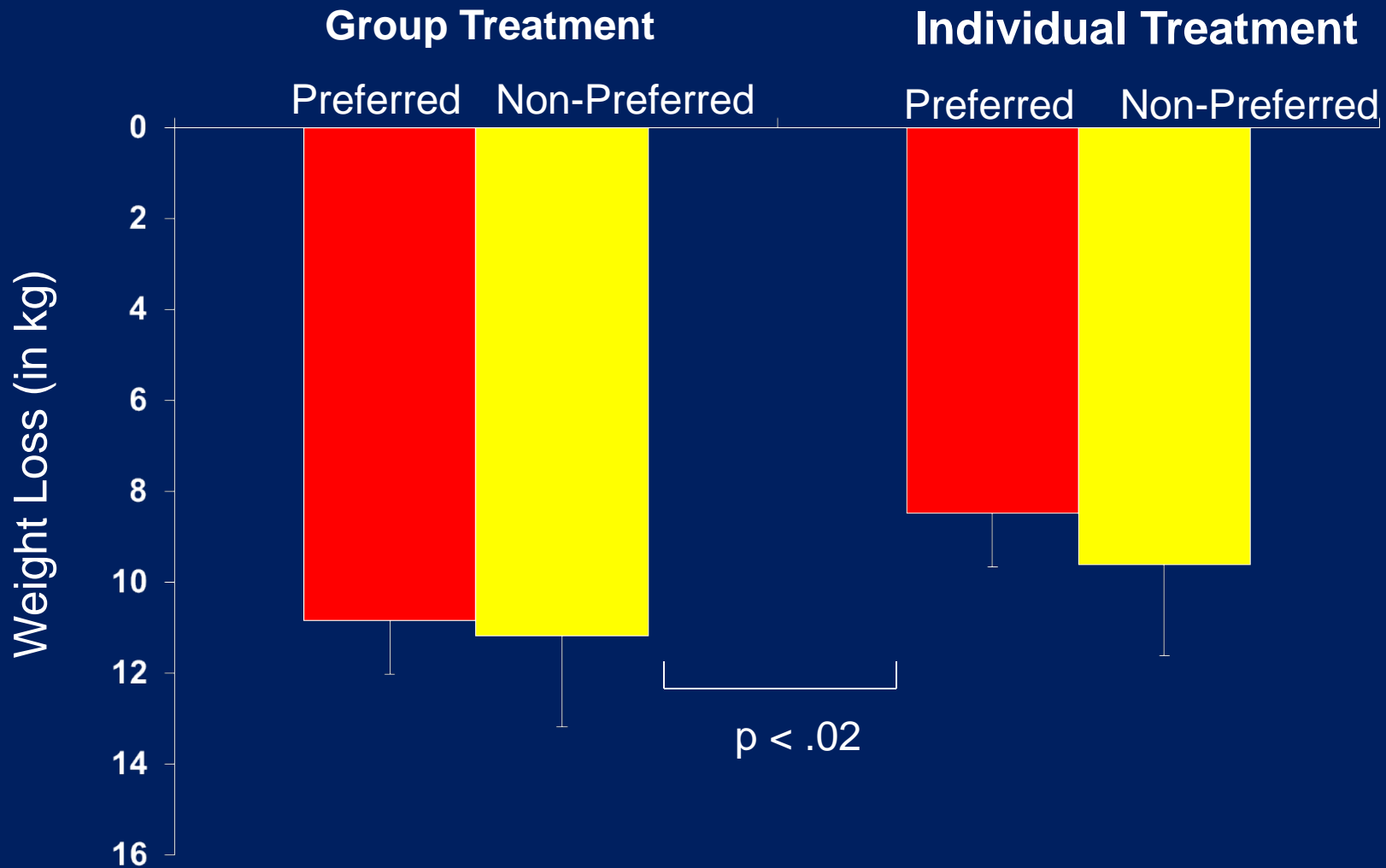
## Induction of Weight Loss

- Greater treatment intensity and duration
- Group treatment
- Portion-controlled meals

## Maintenance of Lost Weight

- Continued patient-interventionist contact
- High levels of physical activity

# Comparison of Group vs. Individual Treatment for Weight Loss: 6 months

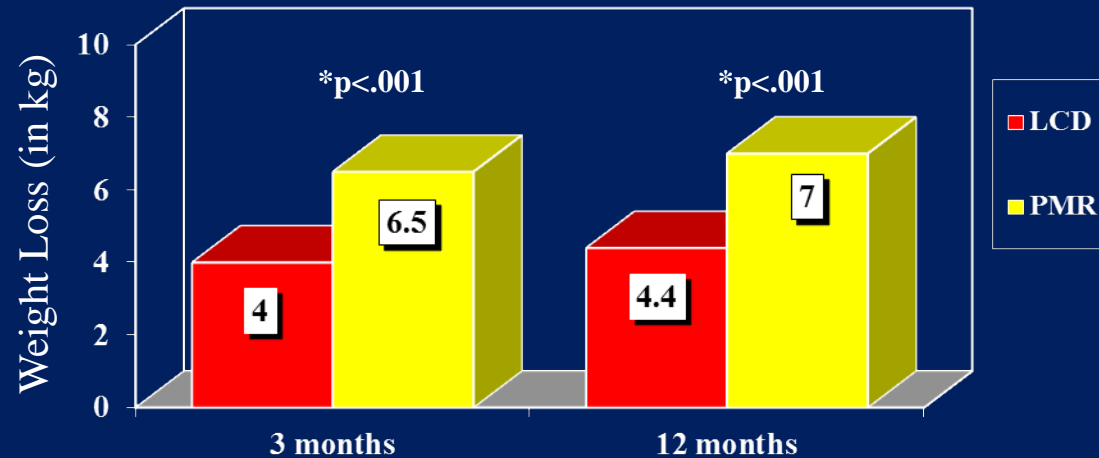


## Portion-Controlled Meals

- Provide fixed-portion and calorie amounts, either using detailed menu plans or meal replacements
- Facilitate patients' achieving calorie goals
- Are convenient to use

## Meta-Analysis of Partial Meal Replacements (PMR) vs. Conventional Low-Calorie Diets (LCD)

Diets were matched on calorie prescription.



# Treatment Factors Improving Weight Loss in Behavioral Interventions

---

## Induction of Weight Loss

- Greater treatment intensity and duration
- Group treatment
- Portion-controlled meals

## Maintenance of Lost Weight

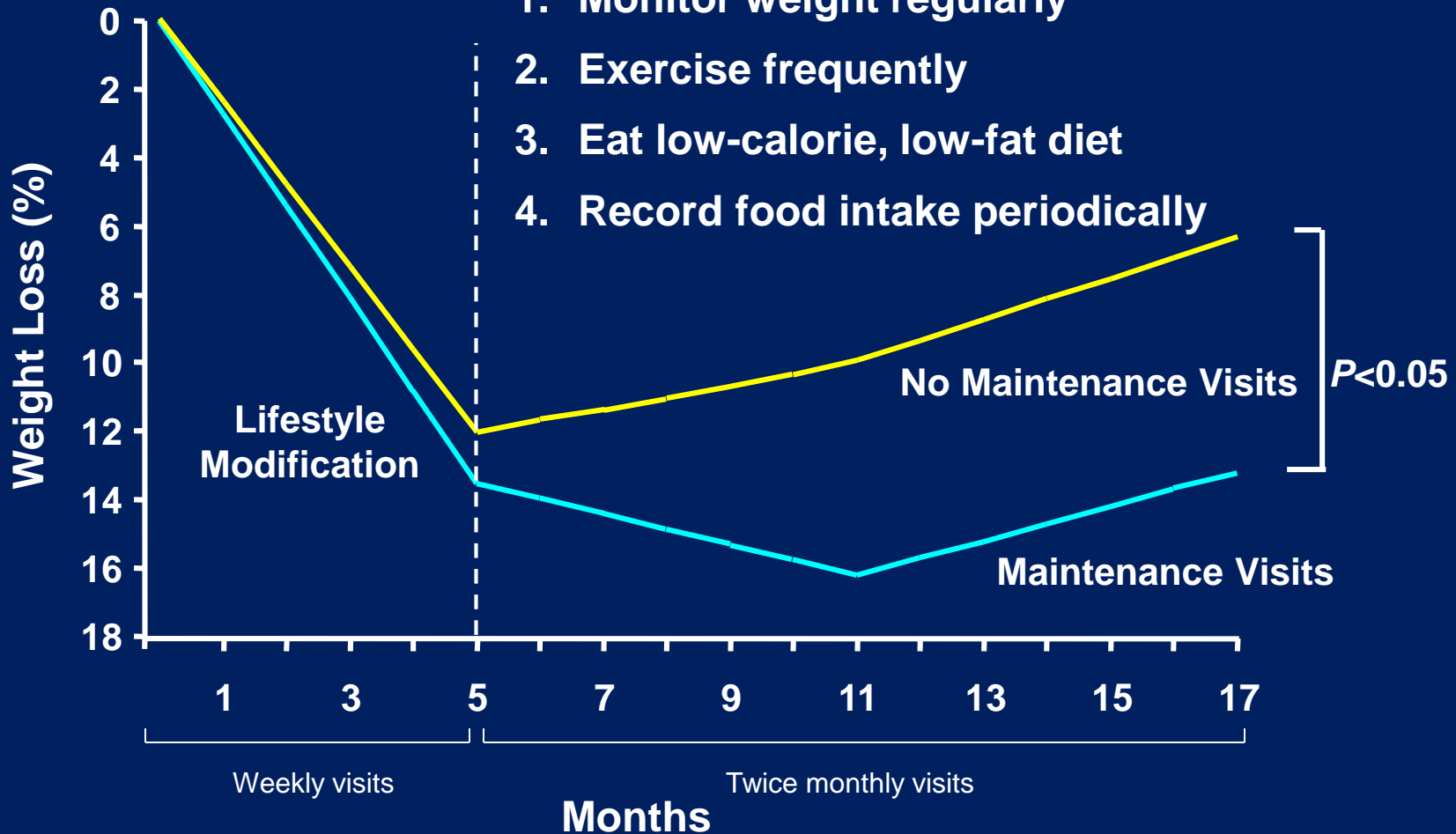
- Continued patient-interventionist contact
- High levels of physical activity



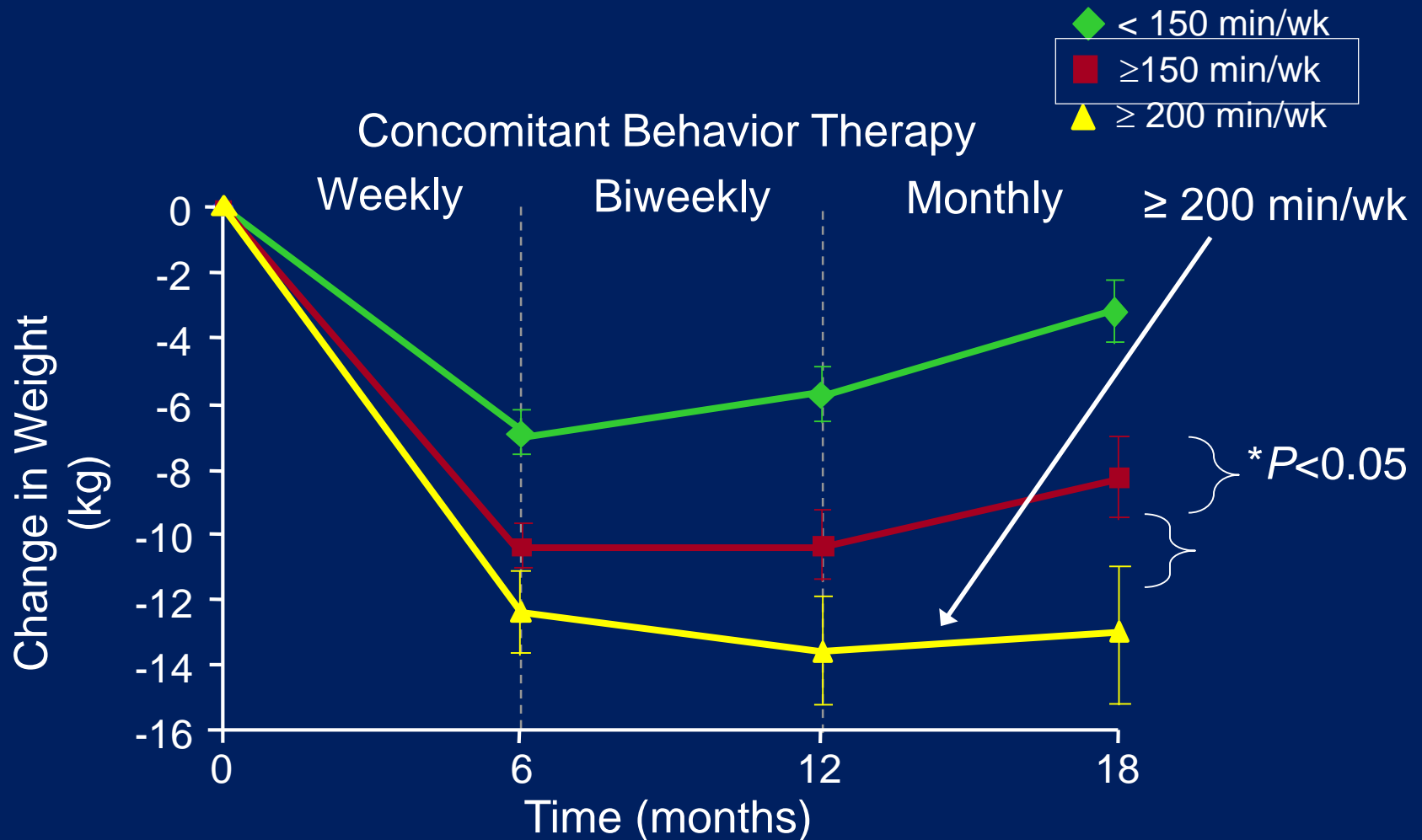
# Maintenance of Weight Loss Is Improved With Long-Term Behavioral Treatment

## Key Behaviors for Long-Term Weight Control

1. Monitor weight regularly
2. Exercise frequently
3. Eat low-calorie, low-fat diet
4. Record food intake periodically



# High Levels of Physical Activity are Needed for Weight Loss Maintenance



# Look AHEAD Study (Action for Health in Diabetes)

---

## Diabetes Prevention Program:

7% weight loss, with increased activity, reduced risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58%.

## Look AHEAD Study:

Will a weight loss  $\geq 7\%$ , with increased activity, reduce risk of heart attack and stroke in obese persons with type 2 diabetes?

# Look AHEAD Intensive Lifestyle Intervention (ILI): Years 1-4

---

- Year 1
  - 3 group visits/mo (mo 1-6); 2/mo (mo 7-12)
  - 1 individual session/month
  - Personal weight loss goal = 10%
- Years 2-4
  - Monthly on-site individual session
  - Monthly phone call or e-mail contact
  - Periodic refresher groups or campaigns offered 2-3 times per year for 6-8 weeks

# Intervention Recommendations

---

- Dietary Intake

1200-1500 kcal/day < 250 lb

1500-1800 kcal/day  $\geq$  250 lb

$\leq$  30% calories from fat

Meal replacements (2 meals and 1 snack/d

in Months 1-4; reduced use thereafter)

Menu plans provided

- Physical Activity

$\geq$  175 min/wk (brisk walking)

10,000 steps

# Diabetes Support & Education (DSE)

---

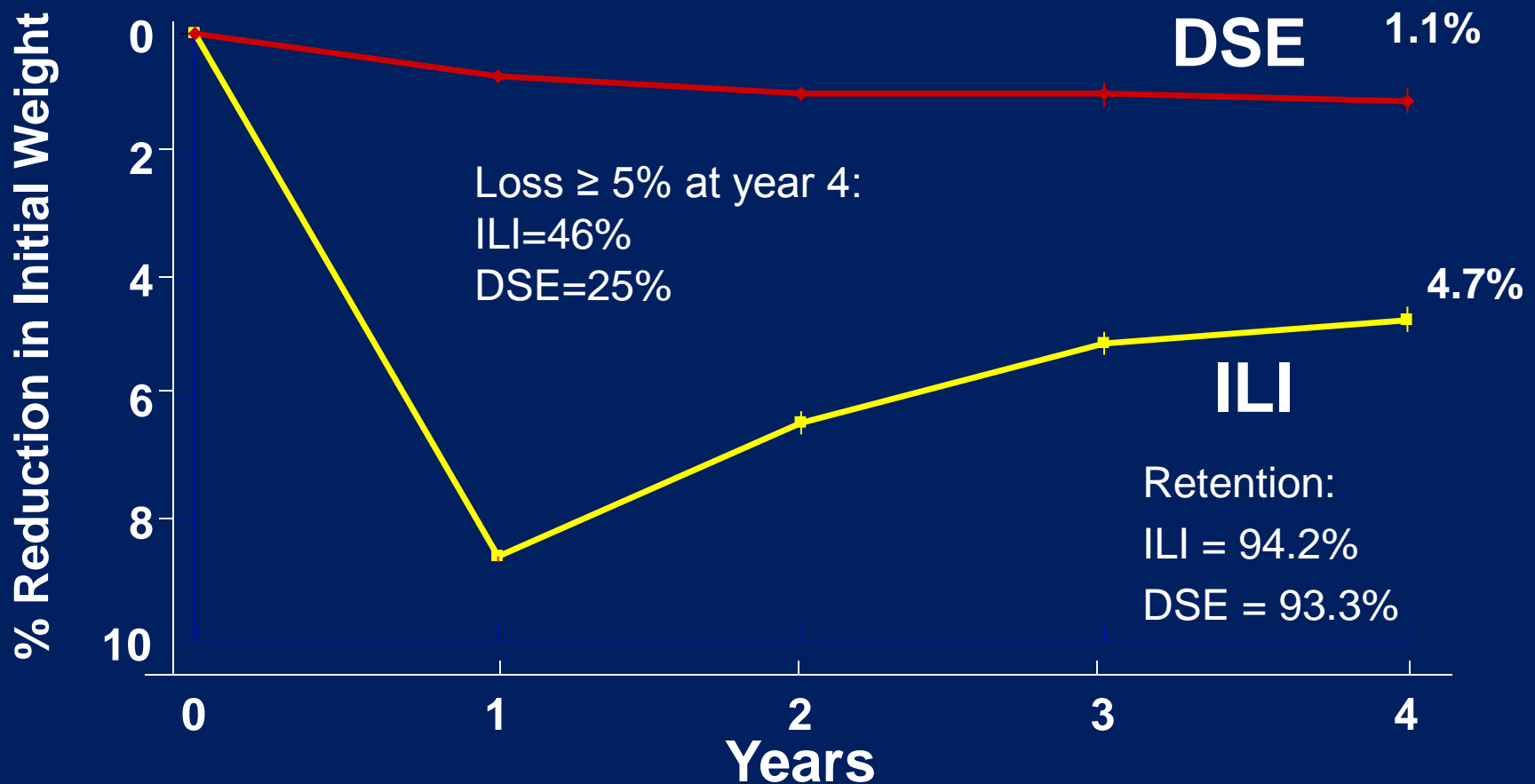
- 3 meetings/year
- To promote retention
- Health education topics

Diet

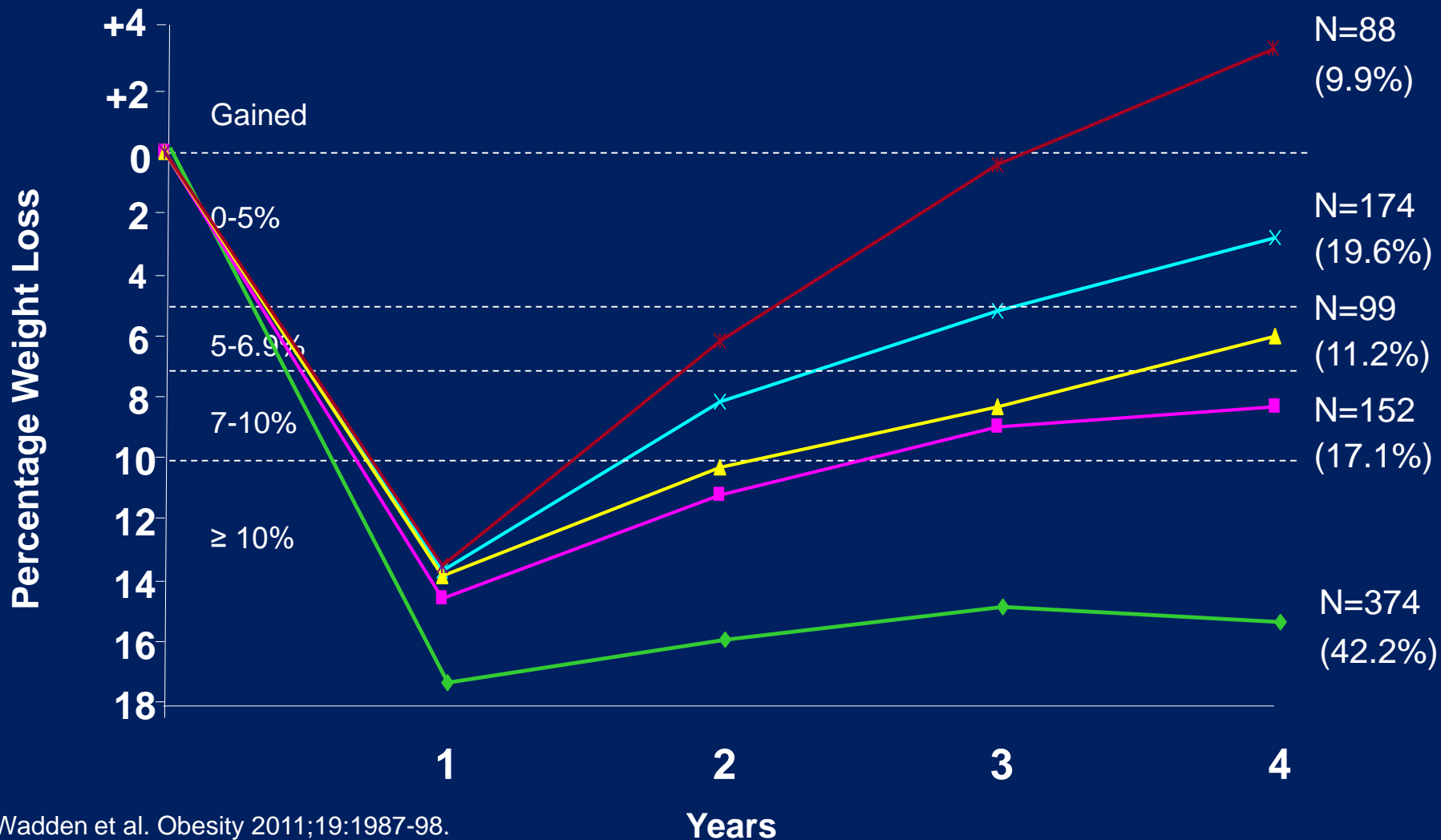
Exercise

Social Support

# Percentage Reduction in Initial Weight Over 4 Years in ILI and DSE Groups

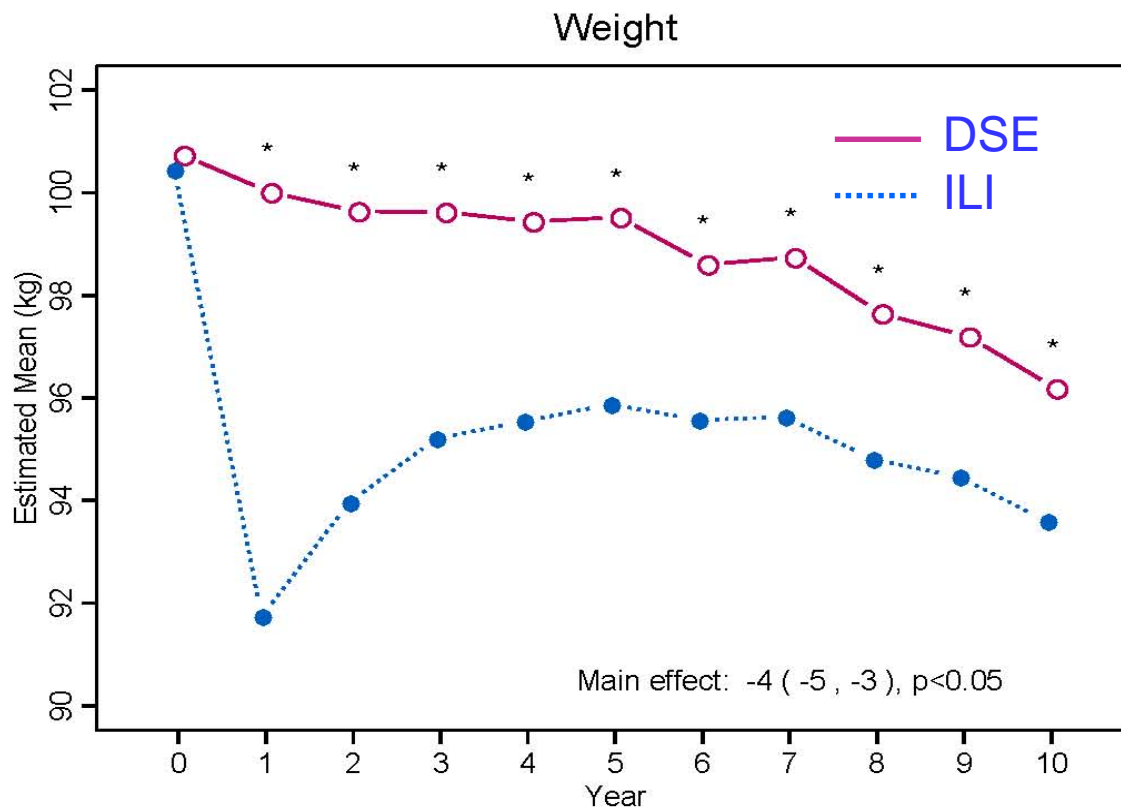


# Four-Year Weight Loss Trajectories of 887 ILI Participants Who Had Lost $\geq 10\%$ Initial Weight at Year 1





# Look AHEAD Cardiovascular Outcomes Study: Intensive Lifestyle Intervention in Overweight/Obese Type 2 Diabetics



5145 patients:  
BMI=36.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup>  
Type 2 diabetes

DSE = Diabetes  
Support and  
Education (Usual  
Care)

ILI = Intensive  
Lifestyle Intervention

# Look AHEAD: ILI, Compared with DSE, Improved:

- HbA<sub>1c</sub> and need for insulin
- Systolic blood pressure and HDL cholesterol
- Sleep apnea
- Physical function, quality of life, and the risk of depression
- **But did not reduce the risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, composite of fatal and non-fatal MI and stroke, and hospitalized angina**

# Increasing the Availability of High-Intensity Interventions

---

- DPP and Look AHEAD are high intensity, on-site intervention, with high costs, conducted in academic medical centers.
- Methods needed to extend lifestyle intervention to the community:
  - YMCA
  - Commercial programs
  - Electronic interventions
  - Internet and phone interventions

# Translating the DPP into the Community with the YMCA

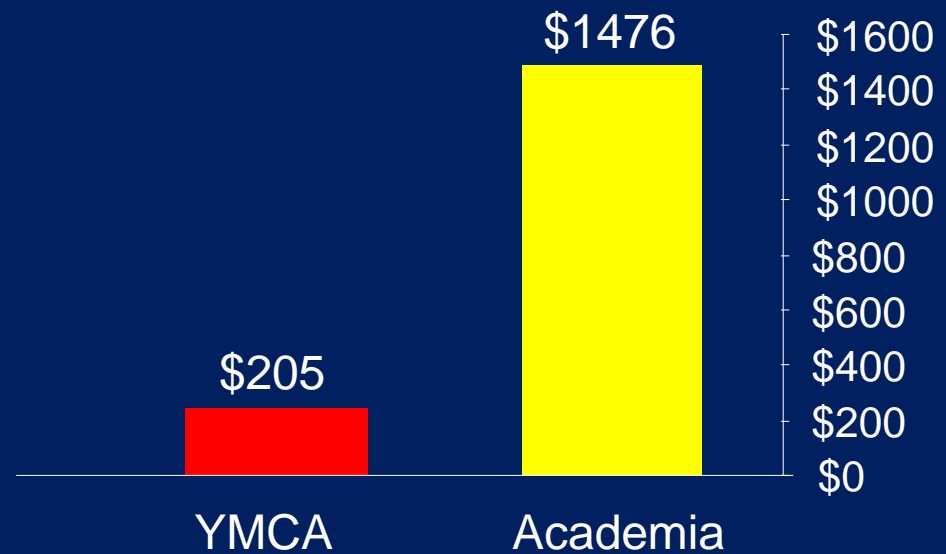
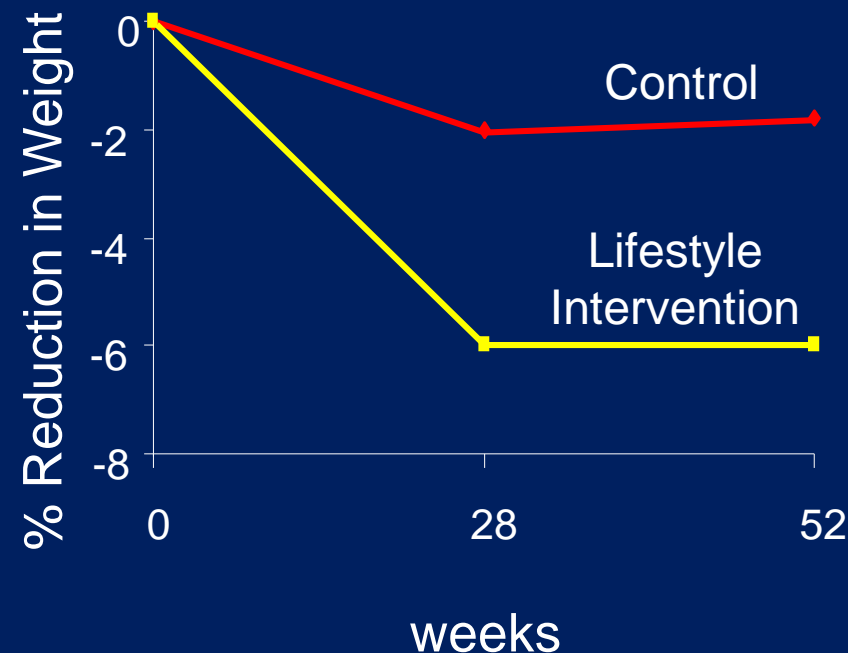
---



- YMCA wellness instructors trained to deliver DPP
- 16 weekly classroom-style sessions
- Monthly meetings thereafter through 52 weeks
- 92 participants, mean BMI=31.6 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, casual capillary blood glucose of 110-199 mg/dL

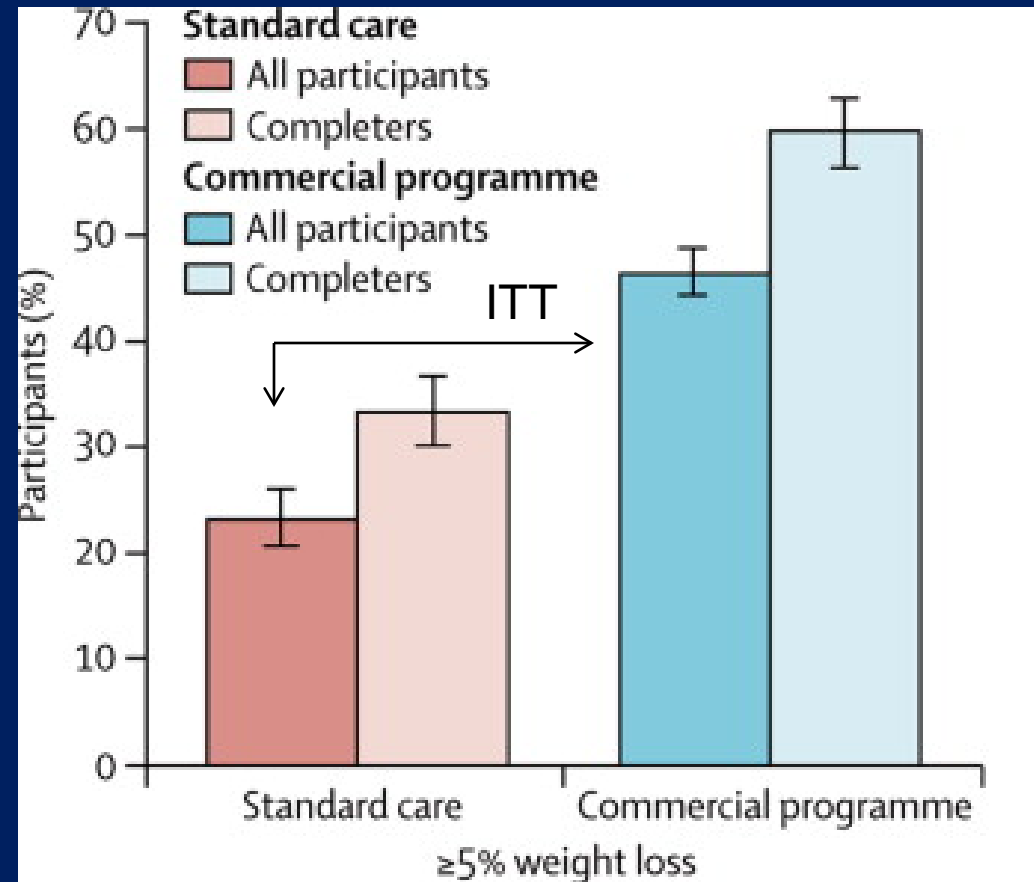
# Weight at 1 Year

# Cost of 1 Year of Treatment



# Commercial Weight Loss Programs in Primary Care

- 772 patients recruited from primary care practices in 3 countries
- Randomly assigned to local Weight Watchers program or Usual Care
- Weekly meetings provided at no charge for 1 year
- Mean losses of 4.1 vs. 1.8 kg, respectively



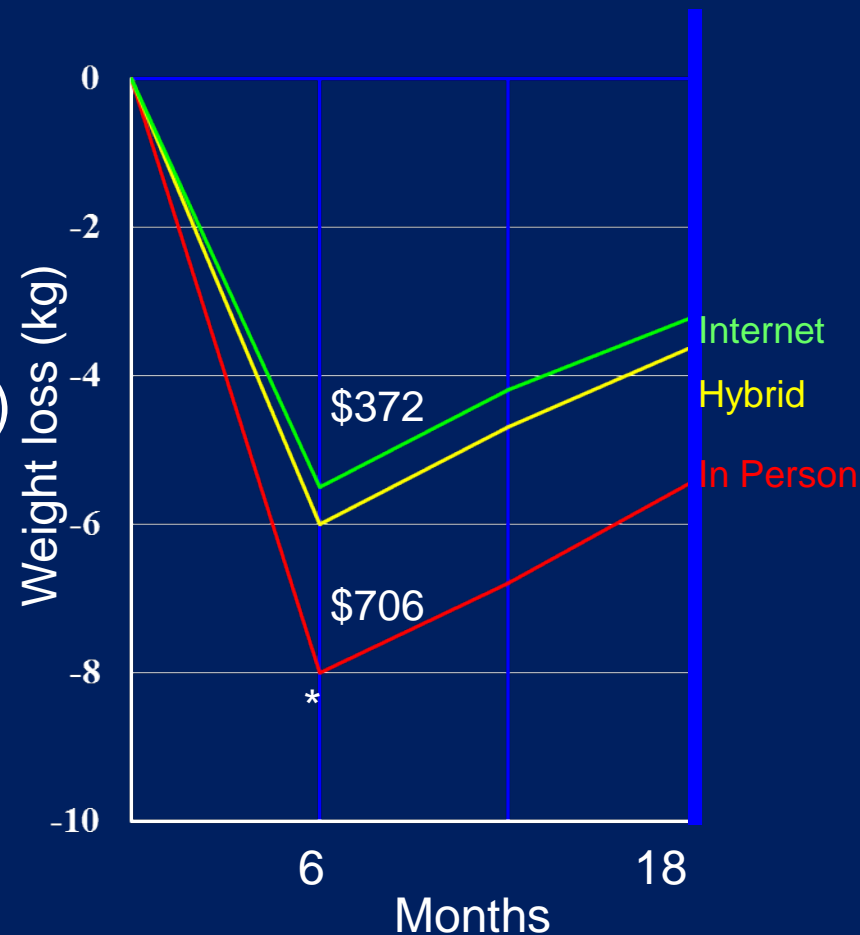
# Electronically Delivered Weight Loss Interventions

- Email/text messaging
- Internet via computer, tablet, and Smartphone (hundreds of apps)
- Social networking sites (e.g., Facebook)
- Webcam/Podcast
  - “Tweets, Apps, and Pods: Mobile Pod”
- Reach large numbers of people, potentially at lower costs
- Reduced efficacy compared with in-person



# Comparison of In-Person and Internet-Delivered Programs

- Treatment Conditions
  - In-person
  - Internet (synchronous chats)
  - Hybrid (1 in-person, 3 Internet/mo)
- Weight Loss: months 1-6
  - Weekly group sessions
- Weight Maintenance: months 7-18
  - 1 session/mo



\*  $p \leq 0.05$  for In-person vs. Internet at month 6.



# Challenges of Electronic Interventions

---

- Maintain participants' engagement and accountability, in face of information overload and easy treatment withdrawal.
- Support electronic interventions with personalized feedback from a trained interventionist who reinforces continued participation.
- Use telephone counseling (e.g., call center) for individual or group counseling; approaches efficacy of face-to-face visits.

Perri et al. Arch Intern Med 2008;168:2347-54.

Rock et al. JAMA 2010;304:1803-10.

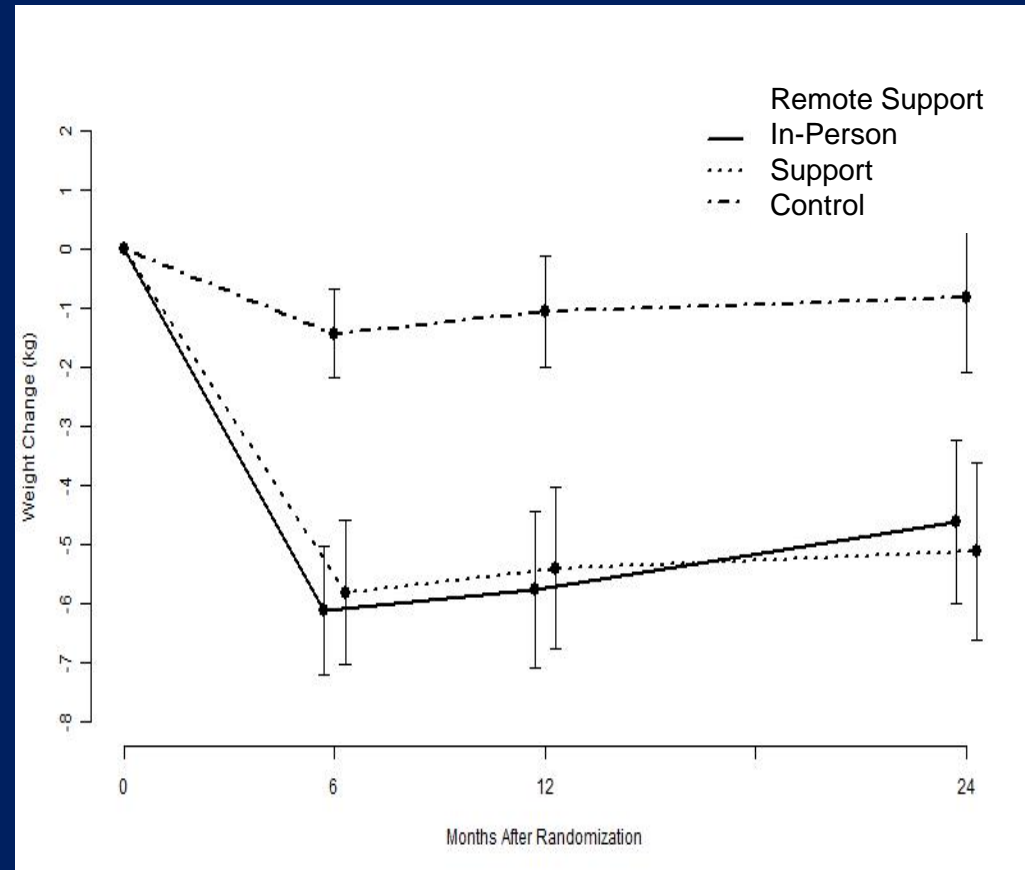
DiGenio et al. Ann Intern Med 2009;150:255-62.

Donnelly et al. Int J Obes 2007;31:1270-76.

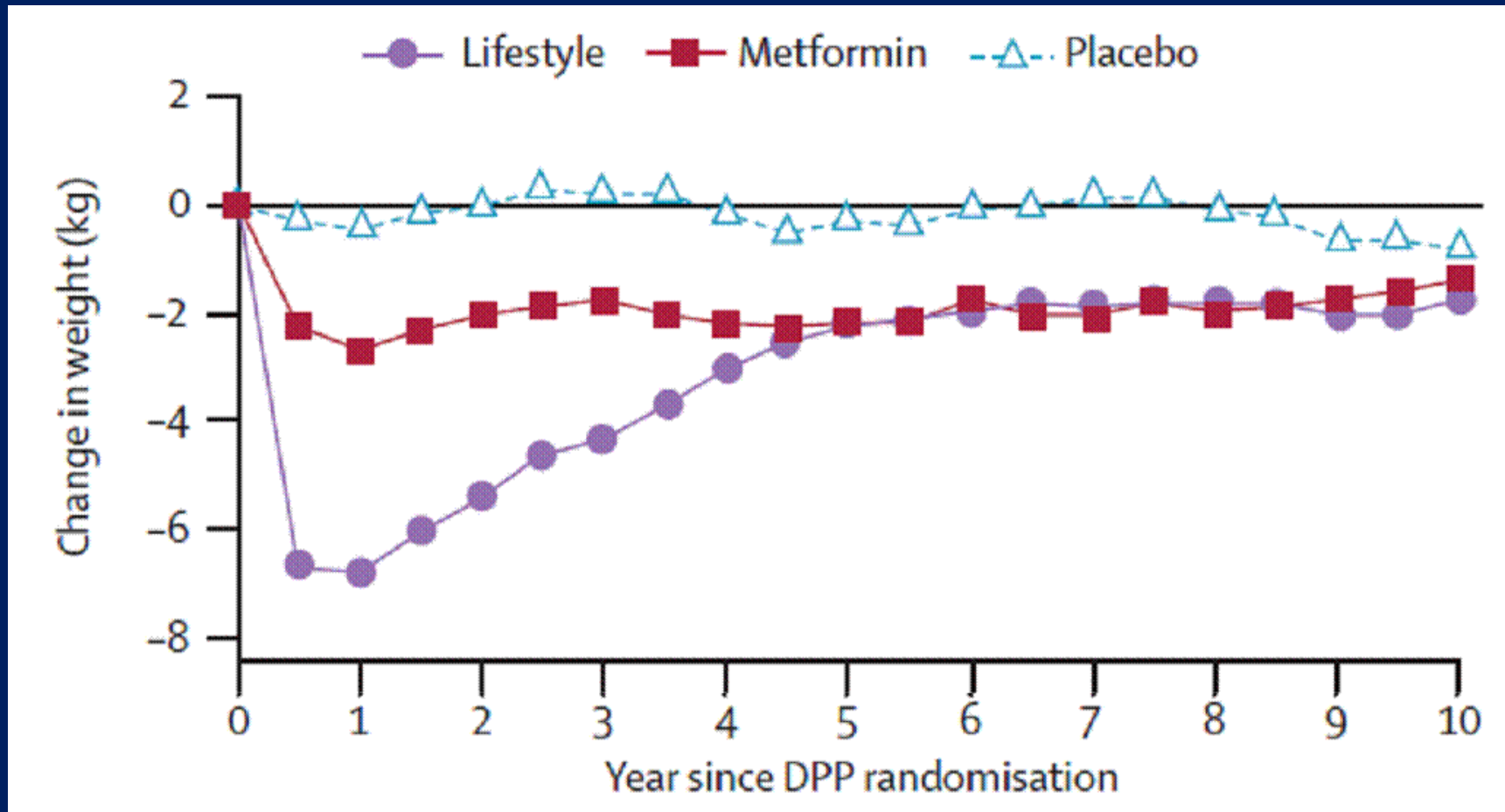
Appel et al. N Engl J Med 2011;365:1959-68.

# Two-year Weight Loss (kg) for Remote (Telephone) vs. In-Person Support

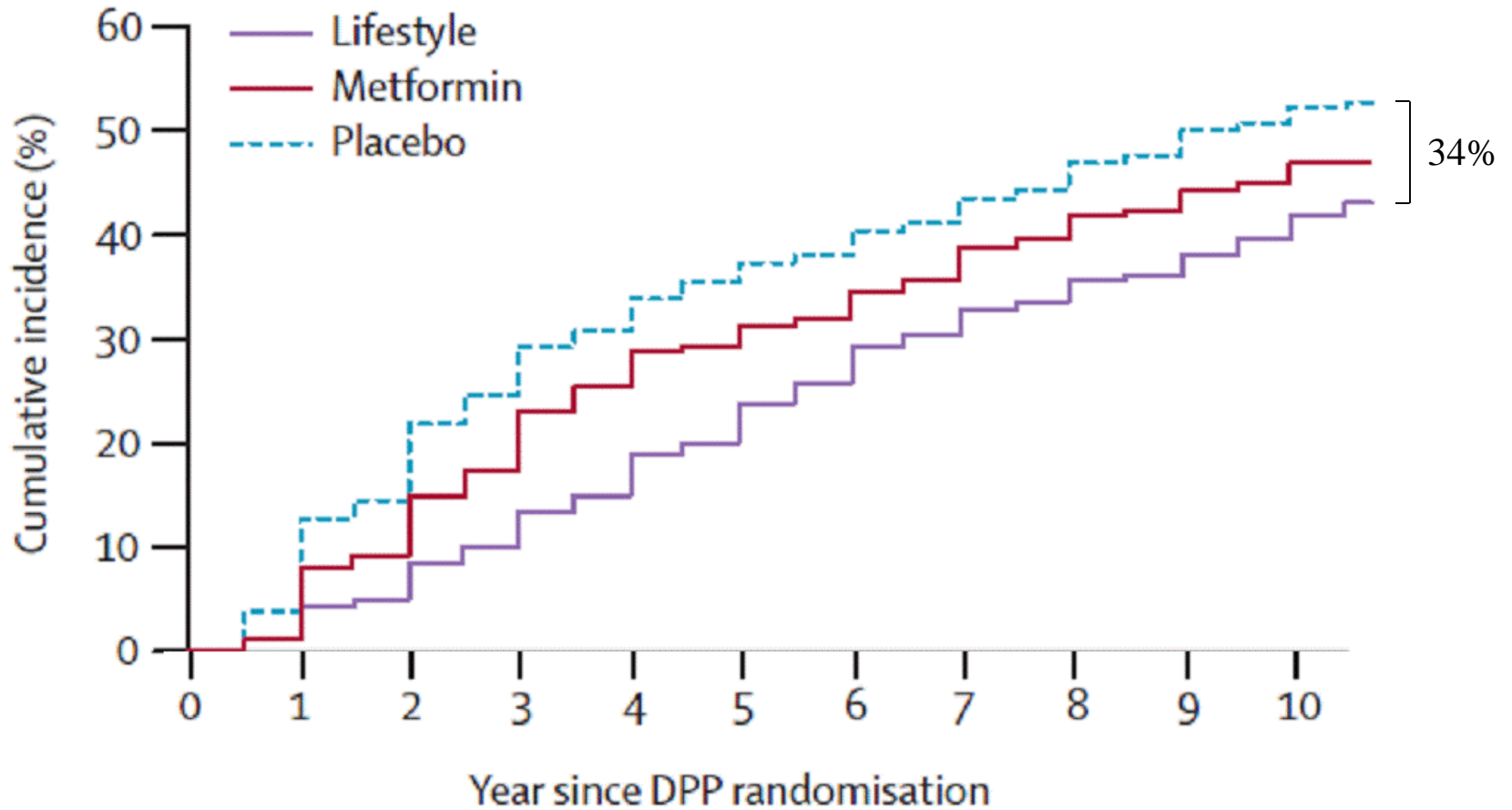
- Control (Usual Care – 1 visit)
- Remote Support – Telephone
  - Mo 1-3: weekly 20 min calls
  - Mo 4-24: monthly 20 min calls
  - **Total = 33 individual sessions**
  - Access to interactive Internet program
- In-Person Support (on-site visits)
  - Mo 1-3: weekly group (G) or individual (I) visits
  - Mo 4-6: 3 monthly contacts (G,I)
  - Mo 7-24: 2 monthly contacts (G,I)
  - **Total = 57 contacts**
  - Access to interactive Internet program



# Weight Change in DPP Outcomes Study



# This is Success!



# Look AHEAD Steering Committee

## Principal Investigators

**George Blackburn, MD, PhD**

Harvard Center: Beth Israel Deaconess

**Frederick Brancati, MD, MHS**

Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

**George Bray, MD**

Pennington Biomedical Research Center

**John P. Foreyt, PhD**

Baylor College of Medicine

Hospital

**Steven M. Haffner, MD**

University of Texas, San Antonio

**James O. Hill, PhD**

University of Colorado

**Edward S. Horton, MD**

Harvard Center: Joslin Diabetes Center

**John Jakicic, PhD**

University of Pittsburgh

**Robert W. Jeffery, PhD**

University of Minnesota

**Karen C. Johnson, MD, MPH**

University of Tennessee East

**Steven Kahn, MB, ChB**

University of Washington/VA Puget Sound

**Abbas E. Kitabchi, PhD, MD**

University of Tennessee Downtown

**William C. Knowler, MD, DrPH**

Southwestern American Indian Center

**Cora E. Lewis, MD, MSPH**

University of Alabama at Birmingham

**David M. Nathan, MD**

Harvard Center: Massachusetts General

**Anne Peters, MD**

University of Southern California

**Xavier Pi-Sunyer, MD (Co-Chair)**

St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center

**Thomas A. Wadden, PhD**

University of Pennsylvania

**Rena R. Wing, PhD (Chair)**

The Miriam Hospital/Brown Medical School

**Mark Espeland, PhD**

Coordinating Center, Wake Forest University

**Mary Evans, PhD**

National Institutes of Health/NIDDK