

Hartville Homes, Hartville

Intervention Key Words: Mechanical Lift System, Scale, Slings, Patient Lifts, Vanderlift, Transfer

Industry: Health Care

Risk Factor(s): Awkward Posture-Back deviations, Neck and Shoulder deviations, Manual Handling-Lifting/Carrying, Repetitive motion

Situation:

Hartville Homes operates a non-profit residential care facility for mentally retarded adults. The incidence Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) in adult care homes is a growing problem. Constant interaction between patients and employees and the absence of proper equipment result in many preventable sprains and strains. Risk factors for nursing home employees include repetition, awkward posturing and the use of physical force necessary for many tasks. Hartville Homes, like many other elderly care facilities in the state, faced high employee injury and turnover rates due to everyday, work related tasks. These tasks include lifting residents, repositioning them and assisting with their many other daily activities. This facility would like to educate its staff members of proper lifting techniques, obtain the proper equipment and enforce a mandatory “No-Lift” policy.

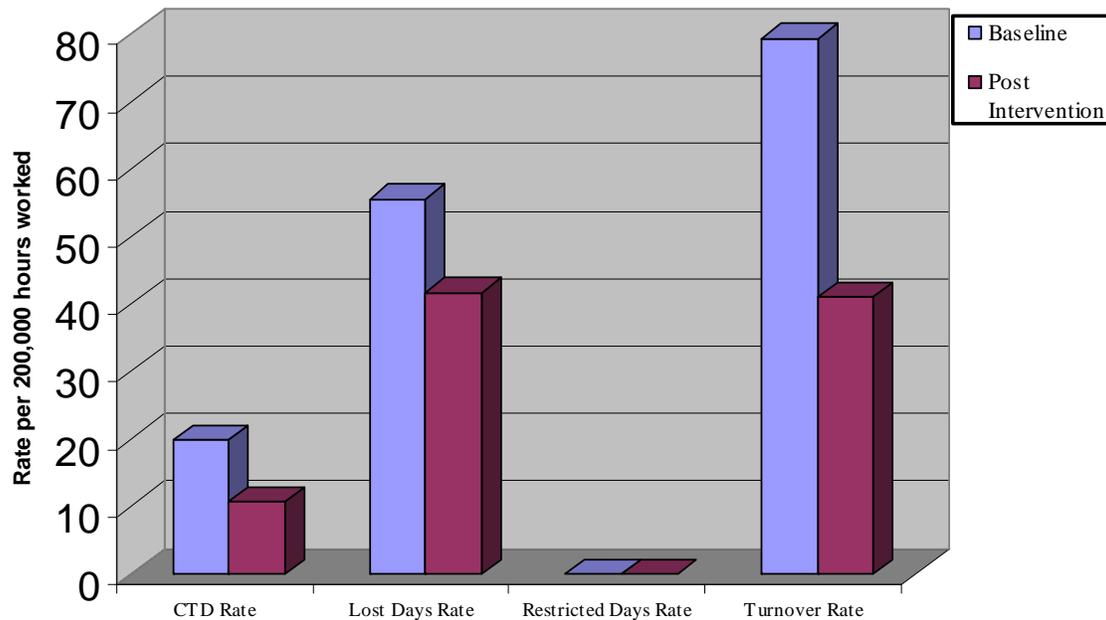
Solution:

In order to achieve their goal of becoming a “No-Lift” facility and reduce CTD injuries and risks, Hartville Homes purchased a “Vander-Lift” mechanical lift. This device, in addition to one already in use, decreases the strain and awkward positions placed on the workers and residents. To augment these lifts, Hartville also invested in a ceiling track lift system to be installed in each room. The system gives the flexibility to transfer residents directly from one area to another, without having to move between wheelchairs and lifts. Total cost for the intervention was \$48,547. Hartville Homes received \$38,837 in assistance from SafetyGrant\$ to offset the costs.



Representation of Lift and Track System

Results:



- CTD rate (per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 19.9 the year prior to the intervention to 10.6 in the 2 years after the intervention was in place, a 47% improvement.
- Lost Days rate decreased from 55.6 to 41.7 and Turnover Rate decreased from 79.4 to 41 over the same time period. This equates to improvements of 25% and 48% respectively.
- Restricted Days rate was at 0 (per 200,000 hours worked) the year prior to the intervention and remained at 0 for 2 years following.
- CTD Risk factor scores decreased 38% following the intervention.