

Champaign County MRDD, Urbana

Intervention Key Words: Automation, Lifting, Patient Lift, Mechanical Lift System, Scale, Slings

Industry: Health Care

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

Situation:

Champaign County operates a non-profit employment and training center for mentally retarded and developmentally disabled adults. The incidence Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) in adult care settings is a growing problem. Constant interaction between care staff and employees and the absence of proper lifting equipment result in many preventable sprains and strains. Risk factors for adult care employees include repetition, awkward posturing and the use of physical force necessary for many tasks. Champaign County Board of MRDD, like many other similar facilities in the state, faced high employee injury and turnover rates due to everyday, work related tasks. These tasks include lifting employees, toileting 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 decrease the number of CTD injures to employees.

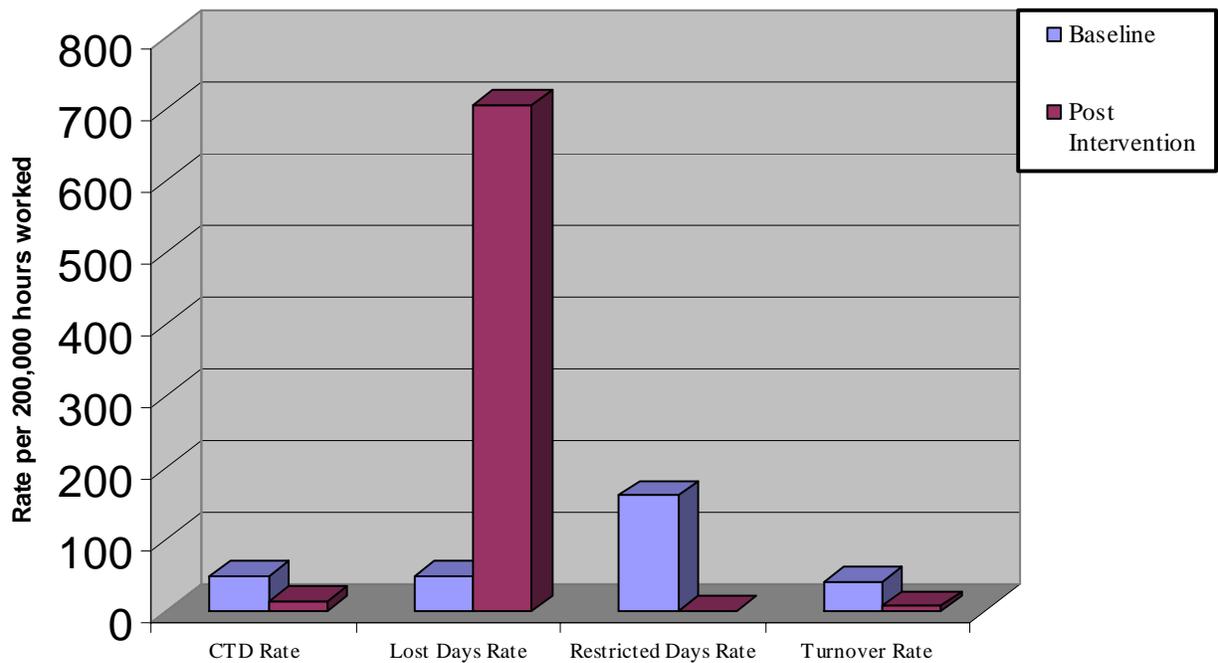
Solution:

In order to achieve their goal of educating employees and reduce CTD injuries, Champaign County purchased an ARJO electric lift and a variety of slings to use with it. This device decreases the strain and awkward positions placed on the care staff and employees by mechanically performing the lifts. Total cost for the intervention was \$9,279. Champaign County received \$7,200 in assistance from SafetyGrant\$ to offset the costs.



Representation of Lift

Results:



- CTD rate (per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 48.1 the year prior to the intervention to 12.5 in the 2 years after the intervention was in place, a 74% improvement.
- Turnover rate decreased from 40.1 to 6.2 and Restricted Days rate decreased from 160.3 to 0 over the same time period. This equates to improvements of 85% and 100% respectively.
- CTD Risk factor scores, averaged over 2 tasks, decreased 46% following the intervention.