

# Wexner Heritage House, Columbus

**Intervention Key Words:** Lifting device, Transfer, Lifts, Patient Lifts

**Industry:** Health Care

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

## **Situation:**

The incidence Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) in nursing homes is a growing problem. Constant interaction between patients and employees and 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. Wexner Heritage House, 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 currently utilizes a small number of mechanical lifting devices, but the ratio of residents to lifts is highly disproportionate. Wexner would like to educate its staff members of proper lifting techniques and encourage employees to adopt a “No-Lift” policy. Lack of equipment and improper equipment has resulted in inconsistent lifting techniques, leading to an increase in CTD risks.



**Employees demonstrate lifting techniques**

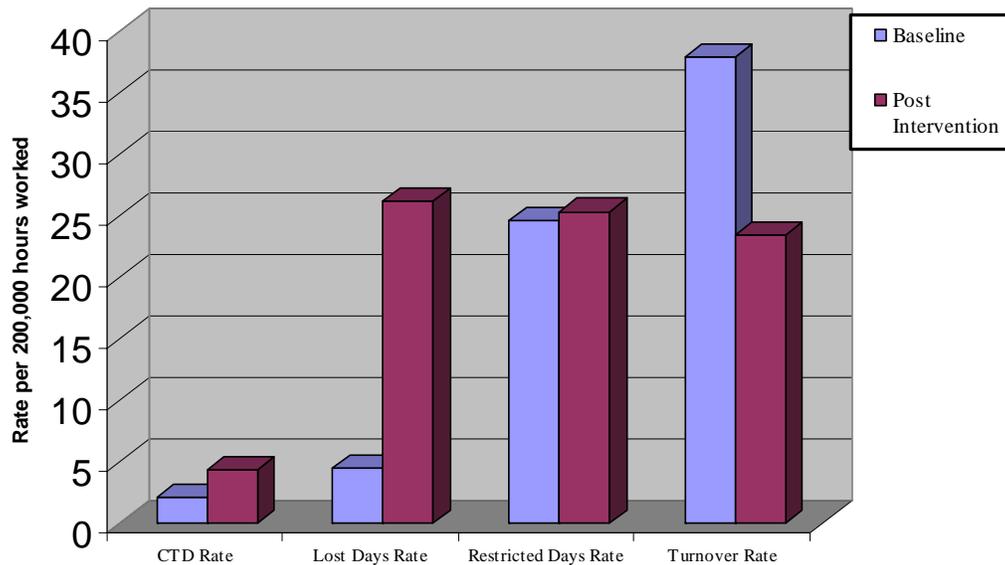
## **Solution:**

In order to achieve their zero lift goals, Wexner Heritage house purchased a total of 7 lifts to assist in the transfer of residents. The new equipment mechanically performs the strenuous labor once done manually, effectively reducing injury to both the residents and workers. Total cost for the equipment was \$43,817. Wexner received \$35,097 in assistance from SafetyGrant\$ to offset those costs.



**Mechanical lifts perform the physical work**

**Results:**



- CTD, Lost Days and Restricted Days rates (per 200,000 hours worked) all increased in the 2 years following the intervention. This increase may not be directly attributed to the intervention.
- Employee Turnover rate decreased from 37.9 the year prior to the intervention to 23.4 in 2 years following. This equates to a 38% improvement.
- CTD Risk Factor scores, averaged over 6 tasks, decreased 56% following the intervention.