

## Ohio Valley Manor Inc., Ripley

**Intervention Key Words:** Ultra Care Universal Beds, Automation, Lifting, Transfer, Electrical Bed, Motorized Beds, Resident Bed

**Industry:** Health Care

**Risk Factor(s):** Awkward postures- Back deviations, Neck and shoulder deviations, Manual handling – Lifting/Carrying

### Situation:

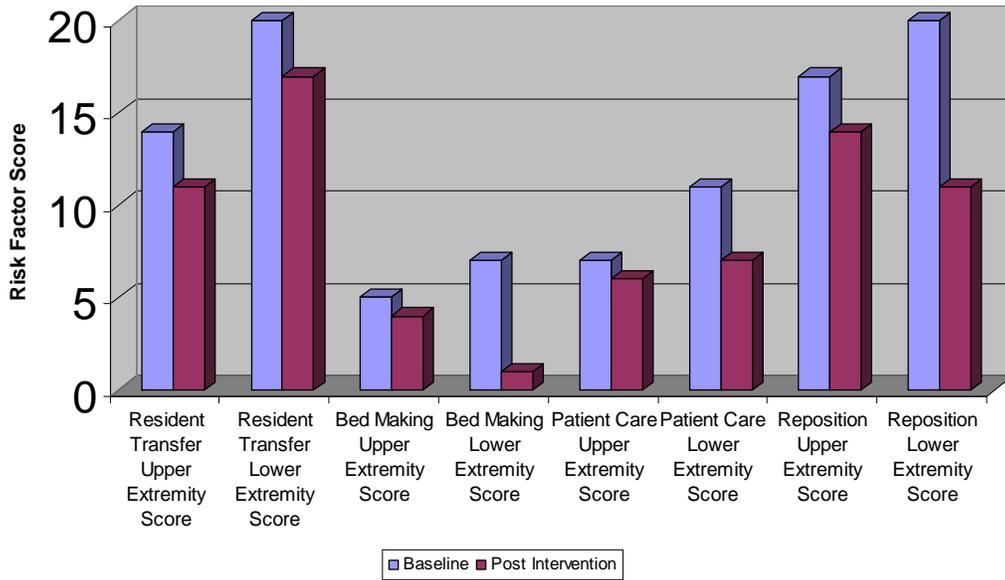
The ability of nursing home employees to provide quality resident care is dependant upon maintaining a safe work environment for both parties involved. One area where that has become a growing concern is during patient transfers. Throughout the course of a day many residents need assistance in basic activities, including but not limited to: getting out of bed, going to the restroom, taking a bath and returning to bed along with a variety of tasks that take place in the bed itself. In many cases, lack of proper, modern equipment heightens the risks of Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) to the employees. At the Ohio Valley Manor, these concerns stem from the fact that beds must be kept in a low position to prevent patient injury in case of a fall. Many of the beds at the home will not rise to assist the care giver in their tasks, or the nurse doesn't take the extra time needed to raise them. This leads to awkward positions, bending and strenuous lifts which result in injuries to the back, shoulders and neck.

### Solution:

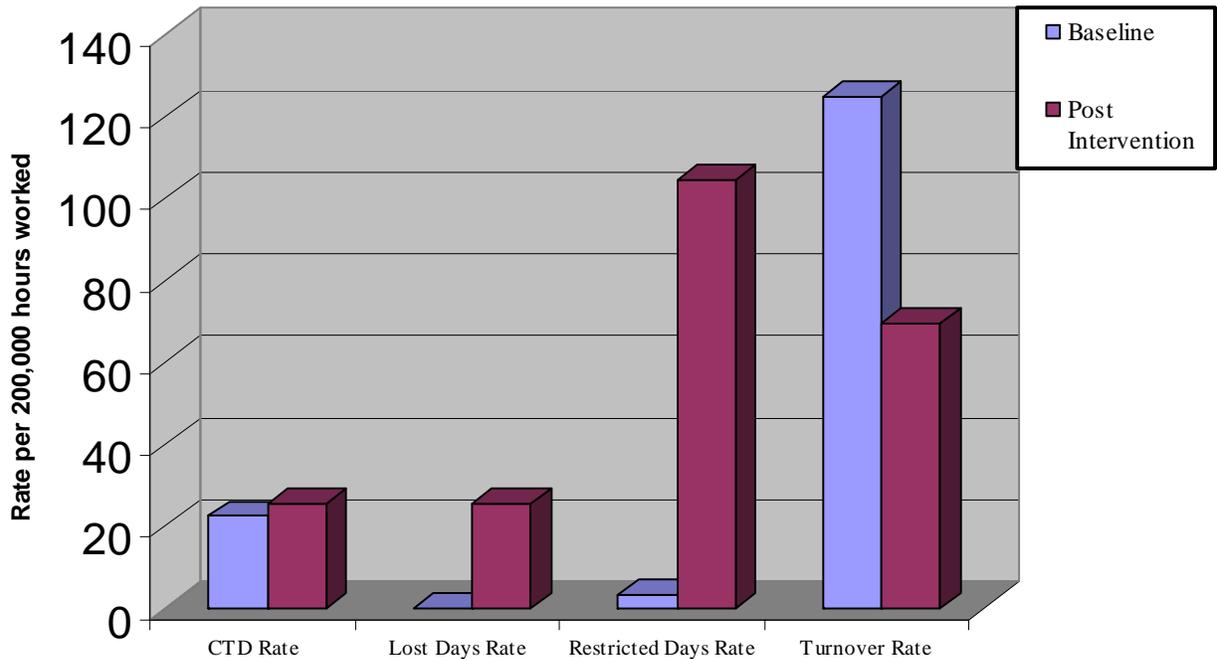
The Ohio Valley Manor approached this problem by purchasing 50 electrically operated beds. With the automated beds nurses can quickly lower or raise the patient to a height that is suitable for the situation. This allows the nurses to perform their duties without the necessity of bending over. In addition, an anti-slip contour helps reduce sliding and the lifting required of the nurses to reposition the resident. The total cost of purchasing 50 electric beds was \$60,635. The Ohio Valley Manor received \$40,000 in assistance from the Safety Grant\$ program.



**Results:**



- CTD Risk Factor scores, averaged over 4 tasks, decreased 30% following the intervention.



- Employee Turnover rate (per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 124.8 the year prior to the intervention to 69.7 the two years following. This equals a 44% reduction.
- Increases in CTD, Lost Days and Restricted Days rates may not be attributed to the intervention.