

Montgomery County ESC, Dayton

Intervention Key Words: Lifting device, Transfer, Lifts, Patient Lifts, No Lift Policy

Industry: Health Care

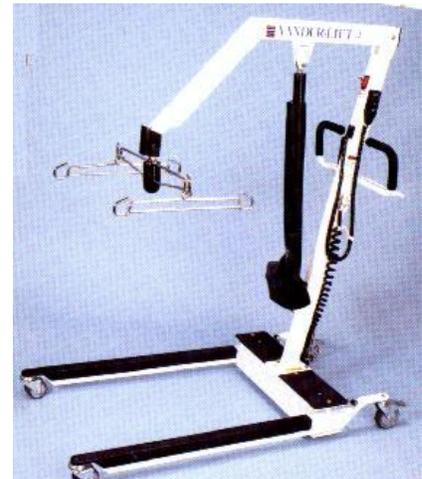
Risk Factor(s): Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Neck and Shoulder deviations, Manual Handling- Lifting/Carrying, Repetitive motion

Situation:

The incidence Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) in schools for disabled children is a growing problem. Constant interaction between students and employees and absence of proper equipment result in many preventable sprains and strains. Risk factors for school employees include repetition, awkward posturing and the use of physical force necessary for many tasks. The Montgomery County Educational Service Center (ESC), like many other disabled person care facilities in the state, faced high employee injury and turnover rates due to everyday, work related tasks. These tasks include lifting students, repositioning them and assisting with their many other daily activities. This facility would like to educate its staff members of proper lifting techniques and encourage employees to adopt a “No-Lift” policy.

Solution:

In order to achieve their goals, Montgomery County ESC purchased two Vancare lifts to assist in the transfer of students. The new equipment mechanically performs the strenuous labor once done manually, effectively reducing injury to both the students and workers. Total cost for the equipment was \$9,277. Montgomery County ESC received \$6,450 in assistance from SafetyGrant\$ to offset those costs.



Results:

- CTD, Lost Days and Restricted Days rates (per 200,000 hours worked) were at 0 the year prior to the intervention and remained at that level for 2 years following.
- CTD Risk Factor scores, averaged over 4 tasks, decreased 44% following the intervention.
- Employee Turnover rate increased following the intervention but may not be directly attributed to the intervention.