

A Culture of Safety: myPATH for Safe Patient Handling

BIDMC: Meghan Church PT, DPT & Danielle Nugent PT, DPT

Introduction/Problem

BIDMC is committed to a safe work environment for all employees; there is a written policy in place which states that direct patient care staff will use safe patient handling (SPH) equipment, where available, to limit the manual lifting and handling of patients to less than or equal to 35lbs, unless in an emergency situation. This is in accordance with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) guidelines. At BIDMC, the SPH team is responsible for the coordination, installation and management of SPH equipment as well as training staff. Patient care staff were under utilizing equipment and did not understand the benefits of SPH. We hypothesized this could be attributed to lack of knowledge. There was not a consistent introduction to the SPH program for new employees or consistent education for existing patient care staff. Additionally, research has shown that staff require training every six months due to a drop off in usage of SPH equipment and techniques (Nelson, 2006). Therefore the SPH team sought to create a standardized way to educate all patient care staff consistently.

Aim/Goal

The goal of the project was to engage and educate all direct patient care staff in a standardized way about the importance of safe patient handling, benefits for staff and patients, equipment available throughout the medical center, answer frequently asked questions and how to contact the safe patient handling team.

The Team

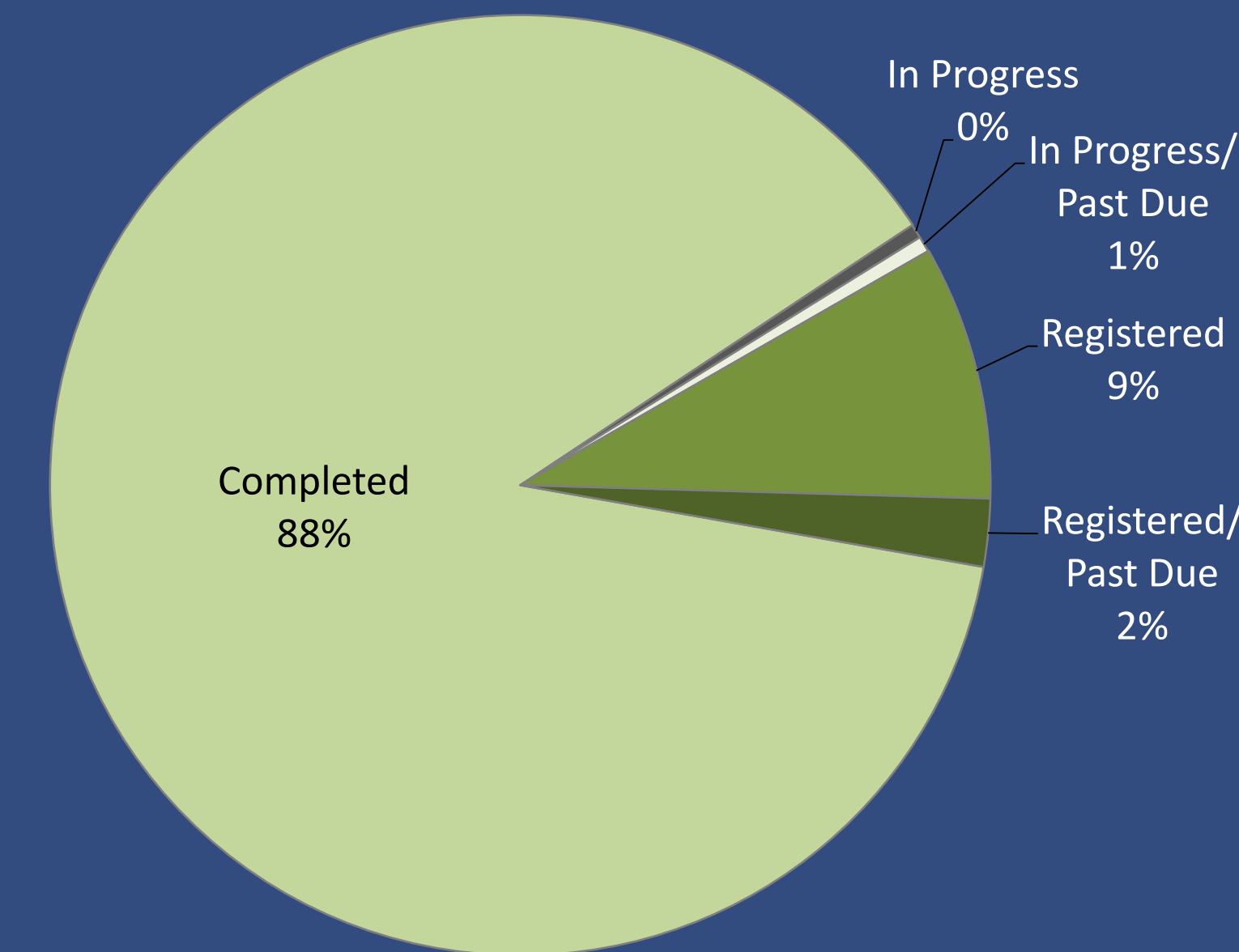
- Safe patient handling team
 - Jacki Chechile PT, MSPT
 - Meghan Church PT, DPT
 - Danielle Nugent PT, DPT
- Learning Council
- myPATH team
 - Joe Sanchez, Sr. Learning Specialist Team Lead

The Interventions

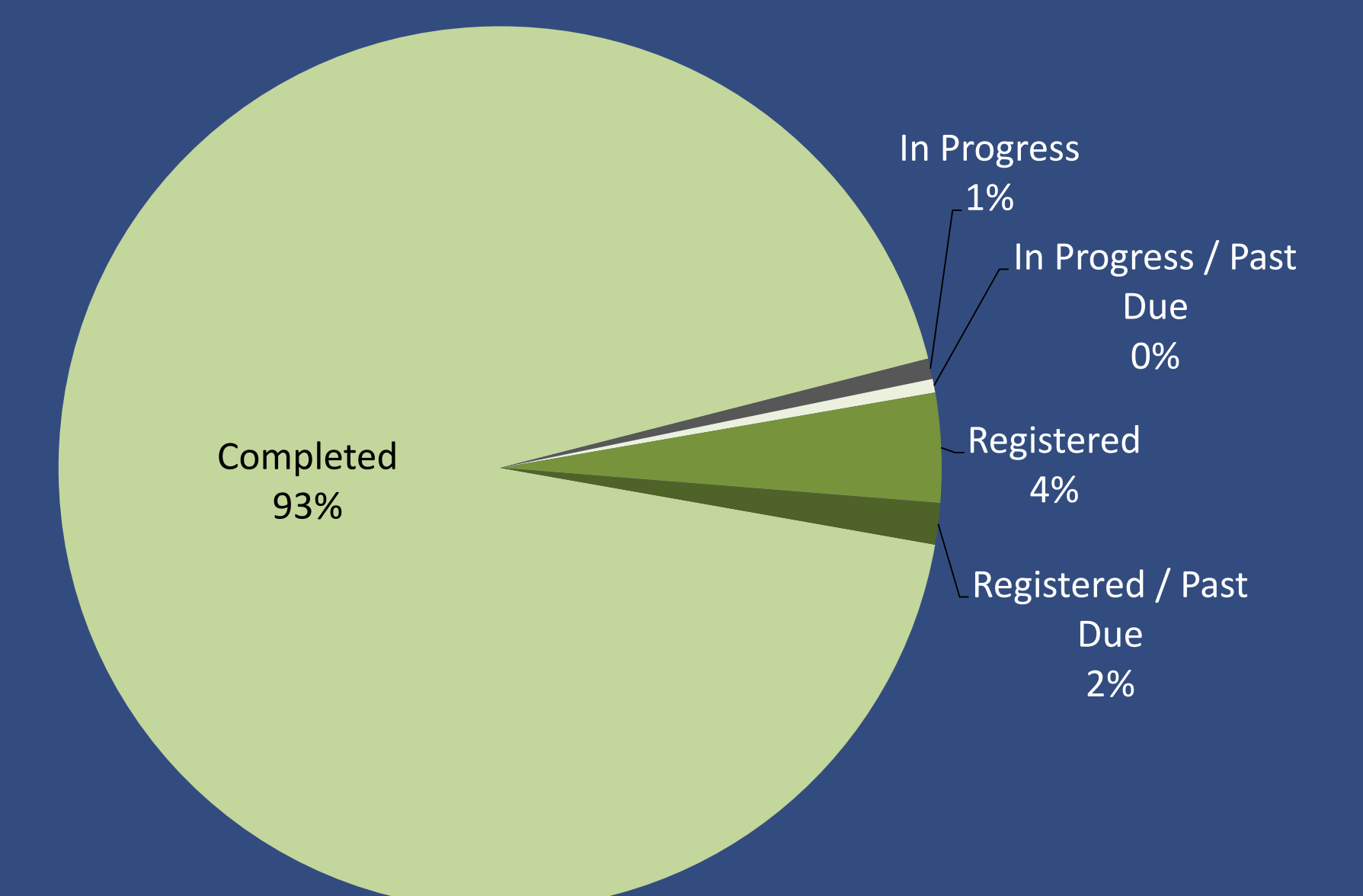
- Presented to Learning Council for approval of plan to develop myPATH modules:
 - Introductory for new employees
 - Annual training for existing staff
- Attended training for SNAP! software to create myPATH modules
- Developed relevant content
- Obtained approval from CNS Council and Nursing Competency Council for the distribution of modules to nursing staff
- Contacted local learning agents for all appropriate departments to assign myPATH training

Results/Progress to Date

Annual SPH Module (n=1851)



Initial Hire SPH Module (n=799)



Lessons Learned

- Need to individualize myPATH modules for different areas based on equipment available:
 - Radiology
 - Ambulatory
 - Operating Room
- Units can assign modules at any time; some units assign modules multiple times throughout the year

Next Steps

- Create myPATH module with training videos for Ambulatory to encourage use of available equipment and ensure compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act
- Create myPATH module for OR
- Annually update myPATH modules to include updated information for injury rates and costs of injuries
- Update myPATH modules to include branches for units with specific needs
- Consider creating new module to be assigned biannually to address 6 month drop off in usage

For more information, contact:

The Safe Patient Handling Team at safepatienthandlingteam@bidmc.harvard.edu