

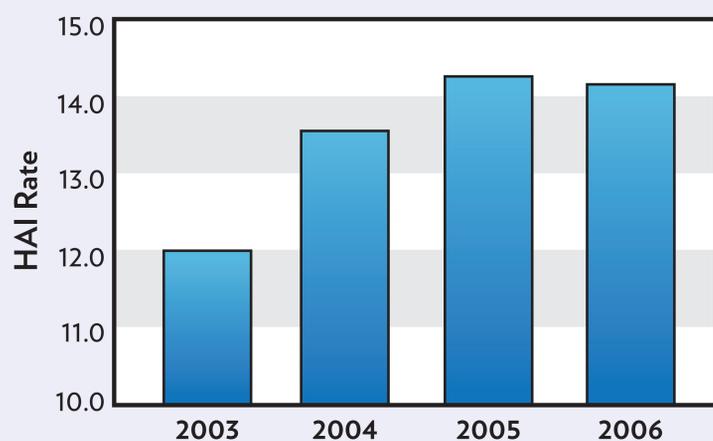
Reducing Healthcare Associated Infection Rates in a Pediatric Specialty Facility

Background

Setting

- 97 bed pediatric specialty facility.
- Provides medical and intensive rehabilitative care for children with special needs.

Increasing Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Rates from 2003 to 2006



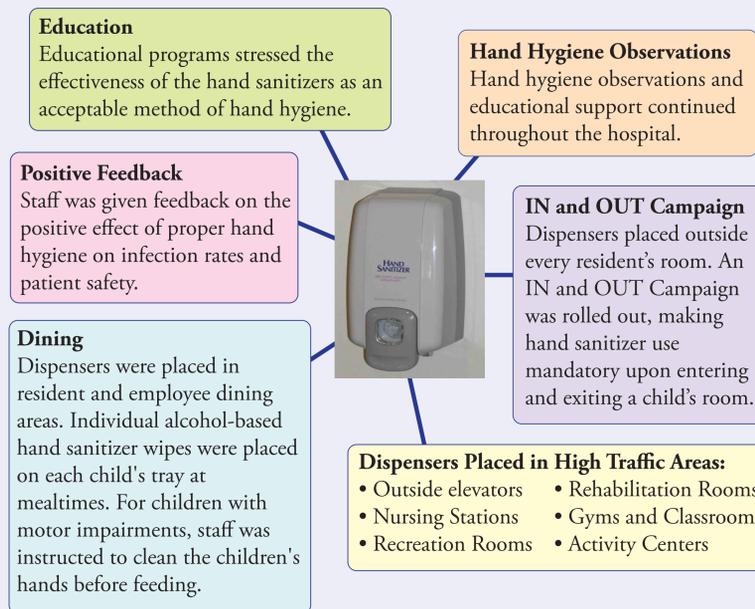
Rising Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Rates led to hand hygiene observations which determined:

- Staff never chose alcohol-based hand sanitizers as their method for hand hygiene.
- Alcohol-based sanitizers were inappropriately placed need sinks and other hard to reach locations.
- Staff did not view the alcohol based hand sanitizers as reliable, or as effective, as washing with soap and water.

Objectives

- Understand the importance of hand hygiene to patient safety.
- Educational programs must stress the effectiveness of alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Positive outcome of effective control measures will increase staff compliance.

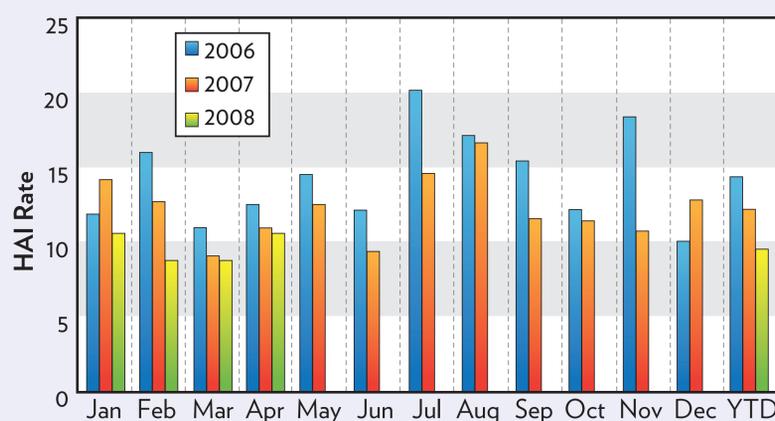
Project



Results

- Total house surveillance continued in 2007 and 2008.
- Data collection and statistical analysis methods did not vary from the previous years.

Comparison of 2006, 2007 and 2008 HAI Rates



Results, continued

- Our facility experienced a 15% decrease in HAI rates in the year 2007 as compared to 2006.
- The HAI rates decreased an additional 20% in the first quarter of 2008 as compared to 2006.
- The alcohol-based hand sanitizer use greatly increased with a 92% compliance rate among staff with our **In and Out Campaign** in 2007.

Lessons Learned

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are very effective in decreasing healthcare associated infection rates in a long term care facility.
- Dispensers should be placed in high traffic areas that are easily seen by staff and visitors
- Educational opportunities increase the use and confidence of staff.
- Staff should lead by example and be empowered to motivate others to follow good infection control practices.
- Hand hygiene observations are essential to effective control measures and positive outcomes.
- Results of quality improvement measures should be shared with residents, family members, staff and administration to promote good practices and demonstrate success.

Hand Hygiene will remain an important element of our patient safety goal. With continued observations, educational opportunities, and positive reinforcement, we expect to continue experiencing a decrease in transmission of infections to our children at St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children.

