



Quality Improvement Project to Reduce Sharp Injury in NDCS



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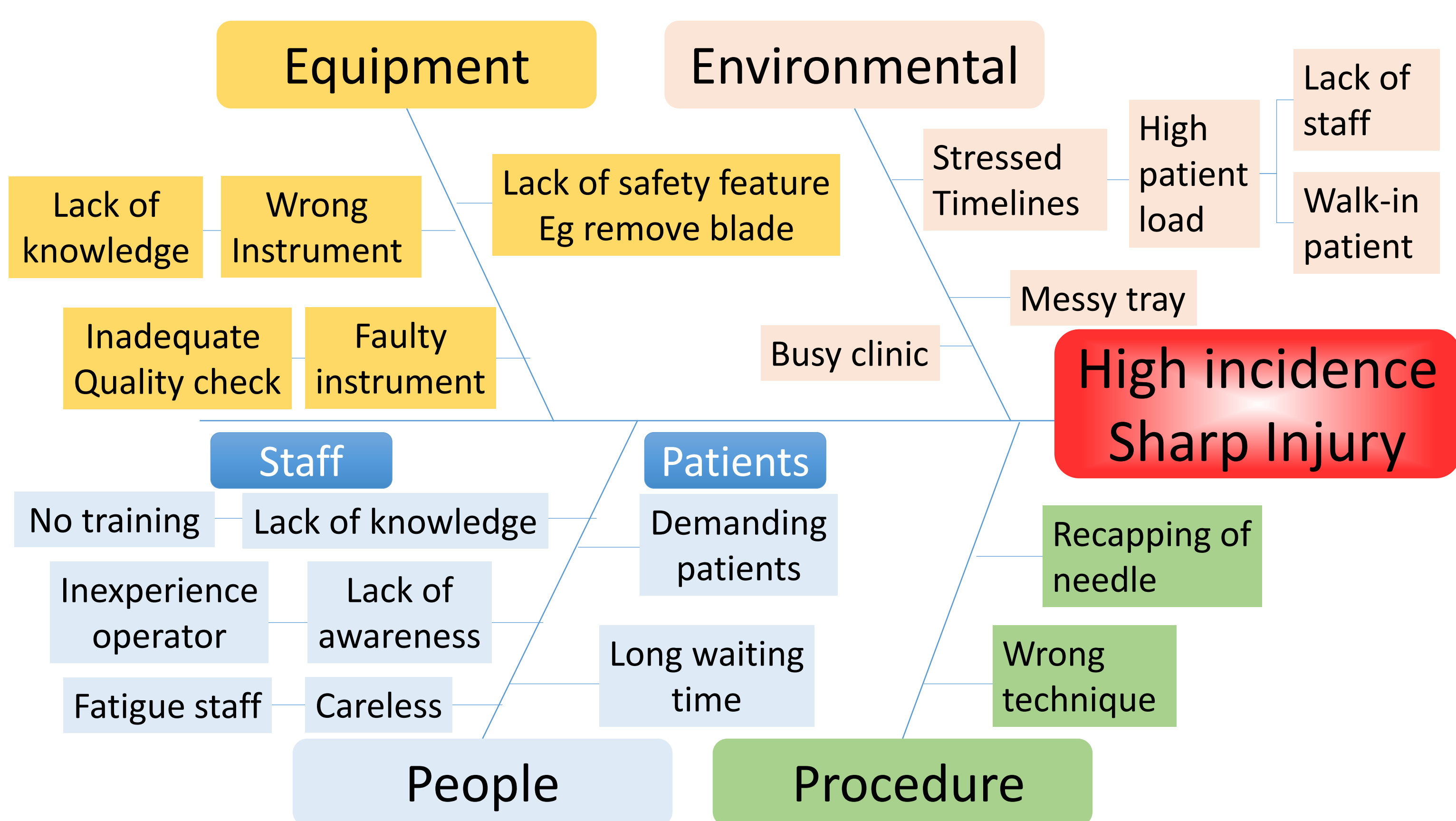
Introduction

- Dental healthcare workers (DCWs) are exposed to patient's body fluid i.e. blood and saliva during dental procedure.
- The use of sharp instruments for dental procedures puts both patients and DCWs at risk of sharp injuries, with some possibility of disease transmission.
 - 10% Hepatitis B
 - 1.8% Hepatitis C (Makery et al 2007)
 - 0.3% HIV (Tarigan et al 2015)
- Aside from bodily harm sharp injuries can cause anxiety to DCWs and increase cost and burden to the institution

Problem Statement

- To reduce sharp injury incidents among the dental healthcare workers in NDCS and enhance patient and healthcare worker safety
- To improve awareness among DCW about sharp injury
- To promote safety clinical practice in NDCS

Root Cause Analysis

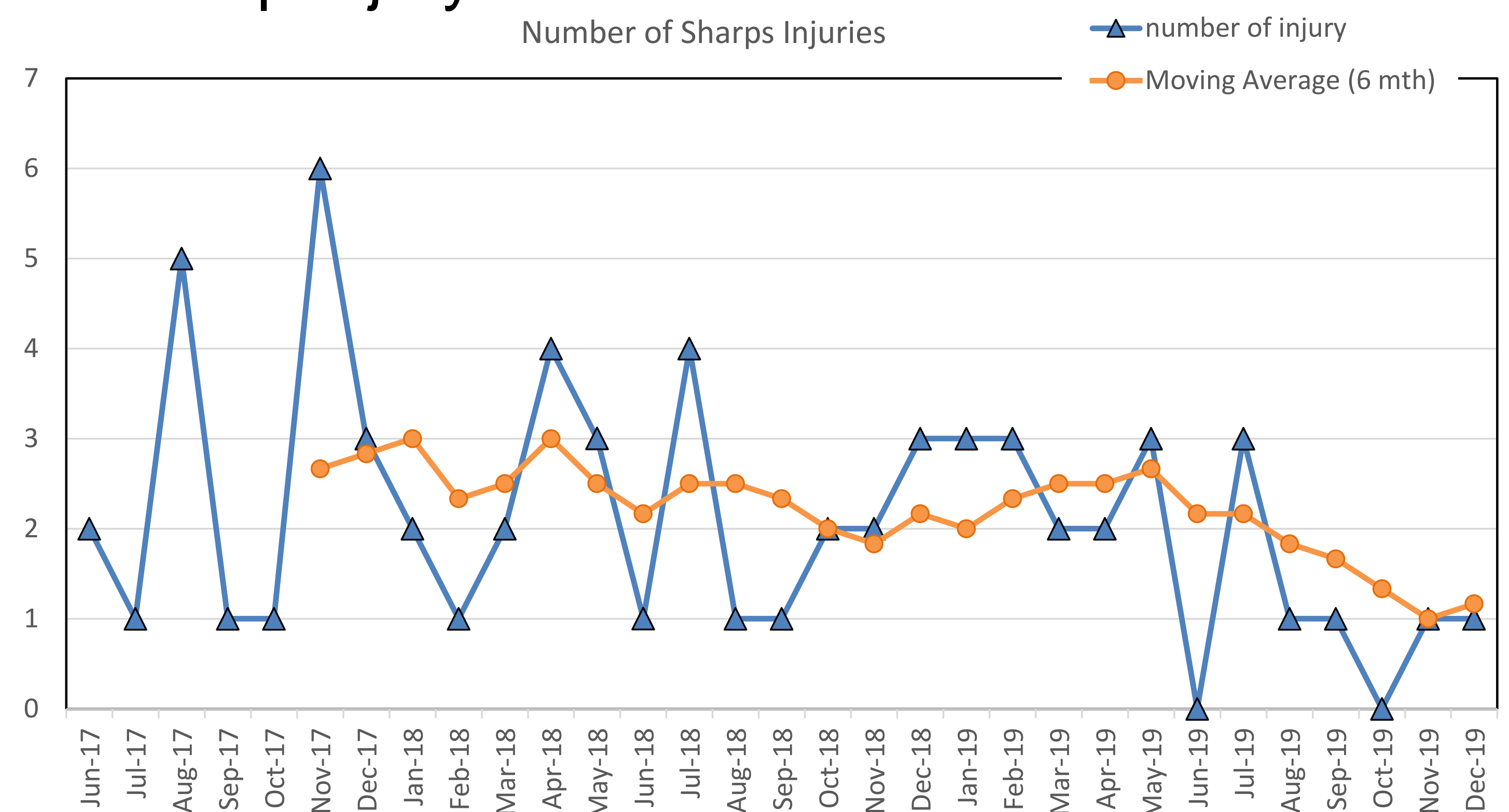


Interventions

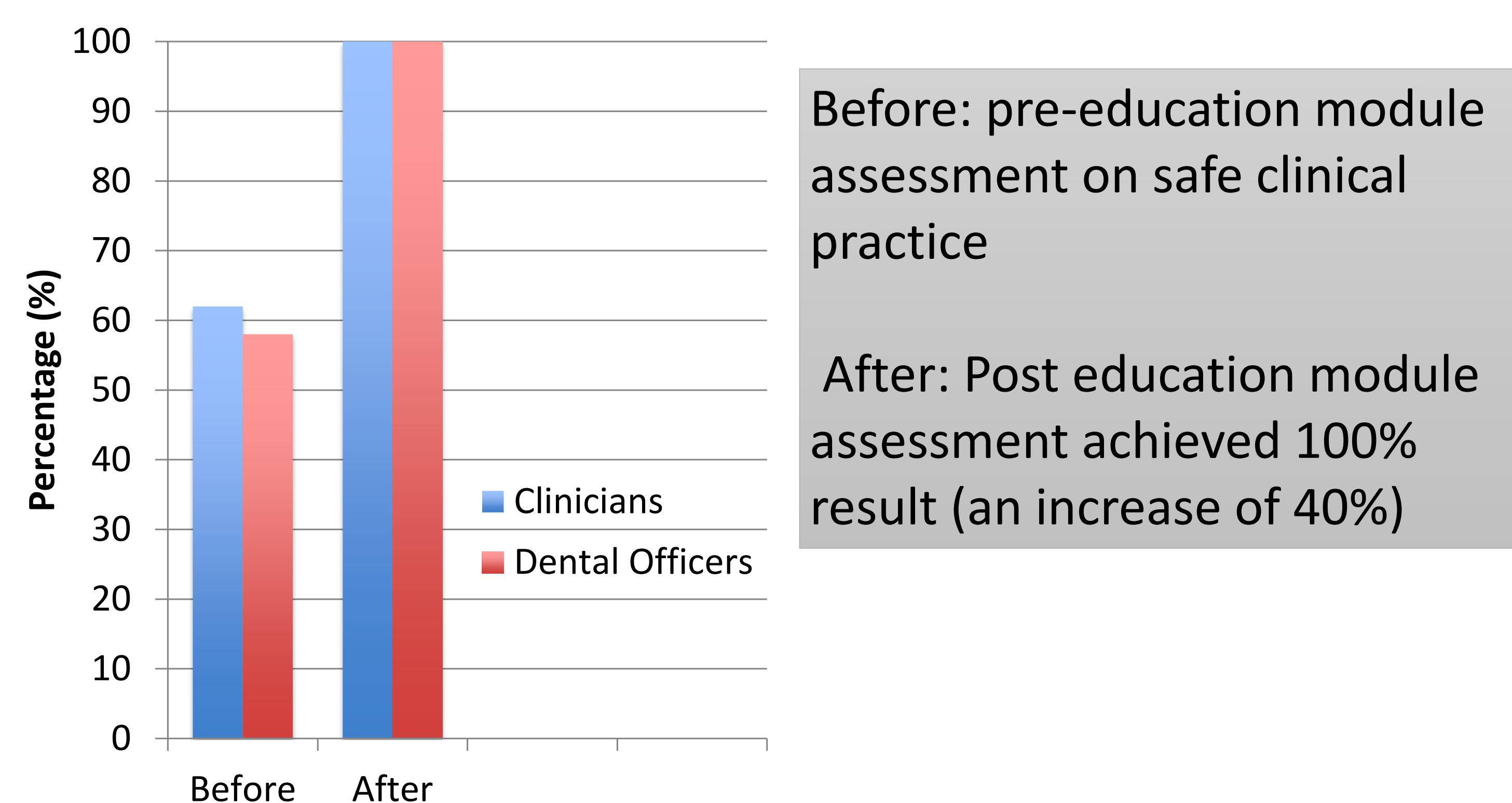


Results

Sharp Injury incidents trend



Knowledge on sharp injury



Conclusion

- The "6-month moving average" trend for the number of sharp injuries has shown a reducing trend
- Dropping of 1-2 cases of sharp injuries per month will save a total of \$8,520 for blood test (\$710 x 12 cases a year for both patients and staff), and \$42,000 for prophylactic antiviral therapy annually.
- The team will continue to educate and create awareness among DCW.
- The team was award for the project "Reducing Needle Stick Injuries" during the SingHealth Target Zero Harm Award 2020.