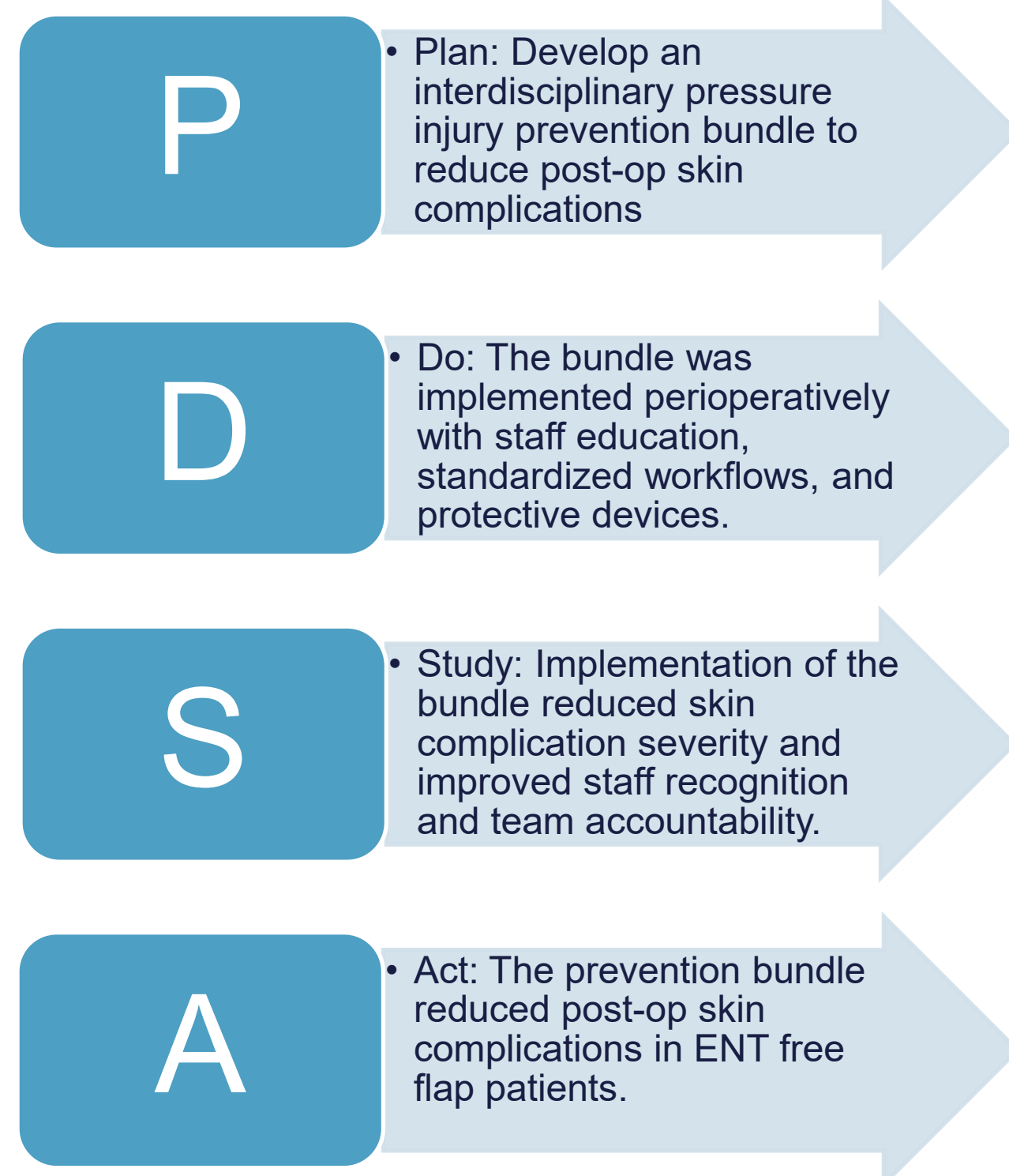


## Background

- Pressure injuries are preventable surgical complications
    - Incidence: range from 0.05% to 74.2% with a mean incidence of 17.22%
  - ENT free flap patients at high risk: prolonged surgery, immobility, vasopressors, extended recovery
  - Variation in prevention practices across perioperative and inpatient settings highlighted a care gap
- Goal:** Reduce hospital-acquired pressure injuries using population-specific prevention strategies
- AIM:** Reduce overall post-operative skin complications and pressure injury severity through a standardized prevention bundle

## Methods



### Interdisciplinary Development

#### Pressure Injury Prevention Bundle

- Immediate post-op waffle cushion & low-air-loss mattress
- Preoperative prophylactic sacral foam dressing
- Workflow updates
- Trial of new intraoperative positioning device
- Resident education on positioning & preparation

#### Staff Education

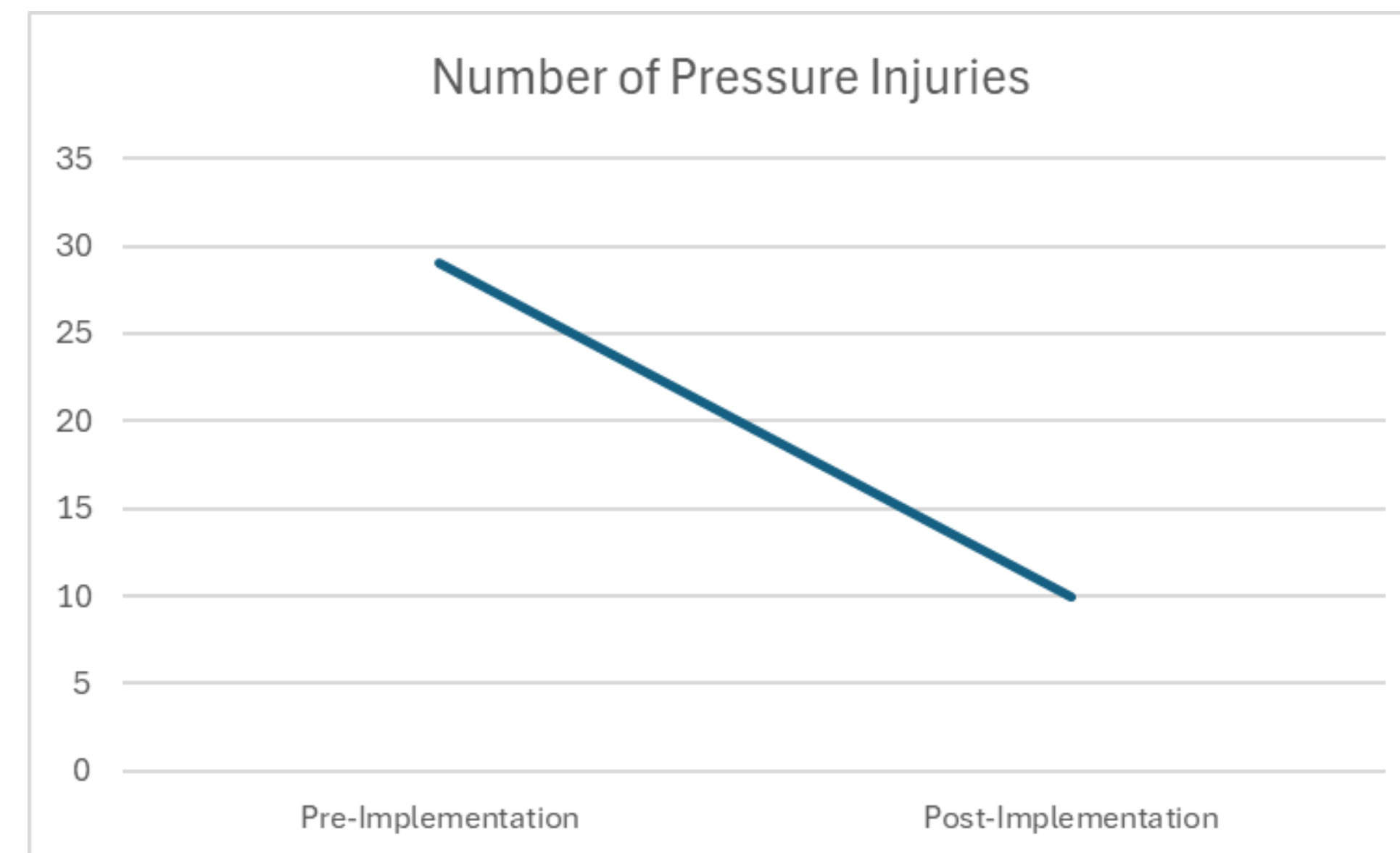
- Protocol rollout to pre-, post-, and inpatient nursing staff
- Reinforcement of skin care & prevention practices

#### Evaluation

- Retrospective chart review (baseline)
- Post-implementation chart review (bundle recipients)

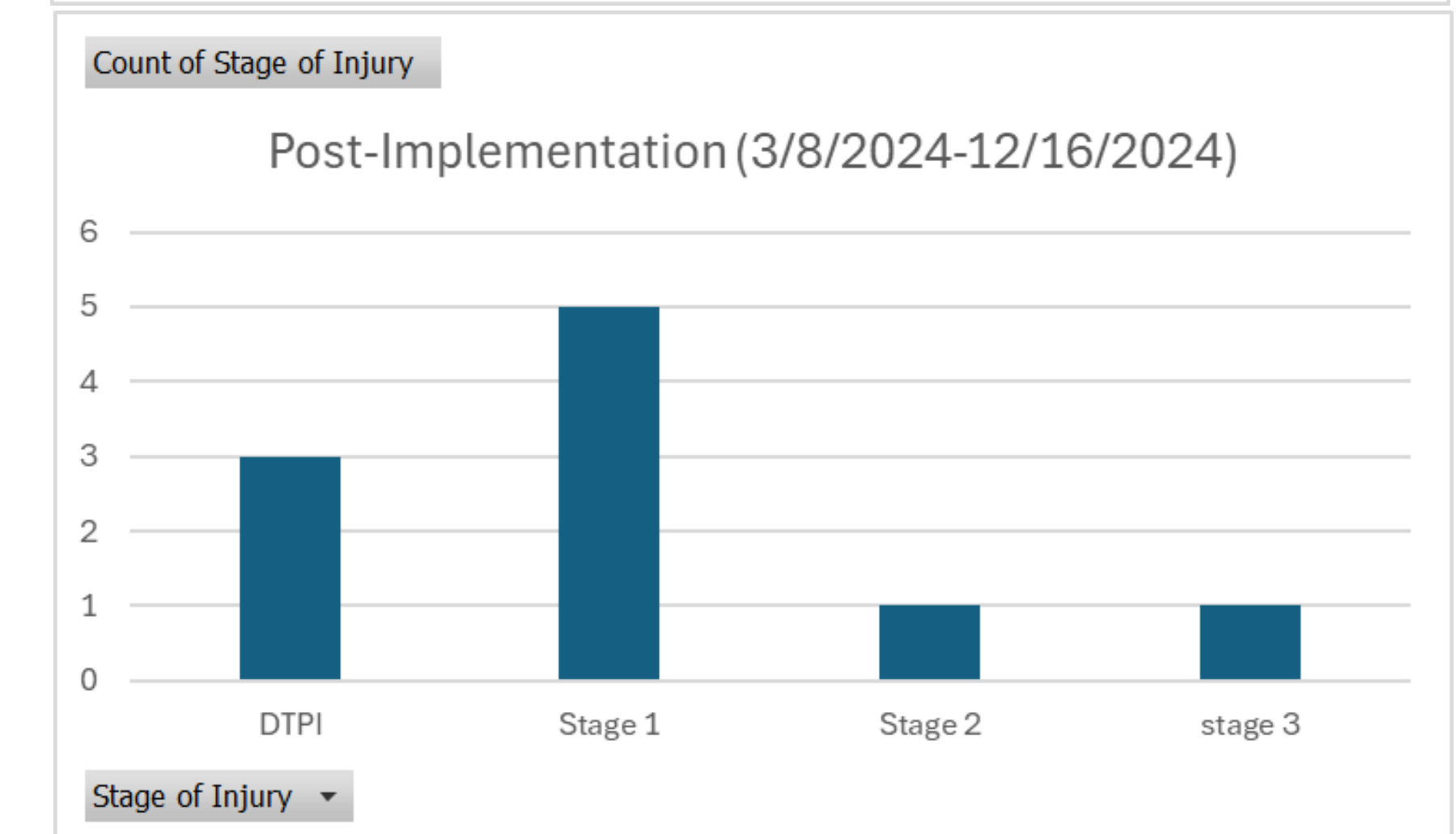
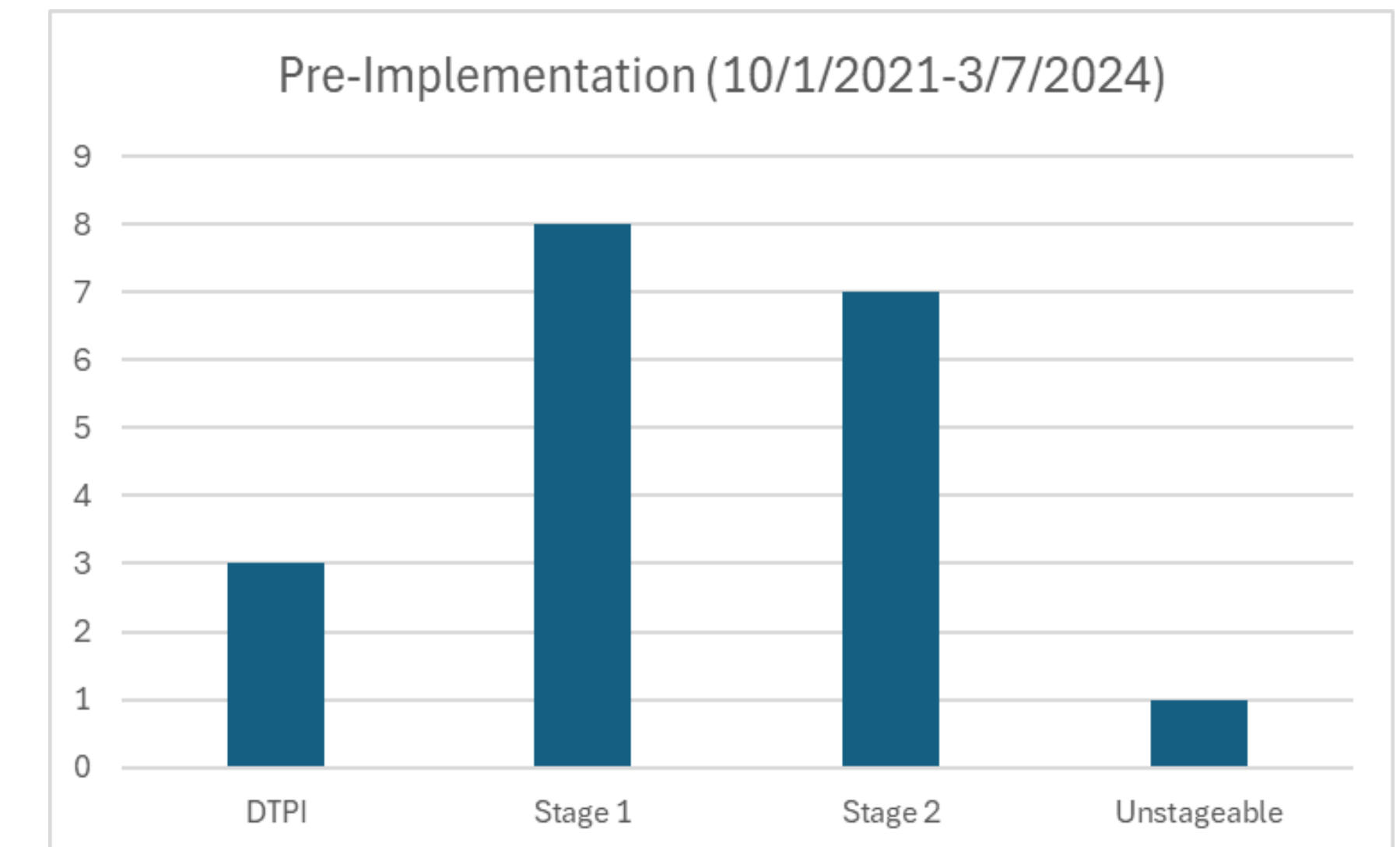
## Results

- Implementation of the pressure injury prevention bundle reduced post-operative skin complications in ENT free flap patients.
- Remaining pressure injuries were generally limited to Stage 1, with no advanced wounds observed.
- Staff confidence increased, and prevention became an interdisciplinary team goal rather than nursing-only.
- Nursing staff demonstrated improved recognition of pressure injuries and timely interventions to support wound healing.



## Next Steps

- Integrate a perioperative-specific skin risk assessment tool into the EMR to standardize risk identification
- Enhance perioperative skin assessment documentation in the EMR
- Implement wound photography within perioperative documentation workflows
- Monitor pressure injury trends and outcome data to evaluate bundle effectiveness
- Refine the prevention bundle based on ongoing data and staff feedback to sustain improvement



## References

1 Kurian, S., Moore, Z., Patton, D., & George, S. (2025). The incidence of pressure ulcers in surgical patients: A systematic review. *International Wound Journal*, 22(8), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1111/iwj.70738>

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