



# Unit-Based Skin Care Champions Achieving and Sustaining Reduction in Pressure Ulcers

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## PURPOSE

Incorporating pressure ulcer prevention into nursing practice in the acute care setting can be challenging. The goal of the unit-based skin care champion model is to educate and empower the local nurse to impact practice within the work unit via education and data sharing.



## STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

There are several components to a successful pressure ulcer prevention program. In 2001, Duke University Hospital launched a unit-based skin care champion program as an integral part of a pressure ulcer prevention program. The unit-based skin care champion role was developed by a multidisciplinary team. Registered Nurses and Nursing Assistants were solicited from each inpatient unit, specially trained and empowered to educate their staff and monitor unit acquired pressure ulcer trends. A Wound Management expert is assigned to each unit for the purpose of mentoring and facilitation of unit education.



## SIGNIFICANCE

Preventing pressure ulcers in the acute care setting has become a national focus. The national incidence of hospital related pressure ulcers has not been significantly reduced over the past several years. The unit-based skin care champion model can provide both positive and sustainable results.

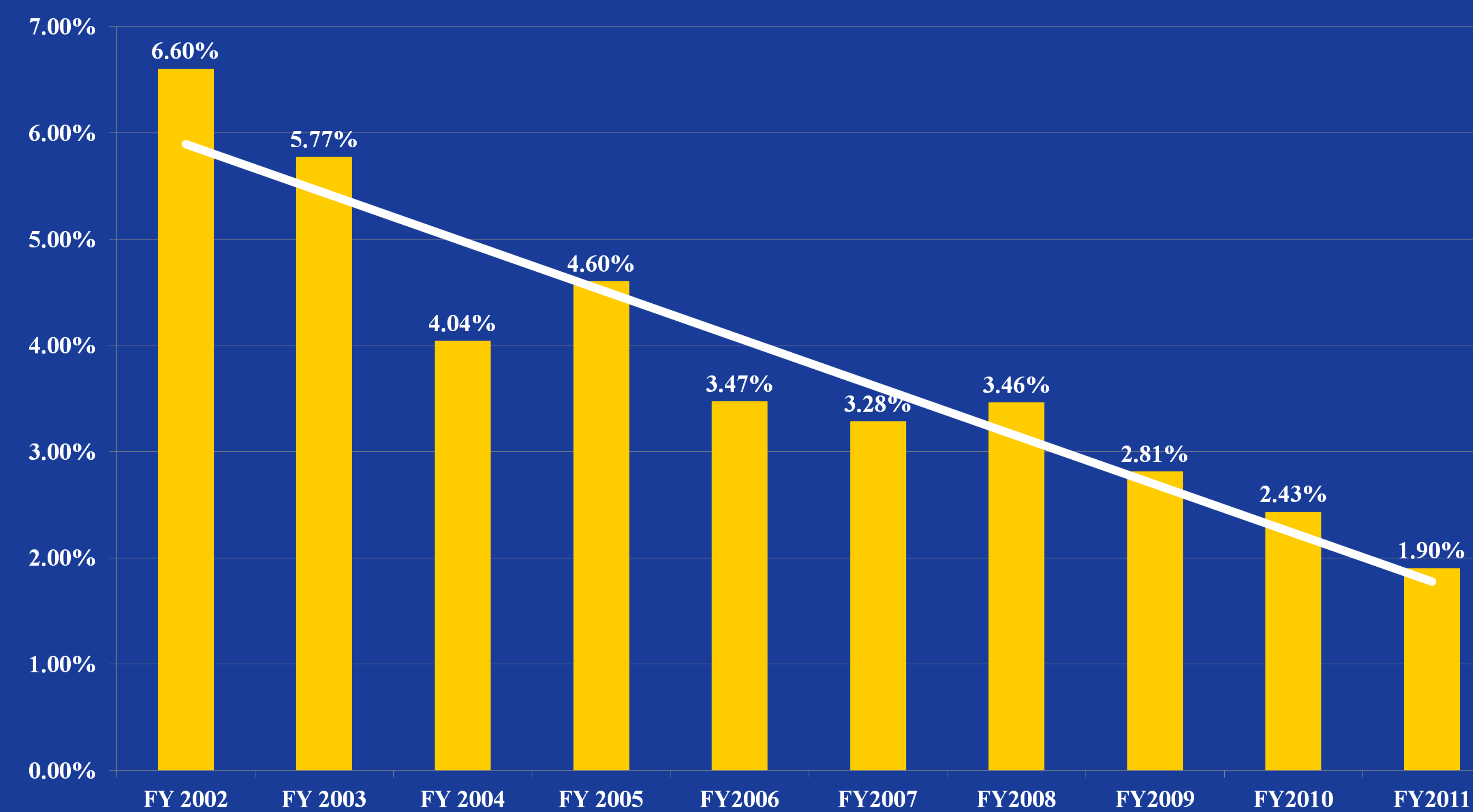


## KEY STRATEGIES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS

- Monthly NDNQI pressure ulcer data collection by the unit-based Skin Care Champions.
- Unit targets updated *annually*; monthly performance to targets communicated.
- Expectations for “Zero” Avoidable pressure ulcers.
- Timely data sharing related to all unit acquired pressure ulcers.
- Ongoing skills development via;
  - Online educational modules
  - Quarterly and annual educational workshops
- Leadership focus, support and recognition critical.

## RESULTS

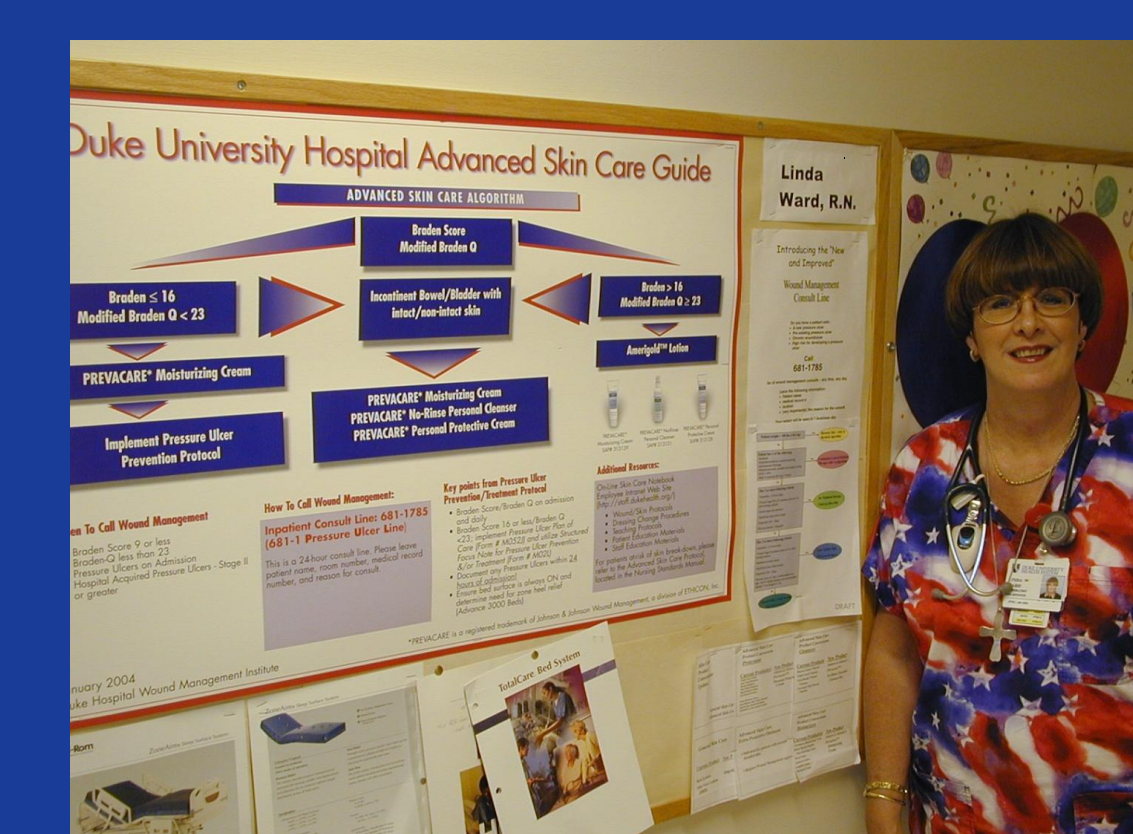
### Hospital-acquired Pressure Ulcer Rates Post-Program Implementation



## IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE



- Significant *sustained* reduction in hospital-acquired pressure ulcers can be achieved in the acute care setting through implementation of a pressure ulcer prevention program.
- Ongoing educational support, regular feedback of data, and access to clinical experts are all vital to the success.
- Real time communication to each unit’s clinical team for all nosocomial pressure ulcers.
- Role commitment results in;
  - Enhanced skill development resulting in unit “expert” resource
  - Career development
  - Ownership for patient outcomes



## EVALUATION

The implementation and ongoing development of a unit-based “Skin Care Champion” program can create both *positive patient outcomes* and *professional growth opportunities for the Registered Nurse*. Ongoing data sharing, leadership support and unit ownership are all key to continued program success.



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