

Problem

- SSM St. Mary's Hospital - St. Louis was recognized by Consumer Reports in 2017 for having the second lowest c-section rate in the country for first-time, low-risk mothers, at 12.3%.
- Since that time we have been tracking the NTSV C/S rate and have observed an upward trend.
- The 2019 average NTSV C/S rate was 20.15%, but has been followed by 26.27% in Q1 2020 and 23.65% in Q2 2020. The month-to-month rate has fluctuated as much as 8.4 percentage points, which is equivalent to an almost 29% variation.

Project Implementation

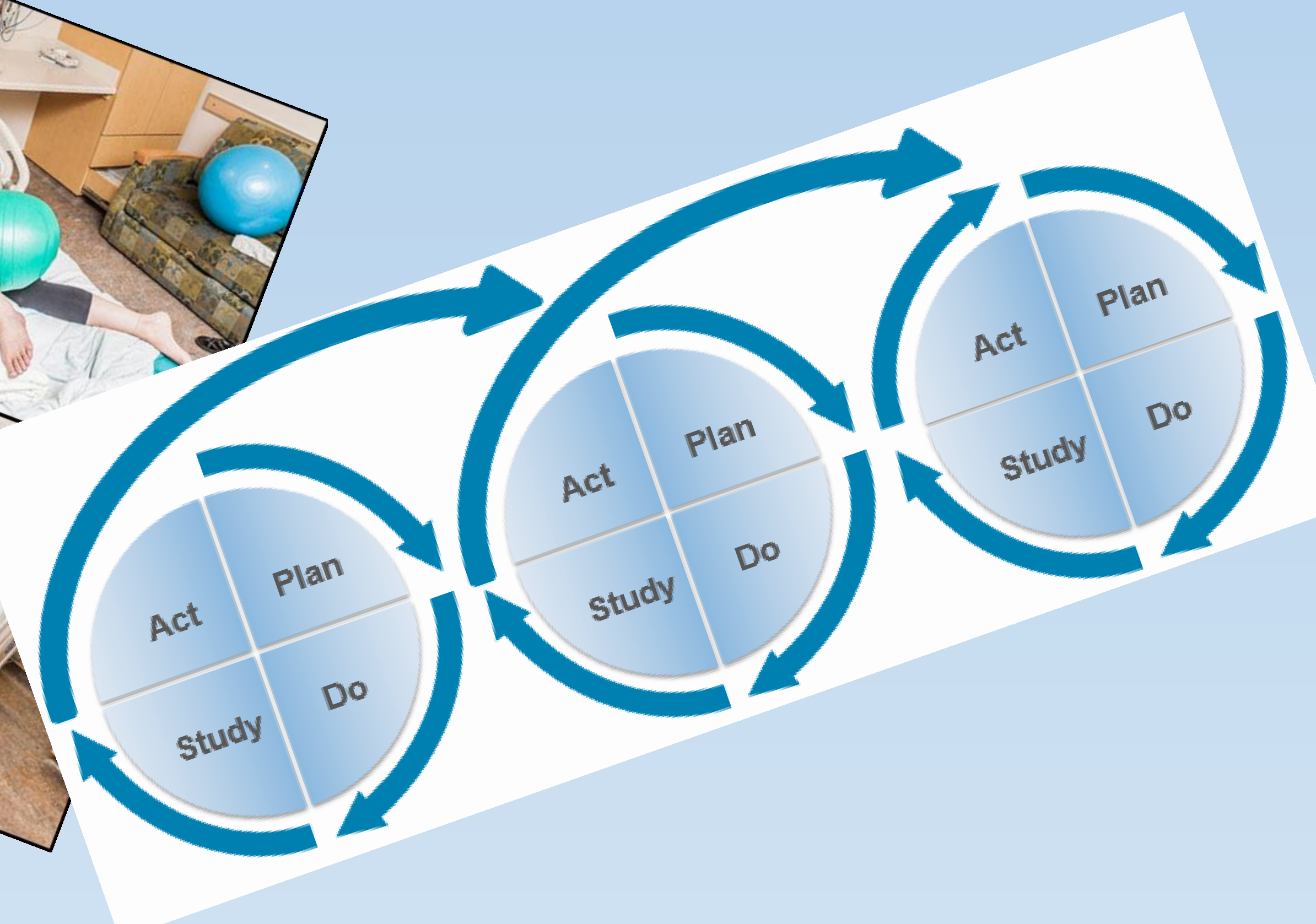
- We began tracking delivery stats comparing NTSV mothers delivering vaginally to those delivering by C/S.
- Variables of particular interest to our project include mother's age, gestational age, reason for admission, time from rupture to delivery, admitting provider, delivery provider, delivery staff, reason for C/S, indication for operative vaginal delivery, and maternal race.

Results

- We have so far collected two months of data, which is insufficient to detect trends yet.
- The multidisciplinary PVB Team will continue to review the data at monthly meetings to determine direction for our quality improvement measures.

Conclusions

- If our data reveals specific trends, we will implement PDSA cycles to test small changes in practice.
- In the meantime, we are moving forward with staff and provider education to improve labor support beginning with positioning alternatives (use of peanut ball, birthing stool) and promoting movement.
- In addition we are implementing scheduled provider/nurse communication to discuss patients' progress and plan of care decisions. These will occur once per shift in a Core Team meeting, and two additional mini-huddles per shift between the charge nurse and Chief Resident.



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