

Our Journey Towards a NEC-Free Unit

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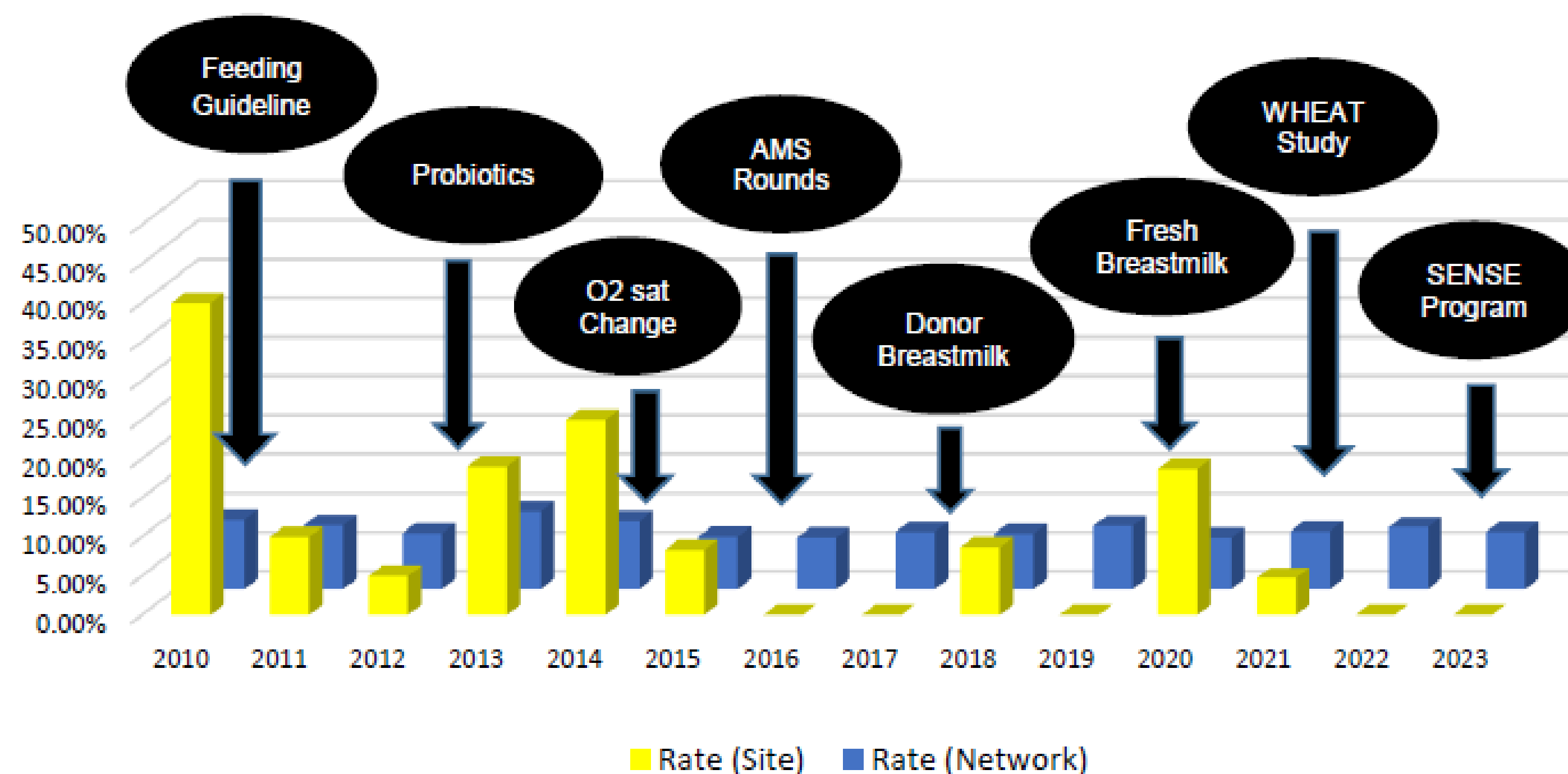
Aims

Through ongoing efforts using evidence-based interventions, we aim to reduce the rate of Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) to 0 in preterm infants while promoting a healthy gut for all babies in the NICU

Driver for Change

In 2010, 8 out of the 20 infants born at <29 weeks in the Janeway NICU developed NEC. Half of these infants subsequently died, due in some part to complications of NEC. Our team recognized this as a serious issue and began working towards reducing the rate of NEC and improving the gut health of all infants in the NICU.

NEC Rates and Interventions 2010-2023



Current and Continuing Interventions

Clinical Practice Guidelines

New	Updated
Management of Nutritional support for growth restricted infants • Cohort data analysis looking at extended electrolytes, growth and long-term outcomes	Iron Supplementation guideline Skin to Skin guideline Oral Immune Therapy
Risk of metabolic bone disease	Infant Driven Feeding

Ongoing efforts to improve breastfeeding and skin-to-skin rates:

- Working towards full Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) designation
- Implementation of the Supporting and Enhancing NICU Sensory Experiences program (SENSE)

What's Ahead

- Revision of Enteral Feeding Guideline planned in 2024
- Pediatric Resident research project to explore rates and causes of Spontaneous Intestinal Perforation (SIP) from a local and national perspective
- Moderate-Late Preterm Study to look at outcomes including numerous GI metrics for infants born 32+0 to 36+6 weeks provincially

~2 years of infants (32+0-36+6 GA) admitted to NICU for > 24 hours

