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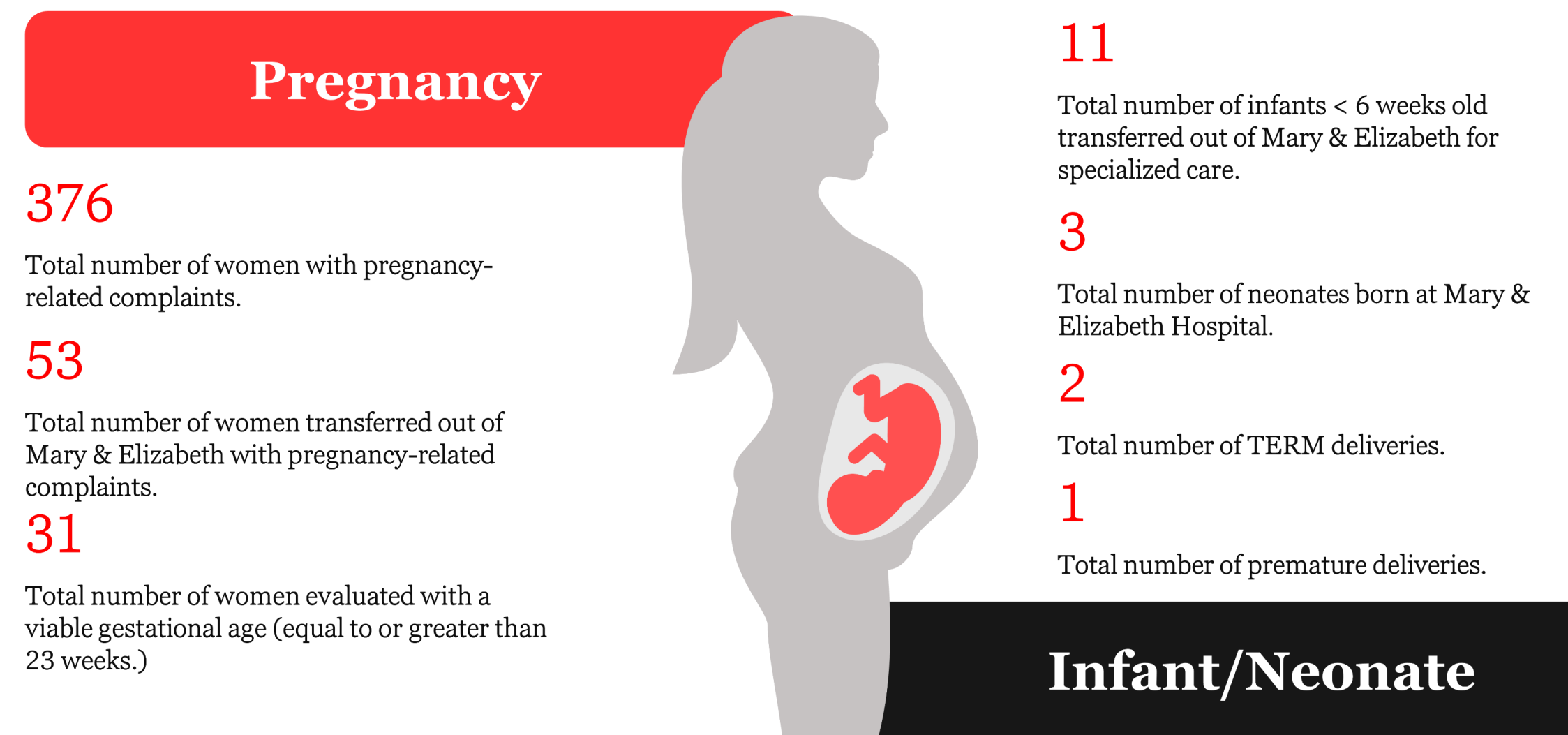
Problem

Mary and Elizabeth Hospital (M&E) recently organized two SWARMS addressing concerns reported directly by the Emergency Department (ED) staff over the lack of preparation for neonatal births. The staff's anxieties continued to escalate, exacerbated by the impending opening of the *Birthing Place*, anticipated 2025. Therefore, it was paramount that a rapid SWARM be conducted.

Results revealed opportunities for improvement in neonatal education, equipment, and availability of critical supplies.

Demographics

2023 Statistics
Mary & Elizabeth Emergency Department



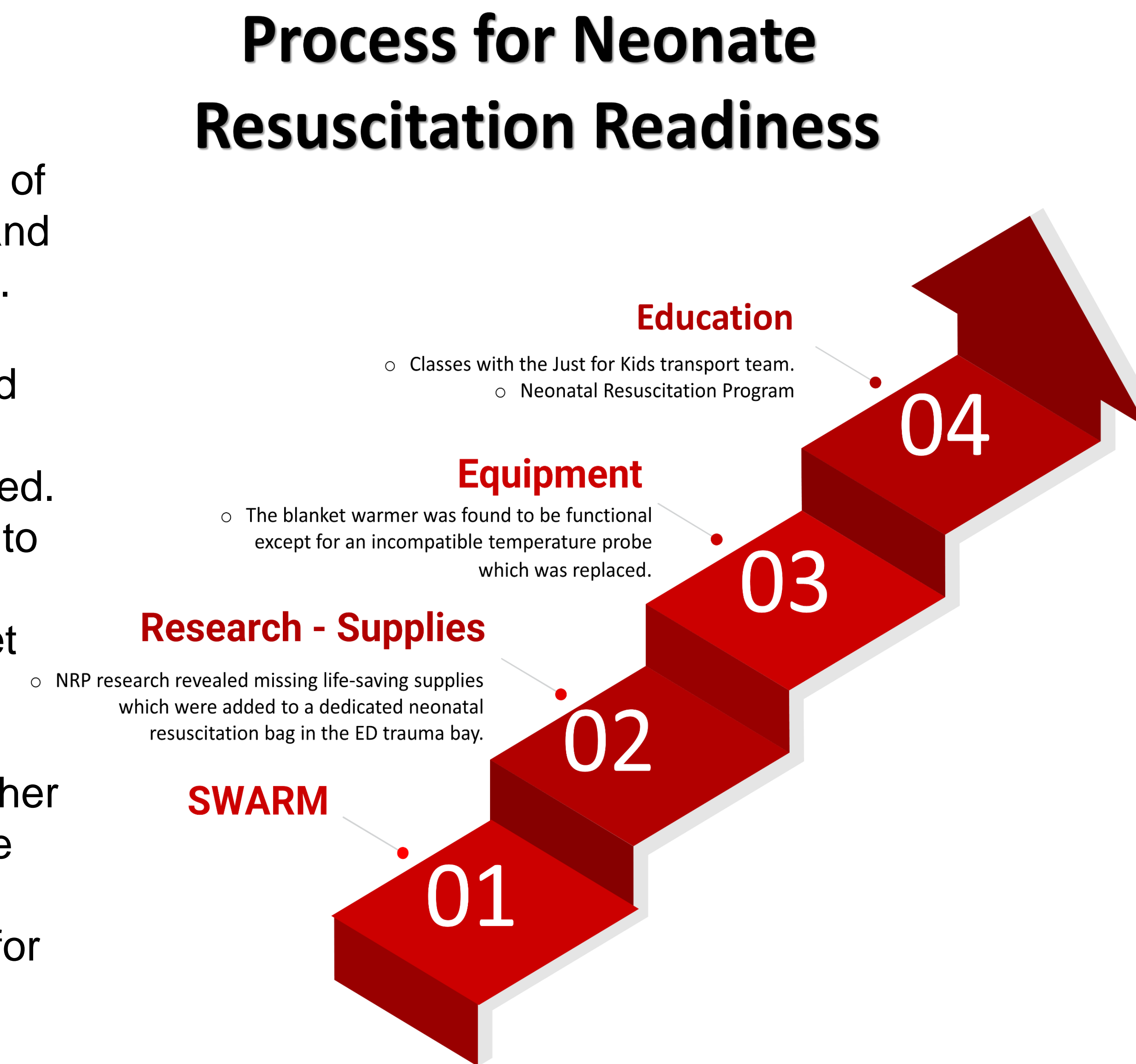
Exponential growth is expected after the opening of the *Birthing Place*.

Interventions

To address gaps in our neonatal care, we conducted an inventory of current neonatal supplies, comparing them against the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) guidelines. This meticulous process helped us identify shortages of critical life-saving supplies which were ordered and added to a dedicated neonatal resuscitation bag.

The current neonatal radiant warmer was verified by our biomedical team, except for a non-compatible temperature probe which was replaced. Staff members, unfamiliar with its operation due to infrequent use, voiced concerns about its utilization. Consequently, a step-by-step tip sheet was affixed to the warmer for quick reference.

ED staff and Respiratory Therapy undertook further neonatal resuscitation education to maximize the effectiveness of these tools. Staff from both departments were offered classes with the Just for Kids transport team, emphasizing hands-on training. Additionally, staff were offered NRP education.



Implications for Practice

Present implication:

While M&E currently lacks a labor and delivery unit, our ED remains dedicated to delivering high-quality care for every emergency. Achieving this level of care necessitates acknowledging areas for opportunity and implementing innovative ideas for significant improvements. The absence of essential neonatal supplies is inadmissible, and the need for comprehensive neonate-specific education is equally important.

Future implication:

This quality improvement plan is especially imperative in anticipation of M&E's *Birthing Place*. The endeavor will open eight Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Postpartum (LDRP) suites with a focus on natural and traditional childbirths. This department will include a cesarean suite and a well-baby level 1 nursery. Our hospital will be ready to serve countless families in and around our community.

Outcomes

ED RN
6 years RN & 14 years paramedic experience
"I did not realize how unprepared I was until taking the NRP."

ED RN
11 years experience
After the new equipment was added, do you have the necessary supplies to care for a neonate?
"Yes"

ED RN
10 years experience
Admitted that prior to the addition of critical supplies, she was unaware that M&E was not fully equipped for neonatal resuscitation.

RT
30 years experience
Claims M&E has the necessary neonate supplies and education after implementing the process improvement plan.

Birthing Place Launch



References

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2021, July 1). Neonatal Resuscitation Program. Retrieved from <https://www.aap.org/en/pedialink/neonatal-resuscitation-program/>

Norton Children's. (2024). Just for Kids Critical Care Transport Team. Retrieved from <https://nortonchildrens.com/services/transport-team>

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