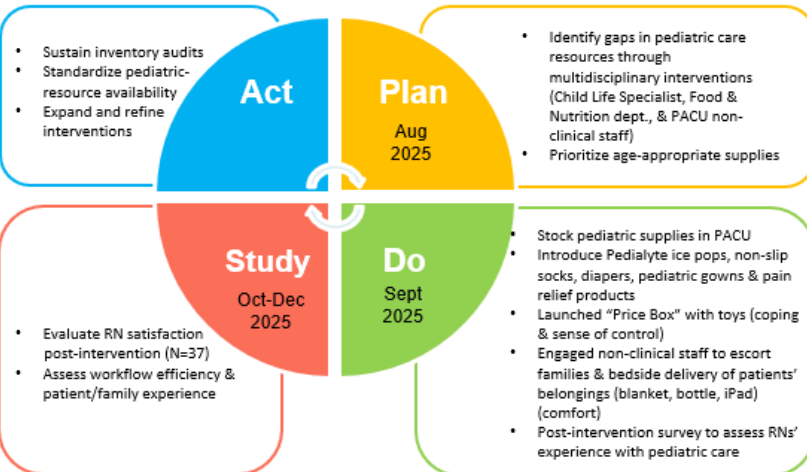


BACKGROUND

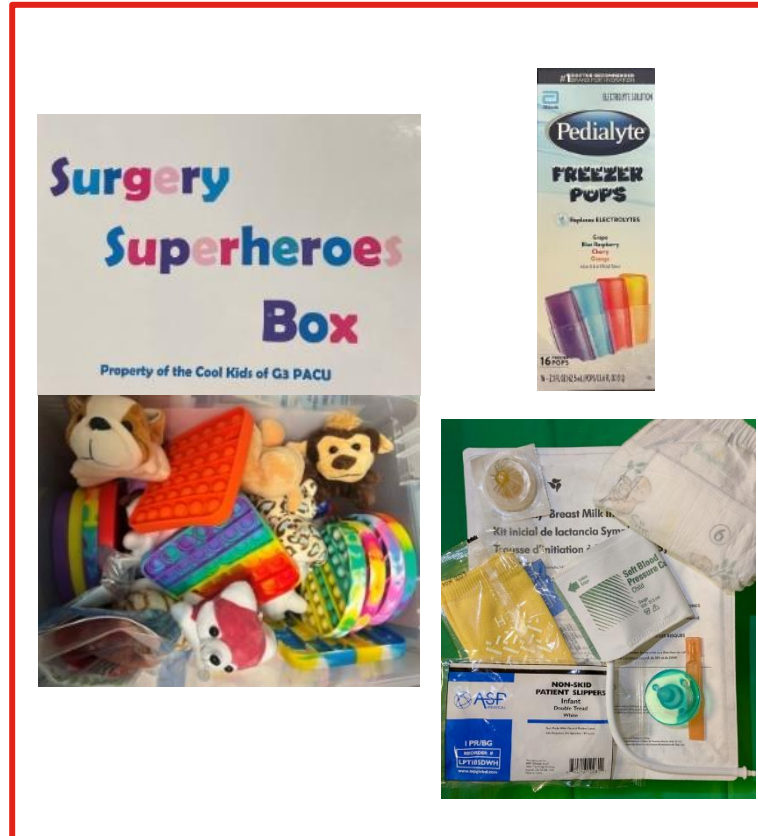
- Providing postoperative care for pediatric patients requires a recovery environment tailored to children’s unique physiological, developmental, and emotional needs
- In predominantly adult PACUs, limited availability of pediatric-specific supplies can delay care and compromise safety, comfort, and age-appropriate interventions
- Nurses identified gaps in access to essential pediatric resources, including medication formulations, pain management tools, fall prevention equipment, toileting aids, and distraction/coping items, often requiring time-consuming coordination with other units. These barriers contribute to workflow inefficiencies and may negatively impact both patient and family experience
- Aim:** To enhance pediatric and family-centered care in the PACU by improving timely access to age-appropriate supplies that support comfort, safety, and developmental needs

METHODS



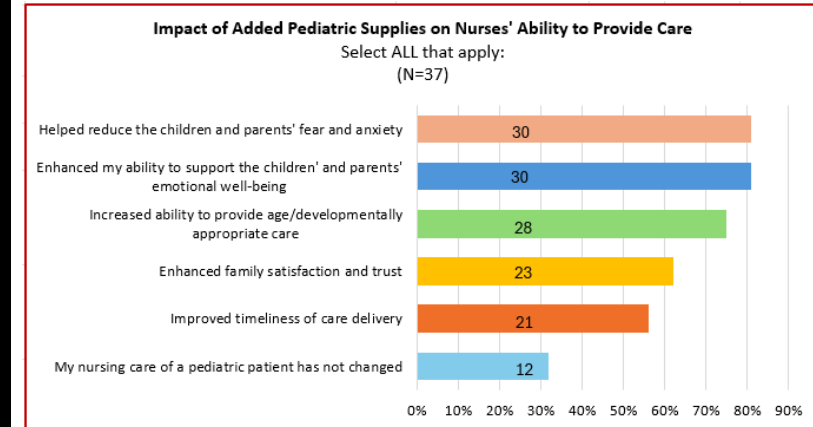
KEY FINDINGS

- Universal perceived improvement. 100% (N=37) nurses reported that pediatric-focused supplies improved patient/family postoperative experience
- Verbal feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive
- Smoother nursing workflow, reducing delays and reliance on other units



RESULTS

- High nurse satisfaction with the added supplies: 79% (n=29) of nurses were “Very satisfied”, 16% (n=6) “Satisfied”, 3% (n=1) “Somewhat satisfied”, and 3% (n=1) “Dissatisfied”
- Nurses reported improved ability to address children’s emotional and developmental needs, resulting in reduced anxiety and increased engagement, while also decreasing caregiver stress



DISCUSSION

This project highlights the critical role of PACU nurses in shaping the perioperative experience through comfort-centered, family-focused care.

This low-cost intervention is scalable and replicable across perioperative settings to enhance pediatric readiness and quality of care

REFERENCES

Bongiorno, D., Ravicz, M., Nadeau, N., Michelson, K., Alpern, E., Myers, Samuels-Kalow, M. (2024). Pediatric capacity crisis: A framework and strategies to prepare for a pediatric surge. *Journal of American College of Emergency Physicians Open*. 16;5(1):e13093. doi: [10.1002/emp2.13093](https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.13093)

Korell, L, and Fideler, F. (2025). Improving Postoperative Pediatric Recovery by Efficient Recovery Room Care—A Comprehensive Review. *Children (Basel)*, 28;12(5):568. doi: [10.3390/children12050568](https://doi.org/10.3390/children12050568)