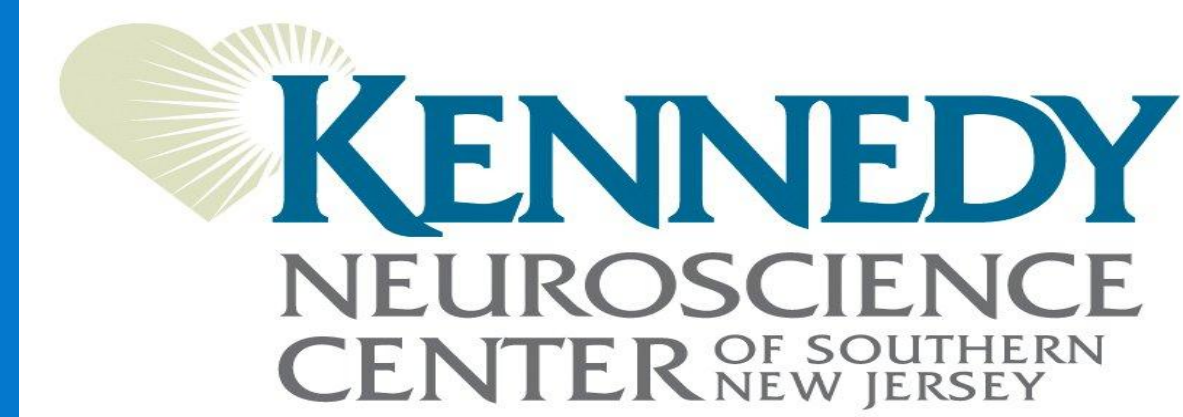


# Improving Stroke Care Through the Development of Clinical Champions

## Neuro Champion Group of Washington Township

### Kennedy Health



## Background

- Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death and is the leading cause of long-term disability among adults
- Of the 795,000 patients that suffer a stroke each year, approximately 35,000 to 75,000 (4%-17%) occur while the patient is hospitalized for non-neurologic diagnoses
- Time to treatment for in-hospital strokes can be significantly longer in comparison to strokes presenting to the Emergency Departments
- The Neuro Champions at Washington Township recognized a need to implement a plan to improve the staff's recognition and treatment of in-hospital stroke

## Objectives

- To highlight the performance improvement project developed and implemented by the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Champion Group
- To identify and remove the obstacles associated with the activation of the In-Patient Stroke Alert process through education of front-line staff

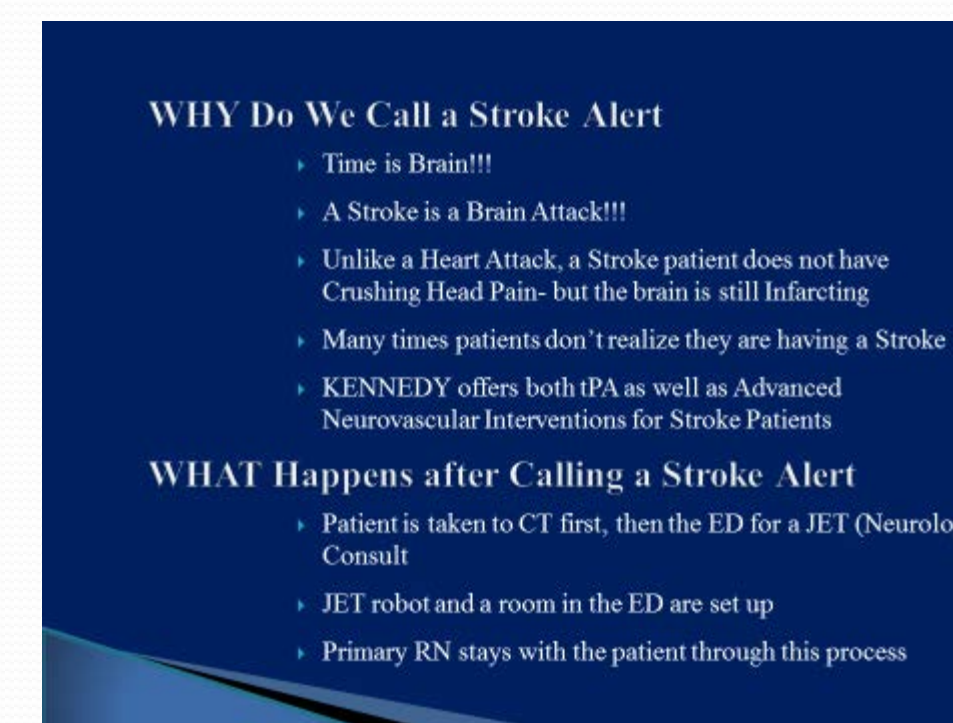
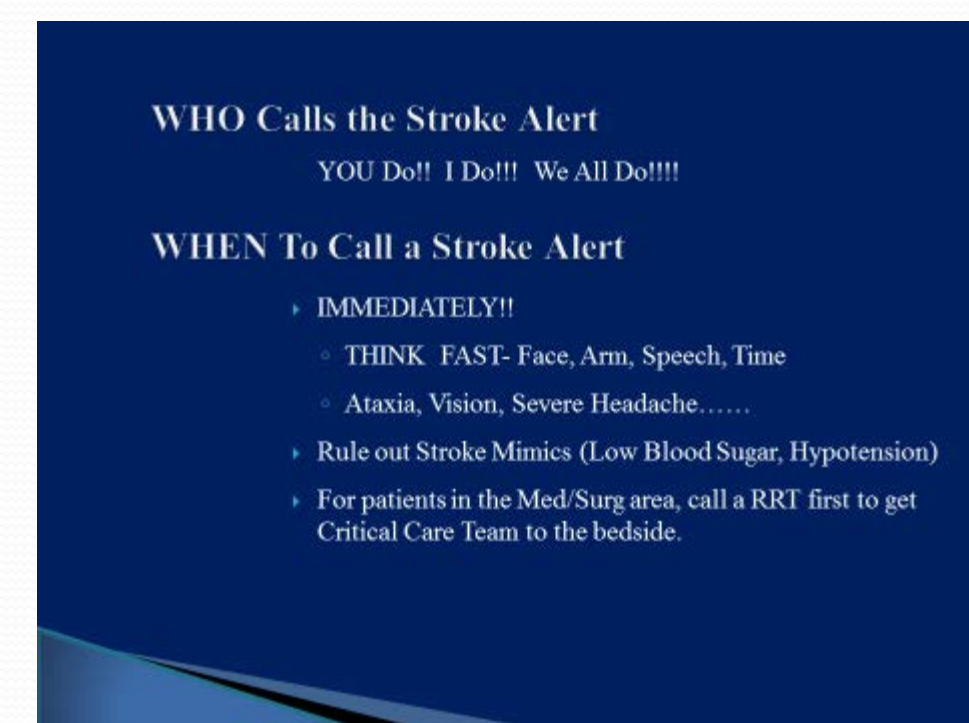
## Acknowledgement

*Special thanks to the Neuroscience leadership for their guidance and encouragement and to the Nurse Managers of Washington Township for their support of this group's efforts*

## Methods

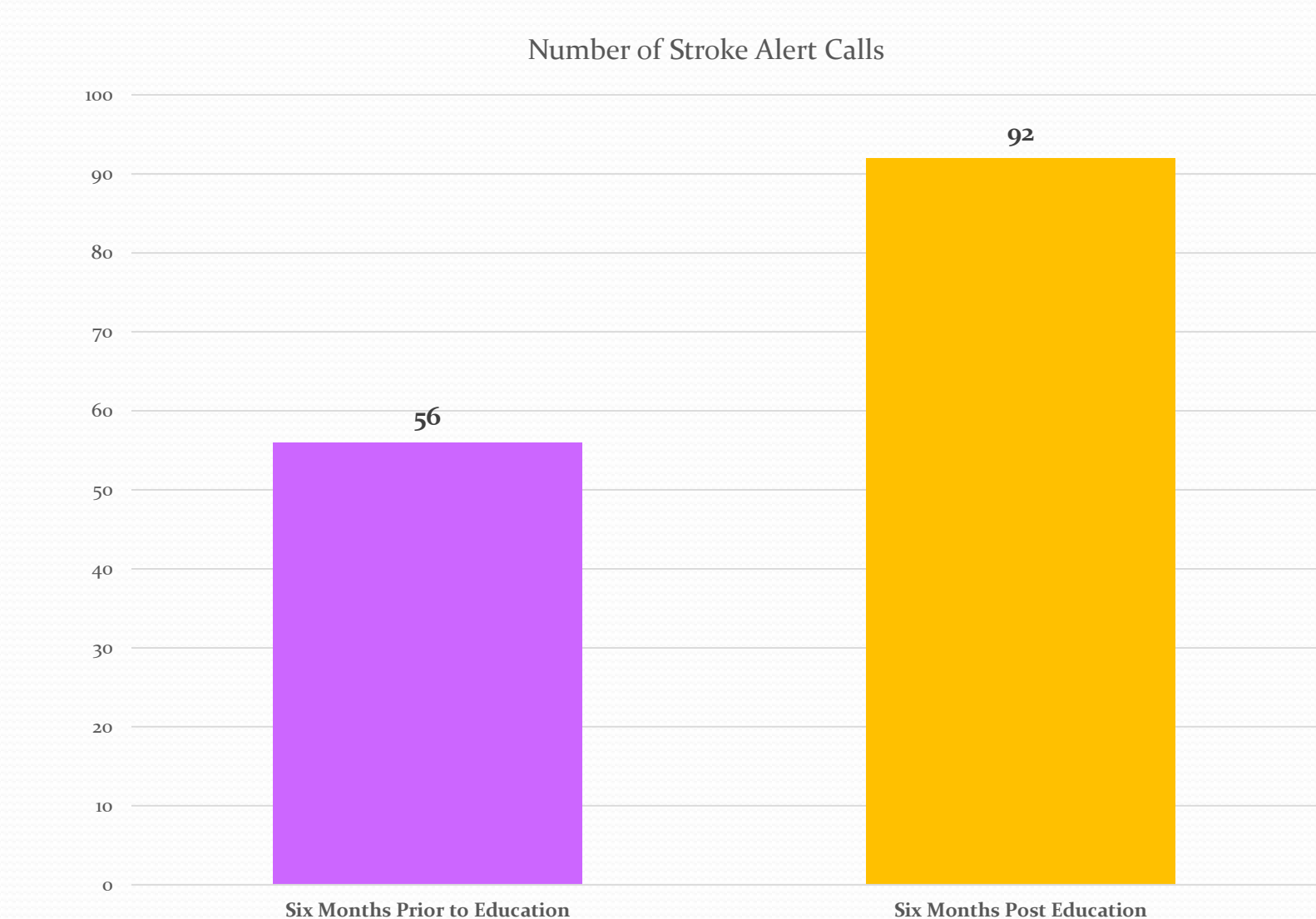
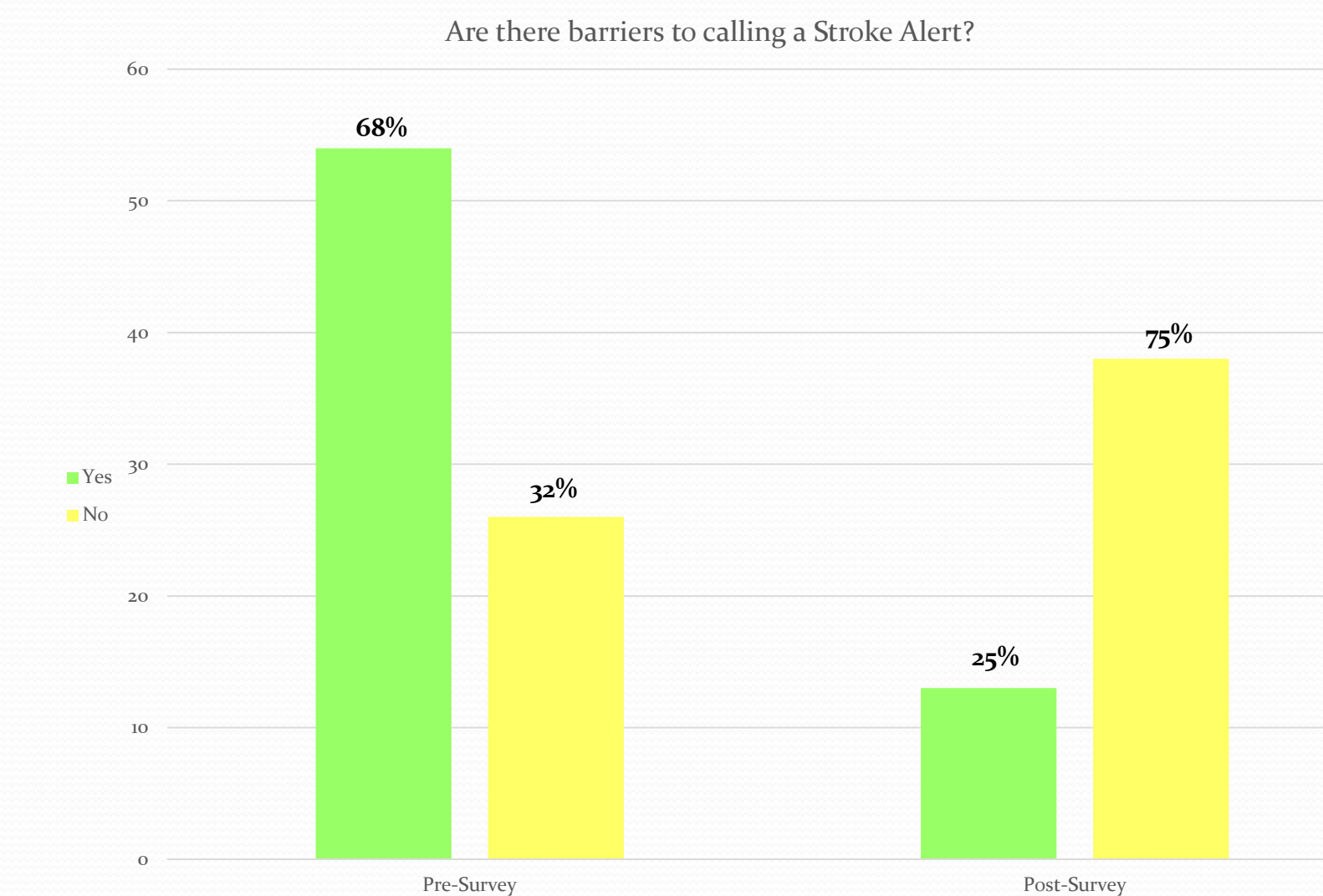
- Clinical staff was surveyed to determine a baseline understanding of the current stroke alert process and the perceived barriers in the activation of the Stroke Alert process
- Four questions were asked:
  1. How do you call a Stroke Alert?
  2. Are there any barriers to calling a Stroke Alert? If so, what are they?
  3. Have you ever called a Stroke Alert?
  4. Would you feel comfortable calling a Stroke Alert?
- Results of the survey were analyzed by the Neuro Champion Group and an educational plan was developed and implemented
- Poster presentations were created to educate the hospital clinical staff by the neuro champions addressing key knowledge gaps highlighted by the survey

## Educational Content Excerpt



## Evaluation

- In the initial survey, 68% of respondents felt there were barriers to calling a Stroke Alert. Following the education, only 25% reported barriers
- Six months prior to the educational campaign, 56 Stroke Alerts were called hospital-wide. Six months following the campaign, Stroke Alert calls increased to 92
- Education was provided to each unit in the hospital, including the Imaging Departments by the unit-specific Neuro Group Champion designee



## Implications for Practice

In our mission to improve the identification and treatment of in-hospital strokes, the Neuro Champion Group has identified the following as immediate goals:

- Continue re-education of front-line staff on the Stroke Alert process with the goal of maintaining a high level of awareness and increasing the percentage of staff that would be comfortable calling a Stroke Alert (currently ~90%)
- Identify means to reach newly hired staff to ensure their awareness of the processes in place
- Duplicate the model to assist in elevating nursing practice in other patient focused quality measures