Encouraging Mask Wearing Compliance During COVID

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Background

- Surgical mask use serves as an effective barrier against the spread of respiratory diseases
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for masking was amplified in the healthcare setting
- Patients at EMMC are required to wear masks while inpatient unless sleeping or able to socially distance appropriately
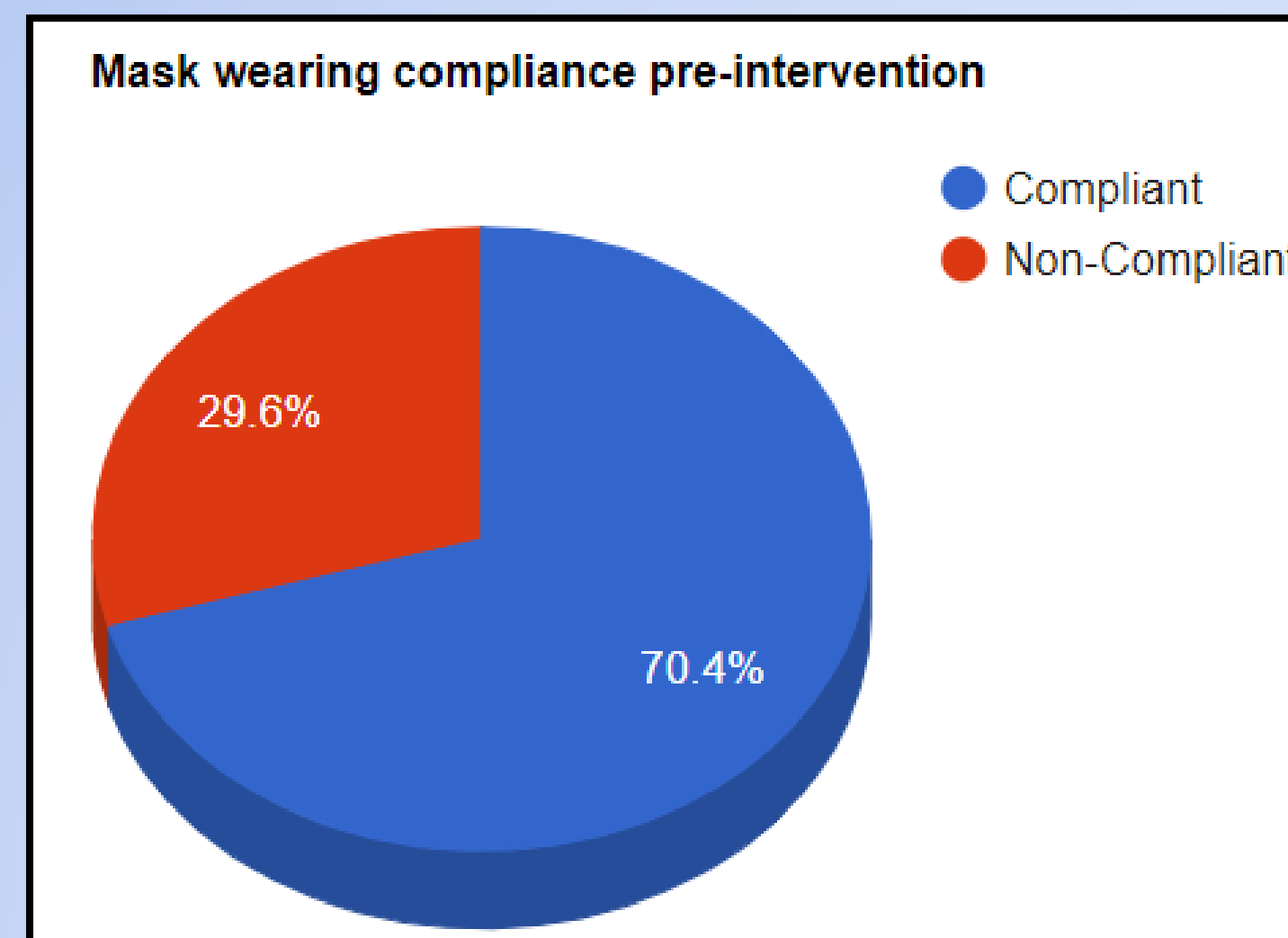- There was low compliance amongst patients

<u>We proposed</u> that patients receiving verbal and signage messaging focused on mask-wearing would increase mask-wearing
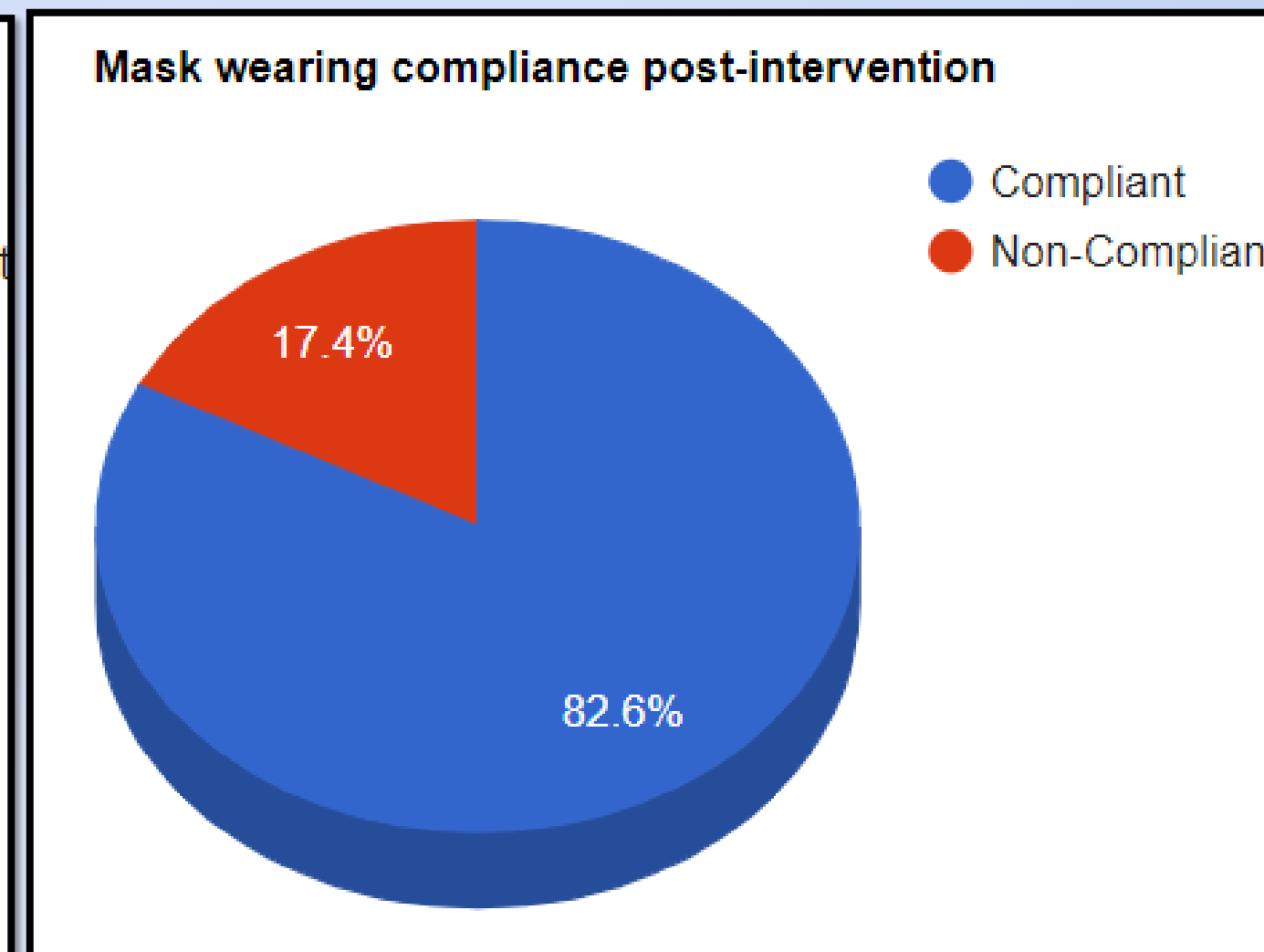
Methods

- Pre-intervention mask compliance data was collected by an observational audit on Grant 6. Data collected from this unit is congregated into one table
- Posters were placed in high visibility areas and in each patient room. Staff were educated on encouraging face mask use during staff meetings
- One month later, mask wearing compliance was assessed again with another audit
- Data was displayed in graphs and findings analyzed

Measures and Results

First Audit

Mask wearing compliance pre-intervention

- Compliant
- Non-Compliant

29.6%
70.4%

Second Audit

Mask wearing compliance post-intervention

- Compliant
- Non-Compliant

17.4%
82.6%

The following poster was displayed in each patient's room on Grant 6 after the first audit was obtained. The second audit was completed 28 days after the poster was displayed in the rooms for the patients to visualize.

Summary/Discussion

- **Next Steps:**
  - Implement the distribution of mask education and visual aids hospital-wide
  - Follow and track patients who have contracted COVID-19 whilst being an inpatient to determine if mask compliance was followed appropriately
  - Add assessment to hourly rounding to include if patient was wearing mask per policy
- **Barriers of this Study:**
  - Patient population diversity provided a challenge to get accurate data. (i.e., confused, inconsistent patients)
  - Unit restructuring during COVID-19 pandemic.

Conclusion

- Our proposed interventions of mask education and poster placement produced an 11% increase in mask-wearing compliance among inpatients on Grant 6
- The largest barriers to survey was unit restrictions and restructuring due to COVID-19 outbreaks
- Despite the pandemic-related barriers, our project demonstrates that patient and staff education and signage does have a positive effect on mask wearing compliance, thereby improving overall safety for patients and staff.

References
Blue mask black background. *Disposable surgical face mask, Razor surgical mask.* https://www.razer.com/gear-accessories/razer-surgical-mask/RC81-03660100-0000
Wang, J., Pan, L., Tang, S., Ji, J.S., & Shi, X. (2020, June 25). Mask use during COVID-19: A risk adjusted strategy. *Environmental Pollution (Barking, Essex:1987).* https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2020.115099