

Educating Pediatric Registered Nurses to Address Suicide Screening in the School Age Child and Early Adolescent

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Background

- Suicide is the second most common cause of death among young people between 10-24 years of age
- Successful intervention requires early identification
- Gap in bedside pediatric nurse education, comfort and confidence when assessing for suicide
- Ask Suicide Screening Questions (ASQ)
- Hospital policy requires RNs to administer ASQ screen within first 24 hours of admission for all pediatric patients >10 years of age
- Poor unit hospital compliance



Purpose

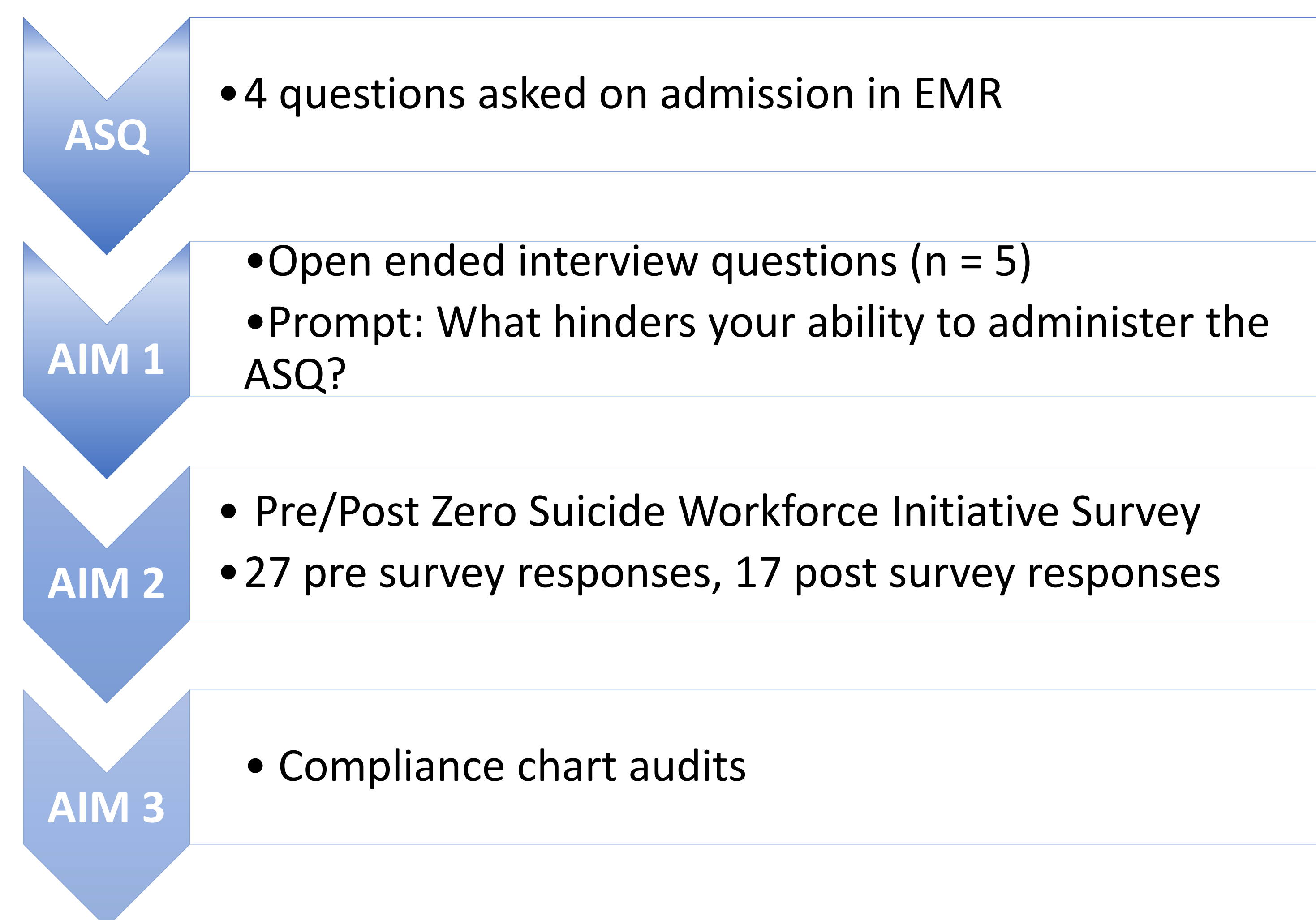
- To develop, implement, and evaluate a registered nurse educational intervention to increase nurse confidence, comfort, and adherence to hospital-based policy when assessing for suicide in the school age child and early adolescent.

Project Aims:

AIM 1	AIM 2	AIM 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify barriers to administering the ASQ screen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve nurse comfort, confidence when screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve unit adherence to hospital policy

Methods

- **Design:** A convenient sample pre/post intervention design conducted over 12-weeks
- **Sample:** All nurses (n= 45)
- **Setting:** 20-bed inpatient pediatric medical/surgical unit within a large academic medical center
- **Intervention:** 6-minute pre-recorded education session available for 3 weeks
- **Measures:**



Results

- **Aim 1 interview extracts:**
 - “I feel like we say welcome to the unit, have you thought about killing yourself?”
 - Not feeling comfortable asking [ASQ questions]”
 - “Fear that a patient will say yes and I don’t know how to respond.”

Aim 2:

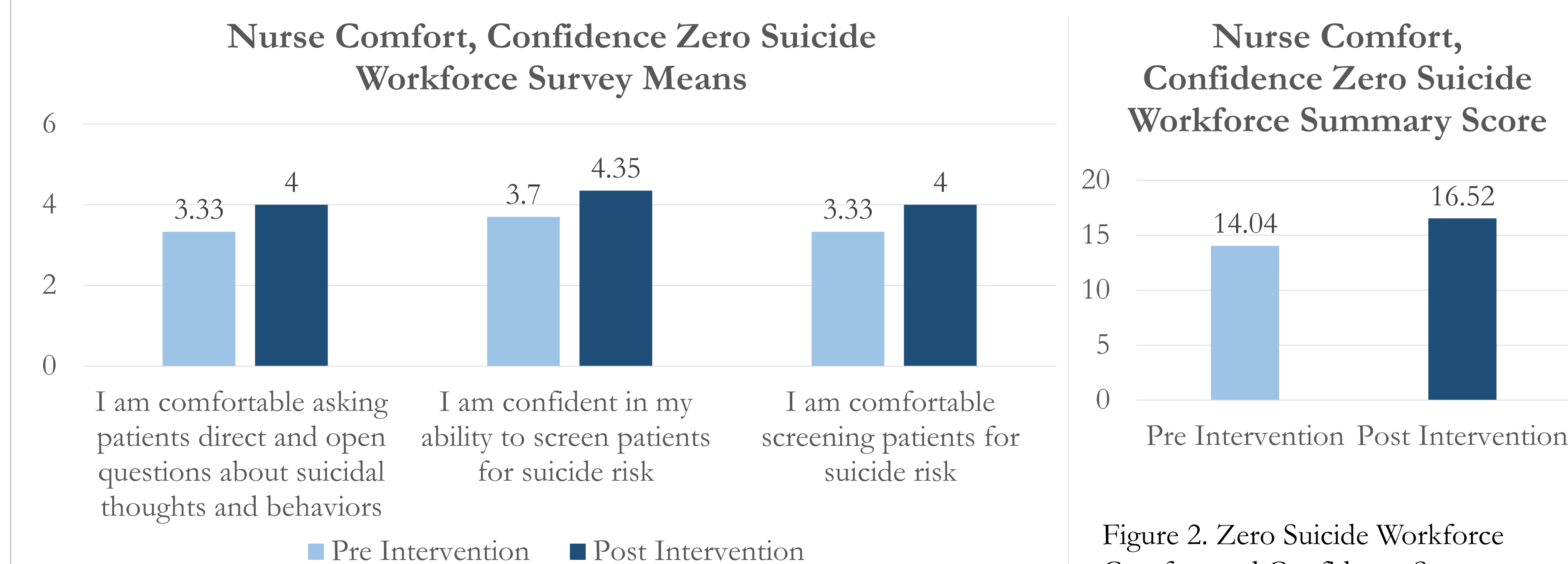
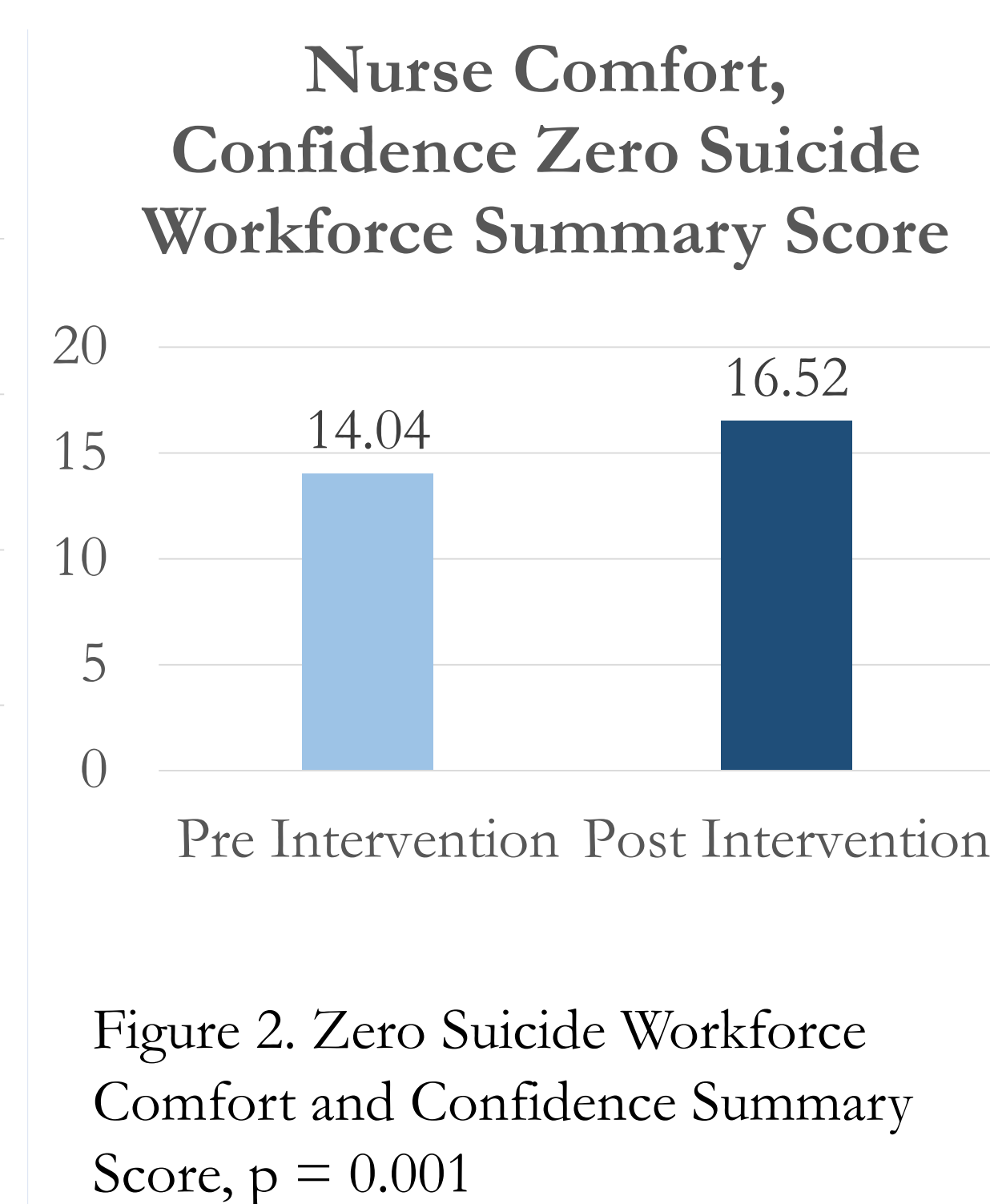
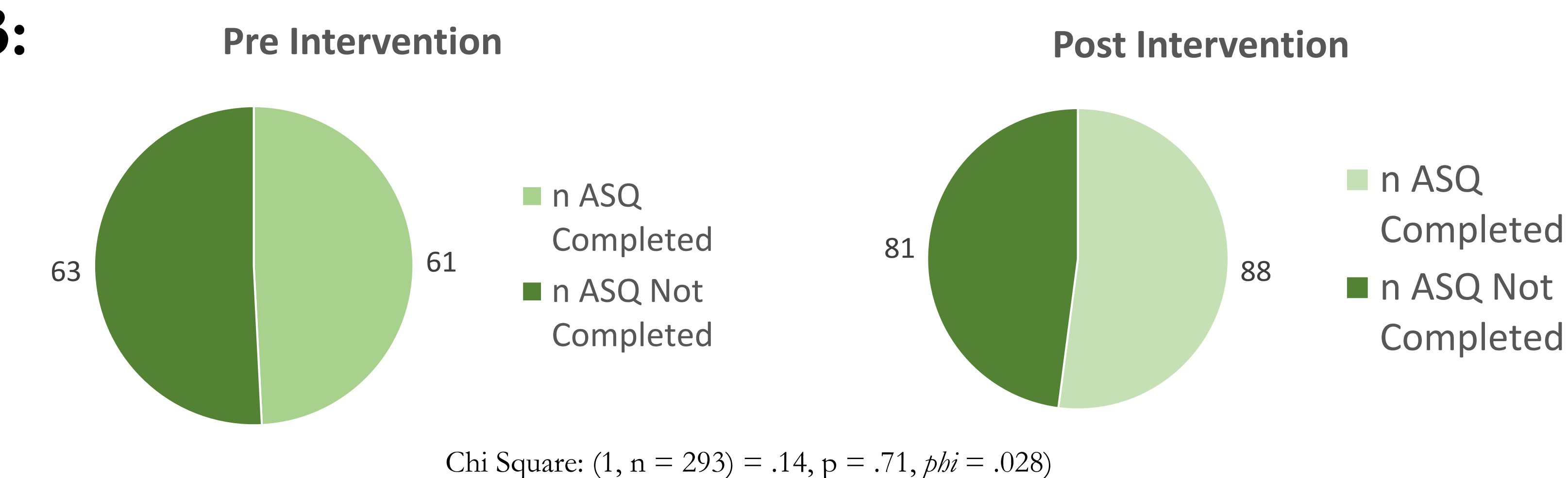


Figure 1. Zero Suicide Workforce Comfort and Confidence Item Means



Aim 3:



Discussion

- Data revealed increase comfort, confidence when screening for suicide; No significant improvement in policy adherence
- **Limitations:** COVID-19, survey fatigue
- **Implications:** Brief, 6-minute education session improved nurse comfort and confidence; timing of screening is still a challenge.

Conclusion

- This project highlighted the importance of nurse education to increase comfort and confidence when screening for pediatric suicide.