



# Ensuring Correct Usage of Dynamic Appraisal of Situational Aggression scoring tool on an Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit

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## Background

The DASA is validated tool to assess and predict aggression for inpatient psychiatric patients. Workplace violence has become an increasing problem in the hospital setting. Correct usage of this tool ensures patient and staff safety.

## Aim of the Project

The aim of this project was to improve the accuracy of the scoring of the DASA tool to create a safer environment for patients and staff.

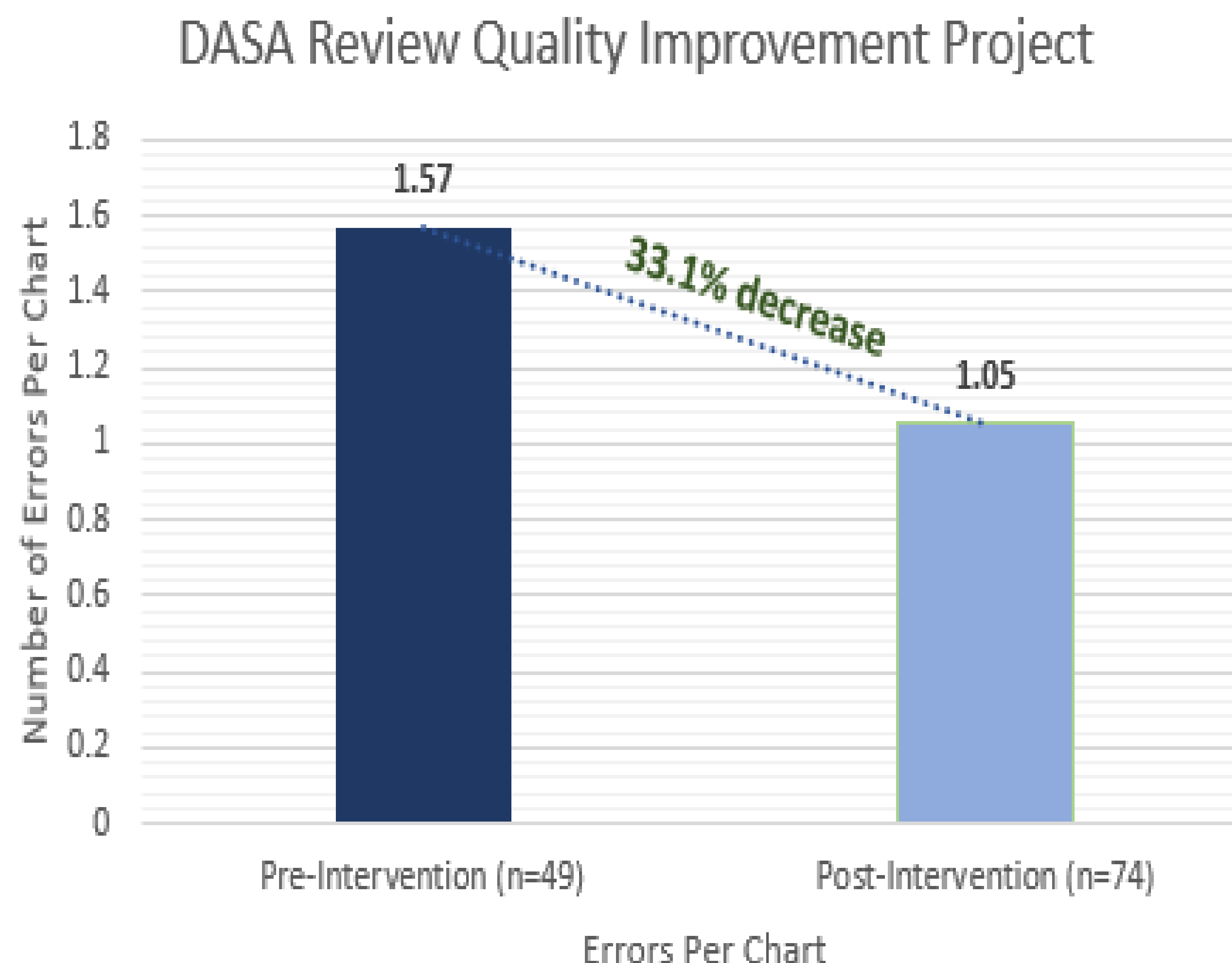
## Description of the Intervention

Nursing staff was assigned Monitoring Pre-aggressive and Aggressive Behavior in Mylearning system and were asked to attest to the Policy CLIN001 Aggression Assessment, Prevention and Management in Psychiatry.

## Description of Data Collection and Analysis

Before and after the intervention; patient census was collected for 7 days per month for 3 months, For each patient on the census; charts were audited for their entire length of stay for **DASA Score; Nursing, Social, and Provider Notes, and Aggressive Event Flowsheet** looking for keywords based on DASA Questions.

## Outcomes Measures or Results



## Implications for Practice

**DASA is a valid tool to predict patient aggression when used properly in psych settings.**

Education improved the accuracy of DASA score. Before roll out of new assessment tools, and periodically throughout education, reminders would help nursing staff use this tool correctly.

## Lessons Learned

Next Time:

- More staff/expand to other Psych Units
- More Data collection in audits – Specific Nurses, AM /PM shifts

## References

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Nqwaku, M., Draycott, S., Aldridge-Waddon, L., Bush, E.-L., Tsirimokou, A., Jones, D., & Puzzo, I. (n.d.). Predictive Power of the DASA-IV: Variations in rating method and timescales.  
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