

Background: Reusable cytotoxic sharps bins are primarily used to dispose of **cytotoxic waste** from systemic therapy administration. Cytotoxic waste is **incinerated**, one of the most environmentally impactful methods of processing medical waste. Inappropriate items, or **contaminants**, were being put into the cytotoxic bins, leading to **unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions**. Incineration generates **30-50x** more emissions compared to other forms of waste processing.

Aim: Decrease reusable cytotoxic sharps containers contaminants by **80%** in BC Cancer PG Systemic Therapy by Aug 30/24

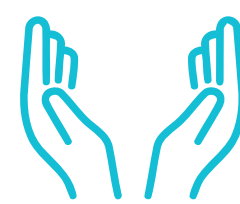
Methods

- Visual counts of bin contents daily
- Medical waste processing education
- Signs posted to aid in waste segregation
- Bins for various types of waste added

Baseline Data

5.2 contaminants per bin prior to project implementation

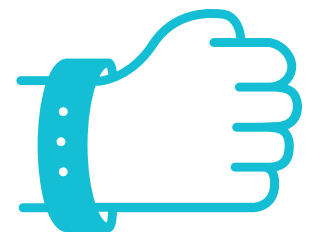
Most commonly misplaced items



PPE

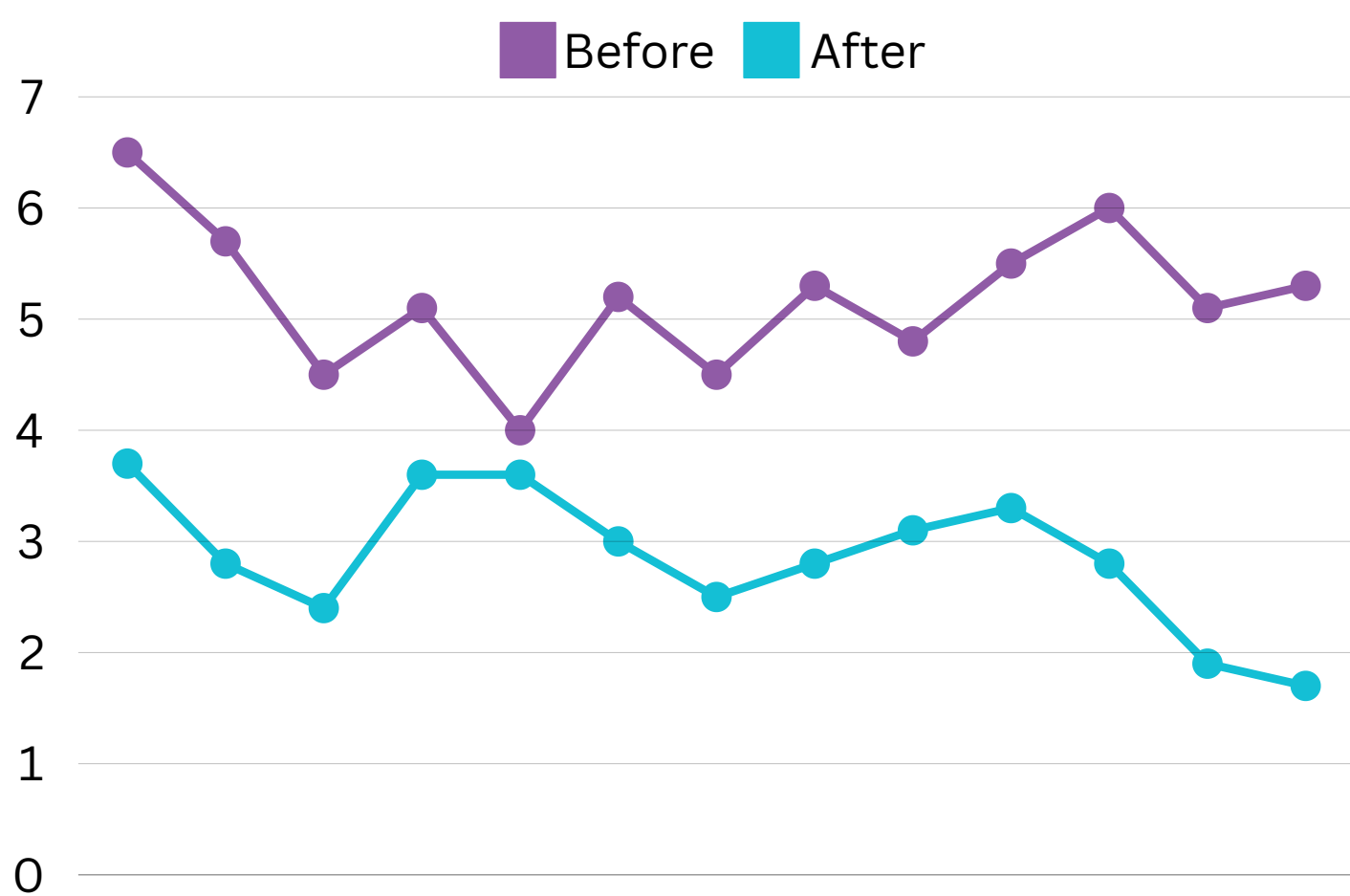


IV Packaging



ID Bands

Results = 50% Reduction Achieved



2.6 contaminants

per bin after project implementation

27 IV packages counted before

VS

6 IV packages counted after



Impacts

9kg of non-sharp waste diverted over 4 weeks overall

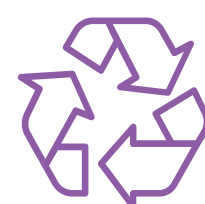
328 IV packages potentially diverted from incineration yearly

5kg of plastic and paper in IV packaging alone not incinerated yearly

What's Next?



Incorporate other departments to help segregate cytotoxic waste



Plastic and paper recycling for packaging of commonly used items



Education focused on Planetary Health for new and existing employees