

# Assessing patient safety culture in a Welsh neonatal unit

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## Objectives

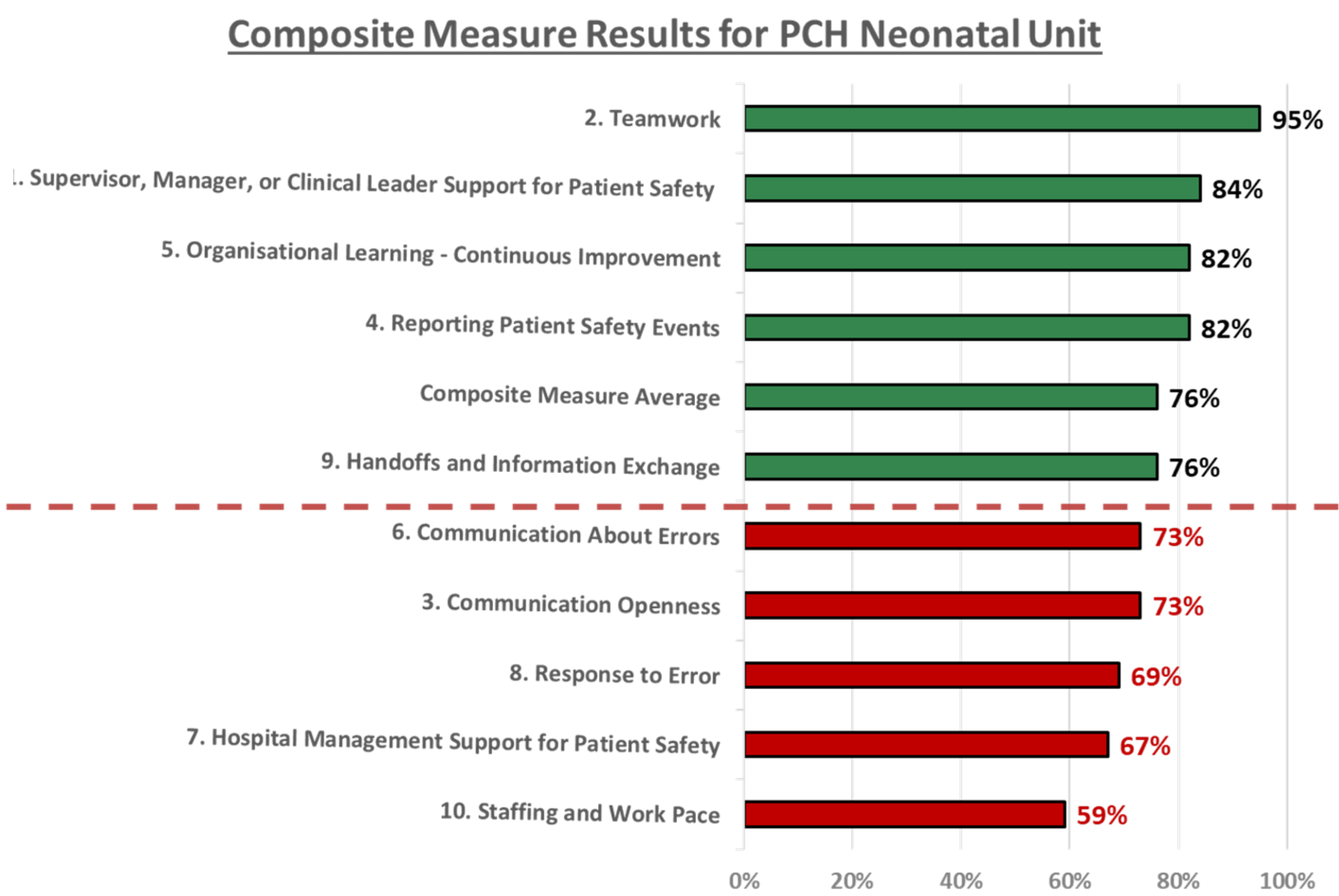
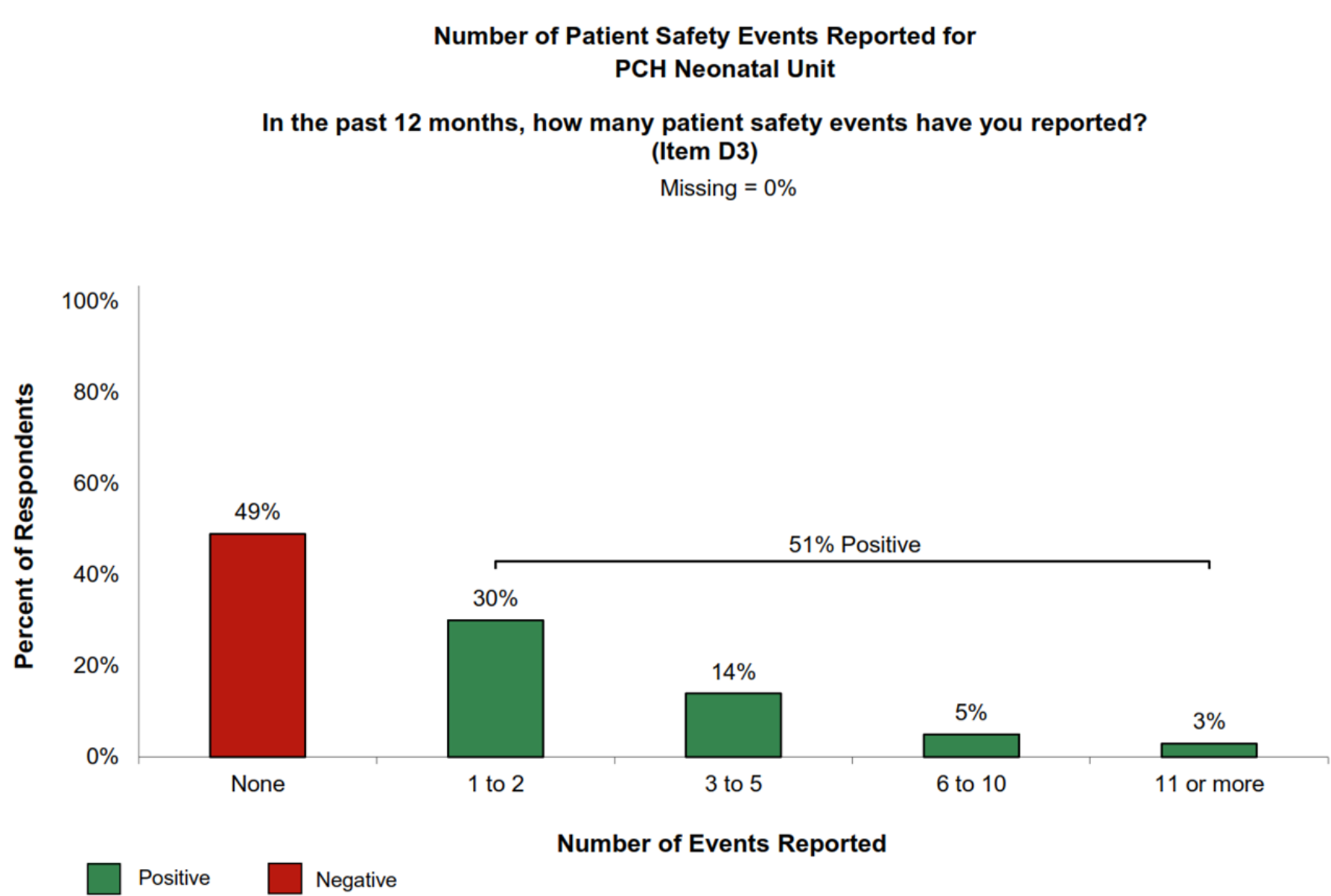
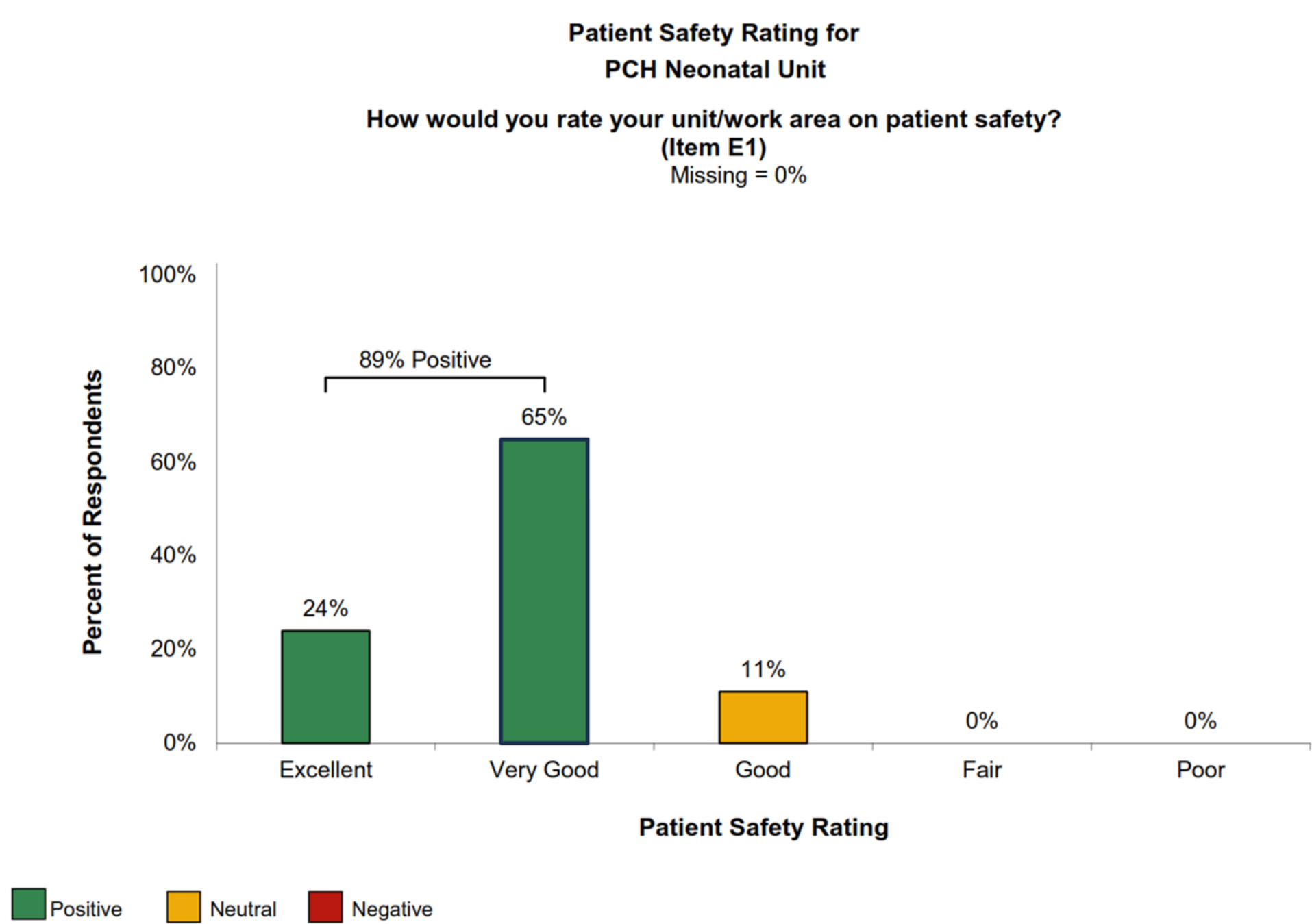
Safety in neonatal wards has received a lot of attention in recent years and is considered a top priority in healthcare quality programs. Safety culture is believed to contribute and greatly influence the quality and safety of patients in the neonatal unit. Assessing safety culture is the first step towards improving patient safety. The aim of this study was to provide a baseline assessment of the patient safety culture in a neonatal unit in Wales, provide an overview of factors that contribute to patient safety, identify strengths and weaknesses, and to use the information to plan for improvement.

## Methods

All staff working in the neonatal unit at Prince Charles Hospital were invited to participate in a web-based Survey on Patient Safety Culture (SOPS®) Hospital Survey version 2.0. The study period was from June 7 to 17, 2023. Positive response rate to 10 patient safety culture composite measures and 2 outcomes (overall patient safety rating and the number of safety events reported in the past year) were analysed. Composite measures with a positive rate of 75% or more were identified as strengths, measures with 50-75% have potential for improvement, and those with less than 50% as weaknesses.

## Results

100 staff members were invited to participate in the study. 37 surveys were completed, giving us a response rate of 37%. 32% of participants were neonatal nurses and 46% were doctors.



## Conclusions

This patient safety culture study has identified strengths and areas for improvement. The next step is to use this information to develop an action plan to improve patient safety in our neonatal unit.

## References

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. About SOPS. 2023 [accessed 20 Feb 2024]. Available from: <https://www.ahrq.gov/sops/about/index.html>