

Breastmilk Scanning Rates in the NICU

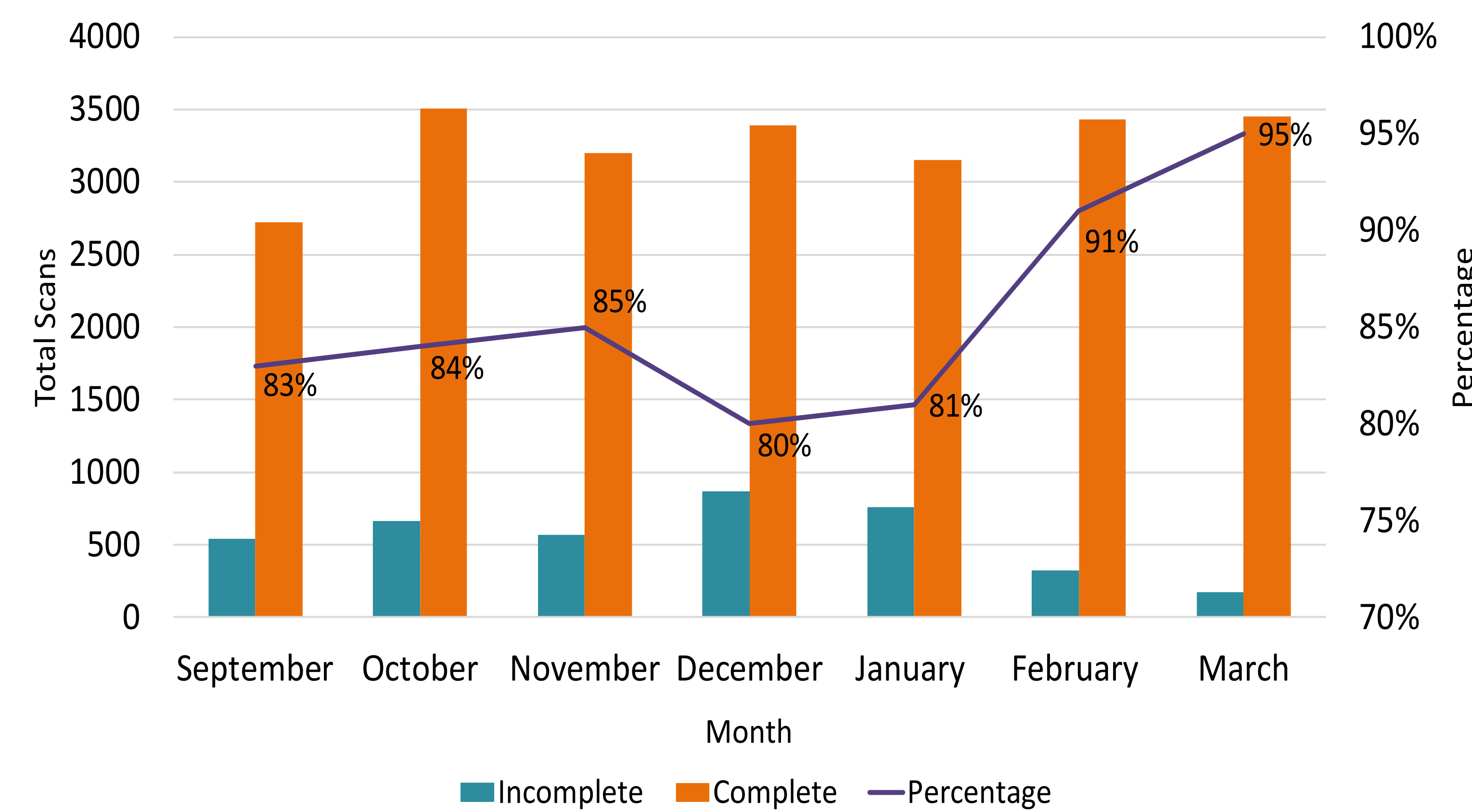
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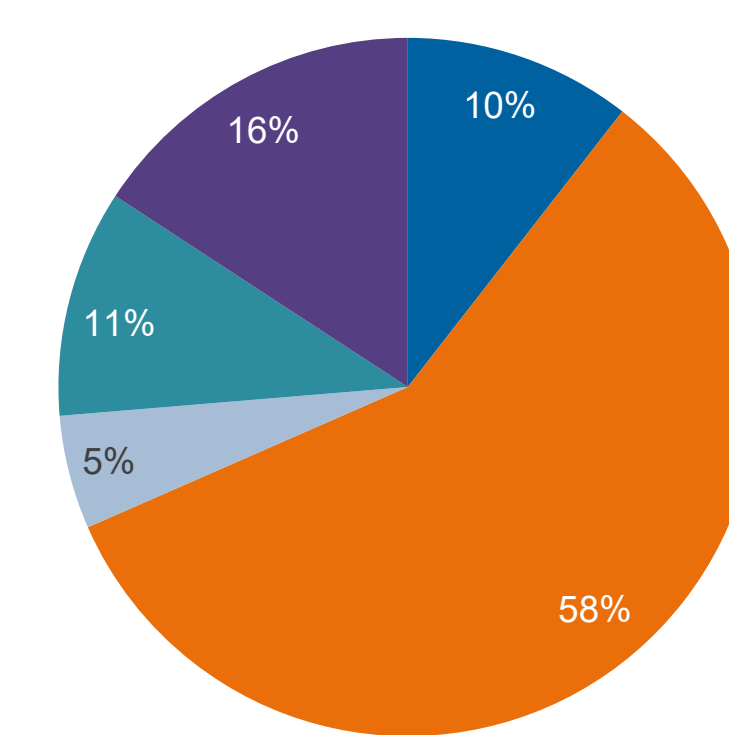


Results

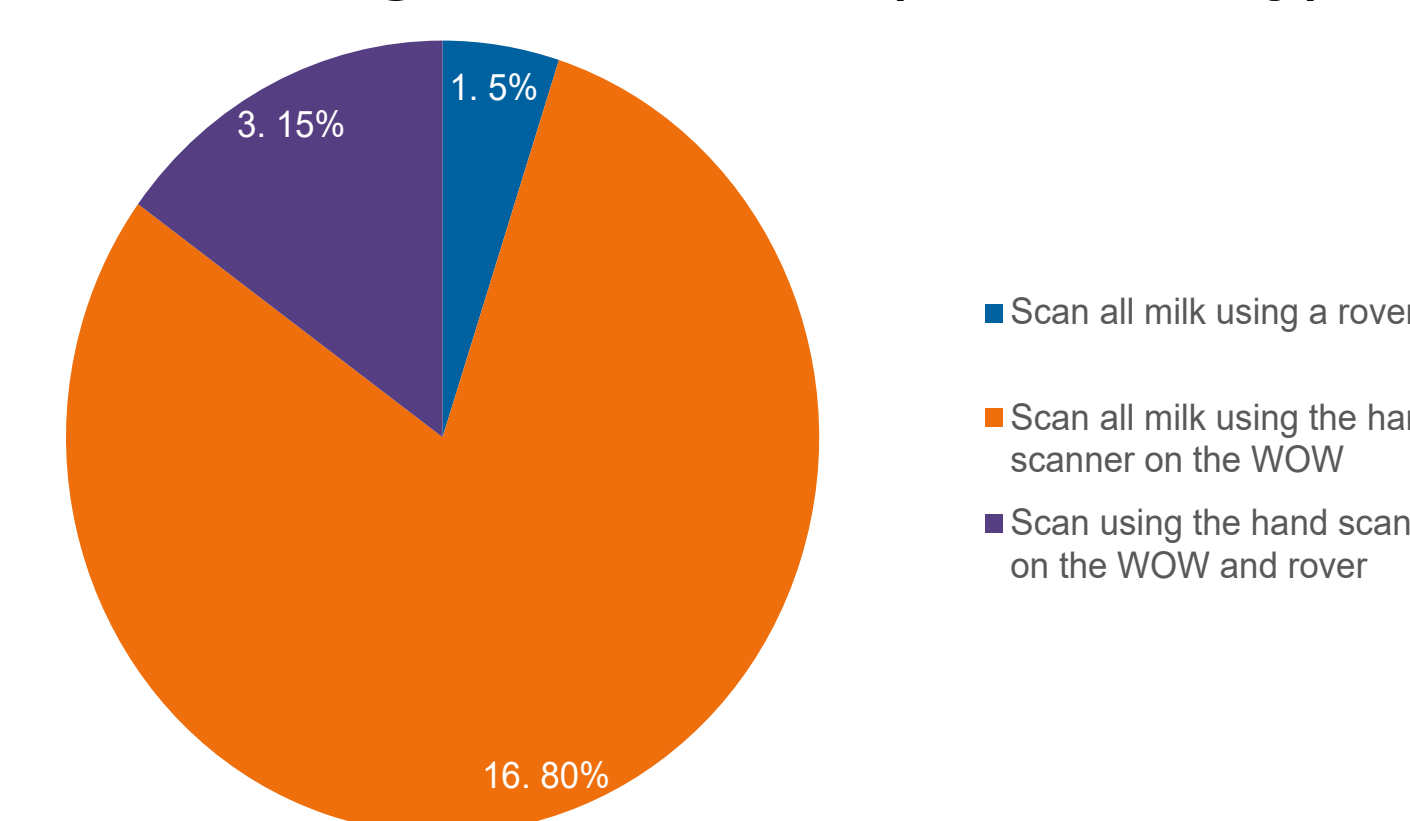
Incomplete vs Complete Scanning Rates



What is your Current Practice for Scanning EBM/PDHM? (Pre Survey)



What is your Current Practice for Scanning EBM/PDHM? (Post Survey)



Discussion & Conclusion

- The percentage of breast milk scanning rates increased from 84% in October 2025 to 95% in March 2026
- The incidence of milk misappropriations decreased from 2 to 0 cases after beginning the breast milk scanning QI project
- Increase in breast milk scanning rates following the introduction of a new practice: scanning milk at the bedside prior to warming and placing it in the warmer
- Increased staff satisfaction while improving workflow, to create a long-term shift in practice

Future Directions

Sustainability Strategies

- Continue maintenance of the milk fridges by nurses
- Encourage positive reinforcement of scanning rates through updating the QI board
- Continue to promote new changes in practice for scanning and workflow, to new hires on the unit

Next Steps

- Continue to reinforce breastmilk scanning in the NICU

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, December 13). *Breast milk mix-up*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/php/guidelines-recommendations/other-mothers-milk.html>
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- Steele, C., Czerwin, A., & Bixby, C. (2015). Breast milk bar code scanning results in time savings and staff efficiency. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 115(1), 23–26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2014.06.360>

Acknowledgements

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Methods

Surveys: Completed Pre and Post surveys for the milk fridge and freezer PDSA baseline data

EPIC tracking measures: collected data on milk scanning – reasons milk was not scanned for further analysis to fix the problems

EPIC Slicer Dicer Analytics: Used toward collecting data on milk scanning rates

Visuals: Re-arrangement of the milk fridge and freezer; poster created for EPIC Rover breast milk scanning work flow; QI board updates weekly;

Ongoing Education: Weekly emails sent out to the team on updates regarding the EPIC Rovers, milk fridge and freezer; changes to practice;

team huddles in the unit; one on one meetings with the nurses

PDSA #1: Milk Fridge Organization

PLAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Label each bin location with bedspace number, place either a labeled or empty bin in each space Standardize all labels (baby name + MRN on each bin), include "name alert" labels & "more in freezer" labels
DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated team with upcoming changes to fridge and received input On the day of change, reminded the team of changes, showed all staff the changes (in-person and a staff email)
STUDY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff feedback has been positive. "I have been wanting to do this for years," "I am so glad it's finally organized"
ACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff asked that the milk freezer be organized now; It was identified by staff that q2h feeders needed a second bin; A second bin was placed behind the first

PDSA #2: EPIC Rover Breast milk Scanning

PLAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff input on the usage of EPIC rovers and its accessibility during an on unit meeting Scanning is reviewed with a poster handout that will be displayed in the unit
DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of breast milk scanning workflow using the EPIC Rovers on the unit Posters placed in high traffic areas and 1-on-1 review of scanning with 'Rover Super Users'
STUDY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very few staff on the unit use the rover: inconvenience/access issues/unfamiliar Further education on the rovers and having another option making nurses more comfortable with use
ACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to reinforce the posters, notify with any further questions when scanning Continue to promote the use of the rovers when WOW access is limited and needed

PDSA #3: Milk Freezer Organization

PLAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardize all labels, include "name alert", with one bin per baby PDHM bins are label with size (small or large) along with appropriate mL
DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> updated team with upcoming changes to freezer & received input from staff Staff asked that no bedspaces be included (increase in workload and could affect patient safety negatively)
STUDY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff feedback has been positive i.e. "It is easy to find the milk", "we won't run out of space now", "why did we have so much milk before? We did not need it"
ACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space was added for extra milk when the unit receives a transfer from another hospital Staff input regarding patient safety - acknowledged and utilized Increase in workload for nursing champions, weekly check occurring and ongoing staff education