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# Coming home: The use of skilled nursing visits on recently discharged NICU patients

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# Coming Home: The Use of Skilled Nursing Visits on Recently Discharged



## NICU Patients Brittany Mattson

### Objective

To analyze the facility's use of skilled nursing visits of premature infants and recommend the best practice to support positive patient outcomes.

### The Premature Infant

Premature: Less than 37 weeks gestation

- ✓ Apnea
- ✓ Hypoglycemia
- ✓ Nutrition/Feeding
- ✓ Low birth weight
- ✓ Reathery

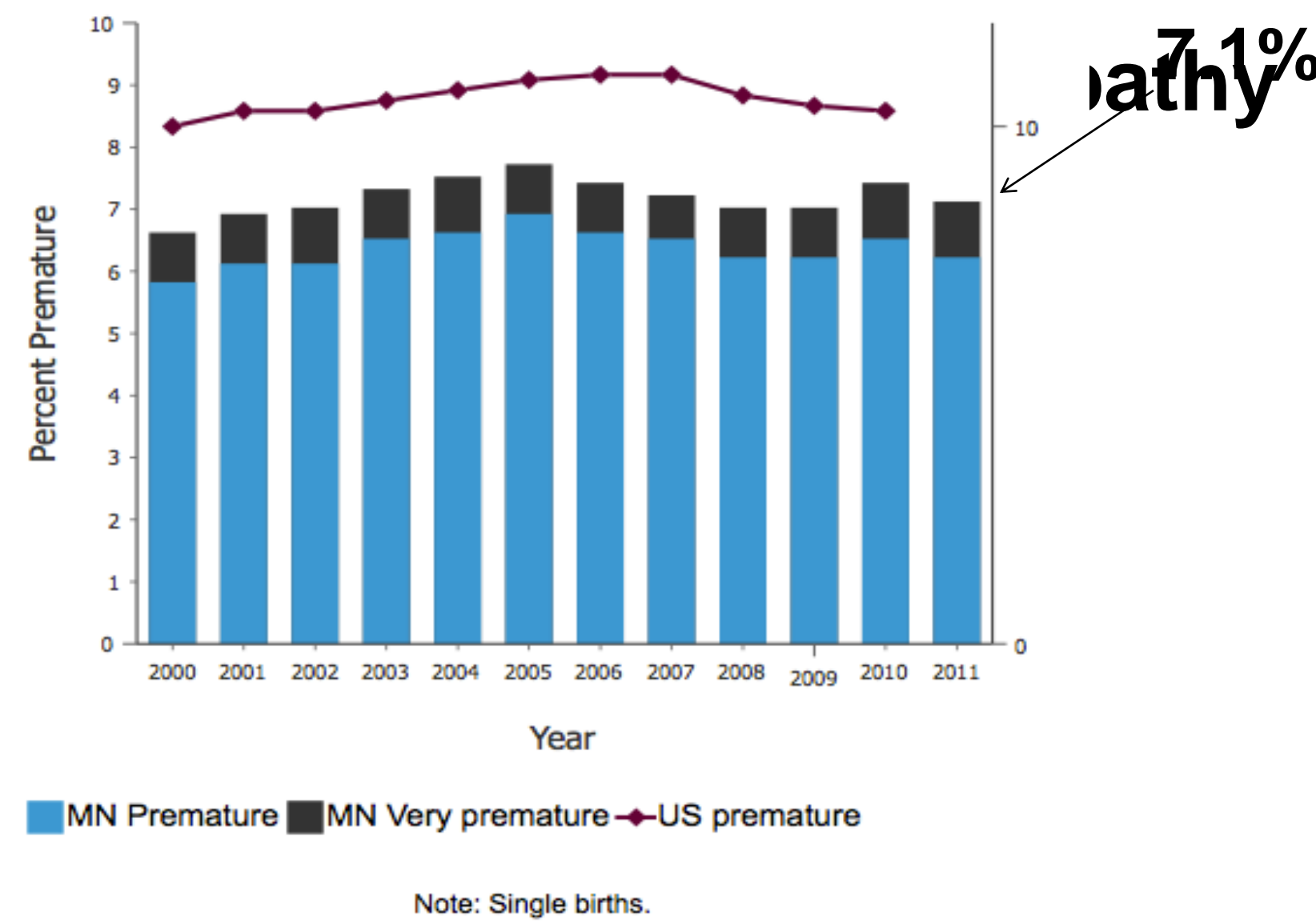


Figure 1. Minnesota Department of Health, Percent of single premature births per year.

### Advantages of Early Discharge + Home Care: From the Literature

Early discharge save families up to 27% in hospital charges (Brooten, et. al, 1986). Combined with SNV, programs can decrease rehospitalization occurrence, medical utilization, ER visits, increase safety, and emotional stability of families.

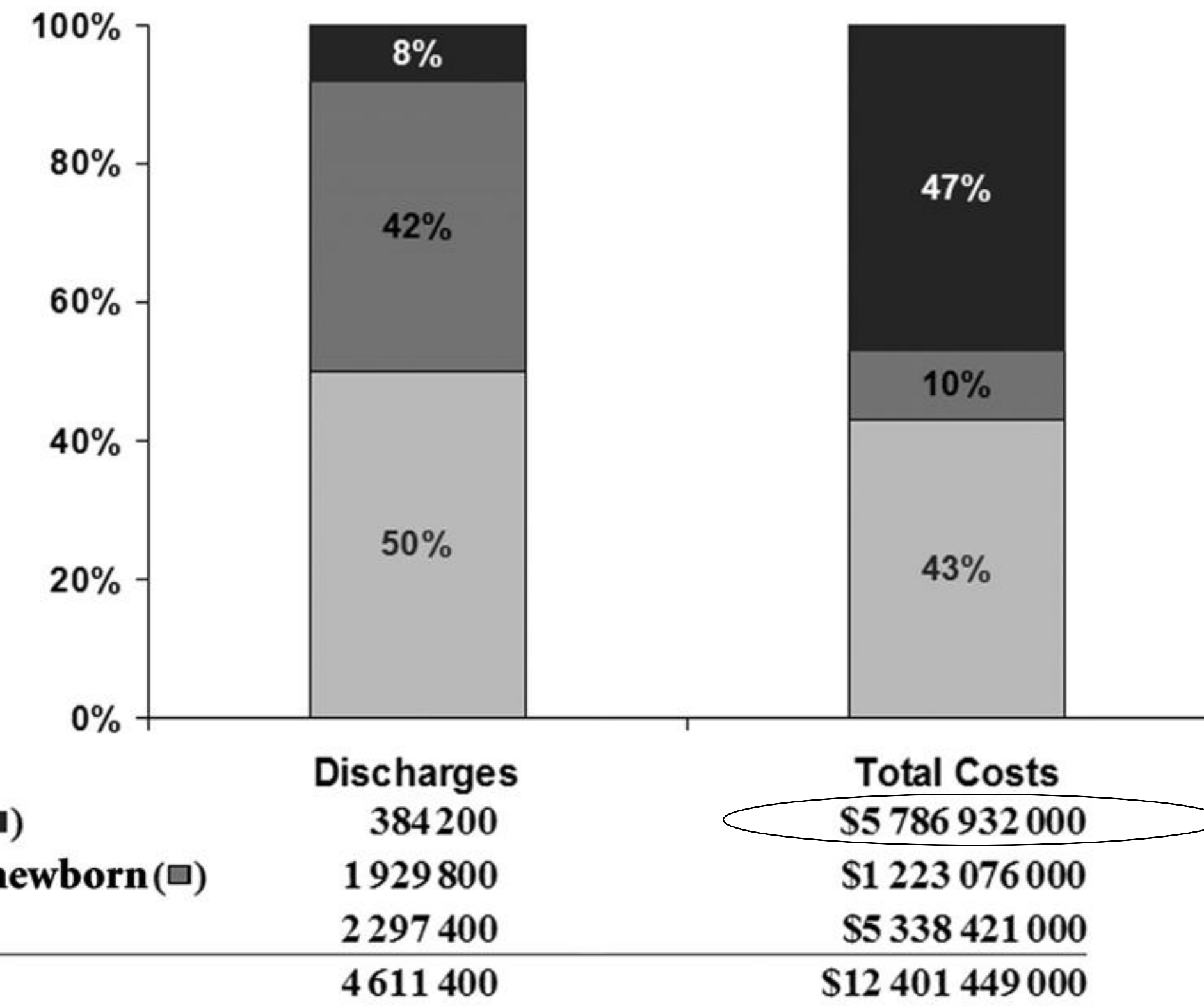


Figure 2. Distribution of infant hospital discharges and costs: United States, 2001.

### From the Literature Cont.

- Visits occur daily, weekly, or biweekly
- Health care nurses knowledgeable of relevant disease processes
- Education of parents

- Premature \_\_\_\_\_ weeks
- O2 \_\_\_\_\_ LPM
- Feed every \_\_\_ hours, \_\_\_ oz / mls
- GT/gavage
- Breastfeeding
- Expressed breast milk
- Formula: \_\_\_\_\_
- kCal: \_\_\_\_\_
- Interpreter: \_\_\_\_\_ (language)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Figure 3. PHS Tool for Home Visits.

### Facility's Process of SNV

- Discharge instructions from physician
- Scheduled weekly/biweekly visits
- Physical assessment
- Education of parents/answer questions
- Patient status

Figure 4. PHS Tool for Home Visits.

### Recommendations for Facility

- Continue to expand SNV trial
- Create official documents/policies for SNV
- Continuing education: National Association of Neonatal Nurses (<http://www.nann.org/>)

### Acknowledgments

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### References

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