

# Bed crisis: Too Few or Too Misused Reducing LOS in Obstetrics & Gynecology Inpatients, AWH

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## Background

Length of stay(LOS ), term defined by the NHS as the length of an inpatient episode of care, calculated from the day of admission to the day of discharge.

LOS in one of performance in the UK NHS. The clear message from the UK Department of Health is that reductions in LOS are expected to be achieved year on year and represent “efficiency” of local health services. Unnecessary days in hospital may lead to increased hospital-acquired infections, falls, and increased costs for patients and healthcare systems. In addition, prolonged LOS may negatively affect both patient and staff experience. Delays in hospital discharge may be related to unnecessary waiting, poor organization of care, delays in decision-making, or difficulties related to discharge planning. Timely discharge of hospitalized patients can prevent patient harm, improve patient satisfaction , quality of life and reduce costs. Numerous strategies have been tested to improve the efficiency and safety of patient recovery and discharge, but hospitals continue to face challenges.

## Methods

- Changing the discharge criteria according to patient current obstetric status .
- 2) Daily evening baby circumcision which helped in early discharge the next day morning.
- 3) Evening round discharges.
- 4) Reducing observation of newborns from 48hrs to 36hrs of GBS +ve and leaking mothers if they have received Intrapartum Antibiotic Prophylaxis .
- 5) Activation of bed crisis protocol when there is shortage of beds , it includes early ward round by the consultant , discharge patients to the day care unit when patients are waiting due to some social reasons .

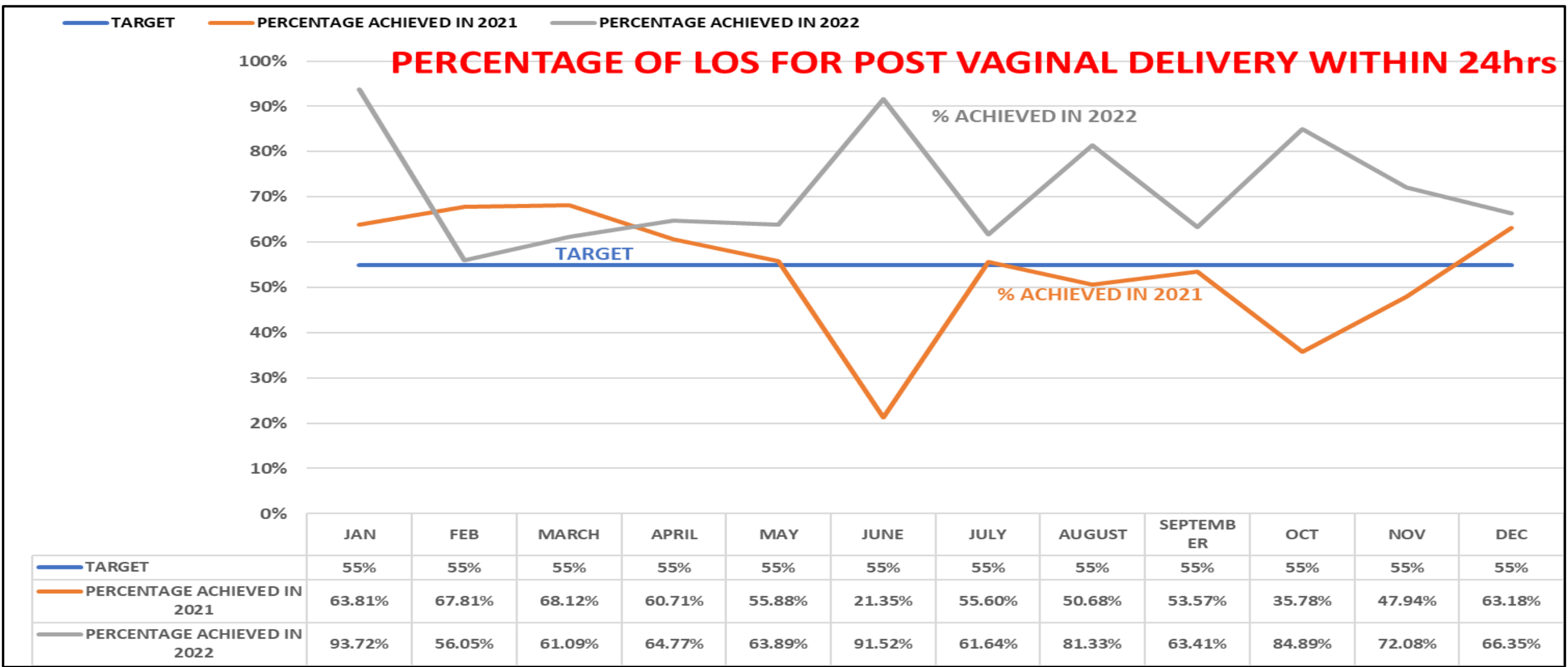
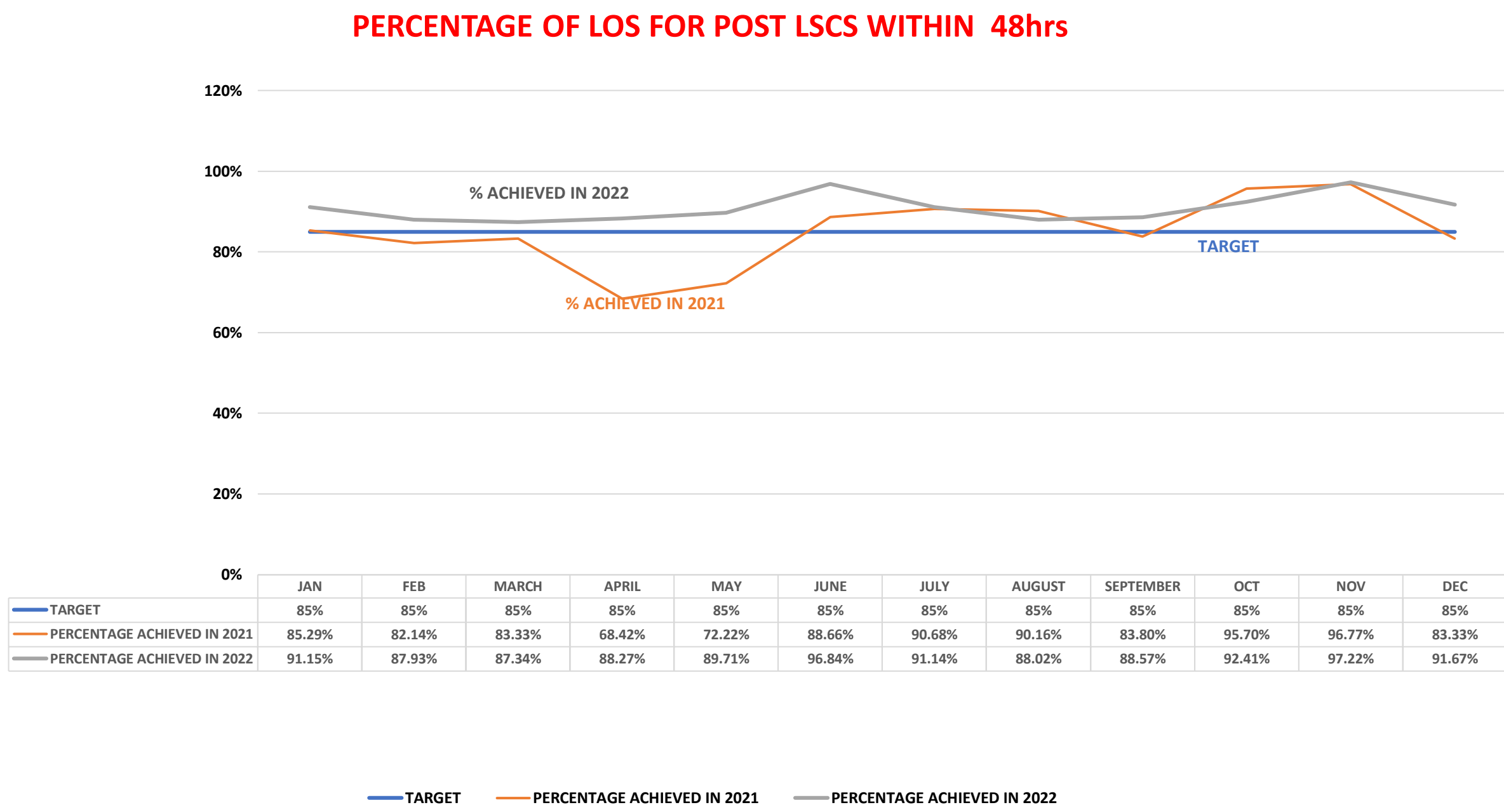
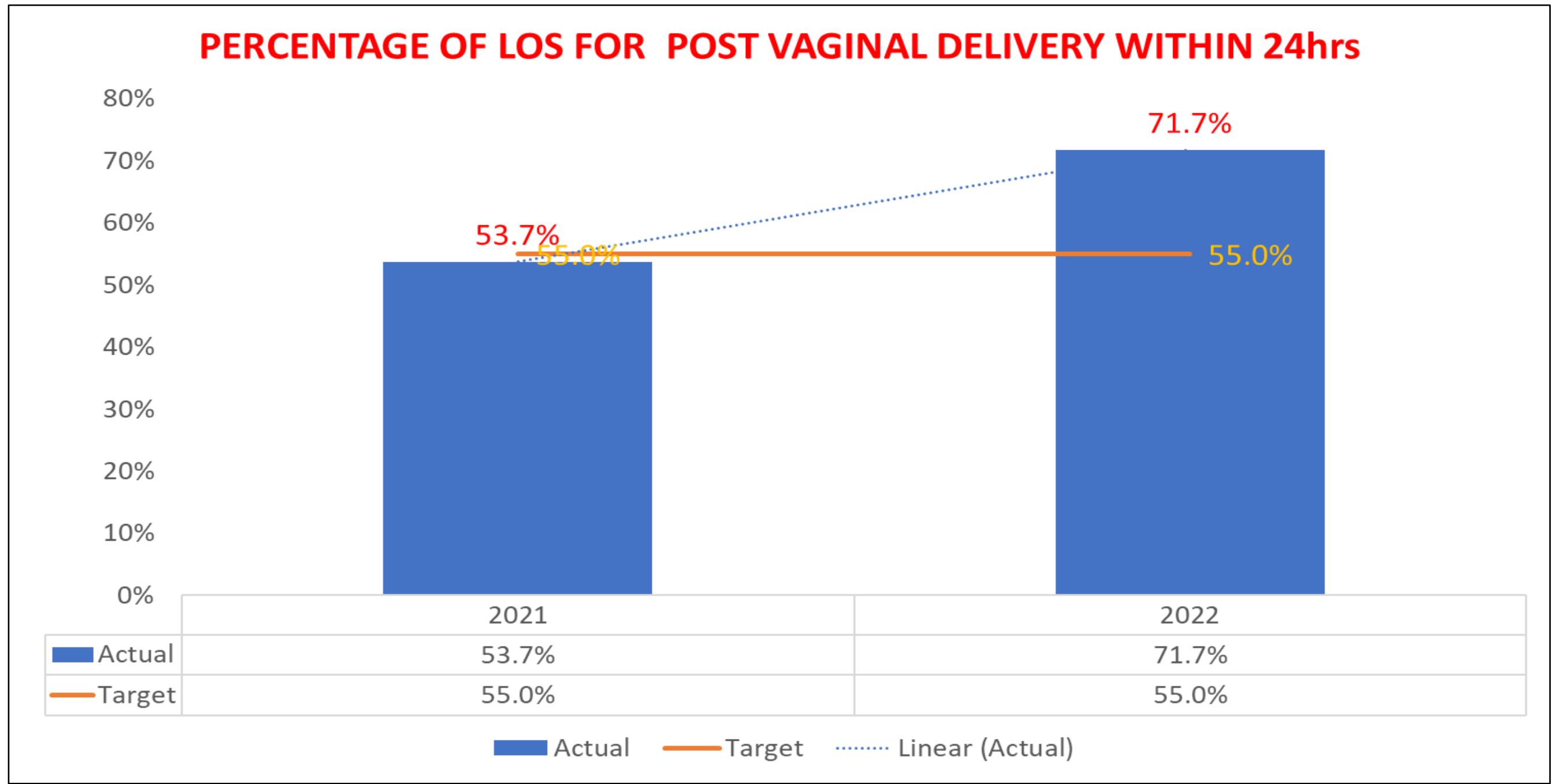
We aimed at reducing the LOS for post cesarean patients from 72 hrs to 48 hrs and for post vaginal delivery patients from 48hrs to 24 hrs.

Percentage of LOS for NVD for <24hrs and percentage of LOS for cesarean section <48hrs has been used as the one of the key performance indicators (KPI)

## Results

- The benchmark has been plotted for post C-section at 85% and vaginal deliveries length of stay at 55%.
- Overall In 2021 the percentage was 53.70% for vaginal delivery and 85.04% for CS. In 2022 the percentage achieved is 71.72% for vaginal delivery and 90.85% for LSCS after implementing the new measures , which is well above the target and showed significant improvement in the service , patient flow and reduced bed crisis .

|                     | TARGET | 2021   | 2022   |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| LOS for NVDs <24hrs | 55%    | 53.70% | 71.72% |
| LOS for LSCS <48hrs | 85%    | 85.04% | 90.85% |



## Conclusion

- The new measures which were applied were effective in reducing the LOS of the postnatal patients which is reflected on patient satisfaction and reduced
- the hospital cost .