

## Main Line Health

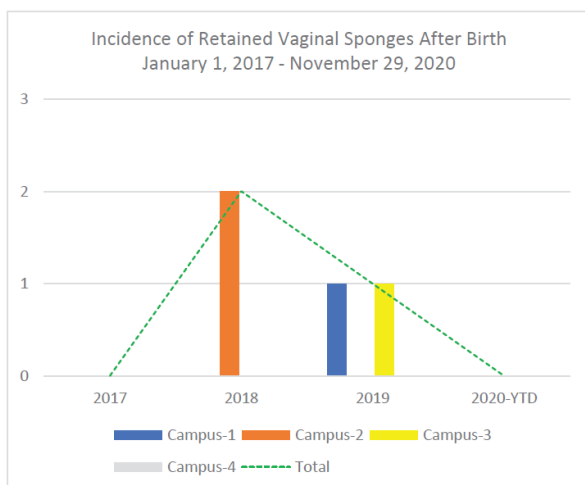
### Prevention of Retained Vaginal Sponges After Birth in the Inpatient Obstetrical Setting

#### Background

- There were several incidences of retained vaginal sponges across Main Line Health's labor and delivery departments.

#### Goal

- Decrease the incidence of retained vaginal sponge events across labor & delivery units.



#### Approach

- Gap analysis performed by interdisciplinary labor & delivery teams.
- Instituted standardized safety bundle of improved processes, including appropriate sponge counting and visual inspection of vagina.
- Implemented radio-frequency identification technology to detect bar-coded sponges missing from counts.
- Educated all members of health care team to improve safety culture

#### Results & Takeaways

- Improvement implementations resulted in zero retained vaginal sponge events in 2020.
- Successfully replicating this initiative requires leadership support, initiating a culture of safety, developing an evidence-based safety bundle of improved processes, engaging front-line to deploy processes, and creating a sustainability plan.