

Innovative Partnerships: Improving Supportive Care Access for Oncology Patients

by

Carol Baumgarten, MBA, DMC, RN, CON(C), Ryan Kozicky, B.Sc., EMT-P, MPH, Amy Melnick, MN, BScN, BA and Dana Dalgarno, EMT-P

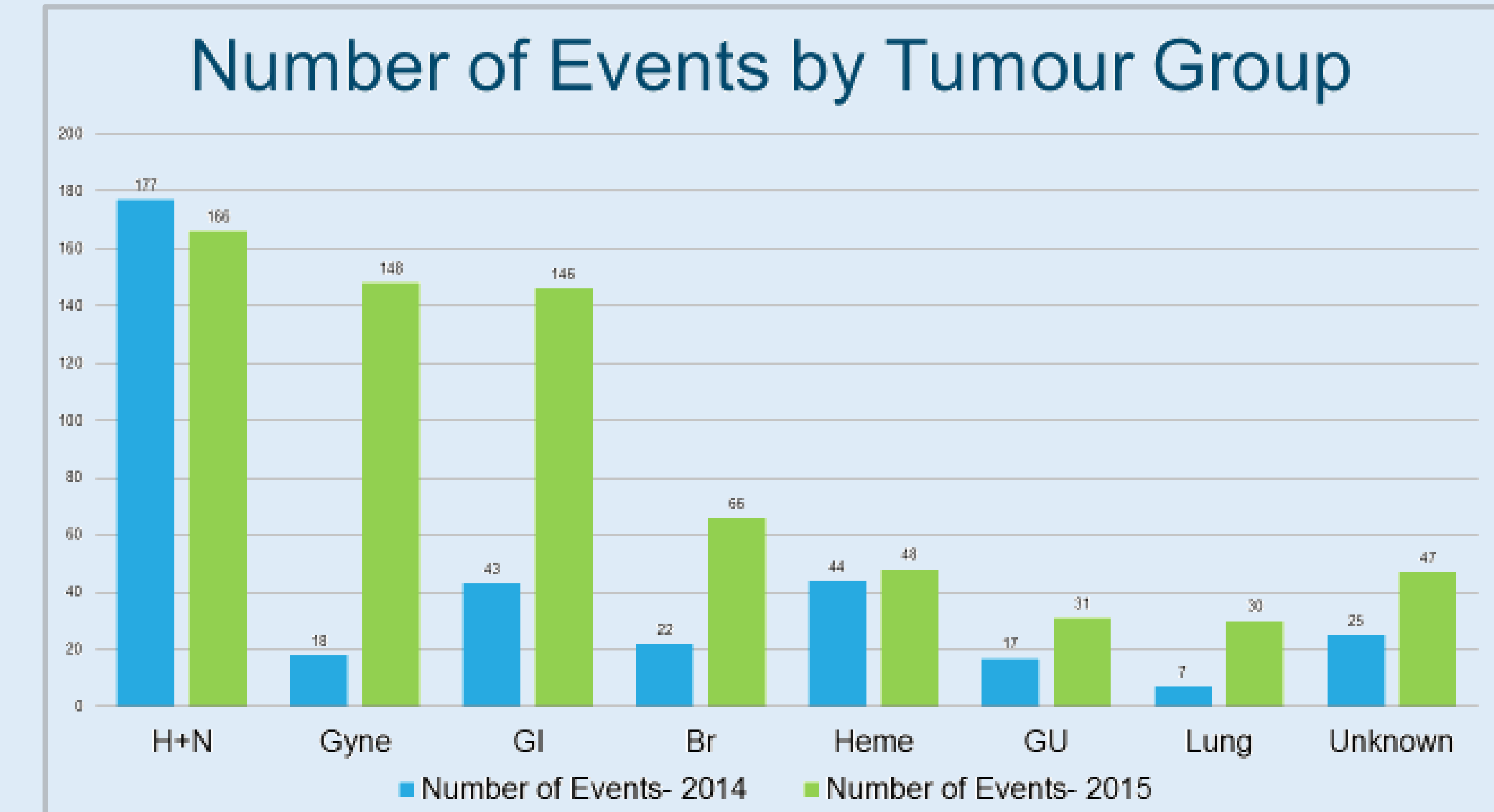
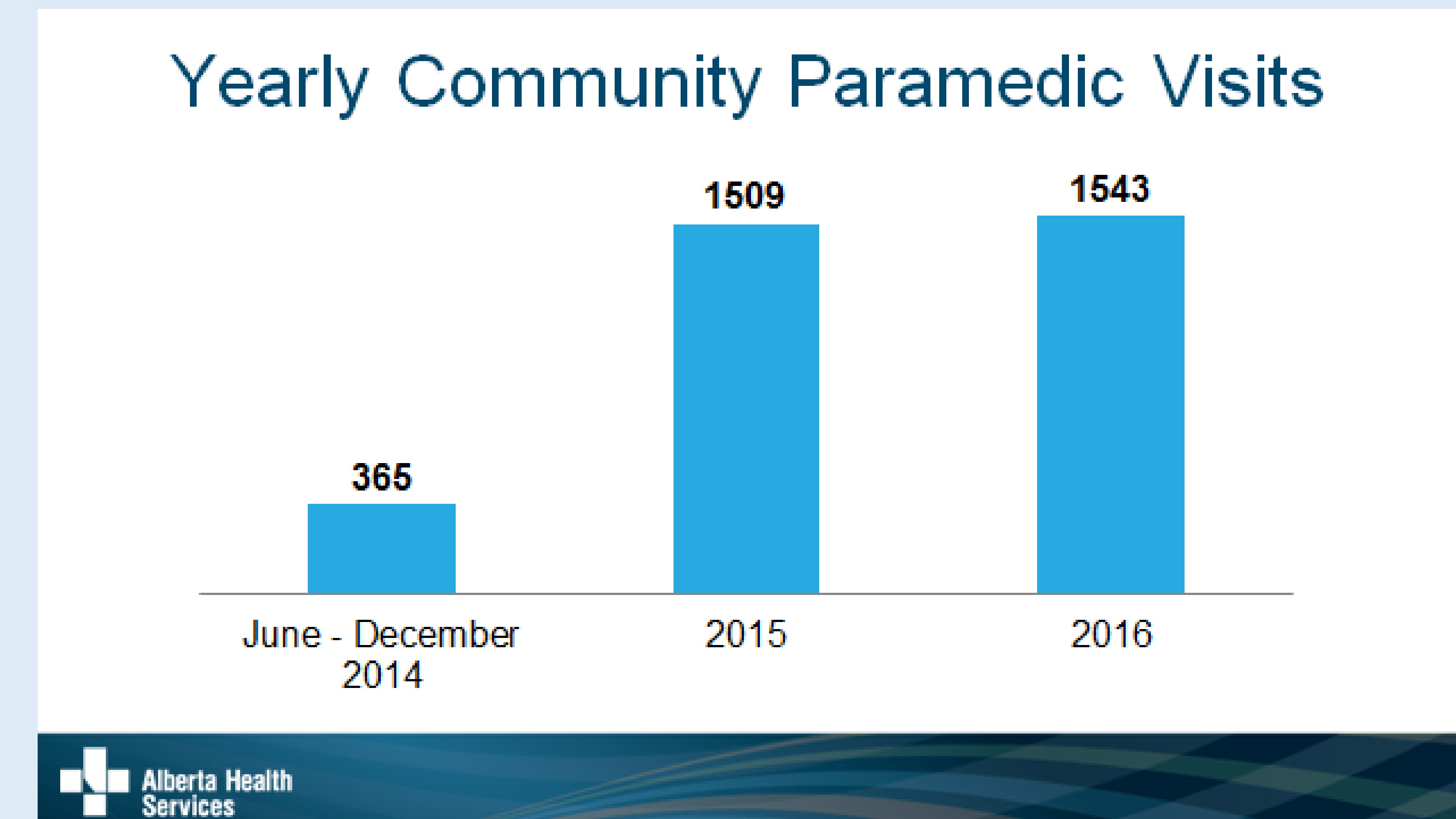
Background

The Community Paramedic (CP) program and the Tom Baker Cancer Centre (TBCC) came together to assess the feasibility of using the CP program to help deliver supportive care interventions outside of acute care.

TBCC Systemic treatment unit:

- 25,733 chemotherapy visits in 2015/16
- Increased by 10%, from 2014/2015
- Daily waitlist, (up to 30 hours per day)
- Patients unable to receive their hydrations at TBCC due to capacity

Results



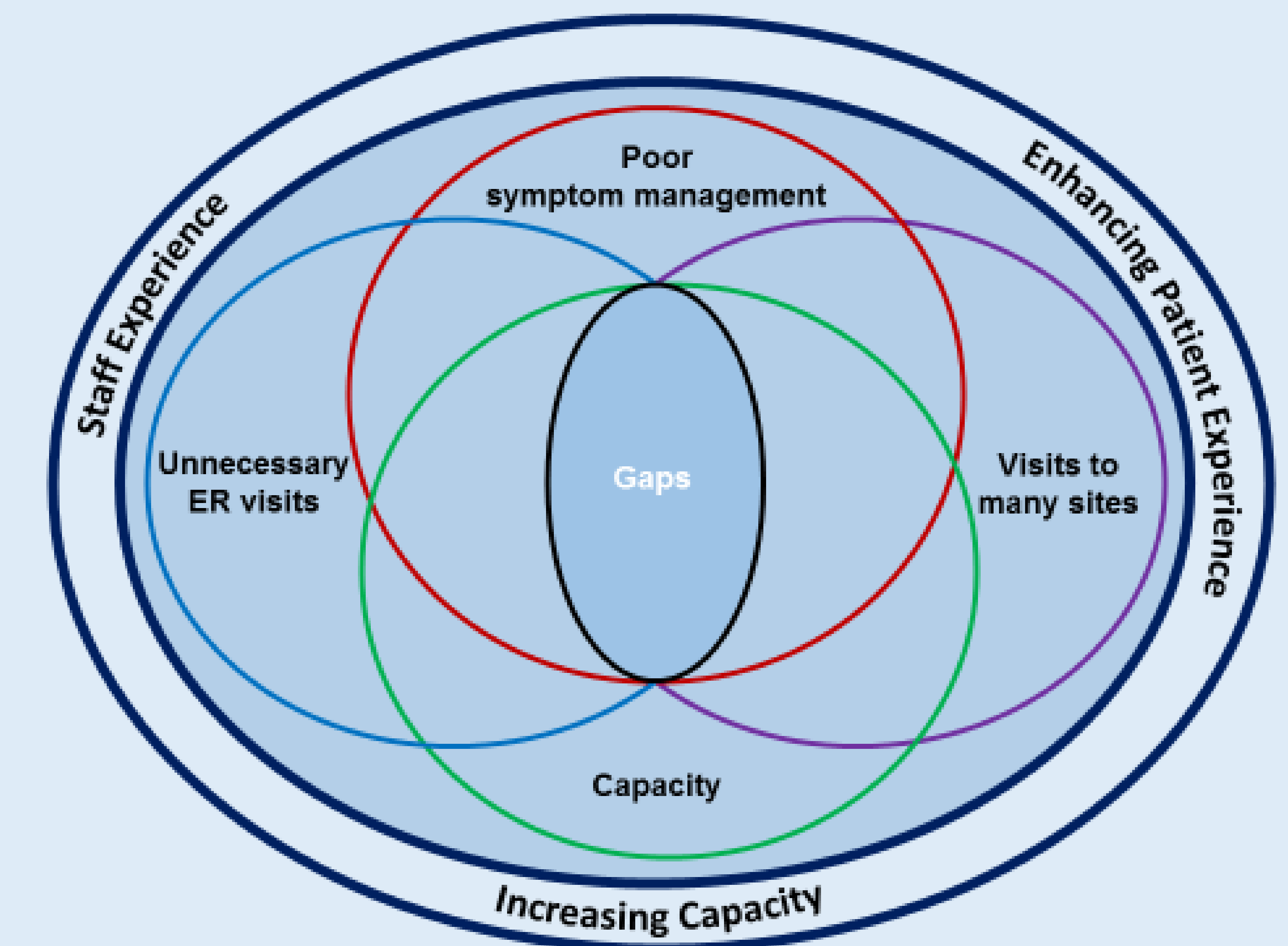
Average Patient Cost for Comparable Treatment

- Tom Baker Cancer Centre - \$1300
- EMS and Emergency Department Visit - \$1400
- Community Paramedic Visit - **\$316**



Partnership outcomes

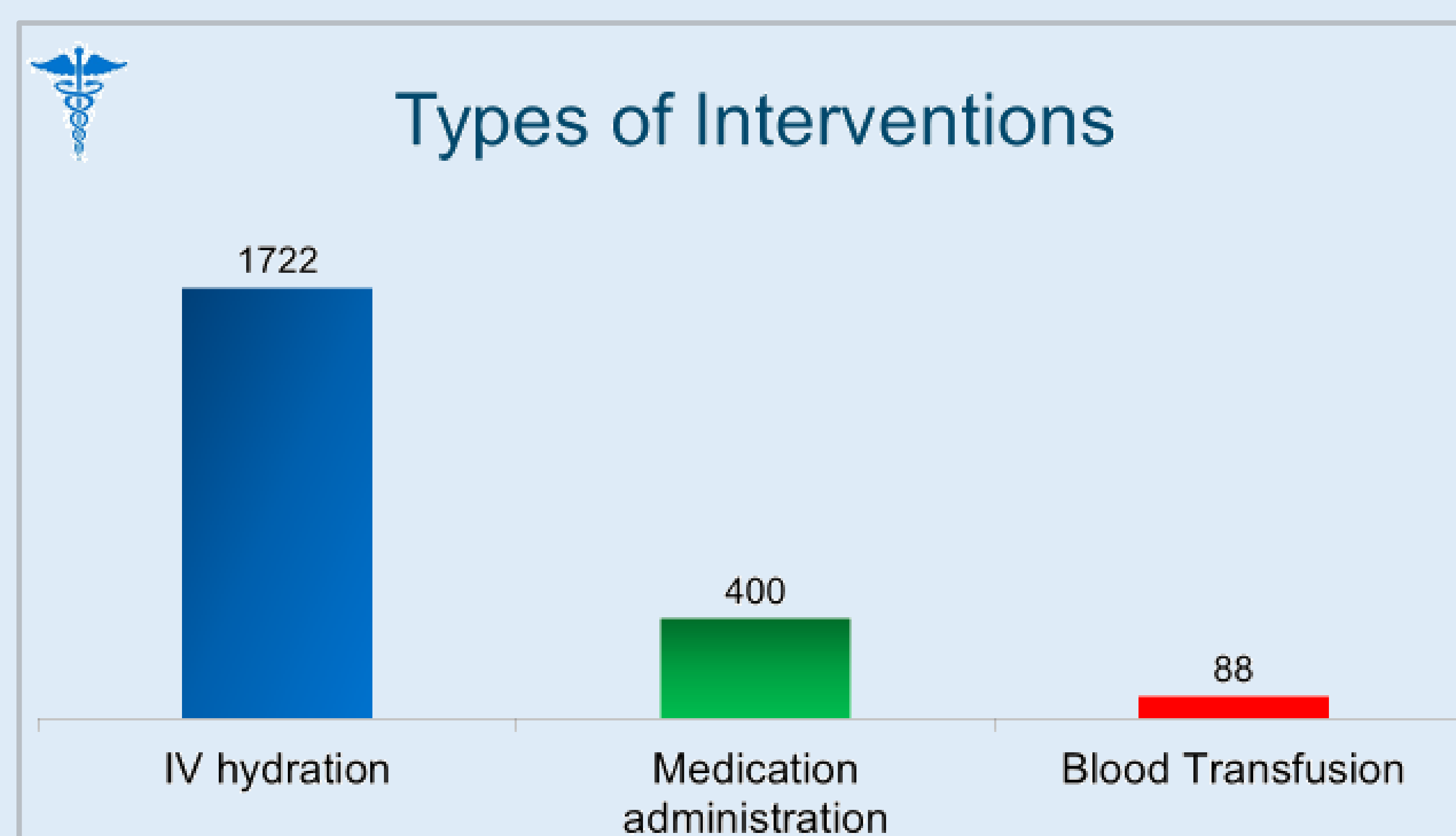
Although driven by capacity, this partnership decreased TBCC and ER visits, supported better symptom management, enhanced patient experience and increased EMS job satisfaction.



Method

Worked with key stakeholders to identify:

- Needs
 - Hydration, electrolyte replacement, added transfusions in Oct 2015
- Process
 - Referrals, provider support, mutual expectations, logistics
- Training
 - CVAD, transfusions, sustainability
- QA/QI



Challenges and next steps

Demand

Service demand has surpassed capacity through the Community Paramedics program

Advocacy

Support required to grow program in partnership with CancerControl Alberta