

## **ABSTRACT**

**Background** Preterm births are increasing in frequency and come with a number of health consequences. Studies have shown parent engagement positively impacts infants and their parents/caregivers. The goal of this study is to evaluate current parent/caregiver direct involvement and perception to subsequently implement changes with the goal of increasing family engagement, either in person or virtually.

**Methods** This study focuses on measuring baseline data to compare subsequent interventions to. Parent engagement was measured through parent-reported surveys as well as chart-abstracted measures. The study focused on infants at the University of Colorado Hospital level III NICU born at  $\leq 34$  weeks, targeting a stay of at least 14 days. Analysis of the baseline data was completed through REDCap and Microsoft Excel.

**Results** All three primary outcome measures as well as chart-abstracted outcome measures currently show high levels of family engagement. Other parent/caregiver-reported outcome measures show barriers exist to family engagement.

**Conclusions** The current data works to provide a baseline of family engagement in the NICU. However, the data is based on a limited sample size. Further enrollment to provide more baseline data may give a more complete picture of current engagement, especially in regard to parent-reported social/financial barriers, to which the effect of the potential change concepts can be compared.