

# Single-Use Washable Precaution Gowns

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# Background

- UCLA Health purchased 2.6 M disposable gowns annually prior to implementation
  - 234 tons sent to landfill
  - No recycling program exists



# Pilot

- Began in units with high utilization
  - Liver Transplant
  - Peds
  - Med Surg
  - ICU's
- Once units were provided washable gowns, they did not go back to disposables

# Choice of Gown

- Textile Manufacturer

- Custom gowns

- 99% Polyester, 1% Carbon
    - Snaps on back
    - Short cuffs
    - Reversible
    - 100 washes

- Washable Cost Less per Use

- Disposable cost per unit - \$0.67
  - Washable cost per unit - \$0.34

- Washable gowns could last approximately 1 year or up to 100 washes

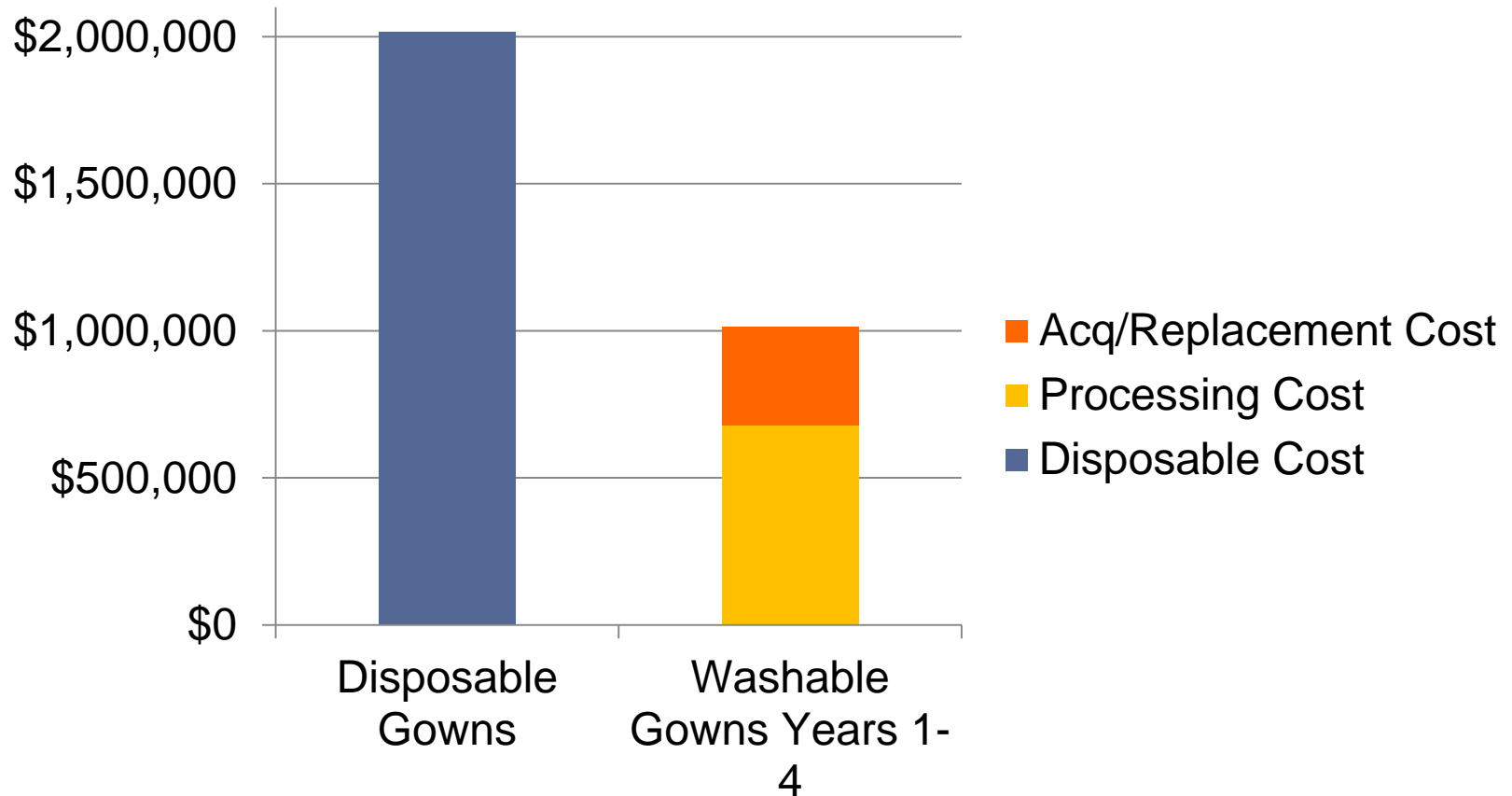


# Estimated vs. Actual – Usage/Savings

	Estimated	Actual
Average Daily Use	5,786	3,300
Inventory Level	40,502 (7 Par Level)	23,100 (7 Par Level)
Savings – 5 yr Projection	35%	-
Savings – 3 yr Actual	35%	49%

New isolation protocols introduced in July '14  
**reduced usage by 49%**

# Disposable to Washable Savings



# Laundry

- Use Local Laundry Vendor
  - LEED Certified facility
- What do we do with the washable gowns once they can no longer be used?
  - Current linen is never thrown out, use a recycler
  - Linen is often donated to different organizations and countries
    - L.A. Marathon
    - Fire departments
    - Haiti and Armenia

# Life Cycle Analysis

- Studies on Reusable Textiles (Surgical Gowns)\*
  - Six studies concluded reusable gowns are less of an environmental burden than disposable gowns
  - According to these studies, disposable gowns consume more than reusable gowns in all areas of sustainability
    - 200-300% more energy
    - 250-330% more water
    - 200-300% higher carbon footprint

\* A Comparison of Reusable and Disposable Perioperative Textiles: Sustainability State-of-the-Art 2012; Michael Overcash, PhD



# Buy-In

- Initial Resistance

- Staff did not like initial gowns proposed
  - Disposables are easier to remove
  - Washables are slippery
  - Too hot

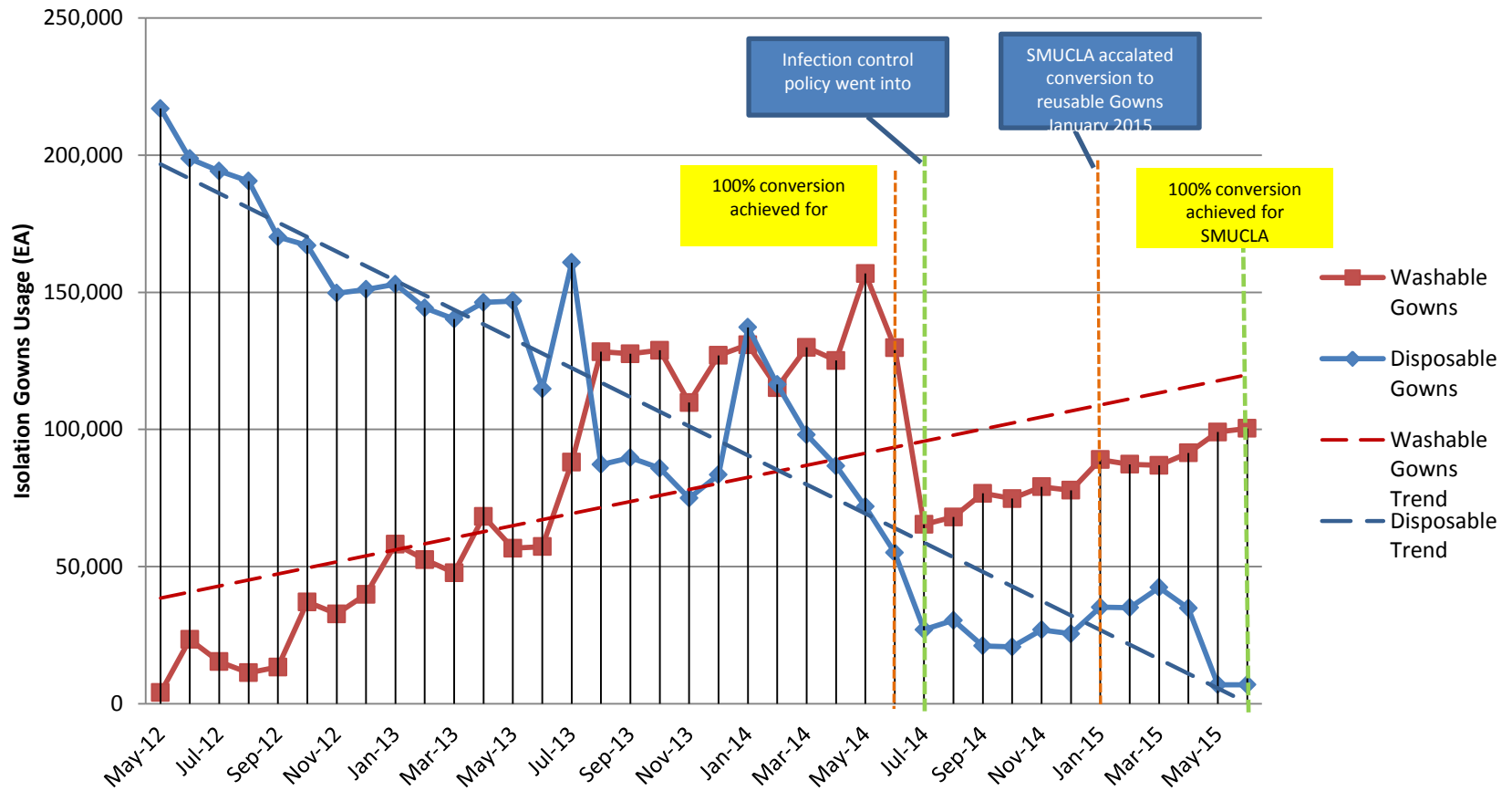
- Acceptance

- Sustainability help push initiative further
- Leadership support
- Cost savings for leadership
- Infection Prevention support

# Isolation Precaution Policy Change

- Contact Precautions are no longer required for MRSA.
- Contact Precautions are no longer required for VRE.
- Visitors are no longer required to adhere to Contact Precautions. Visitors are expected, however, to practice diligent hand hygiene and utilize standard precautions.

# Disposable vs. Washable Gowns



**UCLA** Health