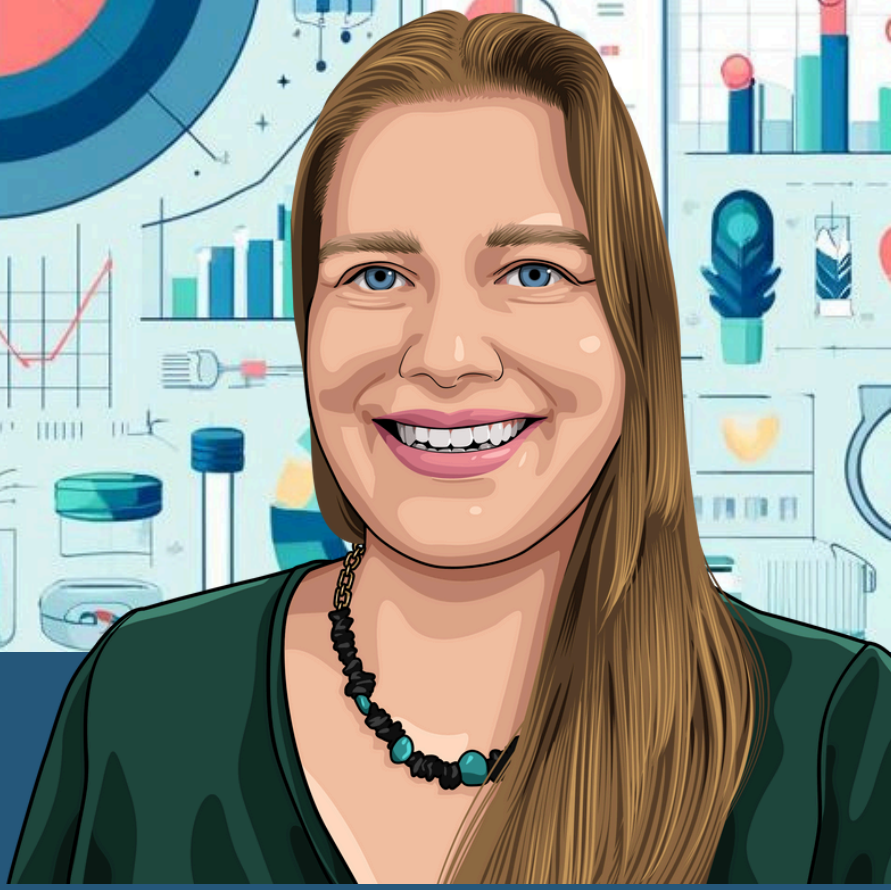
SIZE MATTERS



SPD DATA EXPERT

BEYOND CLEAN

Beth Perry

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Beyond Clean SPD Data Expert™:

Size Matters

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Size matters. I'm talking about tray size, or more specifically, about the number of instruments on each count sheet. And data shows it matters a lot.

I'm sure it will come as no surprise to Sterile Processing leaders that larger trays take longer to assemble. After all, each instrument needs to be:

- Identified
- Examined for bioburden, pitting, staining, and other deficiencies
- Tested for proper functionality
- Put back into the set

In 2022, I helped build a data platform to analyze and improve productivity for our customer hospitals. Working with their container assembly data, I found that the number of instruments in a set was a far better indicator of how long it would take to assemble than the assigned AAMI intensity rating. In fact, it was a linear relationship – while some hospitals were a bit faster or slower, assembly averaged 12.5 seconds per instrument on the count sheet.

This has an obvious impact on Sterile Processing's productivity. The more instruments in each set, the longer assembly takes, and the fewer trays staff can assemble each shift.

One of our customers had two facilities and a target of 25 trays assembled per person per shift at each facility. Facility A could never seem to reach the target, even though the SPD manager knew staff were working hard. We found that the trays at this facility had 50% more instrumentation in them than the trays at Facility B, so staff were effectively doing 1.5x the work and only getting 1x credit. Once the customer adjusted the target to factor in the number of instruments processed, it created 2 new FTE positions at Facility A.

Do you feel like it gets harder and harder for your team to hit productivity targets? Maybe it's your tray size.

Have more questions? Contact Beth at: beth.perry@censis.com

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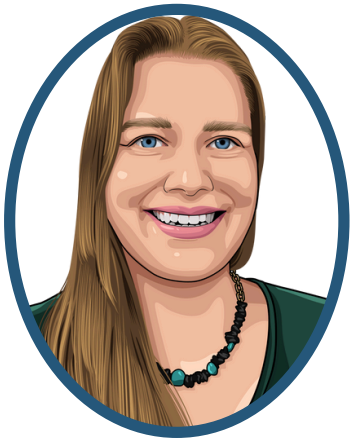

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Beth is a Business Intelligence and Analytics Engineer with Censis Technologies. She has 17 years' experience exploring databases and designing data visualizations. With her educational background in journalism, she strives to find practical ways to communicate insights both clearly and effectively.

Since 2012, Beth has enjoyed building and supporting tray tracking software programs critical to Sterile Processing teams across the United States. Her passion is to create data and analytics tools that drive operational excellence and ensure patient safety. She won an innovation award in 2022 for her work on Censis' analytics platform.

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