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Reduced **staffing** 'killing babies'  
  
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A DROP in the number of **nurses** caring for poorly babies in English NHS hospitals is leading to higher**death** rates, a study claims.

Experts found that between 2008 and 2012, an average of 4.5 infants in every 100 in intensive care died every month. Calculations showed a 10% drop in the days on which oneto-one nursing was provided was linked with a monthly rise in **death** rates of 0.6 per 100.

The authors stressed the study was observational did not prove low nursing **ratios** were to blame but added in Archives of Disease in Childhood it "suggests decreases in one-to-one nursing increase the in-hospital **mortality** rate".

**GRAPHIC:** AT RISK Poorly babies