

High-volume NICUs see more staff burnout

April 18 2017



(HealthDay)—Staff burnout in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) is most prevalent in units with high patient volume and electronic health records, according to a study published online April 18 in *Pediatrics*.

Daniel S. Tawfik, M.D., from Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., and colleagues surveyed 1,934 nurse practitioners, physicians, registered nurses, and respiratory therapists in 41 California NICUs using a validated four-item questionnaire based on the Maslach Burnout Inventory.

The researchers found that the overall [burnout](#) prevalence was 26.7 percent, with the highest burnout prevalence found among NICUs with higher average daily admissions (P electronic health records (P = 0.03). Nursing burnout was more sensitive to organizational differences than physician burnout, in multivariable modeling. Nursing burnout was also significantly associated with average daily admissions, late transfer proportion, nursing hours per patient day, and mortality per 1,000 infants, in sensitivity analysis. There was no association between burnout prevalence and the proportion of high-risk patients, teaching hospital distinction, or in-house attending presence.

"Interventions to reduce burnout prevalence may be of greater importance in NICUs with ≥ 10 weekly admissions," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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