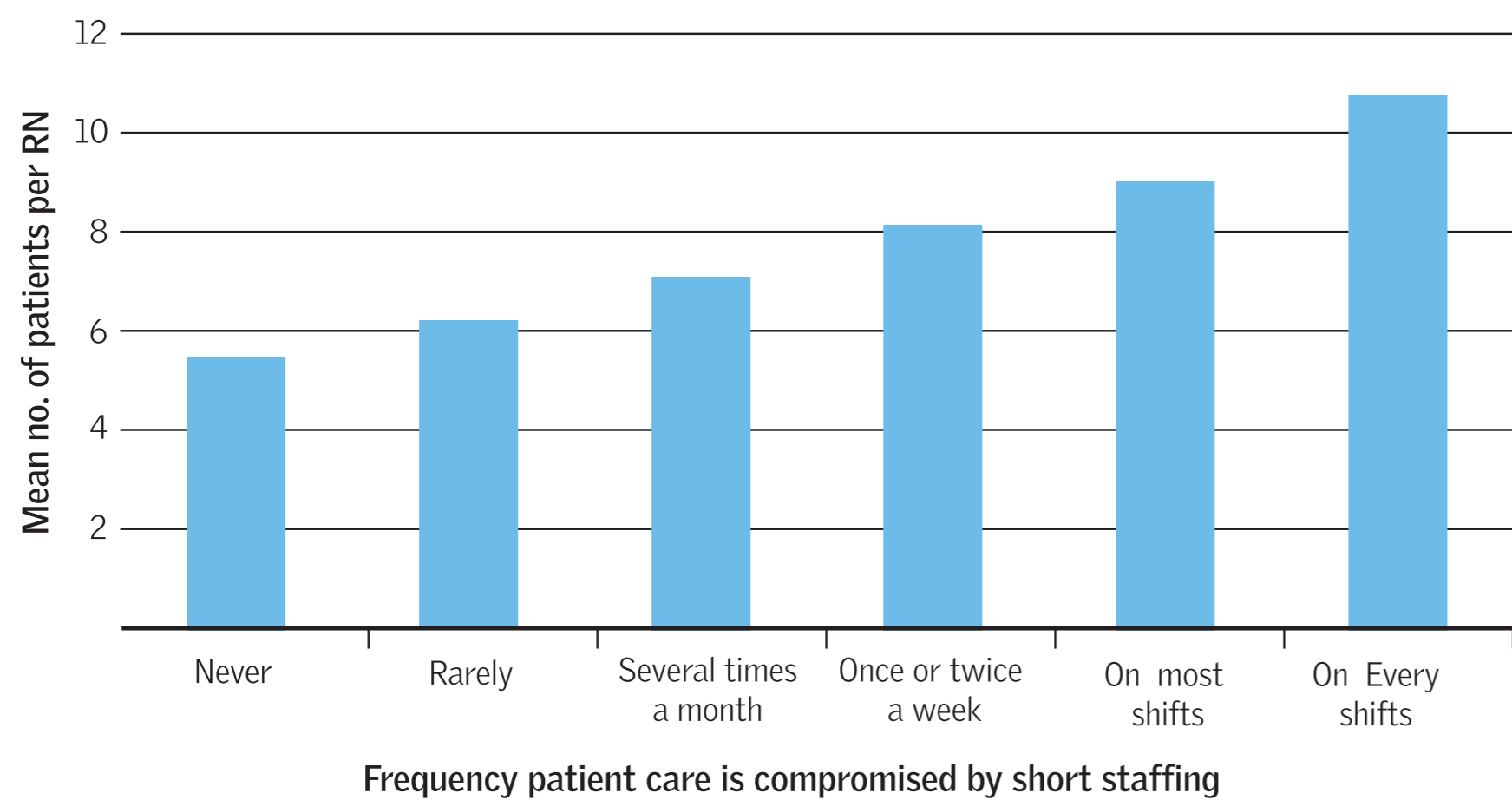


The Evidence

Care is compromised on most or every shift when RNs care for more than 8 patients.



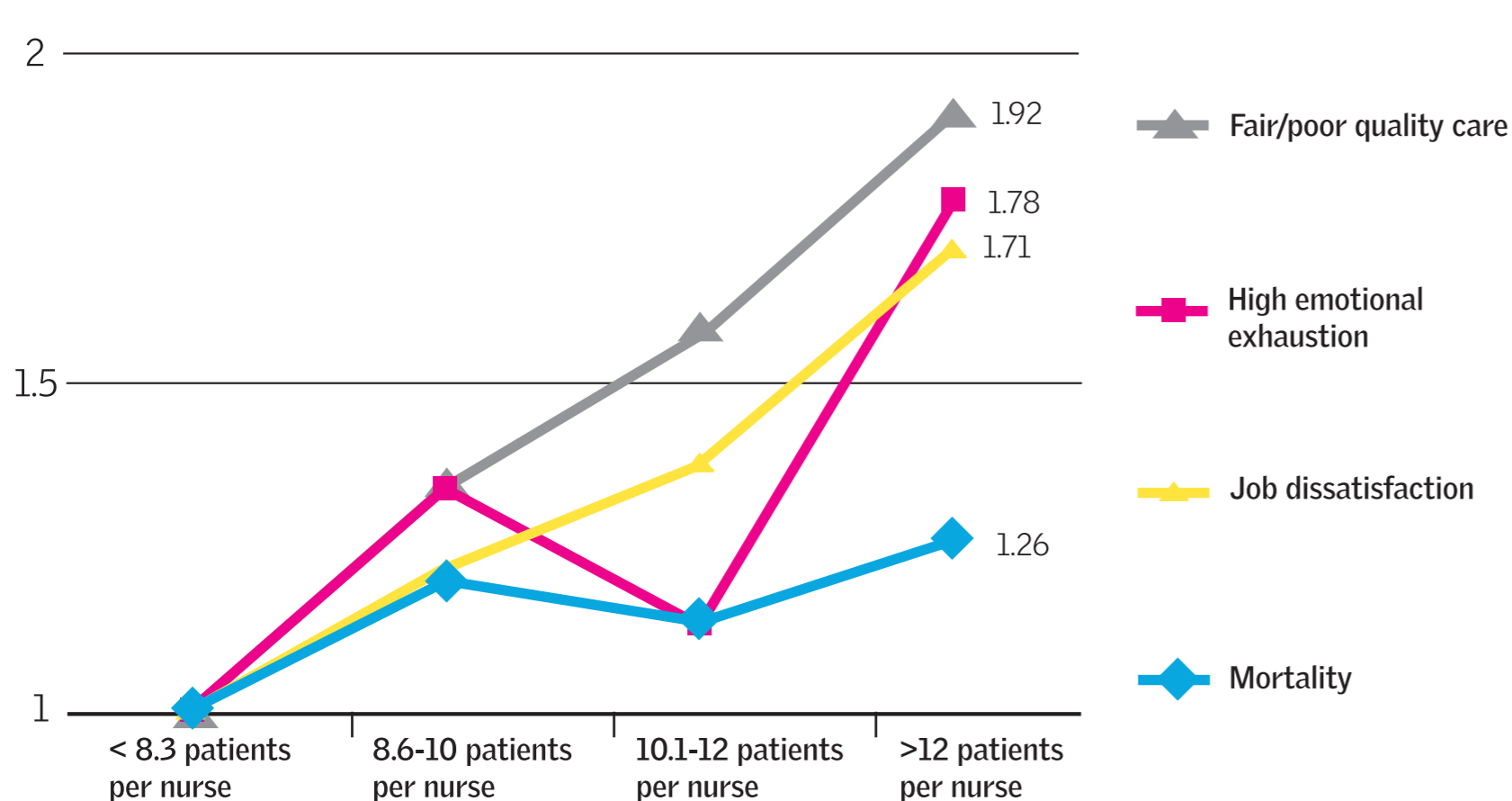
Care is left undone

Nurses were asked: "On your most recent shift, which of the following activities were necessary but left undone because you lacked the time to complete them?"

Comfort/talk with patients	66%
Educating patients and family	52%
Develop/update nursing care plans	47%
Adequate patient surveillance	35%
Adequately document nursing care	33%
Oral hygiene	29%
Frequent changing of patient position	28%
Administer medications on time	23%
Skin care	21%
Prepare patients and families for discharge	20%
Treatments and procedures	11%
Pain management	7%

Mortality & adverse events increase

UK Nursing outcome study: odds ratios for patient and nurse outcomes



Is this a safe level?

- 8 patients per Registered Nurse is **not** a minimum
- 8 patients per Registered Nurse is the **unsafe** level. It is a 'red zone' that should never be reached
- More staff are required to meet the needs of patients safely and with compassion.

How often does it happen?

- 43% of medical/surgical wards had staffing levels above 8 patients per RN (RN4Cast study)
- 45% of nurses reported looking after more than 8 patients (Unison March 2013)

Patients per RN

