

***Clostridioides difficile* infection, *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia, *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia and Surgical Site Infection in Scotland**

October to December (Q4) 2020

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland provides data for common healthcare infections in Scotland. These are an important cause of severe illness, death, and higher treatment costs. The published data can be used to improve care of patients. *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) can cause diarrhoeal illness, especially in vulnerable patients who have received antibiotics. *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia (ECB) and *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB) are both life-threatening bloodstream infections. Surgical site infections (SSI) are bacterial infections of surgical operation sites which can have serious outcomes for patients.

Main Points

Total cases for October to December (Q4) 2020

- There were 278 CDI cases, of which 78.8% (219) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 317 cases.
- There were 1,076 ECB cases, of which 51.6% (555) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,161 cases.
- There were 387 SAB cases, of which 65.9% (255) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 373 SAB cases.
- Epidemiological data for SSI are not included for this quarter due to the pausing of surveillance to support the COVID-19 response.

NHS Boards requiring further analysis

- The number of healthcare CDI cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran was markedly higher than the average within the board and within Scotland in 2020 Q4. This needs to be looked at further as per the exception reporting process.
- The number of community ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Forth Valley and NHS Lanarkshire were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2020 Q4. This needs to be looked at further as per the exception reporting process.

NHS boards' position (above or below average) for each healthcare infection

	CDI		ECB		SAB	
	Healthcare Associated	Community Associated	Healthcare Associated	Community Associated	Healthcare Associated	Community Associated
AA	◆	.	.	◆	.	.
BR
DG
FF
FV	.	.	.	◆	.	.
GGC
GJ
GR
HG
LN	.	.	.	◆	.	.
LO
OR
SH
TY
WI

◆ Markedly higher than average infection rate
 . Average/below average infection rate

Background

The data used for this report is part of the mandatory surveillance in Scotland. ARHAI Scotland supports NHS boards to analyse their data. Local monitoring in hospital and community settings is required to reduce these infections.

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Further Information

Find out more in the [full report](#). The data from this publication is available to download [from our web page](#) along with a background information and metadata document. Please see [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

For more information on types of infections included in this report, please see the [CDI](#), [ECB](#), [SAB](#) and [SSI](#) pages.

The next release of this publication will be July 2021.



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