

ARHAI Scotland 2022 Annual Report

An official statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 19 September 2023

About this release

This release is by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland, part of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS).

This report reflects some of the key work delivered by ARHAI Scotland to support Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) prevention and tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) during 2022. Data are provided for key HCAs, which are an important cause of severe illness, mortality, and higher treatment costs. This report also highlights how ARHAI Scotland IPC experts have supported the vision of NHS Scotland Assure during 2022, strengthening IPC in the healthcare built environment.

ARHAI Scotland continued to support remobilisation during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022. There was a phased move from dedicated winter respiratory IPC guidance back to Standard Infection Control Precautions and Transmission Based Precautions. A number of mandatory HCAI surveillance programmes were restarted in October 2022 following a pause to support the response during the early stages of the pandemic. These changes reflect some return to pre-pandemic practice whilst acknowledging that the pandemic will shape much within IPC and HCAI surveillance in the future.

Main Points

During 2022:

- ARHAI Scotland continued to adapt and respond to the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic which included a relaunch of the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual](#), transitioning back to Standard Infection Control Precautions and Transmission Based Precautions.
- Chapter 4 of the NIPCM covering infection prevention and control (IPC) in the built environment and decontamination was launched. This Chapter is a repository for evidence reviews and tools to support reducing infection risk the built environment. A systematic literature review focusing on risk prevention and control of waterborne infection was commenced and will inform future guidance.
- The Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual (CH IPCM) was refreshed and republished and the content remains aligned with the evidence based NIPCM.
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and ARHAI Scotland worked collaboratively to:
 - facilitate the translation of evidence-based IPC guidance into robust educational resources including support to the relaunch of and transition back to the NIPCM, development of key winter messages and delivery of a series of supporting webinars.
 - develop and deliver learning and development opportunities for the specialist healthcare built environment workforce.

- During 2022, work began to revise the format of the Healthcare Infection Incident Assessment Tool. This work will continue in collaboration with key stakeholders throughout 2023.
- ARHAI Scotland provided IPC support as part of the NHS Scotland Assure Assurance service. Fifteen Key Stage Assurance Reviews (KSARs) were completed in 2022, enabling progression of design and construction of the healthcare built environment estate across NHSScotland.

In relation to surveillance of HCAI:

- The annual incidence of healthcare associated *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) and *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia (ECB) have decreased between 2021 and 2022, whereas the rate of healthcare associated *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB) remained stable.
- The annual incidence of hospital acquired CDI decreased between 2021 and 2022, whereas ECB and SAB remained stable between 2021 and 2022.
- The annual incidence of community associated CDI, SAB and ECB remained stable between 2021 and 2022.
- In 2022, 155 healthcare incidents and outbreaks were reported (excluding COVID-19 clusters and norovirus outbreaks)
- ARHAI Scotland will continue to develop epidemiological information on trends in antibiotic use and resistance. Data on antibiotic use and resistance to antibiotics in humans and animals will be published in November 2023 in the annual Scottish One Health Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance (SONAAR) report.

Background

The purpose of this report is to present the outputs of ARHAI Scotland programmes to reduce the burden of infection and antimicrobial resistance in health and care, including surveillance and development of guidance and tools.

Contact

Laura Imrie

Clinical Lead ARHAI Scotland

0141 300 1175

NSS.ARHAInfectioncontrol@nhs.scot

Further Information

Find out more in the [full report](#). Data and background information from this publication are available from our web page. The next release of this publication will be September 2024.



ARHAI Scotland and Official Statistics

ARHAI Scotland, a division of NHS National Services Scotland, works at the very heart of the health service across Scotland, delivering services critical to frontline patient care and supporting the efficient and effective operation of NHSScotland. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. [Further information about our statistics.](#)