

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

July to September (Q3) 2023

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 July to September (Q3) 2023

- There were 325 CDI cases, of which 73.5% (239) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 314 cases.
- There were 1,155 ECB cases, of which 50.3% (581) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,083 cases.
- There were 418 SAB cases, of which 66.5% (278) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 423 SAB cases.
- Epidemiological data for SSI are not included for this quarter. Surveillance of SSI was paused in 2020 to support the COVID-19 response and has not yet resumed.

NHS boards requiring further analysis

- These need to be looked at further as per the exception reporting process.
 - The number of healthcare associated CDI cases in NHS Dumfries & Galloway and NHS Highland were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q3.
 - The number of community associated ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Highland were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q3. NHS Highland were also above normal variation in 2023 Q3 when analysing trends by NHS board over the past three years.
 - The number of healthcare associated SAB cases in NHS Lanarkshire was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q3. NHS Lanarkshire were also above normal variation in 2023 Q3 when analysing trends by NHS board over the past three years.
- The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2023 Q3.

Table: Quarterly rates for healthcare infections per 100,000 total occupied bed days and community infections per 100,000 population, 1 July to 30 September 2023.

NHS board	Healthcare CDI	Healthcare ECB	Healthcare SAB	Community CDI	Community ECB	Community SAB
Ayrshire & Arran	18.1	41.5	19.9	8.6	+ 57.0	11.8
Borders	12.2	64.1	15.3	3.4	37.6	13.7
Dumfries & Galloway	+ 32.8	35.0	28.4	13.3	40.0	10.7
Fife	4.6	32.2	9.2	8.5	44.5	9.5
Forth Valley	13.4	48.1	16.0	1.3	38.9	11.7
Golden Jubilee	7.5	15.1	7.5	-	-	-
Grampian	9.2	32.9	19.1	6.1	31.8	12.9
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	16.0	39.9	14.7	5.4	40.2	7.0
Highland	+ 31.2	31.2	16.9	3.7	+ 58.7	13.5
Lanarkshire	17.8	38.3	+ 28.4	7.2	42.4	10.8
Lothian	12.6	29.0	16.8	6.5	35.5	6.5
Orkney	0.0	28.9	0.0	0.0	70.4	0.0
Shetland	91.7	45.9	91.7	0.0	34.6	69.2
Tayside	14.6	43.7	23.1	5.7	44.6	13.3
Western Isles	17.2	103.0	17.2	29.8	29.8	14.9
Scotland	15.5	37.8	18.1	6.2	41.6	10.1

Key

+ Markedly higher than average infection rate, after accounting for NHS board population size/activity

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.

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 April 2024.



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