

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

October to December (Q4) 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 October to December (Q4) 2023

- There were 304 CDI cases, of which 73.7% (224) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 325 cases.
- There were 986 ECB cases, of which 55.2% (544) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,155 cases.
- There were 438 SAB cases, of which 68.7% (301) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 418 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 ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire and Arran were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q4.
- The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2023 Q4.

Table: Quarterly rates for healthcare infections per 100,000 total occupied bed days and community infections per 100,000 population, 1 October to 31 December 2023.

NHS board	Healthcare CDI	Healthcare ECB	Healthcare SAB	Community CDI	Community ECB	Community SAB
Ayrshire & Arran	12.1	+ 52.8	15.6	6.5	45.2	15.1
Borders	15.6	34.2	12.4	6.8	34.2	10.3
Dumfries & Galloway	10.7	40.7	19.3	10.7	53.3	13.3
Fife	2.2	37.6	11.1	0.0	37.1	11.6
Forth Valley	11.5	38.4	19.2	3.9	35.0	14.3
Golden Jubilee	0.0	7.7	15.4	-	-	-
Grampian	11.7	30.1	19.1	4.1	24.4	12.2
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	12.1	31.3	20.3	4.7	28.5	6.0
Highland	21.8	27.0	12.8	8.6	30.6	6.1
Lanarkshire	19.5	27.9	22.7	7.2	30.5	10.8
Lothian	18.7	32.8	19.9	7.8	27.3	11.7
Orkney	30.4	30.4	0.0	0.0	88.0	0.0
Shetland	113.6	37.9	75.7	0.0	0.0	34.6
Tayside	18.3	46.5	24.9	5.7	40.8	4.7
Western Isles	14.9	89.2	14.9	29.8	0.0	0.0
Scotland	14.3	34.7	19.2	5.8	32.0	9.9

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.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

The next release of this publication will be July 2024.



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