

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

July to September (Q3) 2024

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 14 January 2025

About this release

This release by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland provides data for common healthcare infections in Scotland. These infections may result in 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) 2024

- There were 390 CDI cases, of which 71.8% (280) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 360 cases.
- There were 1,132 ECB cases, of which 54.8% (620) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,104 cases.
- There were 456 SAB cases, of which 68.6% (313) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 406 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, NHS Grampian and NHSScotland in 2024 Q3 were markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.
 - The number of community associated CDI cases in NHS Lothian and NHSScotland in 2024 Q3 were markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.
 - The number of community associated CDI cases in NHS Lothian was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2024 Q3.
 - The number of healthcare associated ECB cases in NHS Dumfries & Galloway and NHS Forth Valley were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2024 Q3.
 - The number of healthcare associated ECB cases in NHS Dumfries & Galloway in 2024 Q3 was markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.

- The number of community associated ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Borders were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2024 Q3.
 - The number of community associated ECB cases in NHS Borders in 2024 Q3 was markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.
 - The number of healthcare associated SAB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2024 Q3.
 - The number of healthcare associated SAB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran in 2024 Q3 was markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.
-
- The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2024 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 2024.

NHS board	Healthcare CDI	Healthcare ECB	Healthcare SAB	Community CDI	Community ECB	Community SAB
Ayrshire & Arran	20.0	39.1	+↑ 33.0	10.9	+ 57.6	9.8
Borders	12.7	34.9	12.7	13.6	+↑ 85.3	13.6
Dumfries & Galloway	↑ 35.1	+↑ 72.4	21.9	2.7	57.4	16.4
Fife	13.8	36.7	5.7	6.4	40.5	17.1
Forth Valley	22.2	+ 60.0	20.9	6.5	41.9	15.7
Golden Jubilee	0.0	7.2	21.5	-	-	-
Grampian	↑ 19.1	33.8	18.4	8.8	21.0	13.6
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	18.4	38.2	19.5	4.0	31.7	5.7
Highland	30.1	27.6	8.8	9.8	31.9	7.4
Lanarkshire	16.5	41.5	18.4	5.3	41.4	10.1
Lothian	14.5	35.3	21.2	+↑ 13.9	30.3	10.4
Orkney	0.0	66.3	0.0	36.2	72.3	0.0
Shetland	76.0	152.0	76.0	0.0	17.3	0.0
Tayside	11.2	48.3	28.5	6.7	43.8	10.5
Western Isles	13.9	55.4	55.4	15.3	0.0	15.3
Scotland	↑ 18.0	39.9	20.2	↑ 8.0	37.1	10.4

Key

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

↑ Markedly higher than rates observed within the NHS board over the past three years.

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.

Contact

Shona Cairns, Consultant Healthcare Scientist, ARHAI Scotland

Email: NSS.ARHAIdatateam@nhs.scot

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 April 2025.



NHS National Services Scotland and Official Statistics

NHS NSS 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](#). [Find out more about official statistics](#).
