

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

October to December (Q4) 2024

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 08 April 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 October to December (Q4) 2024

- There were 367 CDI cases, of which 76.6% (281) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 390 cases.
- There were 1,070 ECB cases, of which 53.8% (576) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,132 cases.
- There were 434 SAB cases, of which 66.1% (287) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 456 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 Grampian and NHSScotland in 2024 Q4 were markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.
 - The number of community associated CDI cases in NHS Grampian in 2024 Q4 were markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.
 - The number of community associated ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2024 Q4.
- The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2024 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 2024.

| NHS board | Healthcare CDI | Healthcare ECB | Healthcare SAB | Community CDI | Community ECB | Community SAB |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Ayrshire & Arran | 19.3 | 43.1 | 27.2 | 10.9 | + 58.7 | 9.8 |
| Borders | 6.1 | 36.6 | 27.4 | 3.4 | 47.8 | 23.9 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 28.3 | 37.0 | 19.6 | 5.5 | 57.4 | 16.4 |
| Fife | 13.7 | 34.2 | 19.4 | 3.2 | 36.2 | 6.4 |
| Forth Valley | 17.5 | 45.9 | 18.9 | 6.5 | 40.6 | 18.3 |
| Golden Jubilee | 0.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | - | - | - |
| Grampian | ↑ 20.2 | 30.3 | 21.6 | ↑ 10.8 | 22.4 | 12.2 |
| Greater Glasgow & Clyde | 19.0 | 38.7 | 17.0 | 3.0 | 33.0 | 5.7 |
| Highland | 25.9 | 28.4 | 8.6 | 12.3 | 38.0 | 6.1 |
| Lanarkshire | 17.7 | 34.7 | 17.0 | 4.7 | 45.6 | 10.1 |
| Lothian | 18.7 | 35.7 | 16.6 | 6.5 | 23.8 | 13.0 |
| Orkney | 0.0 | 32.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Shetland | 77.8 | 38.9 | 0.0 | 51.9 | 51.9 | 34.6 |
| Tayside | 7.6 | 43.9 | 21.1 | 3.8 | 38.1 | 15.2 |
| Western Isles | 30.5 | 45.8 | 30.5 | 0.0 | 30.6 | 0.0 |
| Scotland | ↑ 18.0 | 36.9 | 18.4 | 6.2 | 35.8 | 10.7 |

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.

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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 2025.



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