

# ARHAI Scotland

## 2021 Annual Report

An official statistics publication for Scotland

Publication date: 20 September 2022

### 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 2021. Data are provided for common HCAs, which are an important cause of severe illness, death, and higher treatment costs.

ARHAI Scotland is part of NHS Scotland Assure which launched in June 2021. This new national body was created bringing together Health Facilities Scotland and ARHAI Scotland to work with stakeholders and Scottish Government to reduce risk in the healthcare built environment through a planned programme of work. This report introduces how ARHAI Scotland IPC experts have supported the vision of NHS Scotland Assure during 2021, strengthening IPC in the built environment.

During 2021, ARHAI Scotland remained a key part of the national COVID-19 response through monitoring hospital onset COVID-19; producing evidence and guidance; developing and delivering educational resources; and supporting health boards in their local pandemic responses. COVID-19 has impacted healthcare delivery in both hospital and community settings, changing the patient population and risk factors. Therefore, the wider HCAI data included in this report must be interpreted with due caution. ARHAI Scotland continues to regularly review HCAI surveillance in the context of the pandemic and work with NHS boards to interpret changes.

### Main Points

During 2021:

- ARHAI Scotland continued to review and develop guidance documents for the prevention and control of infection across all care settings, including those in response to COVID-19.
- Development of a new chapter for the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual](#) (NIPCM) commenced which will cover IPC in the built environment and decontamination. This Chapter will initially exist as a resource for evidence reviews and tools relating to IPC in the built environment including delivery of appropriate decontamination within health and care settings and risk mitigation for water-based pathogens.
- ARHAI Scotland provided IPC expertise to support the completion of eight major infrastructure project reviews. The reviews involve a multidisciplinary review of all evidence and documentation to ensure compliance with national guidance to reduce risk in the healthcare built environment.

- A [Care Home IPC Manual](#) was published in the NIPCM. The content of the Care Home Infection Prevention and Control Manual (CH IPCM) is aligned to the evidence based NIPCM and is intended to be used by all those involved in care provision for all older people and adult care homes registered with the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and ARHAI Scotland worked collaboratively to:
  - facilitate the translation of evidence-based IPC guidance into robust educational outputs for health and social care staff across Scotland.
  - identify, develop and deliver learning and development opportunities for the specialist healthcare built environment workforce.

In relation to surveillance of HCAI:

- The annual incidence of healthcare associated *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) and *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemias (SAB) have remained stable between 2020 and 2021, whereas the rate of healthcare associated *Escherichia coli* bacteraemias (ECB) decreased.
- The annual incidence of community associated CDI, SAB and ECB remained stable between 2020 and 2021.
- In 2021, there were 3,746 COVID-19 cases that were nosocomial (first positive COVID-19 sample taken on day eight or more of a hospital in-patient stay). Rates of nosocomial infections throughout 2020/21 followed the waves of infection observed in the community.
- In 2021, 118 non COVID-19 healthcare outbreaks and incidents were reported, compared to 136 in the previous year.
- Comprehensive data on antibiotic use and resistance to antibiotics in humans and animals will be published in November 2022 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 infections in health and care, including surveillance and development of guidance and tools. This report details ARHAI Scotland's role in the national COVID-19 response to the pandemic as well as the progress made by ARHAI Scotland to support the reduction of HCAs in NHSScotland.

## Contact

**Laura Imrie**

Clinical Lead ARHAI Scotland

0141 300 1175

[NSS.ARHAInfectioncontrol@nhs.scot](mailto: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 2023.



### 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.](#)