

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

October to December (Q4) 2021

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) 2021

- There were 264 CDI cases, of which 75.0% (198) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 332 cases.
- There were 1,058 ECB cases, of which 48.1% (509) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,170 cases.
- There were 395 SAB cases, of which 65.6% (259) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 399 SAB cases.
- Epidemiological data for SSI are not included for this quarter due to the pausing of surveillance to support the COVID-19 response.

### NHS Boards requiring further analysis

These need to be looked at further as per the exception reporting process.

- The number of healthcare CDI cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Lanarkshire were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2021 Q4.
- The number of community CDI cases in NHS Lothian was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2021 Q4.
- The number of healthcare ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2021 Q4.
- The number of community ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Dumfries & Galloway was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2021 Q4.

The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2021 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 2021.**

<b>NHS Board</b>	<b>Healthcare CDI</b>	<b>Healthcare ECB</b>	<b>Healthcare SAB</b>	<b>Community CDI</b>	<b>Community ECB</b>	<b>Community SAB</b>
Ayrshire and Arran	23.2 +	49.0 +	13.4	6.5	63.6 +	12.9
Borders	6.6	39.4	13.1	3.4	41.3	10.3
Dumfries and Galloway	6.7	24.5	15.6	13.4	74.9 +	21.4
Fife	4.6	33.6	12.8	1.1	39.2	8.5
Forth Valley	9.2	48.8	21.1	0.0	27.2	11.7
Golden Jubilee	0.0	0.0	15.9	-	-	-
Grampian	9.5	35.8	21.5	3.4	29.8	10.2
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	13.7	32.7	19.2	3.7	37.2	6.7
Highland	19.6	32.3	19.6	4.9	25.9	12.4
Lanarkshire	21.4 +	36.6	16.6	5.4	45.5	10.2
Lothian	11.8	23.7	10.6	10.0 +	34.3	9.1
Orkney	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.7	0.0
Shetland	0.0	170.6	43.7	0.0	69.4	17.3
Tayside	10.3	37.7	23.2	1.0	41.9	11.4
Western Isles	16.5	33.0	82.4	0.0	59.9	0.0
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>9.9</b>

**Key**

+ Markedly higher than average infection rate

## 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

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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. Please see [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

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 July 2022.



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