

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

**October to December (Q4) 2022**

**An Official Statistics publication for Scotland**

**Publication date:** 04 April 2023

## **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) 2022

- There were 256 CDI cases, of which 82.8% (212) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 284 cases.
- There were 1,044 ECB cases, of which 51.8% (541) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,137 cases.
- There were 433 SAB cases, of which 69.7% (302) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 385 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 Highland was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2022 Q4.
- The number of healthcare ECB cases in NHS Forth Valley and NHS Tayside was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2022 Q4.
- The number of community ECB cases in NHS Ayrshire and Arran was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2022 Q4.
- The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2022 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 2022.**

<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	16.7	29.3	24.3	4.3	+ 54.9	9.7
Borders	3.0	36.6	21.3	3.4	30.8	3.4
Dumfries and Galloway	10.7	42.7	17.1	2.7	61.3	10.7
Fife	8.7	30.4	10.9	2.1	40.2	15.9
Forth Valley	24.0	+ 50.5	17.7	2.6	40.2	7.8
Golden Jubilee	0.0	15.0	7.5	-	-	-
Grampian	3.0	37.1	24.2	3.4	27.7	11.5
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	14.2	31.3	19.4	2.0	34.8	6.4
Highland	+ 29.1	18.5	18.5	7.3	40.4	13.5
Lanarkshire	19.4	39.5	16.1	3.6	43.6	9.0
Lothian	11.7	28.1	16.9	3.5	24.7	8.7
Orkney	31.7	126.9	0.0	0.0	70.4	17.6
Shetland	0.0	104.2	104.2	34.6	51.9	0.0
Tayside	8.1	+ 51.8	24.3	0.9	33.2	12.3
Western Isles	16.2	32.3	32.3	0.0	14.9	0.0
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>9.5</b>

**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.

## Contact

**Shona Cairns**, Consultant Healthcare Scientist, ARHAI Scotland

0141 300 1922

[NSS.ARHAIdatateam@nhs.scot](mailto: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.

The next release of this publication will be July 2023.



### **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. **Further information about our statistics.**

---