

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

January to March (Q1) 2023

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 January to March (Q1) 2023

- There were 269 CDI cases, of which 78.4% (211) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 256 cases.
- There were 1,085 ECB cases, of which 53.9% (585) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,044 cases.
- There were 433 SAB cases, of which 69.3% (300) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 433 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 ECB cases in NHS Forth Valley was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q1.
- The number of community ECB cases in NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Lanarkshire was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q1.
- The number of healthcare SAB cases in NHS Tayside was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q1.
- The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2023 Q1.

Table: Quarterly rates for healthcare infections per 100,000 total occupied bed days and community infections per 100,000 population, 1 January to 31 March 2023.

NHS board	Healthcare CDI	Healthcare ECB	Healthcare SAB	Community CDI	Community ECB	Community SAB
Ayrshire and Arran	12.7	26.2	19.4	9.9	50.6	18.7
Borders	6.2	43.6	12.5	3.5	55.9	17.5
Dumfries and Galloway	15.3	26.3	13.1	10.9	+ 65.4	13.6
Fife	13.4	27.9	17.9	3.2	31.4	10.8
Forth Valley	19.2	+ 60.0	16.6	0.0	25.2	10.6
Golden Jubilee	0.0	38.6	23.1	-	-	-
Grampian	10.4	46.8	20.1	2.1	27.7	11.1
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	11.6	36.2	17.2	2.7	37.3	7.2
Highland	22.3	23.6	15.7	8.8	30.0	10.0
Lanarkshire	16.3	39.2	17.6	3.1	+ 50.1	7.9
Lothian	11.7	35.2	19.4	4.4	31.4	8.0
Orkney	30.3	60.5	0.0	0.0	90.0	0.0
Shetland	40.8	40.8	81.6	0.0	17.7	0.0
Tayside	17.2	43.5	+ 32.0	7.8	33.0	11.7
Western Isles	0.0	84.2	50.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Scotland	13.4	37.3	19.1	4.3	37.0	9.8

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.

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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.

The next release of this publication will be October 2023.



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