

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

April to June (Q2) 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 April to June (Q2) 2023

- There were 314 CDI cases, of which 79.0% (248) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 268 cases.
- There were 1,083 ECB cases, of which 53.6% (581) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,085 cases.
- There were 423 SAB cases, of which 66.9% (283) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 433 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 ECB cases in NHS Tayside was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q2.
- The number of community associated ECB cases in NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Ayrshire and Arran was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q2.
- The number of community associated SAB cases in NHS Ayrshire and Arran was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q2.
- The number of healthcare associated CDI cases in NHS Lanarkshire was markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2023 Q2.
- The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2023 Q2.

Table: Quarterly rates for healthcare infections per 100,000 total occupied bed days and community infections per 100,000 population, 1 April to 30 June 2023.

NHS board	Healthcare CDI	Healthcare ECB	Healthcare SAB	Community CDI	Community ECB	Community SAB
Ayrshire and Arran	15.6	44.1	22.5	4.4	+ 52.2	+ 23.9
Borders	6.4	41.7	12.8	6.9	48.4	13.8
Dumfries and Galloway	13.1	54.6	10.9	2.7	64.7	10.8
Fife	18	29.3	14.6	2.1	28.9	16.1
Forth Valley	14.5	46.3	18.5	0.0	22.3	10.5
Golden Jubilee	15.2	7.6	30.3	-	-	-
Grampian	14.3	30.8	14.3	6.2	29.4	8.2
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	15.9	35.0	20.4	4.4	34.5	6.8
Highland	18.5	23.8	22.4	8.7	43.3	3.7
Lanarkshire	+ 25.7	46.1	16.5	4.8	46.5	8.5
Lothian	13.3	32.9	12.9	6.6	32.4	7.9
Orkney	0.0	28.8	0.0	0.0	17.8	17.8
Shetland	0.0	48.9	48.9	0.0	17.5	52.5
Tayside	15.4	+ 54.8	24.8	3.8	34.6	15.4
Western Isles	0.0	0.0	68.0	15.1	45.2	0.0
Scotland	16.1	37.6	18.3	4.8	36.7	10.2

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 January 2024.



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