

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

July to September (Q3) 2025

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**An Official Statistics
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Scotland**

About this release

This release by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland provides data for common healthcare infections in Scotland.

These infections may result in 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 July to September (Q3) 2025

- There were 330 CDI cases, of which 74.5% (246) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 286 cases.
- There were 1,233 ECB cases, of which 53.4% (658) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,237 cases.
- There were 422 SAB cases, of which 70.1% (296) were healthcare infections. In the previous quarter there were 459 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 **community associated CDI** cases in **NHS Highland** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2025 Q3.
 - ▶ The number of **healthcare associated ECB** cases in **NHS Lanarkshire** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2025 Q3 and were markedly higher than have previously been observed over the past three years.
 - ▶ The number of **community associated ECB** cases in **NHS Ayrshire & Arran** and **NHS Dumfries & Galloway** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2025 Q3.
- The table shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2025 Q3.

Table: Quarterly rates for healthcare infections per 100,000 total occupied bed days and community infections per 100,000 population, 1 July to 30 September 2025.

| NHS board | Healthcare CDI | Healthcare ECB | Healthcare SAB | Community CDI | Community ECB | Community SAB |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ayrshire & Arran | 23.7 | 49.2 | 21.1 | 7.6 | + 70.1 | 15.1 |
| Borders | 7.1 | 42.9 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 44.1 | 10.2 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 23.4 | 53.9 | 18.7 | 2.7 | + 70.7 | 16.3 |
| Fife | 12.7 | 42.6 | 8.1 | 3.2 | 34.9 | 12.7 |
| Forth Valley | 12.9 | 35.7 | 14.3 | 1.3 | 57.0 | 14.2 |
| Golden Jubilee | 25.9 | 19.4 | 19.4 | - | - | - |
| Grampian | 9.9 | 28.4 | 19.9 | 6.7 | 31.5 | 10.7 |
| Greater Glasgow & Clyde | 16.0 | 42.9 | 21.9 | 4.9 | 36.8 | 5.9 |
| Highland | 24.7 | 22.2 | 13.6 | + 14.6 | 34.2 | 6.1 |
| Lanarkshire | 10.7 | + ↑ 61.5 | 25.4 | 3.5 | 44.4 | 4.1 |
| Lothian | 19.5 | 39.0 | 19.9 | 9.4 | 31.5 | 8.1 |
| Orkney | 0.0 | 83.7 | 27.9 | 0.0 | 36.0 | 18.0 |
| Shetland | 34.9 | 139.6 | 34.9 | 17.1 | 17.1 | 0.0 |
| Tayside | 14.1 | 55.6 | 18.5 | 5.7 | 48.3 | 13.3 |
| Western Isles | 14.7 | 58.8 | 14.7 | 0.0 | 30.5 | 0.0 |
| Scotland | 16.1 | ↑ 43.2 | 19.4 | 6.0 | 41.1 | 9.0 |

Key

+ Markedly higher than average infection rate, after accounting for NHS board population size/activity.

↑ Markedly higher than rates observed within the NHS board over the past three years.

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.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).

The next release of this publication will be April 2026.

This document has been prepared by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) team of NHS Scotland Assure, part of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS).

NHS National Services Scotland and Official Statistics

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