

**Quarterly epidemiological data on
Clostridioides difficile infection,
Escherichia coli bacteraemia
and *Staphylococcus aureus*
bacteraemia in Scotland**

April to June (Q2) 2026

Publication date: 06 October 2026

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**An Official Statistics
publication for
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.

The report was previously titled “Quarterly epidemiological data on *Clostridioides difficile* infection, *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia, *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia and Surgical Site Infection in Scotland”. In 2020, national surveillance of surgical site infection (SSI) was paused to support the COVID-19 pandemic response and is yet to recommence. The last iteration of the report including SSI data can be found [here](#).

Main Points

Total cases for April to June (Q2) 2026

- There were 323 **CDI** cases, of which 72.4% (234) were healthcare associated infections. In the previous quarter there were 287 cases.
- There were 1,175 **ECB** cases, of which 57.3% (673) were healthcare associated infections. In the previous quarter there were 1,074 cases.
- There were 424 **SAB** cases, of which 69.1% (293) were healthcare associated infections. In the previous quarter there were 430 SAB cases.

NHS boards requiring further analysis

- The following need to be looked at further as per the exception reporting process.
 - ▶ The number of **community associated CDI** cases in **NHS Ayrshire & Arran** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2026 Q2.
 - ▶ The number of **healthcare associated ECB** cases in **NHS Ayrshire & Arran** and **NHS Tayside** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2026 Q2.
 - ▶ The number of **healthcare associated ECB** cases in **NHS Scotland** in 2026 Q2 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 Borders** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2026 Q2.
 - ▶ The number of **healthcare associated SAB** cases in **NHS Tayside** were markedly higher than the average within Scotland in 2026 Q2.
- Table 1 shows NHS boards' rates for each healthcare and community infection in 2026 Q2.

Table 1: Quarterly rates for healthcare associated infections per 100,000 total occupied bed days and community associated infections per 100,000 population, 1 April to 30 June 2026.

NHS Board	Healthcare			Community		
	CDI	ECB	SAB	CDI	ECB	SAB
Ayrshire & Arran	17.8	+ 60.5	22.2	+ 15.3	+ 60.1	7.6
Borders	7.2	36.0	36.0	0.0	+ 68.7	10.3
Dumfries & Galloway	13.4	26.8	8.9	5.5	60.7	8.3
Fife	14.3	31.0	15.5	6.4	26.8	17.2
Forth Valley	21.2	41.0	15.6	6.6	51.1	11.8
Golden Jubilee	0.0	27.9	0.0	-	-	-
Grampian	8.1	42.9	15.5	3.4	27.2	10.2
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	16.2	45.2	18.7	4.6	24.3	6.6
Highland	24.3	23.1	15.8	14.8	40.8	6.2
Lanarkshire	17.9	49.2	14.6	4.7	36.7	8.3
Lothian	14.1	41.4	22.5	5.1	38.6	10.3
Orkney	31.1	31.1	31.1	0.0	18.3	18.3
Shetland	100.8	134.4	33.6	17.7	70.6	17.7
Tayside	12.1	+ 59.5	+ 32.8	9.6	35.5	10.6
Western Isles	0.0	94.1	13.4	0.0	0.0	31.1
Scotland	15.4	↑ 44.4	19.3	6.4	36.3	9.5

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.

Contact

Shona Cairns, Consultant Healthcare Scientist, ARHAI Scotland

Email: NSS.ARHAIdatateam@nhs.scot

Public Services Delivery Scotland, Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9EB

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](#), and [SAB](#) pages.

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

The next release of this publication will be January 2027.

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

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Public Services Delivery Scotland

PSD Scotland
Gyle Square
1 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9EB
Tel: 0131 275 6000
www.publicservicesdelivery.scot

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