

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS AND CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS**  
**DATA, ENGLAND DECEMBER 2014**

**Main Findings - DECEMBER 2014:**

**Critical Care Beds**

- There were 3,977 adult critical care beds available and 3,184 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 80.1%. This is the lowest occupancy rate observed since December 2013 where the figure was 77.1%.
- There were 450 paediatric critical care beds available and 367 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 81.6%. The figure in December 2013 was 83.5%.
- There were 1,384 neo-natal critical care beds available and 944 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 68.2%. This is the lowest occupancy rate observed since publication began in August 2010.

Table 1 shows Critical Care Bed Occupancy rates since April 2012.

Details of critical care data for individual organisations are available at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/critical-care-capacity/>

**Cancelled Urgent Operations**

- The number of urgent operations cancelled was 408 in December 2014, which compares to 319 in November 2014 and 250 in December 2013.

Table 2 shows information on urgent operations cancelled from April 2012 to December 2014

Details of cancelled urgent operations data for individual organisations are available at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/critical-care-capacity/>

In addition, data on cancelled elective operations can be found at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/cancelled-elective-operations/>

**Table 1 – Critical Care Bed Occupancy Rates – April 2012 to December 2014**

| Month  | Adult Critical Care |          |       | Paediatric Critical Care |          |       | Neonatal Critical Care |          |       |
|--------|---------------------|----------|-------|--------------------------|----------|-------|------------------------|----------|-------|
|        | Open                | Occupied | %     | Open                     | Occupied | %     | Open                   | Occupied | %     |
| Apr-12 | 3,729               | 3,137    | 84.1% | 407                      | 309      | 75.9% | 1,324                  | 973      | 73.5% |
| May-12 | 3,722               | 3,189    | 85.7% | 402                      | 301      | 74.9% | 1,319                  | 1,008    | 76.4% |
| Jun-12 | 3,727               | 3,046    | 81.7% | 395                      | 316      | 80.0% | 1,380                  | 1,026    | 74.3% |
| Jul-12 | 3,719               | 3,017    | 81.1% | 409                      | 309      | 75.6% | 1,368                  | 985      | 72.0% |
| Aug-12 | 3,712               | 2,891    | 77.9% | 411                      | 287      | 69.8% | 1,374                  | 979      | 71.3% |
| Sep-12 | 3,730               | 3,059    | 82.0% | 405                      | 298      | 73.6% | 1,368                  | 957      | 70.0% |
| Oct-12 | 3,731               | 3,083    | 82.6% | 410                      | 320      | 78.0% | 1,377                  | 963      | 69.9% |
| Nov-12 | 3,788               | 3,264    | 86.2% | 425                      | 373      | 87.8% | 1,375                  | 996      | 72.4% |
| Dec-12 | 3,758               | 3,067    | 81.6% | 426                      | 326      | 76.5% | 1,376                  | 951      | 69.1% |
| Jan-13 | 3,785               | 3,273    | 86.5% | 423                      | 331      | 78.3% | 1,365                  | 934      | 68.4% |
| Feb-13 | 3,770               | 3,309    | 87.8% | 429                      | 341      | 79.5% | 1,365                  | 959      | 70.3% |
| Mar-13 | 3,786               | 3,221    | 85.1% | 425                      | 346      | 81.4% | 1,370                  | 967      | 70.6% |
| Apr-13 | 3,828               | 3,264    | 85.3% | 416                      | 346      | 83.2% | 1,391                  | 970      | 69.7% |
| May-13 | 3,810               | 3,129    | 82.1% | 424                      | 323      | 76.2% | 1,395                  | 1,011    | 72.5% |
| Jun-13 | 3,798               | 3,152    | 83.0% | 427                      | 340      | 79.6% | 1,369                  | 959      | 70.1% |
| Jul-13 | 3,814               | 3,130    | 82.1% | 423                      | 328      | 77.5% | 1,362                  | 930      | 68.3% |
| Aug-13 | 3,830               | 3,124    | 81.6% | 417                      | 300      | 71.9% | 1,360                  | 945      | 69.5% |
| Sep-13 | 3,830               | 3,181    | 83.1% | 421                      | 329      | 78.1% | 1,365                  | 995      | 72.9% |
| Oct-13 | 3,835               | 3,137    | 81.8% | 430                      | 326      | 75.8% | 1,385                  | 998      | 72.1% |
| Nov-13 | 3,869               | 3,303    | 85.4% | 451                      | 391      | 86.7% | 1,371                  | 986      | 71.9% |
| Dec-13 | 3,829               | 2,952    | 77.1% | 442                      | 369      | 83.5% | 1,365                  | 943      | 69.1% |
| Jan-14 | 3,879               | 3,339    | 86.1% | 439                      | 378      | 86.1% | 1,360                  | 980      | 72.1% |
| Feb-14 | 3,893               | 3,366    | 86.5% | 440                      | 365      | 83.0% | 1,376                  | 974      | 70.8% |
| Mar-14 | 3,912               | 3,306    | 84.5% | 436                      | 351      | 80.5% | 1,375                  | 966      | 70.3% |
| Apr-14 | 3,949               | 3,377    | 85.5% | 443                      | 352      | 79.5% | 1,372                  | 1,006    | 73.3% |
| May-14 | 3,930               | 3,234    | 82.3% | 430                      | 342      | 79.5% | 1,372                  | 985      | 71.8% |
| Jun-14 | 3,913               | 3,277    | 83.7% | 431                      | 350      | 81.2% | 1,371                  | 995      | 72.6% |
| Jul-14 | 3,910               | 3,276    | 83.7% | 437                      | 324      | 74.1% | 1,359                  | 1,004    | 73.9% |
| Aug-14 | 3,941               | 3,221    | 81.7% | 436                      | 308      | 70.6% | 1,373                  | 1,007    | 73.3% |
| Sep-14 | 3,953               | 3,332    | 84.3% | 432                      | 324      | 75.0% | 1,365                  | 991      | 72.6% |
| Oct-14 | 3,963               | 3,385    | 85.4% | 434                      | 341      | 78.6% | 1,376                  | 989      | 71.9% |
| Nov-14 | 3,992               | 3,458    | 86.6% | 450                      | 395      | 87.8% | 1,376                  | 983      | 71.4% |
| Dec-14 | 3,977               | 3,184    | 80.1% | 450                      | 367      | 81.6% | 1,384                  | 944      | 68.2% |

Notes:

1. Data relating to the number of available and occupied critical care beds is a monthly snapshot taken at midnight on the last Thursday of each month and can fluctuate from month to month.
2. Before February 2011, data on Critical Care beds were published bi-annually in a separate collection. Therefore, Critical Care data published until January should be treated with a degree of caution.

**Table 2 – Cancelled Operations – April 2012 to December 2014**

| <b>Month</b>   | <b>Urgent Operations Cancelled</b> |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| April 2012     | 229                                |
| May 2012       | 283                                |
| June 2012      | 229                                |
| July 2012      | 250                                |
| August 2012    | 238                                |
| September 2012 | 244                                |
| October 2012   | 301                                |
| November 2012  | 299                                |
| December 2012  | 220                                |
| January 2013   | 316                                |
| February 2013  | 272                                |
| March 2013     | 355                                |
| April 2013     | 345                                |
| May 2013       | 271                                |
| June 2013      | 288                                |
| July 2013      | 280                                |
| August 2013    | 245                                |
| September 2013 | 229                                |
| October 2013   | 214                                |
| November 2013  | 196                                |
| December 2013  | 250                                |
| January 2014   | 261                                |
| February 2014  | 244                                |
| March 2014     | 232                                |
| April 2014     | 228                                |
| May 2014       | 241                                |
| June 2014      | 210                                |
| July 2014      | 261                                |
| August 2014    | 265                                |
| September 2014 | 246                                |
| October 2014   | 301                                |
| November 2014  | 319                                |
| December 2014  | 408                                |

## **Statistical Notes to Editors**

### **1. Critical Care data**

Data relating to the number of available and occupied critical care beds is a monthly snapshot taken at midnight on the last Thursday of each month and can fluctuate from month to month.

### **2. Data Quality**

Monthly SitReps data has been collected and published since August 2010. Prior to August 2010, data was collected weekly and was un-validated management information.

Critical care data published until January should be treated with a degree of caution as data on Critical Care beds was published bi-annually in a separate collection until January 2011. Since February 2011, there has been a significant improvement in the coverage and accuracy of this data.

### **3. Data Availability**

Monthly Sitreps data is published approximately 3 – 4 weeks after the end of the reference period.

### **4. Revisions**

Revisions to previous month's data are made in line with NHS England's revisions protocol for performance monitoring data. Future revisions will be made on a six monthly cycle. The revisions protocol can be found here:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/#Unifypolicy>

### **5. Feedback Welcomed**

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of Critical Care and Cancelled Operations within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on NHS England's website. Please email any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the SitReps data and statistics, to: [unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Additional Information**

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959

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