

STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE
MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS, CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS DATA,
ENGLAND DECEMBER 2013

Main Findings - December 2013:

Critical Care Beds

- There were 3,829 adult critical care beds available and 2,952 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 77.1%. This is lower than occupancy rates observed in recent months and is lower than December 2012, where the figure was 81.6%.
- There were 442 paediatric critical care beds available and 369 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 83.5%. This is similar to occupancy rates observed in recent months, but is higher than December 2012, where the figure was 76.5%.
- There were 1,365 neo-natal critical care beds available and 943 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 69.1%. This is lower than occupancy rates observed in recent months, but is identical to December 2012, where the figure was 69.1%.

Table 1 shows Critical Care Bed Occupancy rates since August 2011.
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 250 in December 2013, which compares to 196 in November 2013 and 220 in December 2012.

Table 2 shows information on urgent operations cancelled from August 2011 to December 2013
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 – August 2011 to December 2013

| Month | Adult Critical Care | | | Paediatric Critical Care | | | Neonatal Critical Care | | |
|--------|---------------------|----------|-------|--------------------------|----------|-------|------------------------|----------|-------|
| | Open | Occupied | % | Open | Occupied | % | Open | Occupied | % |
| Aug-11 | 3,704 | 2,953 | 79.7% | 396 | 265 | 66.9% | 1,269 | 917 | 72.3% |
| Sep-11 | 3,718 | 3,042 | 81.8% | 409 | 314 | 76.8% | 1,277 | 924 | 72.4% |
| Oct-11 | 3,728 | 3,046 | 81.7% | 396 | 307 | 77.5% | 1,289 | 984 | 76.3% |
| Nov-11 | 3,702 | 3,121 | 84.3% | 393 | 334 | 85.0% | 1,295 | 988 | 76.3% |
| Dec-11 | 3,696 | 2,961 | 80.1% | 393 | 335 | 85.2% | 1,295 | 953 | 73.6% |
| Jan-12 | 3,733 | 3,154 | 84.5% | 402 | 320 | 79.6% | 1,291 | 935 | 72.4% |
| Feb-12 | 3,744 | 3,198 | 85.4% | 405 | 336 | 83.0% | 1,301 | 946 | 72.7% |
| Mar-12 | 3,738 | 3,193 | 85.4% | 404 | 340 | 84.2% | 1,313 | 985 | 75.0% |
| 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% |

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 – August 2011 to December 2013

| Month | Urgent Operations Cancelled |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| August 2011 | 254 |
| September 2011 | 310 |
| October 2011 | 301 |
| November 2011 | 419 |
| December 2011 | 389 |
| January 2012 | 322 |
| February 2012 | 352 |
| March 2012 | 282 |
| 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 | 242 |
| October 2013 | 214 |
| November 2013 | 196 |
| December 2013 | 250 |

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

Additional Information

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 07768 901293

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