

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS AND CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS**  
**DATA, ENGLAND MARCH 2015**

**Main Findings - MARCH 2015:**

**Critical Care Beds**

- There were 4,025 adult critical care beds available and 3,476 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 86.4%. This is similar to occupancy rates observed in the recent months and higher than the occupancy rate in March 2014 which was 84.5%.
- There were 442 paediatric critical care beds available and 360 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 81.4%. This is an increase from the occupancy rate observed last month which was 75.9% and higher than the figure in March 2014 which was 80.5%.
- There were 1,393 neo-natal critical care beds available and 995 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 71.4%. This is similar to occupancy rates observed in the recent months and higher than the rate in March 2014 which was 70.3%.

Table 1 shows Critical Care Bed Occupancy rates since February 2013.  
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 317 in March 2015, which compares to 375 in February 2015 and 232 in March 2014.

Table 2 shows information on urgent operations cancelled from February 2013 to March 2015  
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/>

**Revisions**

- Data was revised for December 2014, following a request from University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. The revision had a negligible impact on the national data.

**Table 1 – Critical Care Bed Occupancy Rates – February 2013 to March 2015**

Month	Adult Critical Care			Paediatric Critical Care			Neonatal Critical Care		
	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%
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%
Jan-15	4,021	3,521	87.6%	444	360	81.1%	1,389	1,009	72.6%
Feb-15	4,028	3,548	88.1%	435	330	75.9%	1,397	1,000	71.6%
Mar-15	4,025	3,476	86.4%	442	360	81.4%	1,393	995	71.4%

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 – February 2013 to March 2015**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Urgent Operations Cancelled</b>
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
January 2015	396
February 2015	375
March 2015	317

## **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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