

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS AND CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS**  
**DATA, ENGLAND MARCH 2016**

**Main Findings – March 2016:**

**Critical Care Beds**

- There were 4,015 adult critical care beds available and 3,428 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 85.4%. This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 87.5%, and lower than in March 2015 (86.4%)
- There were 454 paediatric critical care beds available and 368 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 81.1%. This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 81.6%, and lower than in March 2015 (81.4%)
- There were 1,414 neo-natal critical care beds available and 989 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 69.9%. This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 70.5% and lower than in March 2015 (71.4%)

Table 1 shows Critical Care Bed Occupancy rates since March 2014.  
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 359 in March 2016, which compares to 365 in February 2016 and 313 in March 2015

Table 2 shows information on urgent operations cancelled from March 2013 to March 2016

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 – March 2014 to March 2016**

Month	Adult Critical Care			Paediatric Critical Care			Neonatal Critical Care		
	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%
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	83.8%	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%
Apr-15	4,023	3,389	84.2%	434	368	84.8%	1,393	995	71.4%
May-15	3,962	3,269	82.5%	425	315	74.1%	1,396	1,009	72.3%
Jun-15	3,978	3,290	82.7%	428	328	76.6%	1,405	1,013	72.1%
Jul-15	3,981	3,313	83.2%	431	323	74.9%	1,404	990	70.5%
Aug-15	3,969	3,166	79.8%	429	307	71.6%	1,387	952	68.6%
Sep-15	3,962	3,284	82.9%	440	363	82.5%	1,401	1,047	74.7%
Oct-15	3,970	3,326	83.8%	443	362	81.7%	1,388	1,021	73.6%
Nov-15	3,996	3,350	83.8%	452	398	88.1%	1,417	1,000	70.6%
Dec-15	3,967	3,182	80.2%	455	385	84.6%	1,417	998	70.4%
Jan-16	4,021	3,466	86.2%	455	379	83.3%	1,404	978	69.7%
Feb-16	4,016	3,516	87.5%	451	368	81.6%	1,414	997	70.5%
Mar-16	4,015	3,428	85.4%	454	368	81.1%	1,414	989	69.9%

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 2011 should be treated with a degree of caution.

**Table 2 – Cancelled Operations – March 2014 to March 2016**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Urgent Operations Cancelled</b>
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	371
March 2015	313
April 2015	309
May 2015	300
June 2015	266
July 2015	296
August 2015	274
September 2015	308
October 2015	371
November 2015	243
December 2015	332
January 2016	293
February 2016	365
March 2016	359

## **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 2011 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 on the NHS England website at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/>

### **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

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) statistician responsible for producing these data is:

Katie Tither  
Operational Information for Commissioning (Central)  
NHS England  
Room 5E24, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE  
For data queries, email: [unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk)