

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS AND CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS**  
**DATA, ENGLAND MARCH 2017**

**Main Findings – March 2017:**

**Critical Care Beds**

- There were 4,066 adult critical care beds available and 3,312 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 81.5%. This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 84.4%, and lower than in March 2016 (85.4%).
- There were 460 paediatric critical care beds available and 373 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 81.1%. This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 80.4%, and the same as in March 2016 (81.1%).
- There were 1,436 neo-natal critical care beds available and 1,001 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 69.7%. This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 69.8% and lower than in March 2016 (69.9%).

Table 1 shows Critical Care Bed Occupancy rates since March 2015.

**Cancelled Urgent Operations**

- The number of urgent operations cancelled was 376 in March 2017, which compares to 339 in February 2017 and 359 in March 2016.

Table 2 shows information on urgent operations cancelled from March 2015 to March 2017.

**Revisions to Published Data**

Revised data covering the period from August 2016 to February 2017 has been published alongside the March 2017 data. The effect of these revisions on bed occupancy rates is minimal, but revisions by Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (RW6) have led to a large reduction in the number of cancelled urgent operations at England level between November 2016 and January 2017. Prior to these revisions, it was reported that November 2016 had the highest number of cancelled urgent operations since monthly data was first collected in August 2010, but following these revisions November 2016 no longer has a record number of cancellations.

Details of critical care data and 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 2015 to March 2017**

Month	Adult Critical Care			Paediatric Critical Care			Neonatal Critical Care		
	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%
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%
Apr -16	3,976	3,189	80.2%	454	360	79.3%	1,419	1,016	71.6%
May -16	4,008	3,341	83.6%	463	374	80.8%	1,421	1,071	75.4%
Jun -16	3,990	3,338	83.7%	468	393	84.0%	1,411	1,020	72.3%
Jul -16	4,027	3,324	82.6%	462	369	79.9%	1,406	979	69.6%
Aug -16	4,015	3,255	81.1%	461	349	75.7%	1,406	1,002	71.3%
Sep -16	4,035	3,323	82.4%	462	367	79.4%	1,408	994	70.6%
Oct -16	4,059	3,321	81.8%	461	352	76.4%	1,420	1,001	70.5%
Nov -16	4,055	3,409	84.1%	483	427	88.4%	1,401	1,016	72.5%
Dec -16	4,027	3,300	81.9%	456	357	78.3%	1,437	1,031	71.7%
Jan-17	4,073	3,445	84.6%	463	378	81.6%	1,412	1,039	73.6%
Feb-17	4,084	3,445	84.4%	455	366	80.4%	1,407	982	69.8%
Mar-17	4,066	3,312	81.5%	460	373	81.1%	1,436	1,001	69.7%

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 2015 to March 2017**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Urgent Operations Cancelled</b>
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	371
March 2016	359
April 2016	319
May 2016	339
June 2016	318
July 2016	299
August 2016	311
September 2016	373
October 2016	363
November 2016	404
December 2016	300
January 2017	360
February 2017	339
March 2017	376

## **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

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