

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

**Main Findings – September 2017:**

**Critical Care Beds**

- There were 4,056 adult critical care beds available and 3,327 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 82.0%. This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 79.9%, and lower than in September 2016 (82.4%).
- There were 460 paediatric critical care beds available and 372 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 80.9%. This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 67.2%, and higher than in September 2016 (79.4%).
- There were 1,416 neo-natal critical care beds available and 1,027 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 72.5%. This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 70.8% and higher than in September 2016 (70.6%).

Table 1 shows information on critical care bed occupancy from September 2015 to September 2017.

**Cancelled Urgent Operations**

- The number of urgent operations cancelled was 302 in September 2017, which compares to 352 in August 2017 and 373 in September 2016.
- The number of urgent operations cancelled for the second or subsequent time was 5 in September 2017.

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

**Revisions**

Revisions covering January to June 2017 (inclusive) have been processed this month. In most cases, the impact is minimal at national level, but February 2017 saw a large decrease in the number of urgent operations cancelled (from 339 to 317). Critical care bed occupancy figures are largely unaffected by revisions.

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 – September 2015 to September 2017**

Month	Adult Critical Care			Paediatric Critical Care			Neonatal Critical Care		
	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%
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	83.4%	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	82.5%	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	3,446	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%
Apr-17	4,064	3,351	82.5%	455	359	78.9%	1,414	996	70.4%
May-17	4,063	3,279	80.7%	454	362	79.7%	1,444	1,063	73.6%
Jun-17	4,079	3,281	80.4%	458	334	72.9%	1,421	1,043	73.4%
Jul-17	4,060	3,161	77.9%	452	354	78.3%	1,426	1,031	72.3%
Aug-17	4,041	3,228	79.9%	460	309	67.2%	1,424	1,008	70.8%
Sep-17	4,056	3,327	82.0%	460	372	80.9%	1,416	1,027	72.5%

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 – September 2015 to September 2017**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Urgent Operations Cancelled</b>
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	353
February 2017	317
March 2017	380
April 2017	275
May 2017	314
June 2017	326
July 2017	337
August 2017	352
September 2017	302

## **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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