

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS AND CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS**  
**DATA, ENGLAND August 2018**

**Main Findings – August 2018:**

**Critical Care Beds**

- There were 4,063 **adult critical care beds** available and 3,189 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 78.5%. This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 78.3%, and lower than in August 2017 (79.9%)
- There were 467 **paediatric intensive<sup>1</sup> care beds** available and 309 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 66.2%. This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 72.4% and lower than in August 2017 (67.2%)
- There were 1,421 **neo-natal critical care beds** available and 997 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 70.2% This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 69.8% and lower than in August 2017 (70.6%).

Table 1 shows information on critical care bed occupancy from August 2016 to August 2018.

**Cancelled Urgent Operations**

- The number of urgent operations cancelled was 331 in August 2018, which compares to 345 in July 2018, and 323 in August 2017
- The number of urgent operations cancelled for the second or subsequent time was 14 in August 2018.

Table 2 shows information on urgent operations cancelled from August 2016 to August 2018.

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/>

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<sup>1</sup> Paediatric intensive care as defined in [PICS Standards 2010 – Appendices \(4th edition\)](#)

**Table 1 – Critical Care Bed Occupancy Rates – August 2016 to August 2018**

Month	Adult Critical Care			Paediatric Intensive Care			Neonatal Critical Care		
	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%
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%	1,430	1,011	70.7%
May-17	4,063	3,279	80.7%	454	362	79.7%	1,460	1,075	73.6%
Jun-17	4,079	3,281	80.4%	458	334	72.9%	1,437	1,058	73.6%
Jul-17	4,060	3,161	77.9%	452	354	78.3%	1,442	1,046	72.5%
Aug-17	4,041	3,228	79.9%	460	309	67.2%	1,440	1,016	70.6%
Sep-17	4,056	3,327	82.0%	460	372	80.9%	1,432	1,041	72.7%
Oct-17	4,071	3,296	81.0%	453	342	75.5%	1,434	1,004	70.0%
Nov-17	4,070	3,445	84.6%	474	393	82.9%	1,440	1,066	74.0%
Dec-17	4,060	3,336	82.2%	483	386	79.9%	1,438	1,020	70.9%
Jan-18	4,085	3,540	86.7%	457	353	77.2%	1,455	1,031	70.9%
Feb-18	4,074	3,478	85.4%	459	364	79.3%	1,435	990	69.0%
Mar-18	4,064	3,355	82.6%	455	358	78.7%	1,434	1,026	71.5%
Apr-18	4,057	3,327	82.0%	473	348	73.6%	1,419	1,026	72.3%
May-18	4,050	3,235	79.9%	468	343	73.3%	1,430	1,043	72.9%
Jun-18	4,082	3,251	79.6%	467	352	75.4%	1,424	1,057	74.2%
Jul-18	4,077	3,192	78.3%	471	341	72.4%	1,417	989	69.8%
Aug-18	4,063	3,189	78.5%	467	309	66.2%	1,421	997	70.2%

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 – August 2016 to August 2018**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Urgent Operations Cancelled</b>	<b>Urgent Operations Cancelled for the 2nd or more time</b>
Aug -16	311	9
Sep -16	373	12
Oct -16	363	6
Nov -16	404	16
Dec -16	300	10
Jan-17	353	16
Feb-17	317	16
Mar-17	380	11
Apr-17	255	25
May-17	300	12
Jun-17	303	9
Jul-17	321	7
Aug-17	323	16
Sep-17	302	5
Oct-17	287	11
Nov-17	290	9
Dec-17	342	15
Jan-18	361	11
Feb-18	374	14
Mar-18	400	20
Apr-18	238	16
May-18	313	9
Jun-18	270	8
Jul-18	345	15
Aug-18	331	14

## Statistical Notes to Editors

### 1. Critical Care data

The figures on Adult Critical Care, Paediatric Intensive Care and Neonatal Intensive Care bed occupancy are “snapshot” figures taken at midnight on the last Thursday of each month. Therefore they will not reflect varying levels of bed occupancy through the day, week and month.

The paediatric intensive<sup>2</sup> care figures are as described in the PICS Standards 2010 – 4<sup>th</sup> edition. However, in 2015 PICS updated this guidance (5<sup>th</sup> edition) and the change in terminology and definitions might lead some providers to inadvertently return figures for paediatric high dependency care beds. NHS England are working to refresh the guidance in line with the latest standards to address this error. As such, these figures are not based on the same definition in use in other similar publications such as the PICANET annual report.

NHS England commissions paediatric critical care nationally; further information is available via the Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network

### 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 to a monthly timetable with data being published around 6 to 7 weeks after the end of the reference period<sup>3</sup>. The next release of data for this collection will be 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (relating to August 2018). The full set of publication dates is described in the [12 months statistics calendar](#).

### 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/>

Revisions were last published in May 2018 covering April 2017 to December 2017 (inclusive).

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<sup>2</sup> Paediatric intensive care as defined in [PICS Standards 2010 – Appendices \(4th edition\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> From June 2018, NHS England aligned the publication of the Monthly SitReps collection with the monthly NHS England publication of the Combined Performance Statistics to improve data coherence.

## **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: [england.nhsdata@nhs.net](mailto:england.nhsdata@nhs.net)

### **Additional Information**

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959

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