

STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE

MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS AND CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS DATA, ENGLAND September 2018

Main Findings – September 2018:

Critical Care Beds

- There were 4,085 **adult critical care beds** available and 3,268 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 80.0%. This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 78.4%, and lower than in September 2017 (82.0%)
- There were 468 **paediatric intensive¹ care beds** available and 356 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 76.1%. This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 66.2% and lower than in September 2017 (80.9%)
- There were 1,422 **neo-natal critical care beds** available and 985 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 69.3% This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 70.1% and lower than in September 2017 (72.7%).

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

Cancelled Urgent Operations

- The number of urgent operations cancelled was 318 in September 2018, which compares to 329 in August 2018, and 302 in September 2017.
- The number of urgent operations cancelled for the second or subsequent time was 16 in September 2018.

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

Revisions

Revisions covering January to August 2018 (inclusive) have been published this month, alongside September 2018 data. See statistical notes to editors for further details.

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/>

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

Table 1 – Critical Care Bed Occupancy Rates – September 2016 to September 2018

Month	Adult Critical Care			Paediatric Intensive Care			Neonatal Critical Care		
	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%	Open	Occupied	%
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	3,537	86.6%	457	353	77.2%	1,441	1,031	71.5%
Feb-18	4,074	3,478	85.4%	459	364	79.3%	1,421	990	69.7%
Mar-18	4,064	3,355	82.6%	455	358	78.7%	1,420	1,026	72.3%
Apr-18	4,057	3,322	81.9%	469	346	73.8%	1,422	1,027	72.2%
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	3,187	78.4%	467	309	66.2%	1,421	996	70.1%
Sept-18	4,085	3,268	80.0%	468	356	76.1%	1,422	985	69.3%

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 2016 to September 2018

Month	Urgent Operations Cancelled	Urgent Operations Cancelled for the 2nd or more time
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	343	11
Feb-18	374	14
Mar-18	400	20
Apr-18	242	16
May-18	328	9
Jun-18	279	8
Jul-18	344	14
Aug-18	329	14
Sep-18	318	16

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 intensive² care figures are as described in the PICS Standards 2010 – 4th edition. However, in 2015 PICS updated this guidance (5th 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 period³. The next release of data for this collection will be 13th December 2018 (relating to October 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 have been published in November 2018 covering January 2018 to August 2018 (inclusive). Revisions were made by 6 organisations. In most cases, the impact is minimal at national level, Critical care bed occupancy figures are largely unaffected by revisions. There were no changes to non-medical critical care transfers.

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

³ 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.

The previously published figures are summarised in the table below for reference:

Original figures		Open at Last Thursday on Reporting Period			Occupied at last Thursday on Reporting Period			Number in Reporting Period	
		Number of Adult critical care beds	Number of Paediatric intensive care beds	Number of Neonatal critical care cots (or beds)	Number of Adult critical care beds	Number of Paediatric intensive care beds	Number of Neonatal critical care cots (or beds)	Urgent Operations Cancelled	Urgent Operations Cancelled for the 2nd or more time
2017-18	January	4,085	457	1,455	3,540	353	1,031	361	11
2017-18	February	4,074	459	1,435	3,478	364	990	374	14
2017-18	March	4,064	455	1,434	3,355	358	1,026	400	20
2018-19	April	4,057	473	1,419	3,327	348	1,026	238	16
2018-19	May	4,050	468	1,430	3,235	343	1,043	313	9
2018-19	June	4,082	467	1,424	3,251	352	1,057	270	8
2018-19	July	4,077	471	1,417	3,192	341	989	345	15
2018-19	August	4,063	467	1,421	3,189	309	997	331	14

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

Additional Information

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

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