**NHS**

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**

**MONTHLY CRITICAL CARE BEDS AND CANCELLED URGENT OPERATIONS (MSITREP) DATA, ENGLAND**

**Main Findings - February 2020:**

**Critical Care Beds**

- There were 4,122 **adult critical care beds** open and 3,342 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 81.1%. This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 83.0%, and lower than in February 2019 (81.5%).

- There were 320 **paediatric intensive care beds** open and 260 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 81.3%. This is higher than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 79.2%, and higher than in February 2019 (77.4%).

- There were 1,447 **neonatal critical care beds** open and 1,003 occupied, giving an occupancy rate of 69.3% This is lower than the occupancy rate observed last month, which was 71.2%, and lower than in February 2019 (70.1%).

Table 1 and Graph 1 show information on critical care bed occupancy from February 2018 to February 2020.

**Urgent Operations Cancelled**

- The number of **urgent operations cancelled was** 313 in February 2020, which compares to 357 last month, and 312 in February 2019.

- The number of **urgent operations cancelled for the 2nd or more time** was 20 in February 2020.

Table 2 and Graph 2 show information on urgent operations cancelled from February 2018 to February 2020.

Details of Monthly Critical Care Beds Capacity and Urgent Operations Cancelled data for individual organisations are available at: NHS England Statistics Critical Care.

In addition, data on Cancelled Elective Operations can be found at: NHS England Statistics Cancelled Operations.

**Table 1 – Critical Care Bed Occupancy Rates – February 2018 to February 2020** [1, 2]

| Month | Adult Critical Care Beds | | | Paediatric Intensive Care Beds | | | Neonatal Critical Care Beds | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Open | Occupied | % | Open | Occupied | % | Open | Occupied | % |
| 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% |
| Sep 18 | 4,085 | 3,268 | 80.0% | 468 | 356 | 76.1% | 1,422 | 985 | 69.3% |
| Oct 18 | 4,075 | 3,293 | 80.8% | 470 | 363 | 77.2% | 1,422 | 1,050 | 73.8% |
| Nov 18 | 4,110 | 3,400 | 82.7% | 339 | 297 | 87.6% | 1,417 | 1,028 | 72.5% |
| Dec 18 | 4,082 | 3,079 | 75.4% | 321 | 238 | 74.1% | 1,413 | 953 | 67.4% |
| Jan 19 | 4,140 | 3,532 | 85.3% | 323 | 256 | 79.3% | 1,428 | 1,001 | 70.1% |
| Feb 19 | 4,157 | 3,388 | 81.5% | 328 | 254 | 77.4% | 1,426 | 1,000 | 70.1% |
| Mar 19 | 4,119 | 3,323 | 80.7% | 326 | 252 | 77.3% | 1,422 | 1,012 | 71.2% |
| Apr 19 | 4,119 | 3,328 | 80.8% | 322 | 248 | 77.0% | 1,441 | 1,011 | 70.2% |
| May 19 | 4,106 | 3,252 | 79.2% | 322 | 236 | 73.3% | 1,439 | 1,019 | 70.8% |
| Jun 19 | 4,120 | 3,320 | 80.6% | 323 | 242 | 74.9% | 1,441 | 1,056 | 73.3% |
| Jul 19 | 4,079 | 3,245 | 79.6% | 320 | 236 | 73.8% | 1,441 | 1,007 | 69.9% |
| Aug 19 | 4,084 | 3,241 | 79.4% | 309 | 200 | 64.7% | 1,446 | 1,003 | 69.4% |
| Sep 19 | 4,090 | 3,305 | 80.8% | 312 | 232 | 74.4% | 1,441 | 1,007 | 69.9% |
| Oct 19 | 4,125 | 3,339 | 80.9% | 306 | 234 | 76.5% | 1,433 | 999 | 69.7% |
| Nov 19 | 4,121 | 3,416 | 82.9% | 321 | 268 | 83.5% | 1,454 | 1,061 | 73.0% |
| Dec 19 | 4,048 | 3,048 | 75.3% | 309 | 246 | 79.6% | 1,449 | 1,036 | 71.5% |
| Jan 20 | 4,123 | 3,423 | 83.0% | 312 | 247 | 79.2% | 1,439 | 1,024 | 71.2% |
| Feb 20 | 4,122 | 3,342 | 81.1% | 320 | 260 | 81.3% | 1,447 | 1,003 | 69.3% |

[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]Paediatric Intensive Care Beds: in November 2018, NHS England published refreshed guidance for MSitRep which provided clarification on the definition for Paediatric Intensive Care (PIC) bed availability and occupancy. This update was made to ensure definitions reflected the latest terminology and Paediatric Intensive Care Society (PICS) standards, to improve data quality and address overcounting of PIC beds (including possible inclusion of some high dependency unit (HDU, level 2) beds). Therefore, PIC bed availability data from November 2018 shows a step change, with the 339 reported beds in November 2018 being approximately 130 – 140 lower than previously in 2018-19 (around 460-470 available beds).
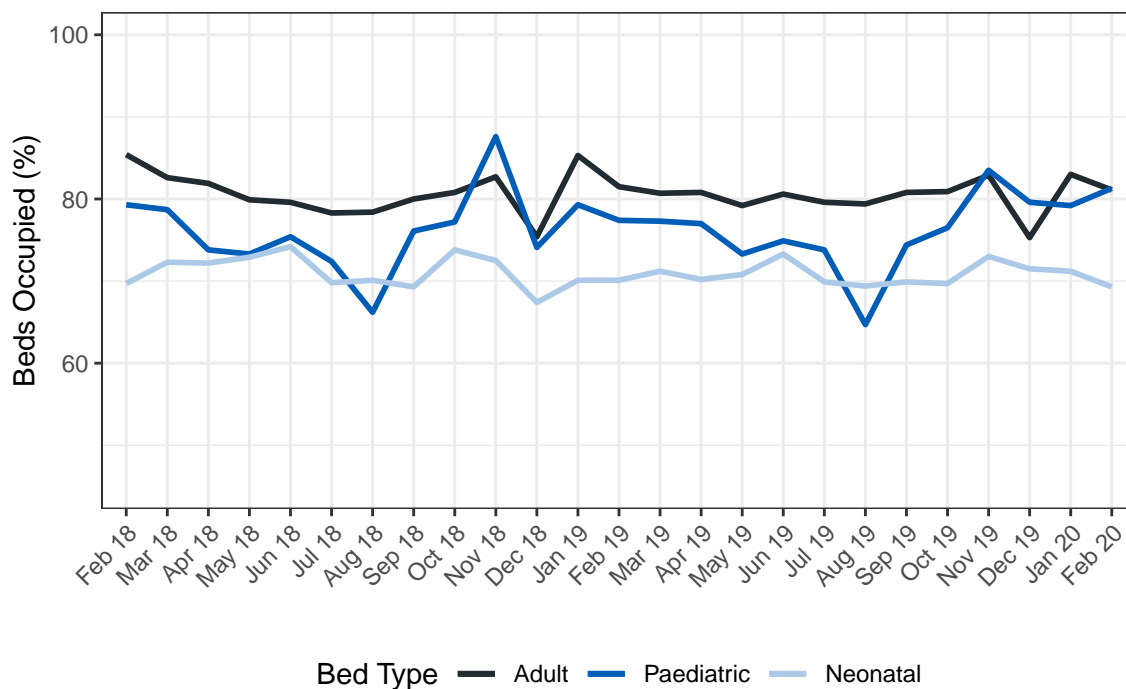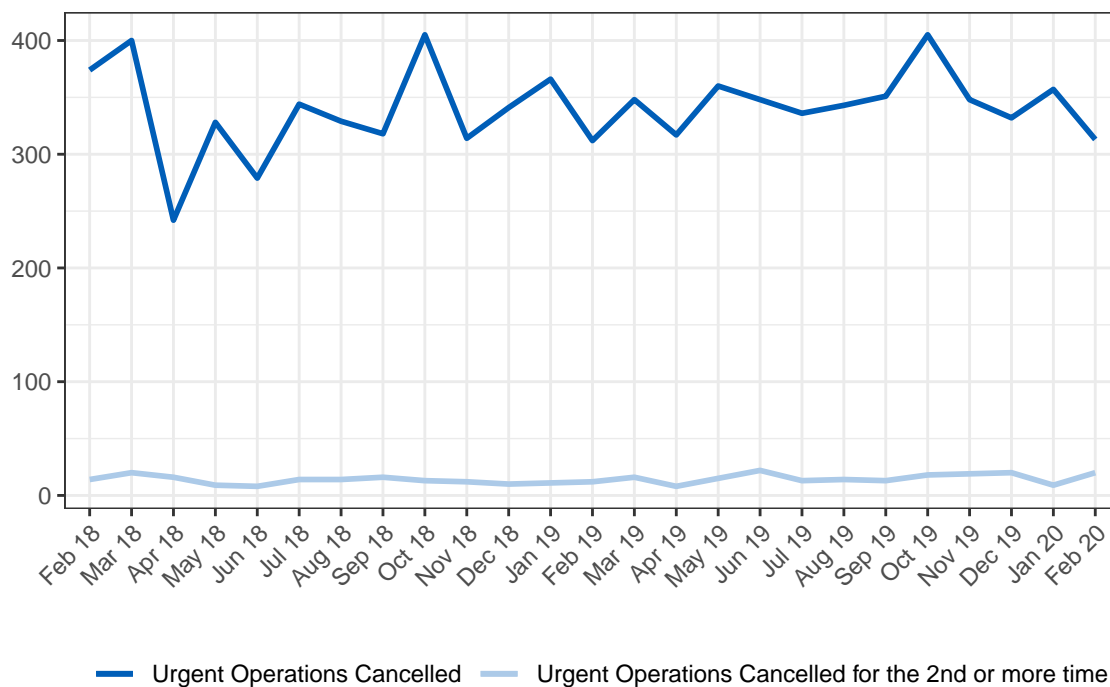
**Graph 1 – Critical Care Bed Occupancy Rates**



**Table 2 – Urgent Operations Cancelled – February 2018 to February 2020**

| Month | Urgent Operations Cancelled | Urgent Operations Cancelled for the 2nd or more time |
|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| Oct 18 | 405 | 13 |
| Nov 18 | 314 | 12 |
| Dec 18 | 341 | 10 |
| Jan 19 | 366 | 11 |
| Feb 19 | 312 | 12 |
| Mar 19 | 348 | 16 |
| Apr 19 | 317 | 8 |
| May 19 | 360 | 15 |
| Jun 19 | 348 | 22 |
| Jul 19 | 336 | 13 |
| Aug 19 | 343 | 14 |
| Sep 19 | 351 | 13 |
| Oct 19 | 405 | 18 |
| Nov 19 | 348 | 19 |
| Dec 19 | 332 | 20 |
| Jan 20 | 357 | 9 |
| Feb 20 | 313 | 20 |

**Graph 2 – Urgent Operations Cancelled**



Legend: Urgent Operations Cancelled — Urgent Operations Cancelled for the 2nd or more time

**Statistical Notes to Editors**

**1. Critical Care Data**

The figures on Adult Critical Care, Paediatric Intensive Care and Neonatal Critical 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 throughout the day, week and month.

In November 2018, NHS England published refreshed guidance for MSitRep which provided clarification on the definition for Paediatric Intensive Care (PIC) bed availability and occupancy. This update was made to ensure definitions reflected the latest terminology and Paediatric Intensive Care Society (PICS) standards, to improve data quality and address overcounting of PICs beds (including possible inclusion of some high dependency unit (HDU, level 2) beds).

As a result of the refreshed guidance, MSitRep data shows a step change in PIC bed availability. From November 2018, PIC availability data was reported by the Trusts commissioned to provide level 3 PIC. Prior to this, around 20 additional Trusts had also been submitting PIC data, these are now no longer reporting PIC data. Data from the commissioned Trusts, may also be impacted if they had inadvertently included level 2 HDU beds previously. In November 2018, 339 available PIC beds were reported, approximately 130 – 140 lower than reported previously in 2018-19 (around 460-470 available beds).

NHS England and NHS Improvement commission paediatric critical care nationally; further information is available via the Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network.

**2. Data Quality**

MSitRep data have been collected and published since August 2010. Prior to August 2010, data was collected weekly and was unvalidated 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 biannually 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**

MSitRep data are published to a monthly timetable with data being published around 6 to 7 weeks after the end of the reference period[3]. The next release of data for this collection will be Thursday 14th May 2020 (relating to March 2020). The full set of publication dates is described in the 12 month statistics calendar.

**4. Revisions**

Revisions to previous months' data are made in line with NHS England and NHS Improvement revisions and corrections policy for performance monitoring data. Revisions are typically made on a six-monthly cycle. The revisions policy can be found on the NHS England website at: Statistics Code of Compliance.

Revisions were last published in December 2019, covering the period April 2019 to September 2019. Only one organisation submitted a revision for this period, and this was for April 2019.

**5. Feedback Welcomed**

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of Monthly Critical Care Bed Capacity and Urgent Operations Cancelled data within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on NHS England's website. Please email any comments, or any other issues regarding the MSitRep data, to: england.nhsdata@nhs.net.

**Additional Information**

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England and NHS Improvement media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959. The Government Statistical Service (GSS) statistician responsible for producing these data is:

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[3]From June 2018, NHS England aligned the publication of the MSitRep collection with the monthly NHS England publication of the Combined Performance Statistics to improve data coherence.