SICSAG Report on COVID-19

As at 20 June 2020

A Management Information publication for Scotland
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About this release

This is the third release by Public Health Scotland on data from the Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group (SICSAG) relating to patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) and high dependency units (HDUs) across Scotland with COVID-19.

Main Points

During the period 01 March 2020 to 20 June 2020
• There were 537 admissions to ICUs in Scotland relating to 521 patients with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 disease.

- The groups with the highest number of admissions included those aged 60 - 69, males, and those living in socially deprived areas.
- Mortality measured at 30-days after ICU admission was 39%, and was higher in those receiving advanced respiratory support, in those with comorbidities and in the oldest age group.
- There were 214 patients with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 disease admitted to HDUs. These patients were older and had more comorbidity than patients admitted to ICUs. However, 30-day mortality was lower in HDU patients (25%) compared with ICU patients.
There has been a 2.5-fold increase in patients admitted to ICUs with pulmonary embolism, and an almost 50% reduction in patients admitted with cardiac arrest, septic shock and acute myocardial infarction.

**Background**

The Scottish Intensive Care Society Audit Group (SICSAG) is the national adult critical care audit and quality assurance programme. It benefits from a close collaboration between the Scottish Intensive Care Society and Public Health Scotland. The audit has complete, national coverage of all admissions to intensive care units (ICUs) and combined critical care units in Scotland. Since 1995, the national audit has informed healthcare professionals, the public and Scottish Government about the activity, interventions and outcomes of over 45,000 critically ill patients who are treated each year in Scotland.

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, SICSAG has transformed its systems to provide daily data to inform the response to the pandemic across Scotland. This report describes the admission frequency, demographics, activity and outcomes for patients with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 disease admitted to Scottish units. It includes admissions to adult ICUs, combined intensive care/high dependency units, and areas of hospitals which have been repurposed to provide intensive care. In this report, the term ‘ICU’ refers to these three types of facility. This third report also includes admissions to standalone adult high dependency units (HDUs), as well as areas of hospitals which have been repurposed to provide high dependency care. However, not all repurposed HDUs were able to contribute data to the audit. The report does not include admissions to paediatric/neonatal ICUs and HDUs.

**Contact**

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**Further Information**

Further information is available from the SICSAG website and from the full report available on the PHS website.

The next release of this publication will be on an ad hoc basis.

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**PHS and Official Statistics**

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. Further information about our statistics.