

C. difficile surveillance

Quarterly report

April - June 2026

Key points

- CDI reports for hospital inpatients aged 2 years and over increased by 20% (from 69 to 83 episodes) during April-June 2026 compared to January-March 2026.
- CDI rate per 100,000 bed days increased by 23% during April-June 2026 compared to January-March 2026.
- CDI reports for community patients aged 2 years and over increased by 13% (from 71 to 80 episodes) during April-June 2026 compared to January-March 2026.
- During April-June 2026 the most prevalent CDI ribotypes are 002 (10%), 078-Like (10%) and 020 (9%) (Table 3).
- Bed day data were not available for SHSCT and WHSCT hospitals and provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Apr-Jun 2025).
- For data from 1st April 2023 onwards, “Inpatient episodes” refers to all patients categorised as hospital in-patient **and** ED episodes where the patient tested positive $\geq$ 2 days after the decision to admit date.

For further information or clarification on HCAI definitions, please refer to previous reports or contact hcaini@hscni.net

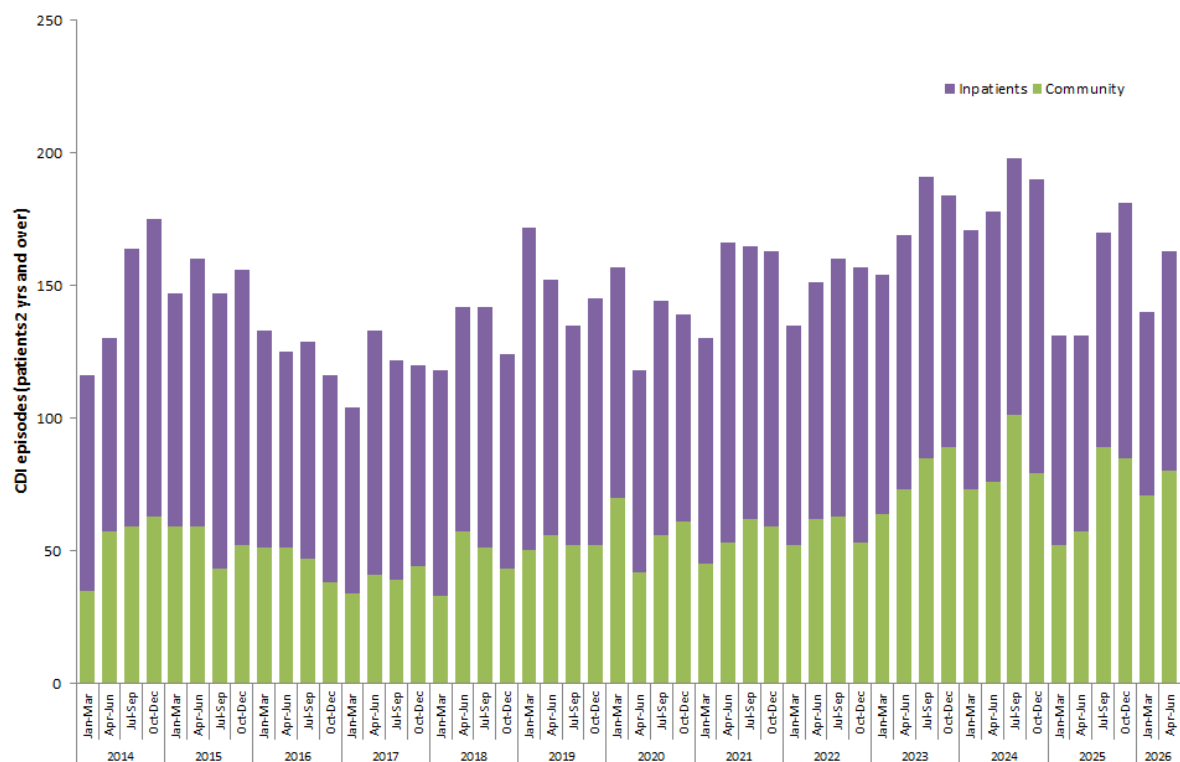


Figure 1: Total CDI episodes, inpatient and community, in Northern Ireland, by quarter (patients $\geq$ 2 years), between 2014 and 2026

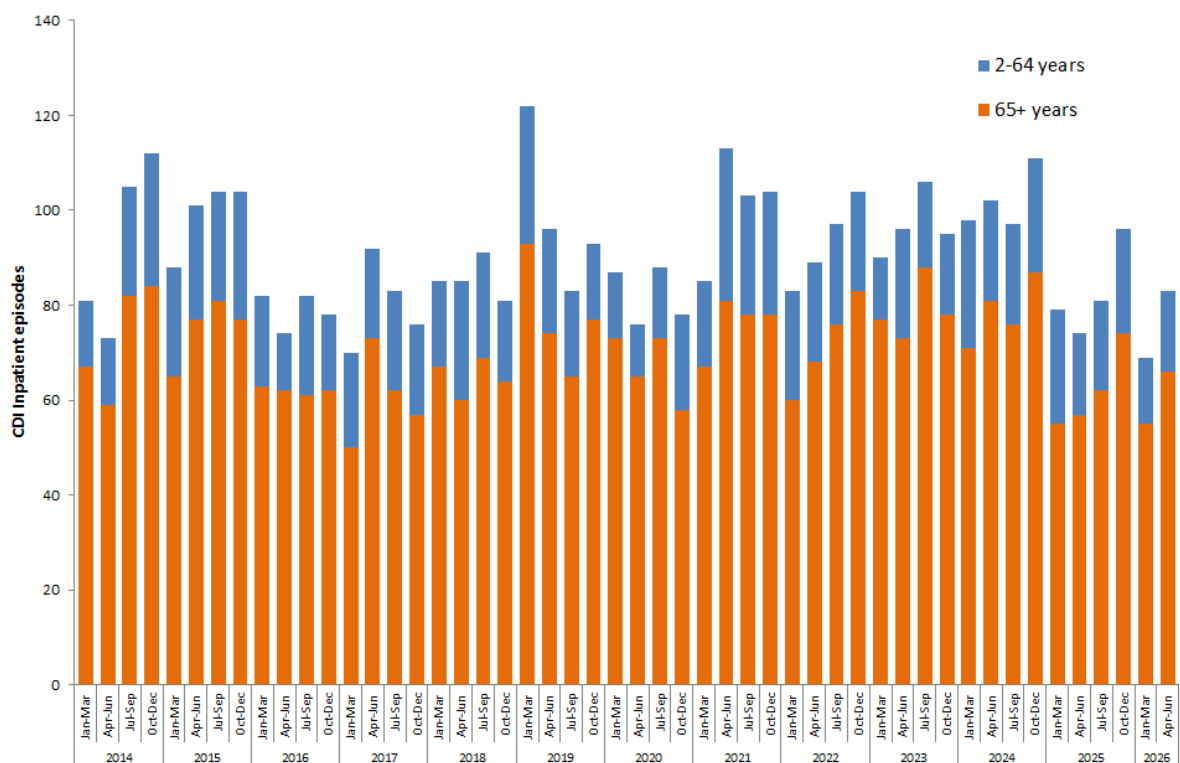


Figure 2a: Total CDI inpatient episodes, by age band, in Northern Ireland, by quarter, between 2014 and 2026

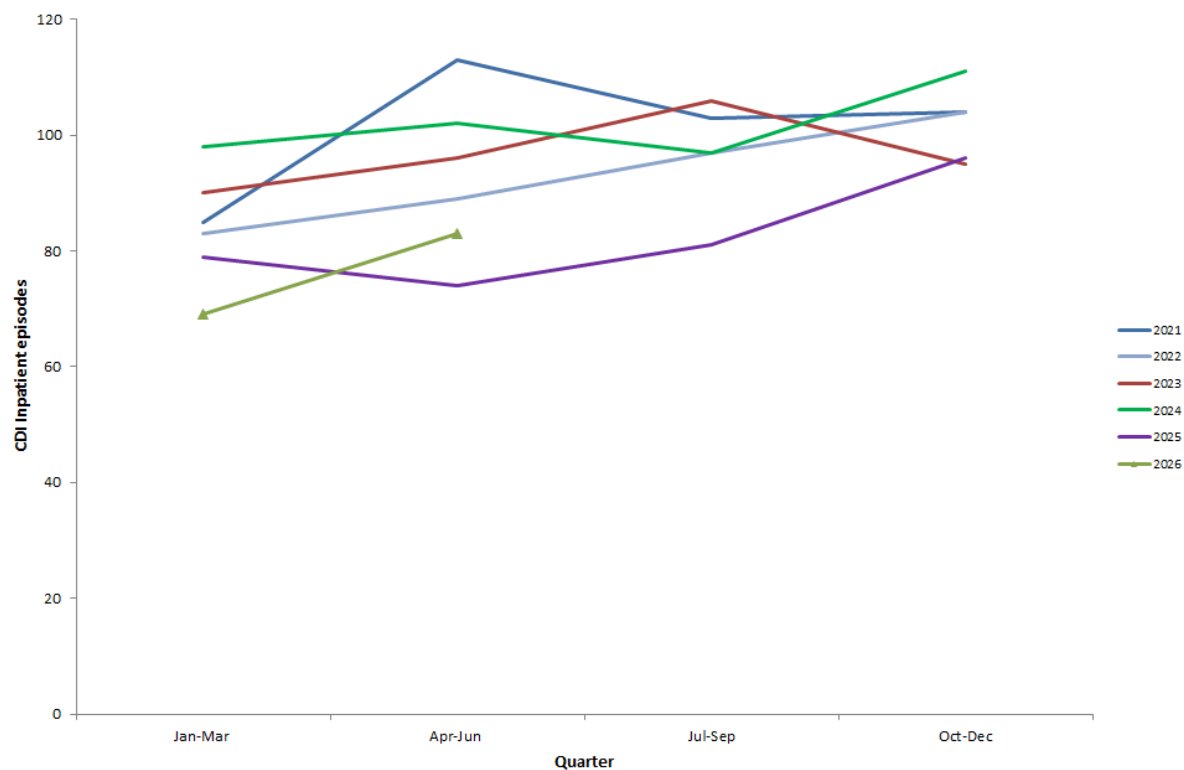


Figure 2b: Total CDI inpatient episodes in Northern Ireland, by quarter (patients $\geq$ 2 years), between 2021 and 2026

Statistical process control (SPC) charts

- SPC charts allow a distinction to be made between natural variation and 'special cause variation', where something unusual may be occurring. Trends in CDI rates since Jan 2014 are shown for each HSCT in appendix B.

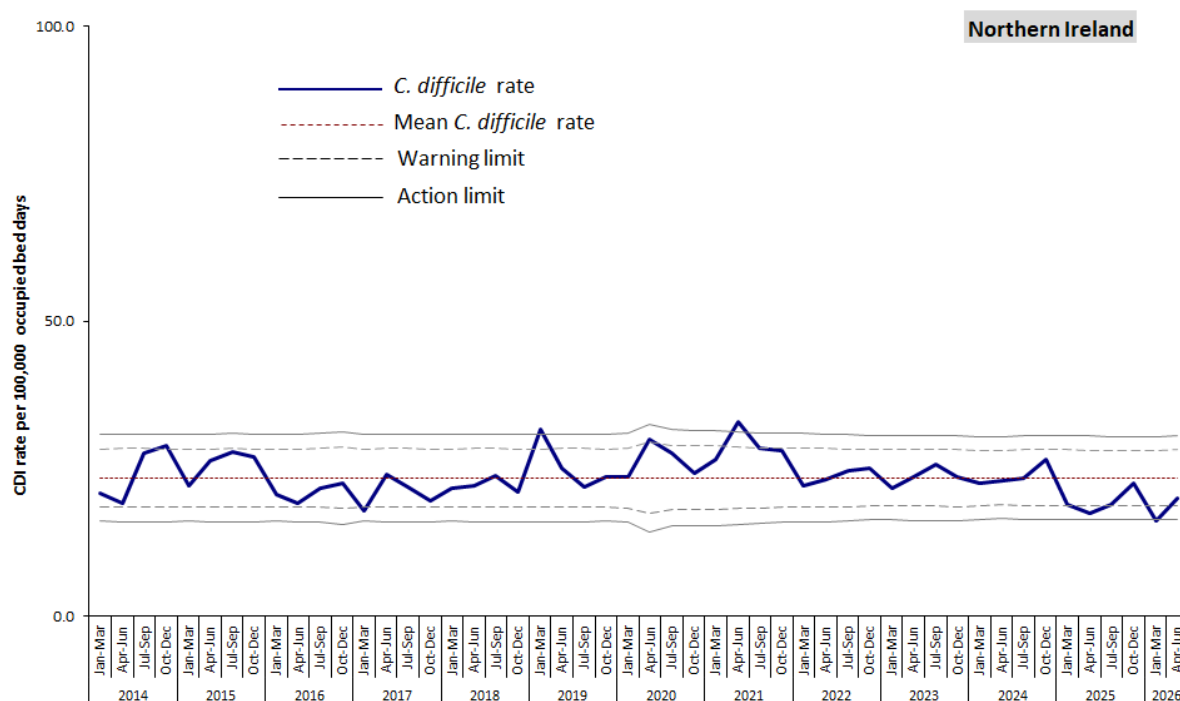


Figure 3: Statistical process control chart for quarterly *C. difficile* rates among inpatients in Northern Ireland aged 2 years and over (for HSCT level, see appendix B)

Results from the NI Ribotype Surveillance Programme

Table 1: A summary of *C. difficile* ribotypes in Hospital Inpatients aged 2 years and over, and the percentage of each against the overall total, in Northern Ireland during routine surveillance, Jul 2025 – Jun 2026.

Ribotype	Jul - Sep 2025		Oct - Dec 2025		Jan - Mar 2026		Apr-Jun 2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
001	1	1.2	1	1.0	0	0.0	4	4.8
002	13	16.0	10	10.4	11	15.9	8	9.6
005	6	7.4	7	7.3	5	7.2	2	2.4
011	4	4.9	0	0.0	2	2.9	4	4.8
014	8	9.9	9	9.4	5	7.2	4	4.8
015	11	13.6	12	12.5	4	5.8	4	4.8
018	1	1.2	2	2.1	2	2.9	3	3.6
020	2	2.5	7	7.3	4	5.8	6	7.2
023	3	3.7	8	8.3	2	2.9	7	8.4
027	2	2.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
078-like*	9	11.1	12	12.5	6	8.7	8	9.6
Other	15	18.5	23	24.0	24	34.8	26	31.3
Not groupable**	5	6.2	4	4.2	3	4.3	4	4.8
Not on ribotype list	1	1.2	1	1.0	0	0.0	2	2.4
Not isolated***	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.4	1	1.2
Total	81		96		69		83	

Table 2: A summary of *C. difficile* ribotypes in Community Patients aged 2 years and over, and the percentage of each against the overall total, in Northern Ireland during routine surveillance, Jul 2025 – Jun 2026.

Ribotype	Jul - Sep 2025		Oct - Dec 2025		Jan - Mar 2026		Apr-Jun 2026	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
001	2	2.2	2	2.4	1	1.4	0	0.0
002	8	9.0	7	8.2	9	12.7	9	11.3
005	9	10.1	11	12.9	4	5.6	9	11.3
011	0	0.0	1	1.2	1	1.4	2	2.5
014	7	7.9	6	7.1	2	2.8	4	5.0
015	9	10.1	8	9.4	8	11.3	7	8.8
018	4	4.5	2	2.4	0	0.0	1	1.3
020	4	4.5	7	8.2	3	4.2	9	11.3
023	8	9.0	7	8.2	4	5.6	4	5.0
027	0	0.0	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
078-like*	9	10.1	5	5.9	5	7.0	8	10.0
Other	21	23.6	19	22.4	28	39.4	20	25.0
Not groupable**	2	2.2	6	7.1	2	2.8	0	0.0
Not on ribotype list	5	5.6	3	3.5	3	4.2	6	7.5
Not isolated***	1	1.1	0	0.0	1	1.4	1	1.3
Total	89		85		71		80	

* 078-Like means this isolate is PCR ribotype 078, or a very closely related (Clade 5) strain e.g. 126,193

** 'Not groupable' ribotypes do not match existing profiles

*** 'Not isolated' indicates isolates that have no ribotype information supplied, with at least six weeks since the date of the specimen.

Table 3: Descriptive data for *C. difficile* ribotypes 002, 078-Like* and 020 in Northern Ireland Hospital Inpatients and Community Patients, Apr-Jun 2026.

		002 (n= 17)		078-like* (n= 16)		020 (n= 15)	
Age							
	range	19-96		36-99		56-89	
	median	79		82		77	
Sex		n	%	n	%	n	%
	Female	12	70.6	12	75.0	7	46.7
	Male	5	29.4	4	25.0	8	53.3
Trust							
	Belfast	3	17.6	5	31.3	1	6.7
	Northern	2	11.8	3	18.8	6	40.0
	South Eastern	4	23.5	4	25.0	3	20.0
	Southern	6	35.3	1	6.3	2	13.3
	Western	2	11.8	3	18.8	3	20.0
Source							
	Inpatient	8	47.1	8	50.0	6	40.0
	Community~	9	52.9	8	50.0	9	60.0

~ Community specimens include those taken from Accident and Emergency (<2days after decision to admit date and those not admitted), Outpatients, GPs, Hospice, Care Homes, Hospital Care at Home and Psychiatric facilities.

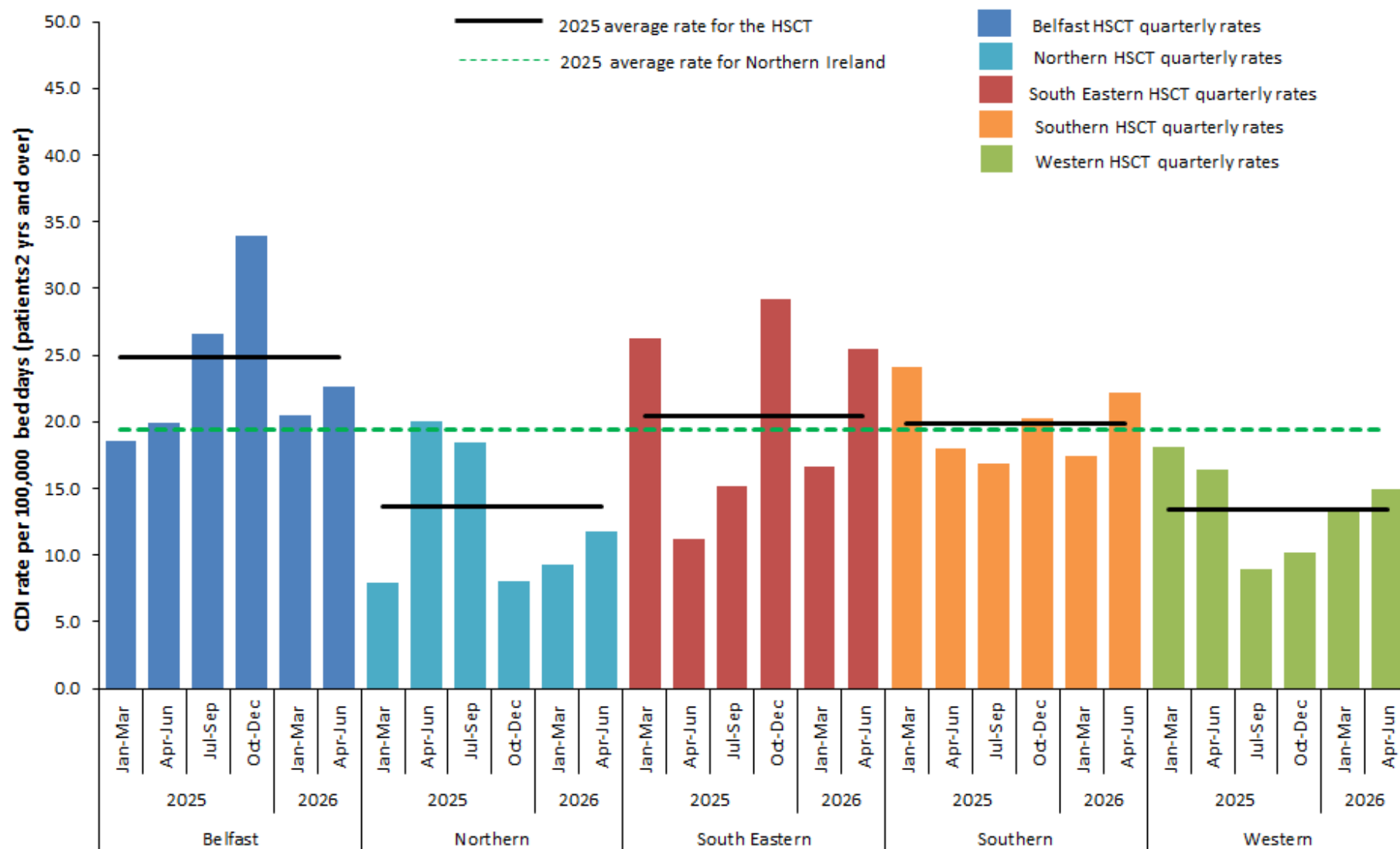


Figure 4: Quarterly rates of *C. difficile* among inpatients aged 2 years and over, by HSCT, January 2025 – June 2026, compared with annual Northern Ireland and HSCT rates for 2025

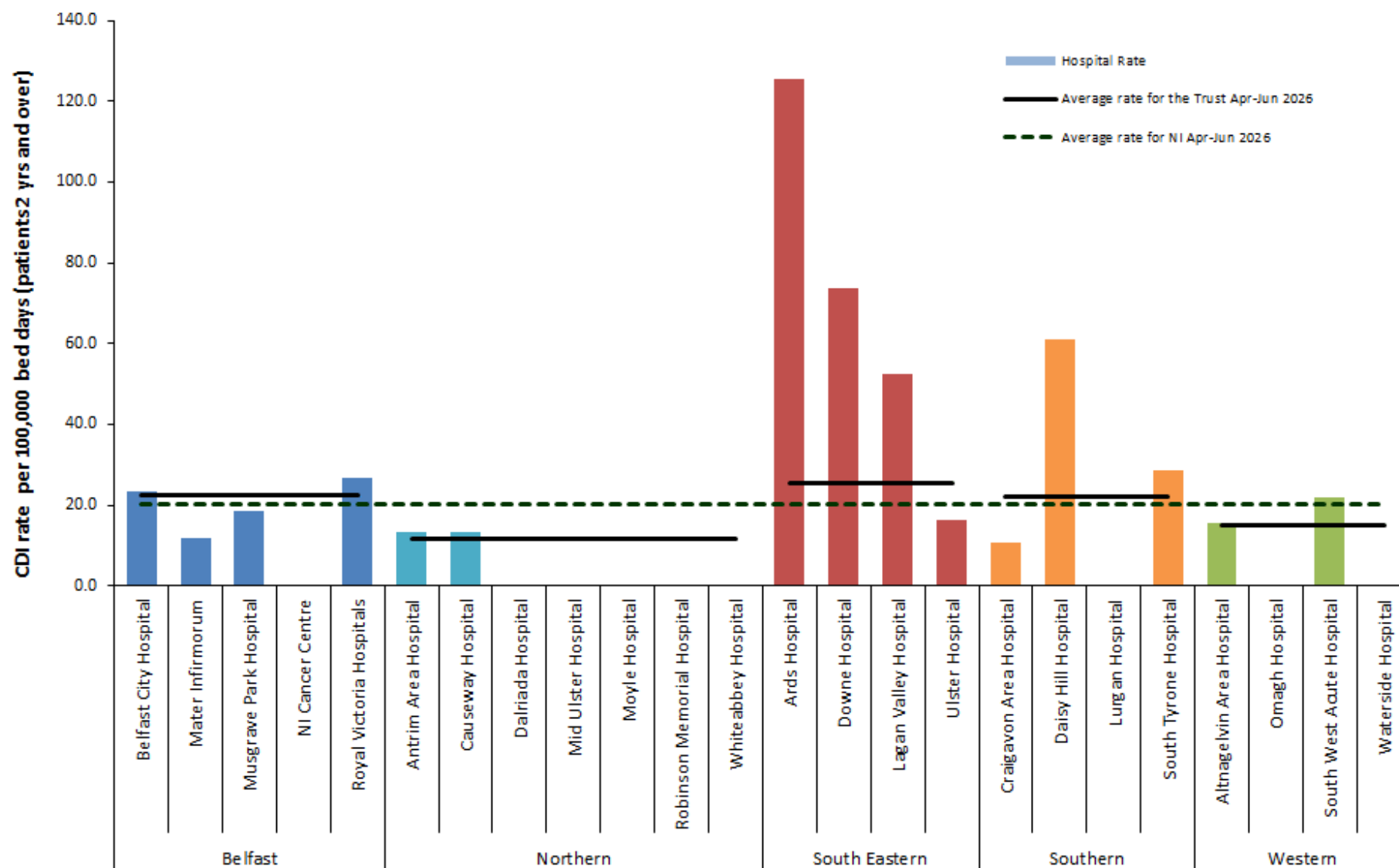


Figure 5: *C. difficile* rates during April-June 2026 Inpatients aged 2 years and over, by hospital, including HSCT rates and average rate for Northern Ireland (see appendix A, Table 4)

Appendix A

Table 4: Quarterly rates* of *C. difficile* reports in patients aged 2 years and over, by hospital, Jul 2025 – Jun 2026.

Hospital	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026
Belfast City Hospital	59.69	20.84	0.00	23.36
Mater Infirmorum	23.22	22.70	33.57	11.71
Musgrave Park Hospital	24.27	30.06	18.74	18.45
NICCO	22.17	22.68	46.27	0.00
Royal Group of Hospitals	22.94	39.78	20.07	26.65
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	26.54	33.93	20.49	22.57
Antrim Area Hospital	18.71	10.73	14.78	13.42
Causeway Hospital	26.02	5.15	0.00	13.13
Dalriada Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mid Ulster Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Moyle Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Robinson Memorial Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whiteabbey Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	18.48	8.08	9.27	11.72
Ards Hospital	62.66	0.00	0.00	125.63
Downe Hospital	76.32	72.78	49.98	73.78
Lagan Valley Hospital	39.96	26.49	0.00	52.26
Ulster Hospital	6.75	27.21	16.99	16.34
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	15.21	29.13	16.64	25.50
Craigavon Area Hospital	14.75	8.24	12.39	10.50
Daisy Hill Hospital	19.20	52.40	39.89	61.11
Lurgan Hospital	41.37	20.24	0.00	0.00
South Tyrone Hospital	0.00	29.39	0.00	28.70
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	16.80	20.26	17.43	22.12
Altnagelvin Area Hospital	10.65	7.81	13.08	15.55
Omagh Hospital	29.48	28.33	0.00	0.00
South West Acute Hospital	5.38	15.86	21.21	21.91
Waterside Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Health & Social Care Trust	8.93	10.18	13.54	14.95
NI TOTAL	18.84	22.45	16.22	20.01

Table 5: Quarterly *C. difficile* reports in patients aged 2 years and over, by HSCT, Jul 2025 – Jun 2026.

Trust	Jul-Sep 2025 Episodes	Oct-Dec 2025 Episodes	Jan-Mar 2026 Episodes	Apr-Jun 2026 Episodes
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	38	47	28	30
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	14	6	7	8
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	11	21	12	19
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	12	15	13	16
Western Health & Social Care Trust	6	7	9	10
NI TOTAL	81	96	69	83
NI community TOTAL	89	85	71	80

Bed day data were not available for SHSCT and WHSCT - provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Apr-Jun 2025).

Appendix A

Table 6: Quarterly rates* of *C. difficile* reports in patients aged 65 years and over, by hospital, Jul 2025 – Jun 2026.

Hospital	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026
Belfast City Hospital	71.53	32.56	0.00	52.75
Mater Infirmorum	25.90	32.88	42.13	16.62
Musgrave Park Hospital	34.88	33.18	26.14	24.81
NICCO	53.50	0.00	45.43	0.00
Royal Group of Hospitals	43.28	60.84	29.35	34.86
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	41.55	47.55	29.12	30.58
Antrim Area Hospital	21.79	13.03	17.77	19.37
Causeway Hospital	23.59	0.00	0.00	17.93
Dalriada Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mid Ulster Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Moyle Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Robinson Memorial Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whiteabbey Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	19.31	8.04	10.71	16.17
Ards Hospital	64.60	0.00	0.00	132.01
Downe Hospital	80.95	55.62	54.88	80.17
Lagan Valley Hospital	45.63	30.27	0.00	44.10
Ulster Hospital	8.19	38.51	23.47	17.88
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	20.63	37.37	21.91	29.29
Craigavon Area Hospital	21.76	7.17	17.73	10.93
Daisy Hill Hospital	10.01	64.39	53.44	93.20
Lurgan Hospital	46.66	22.41	0.00	0.00
South Tyrone Hospital	0.00	31.65	0.00	28.70
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	19.85	23.72	23.12	28.99
Altnagelvin Area Hospital	8.75	12.66	12.54	17.52
Omagh Hospital	29.90	31.44	0.00	0.00
South West Acute Hospital	7.12	14.44	25.45	28.51
Waterside Hospital	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Health & Social Care Trust	9.00	13.38	14.94	18.26
NI TOTAL	23.86	28.16	20.88	25.26

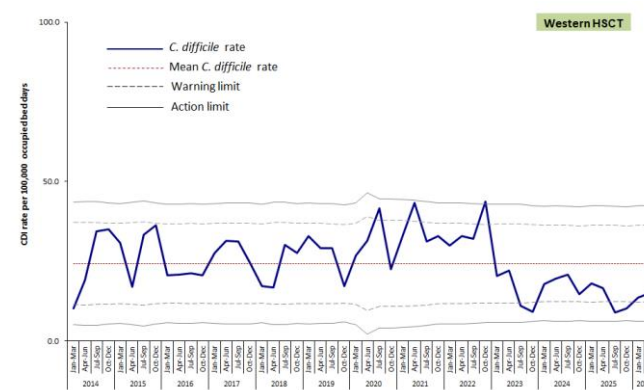
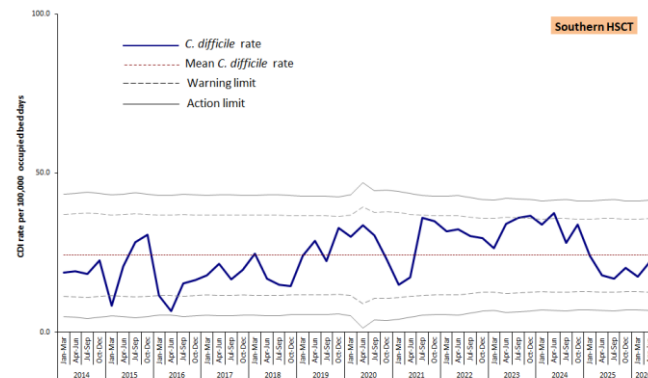
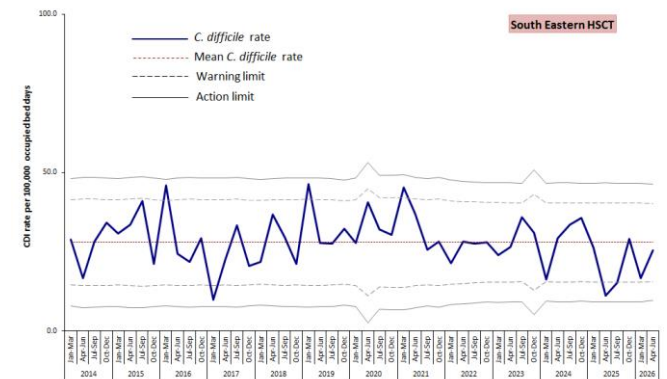
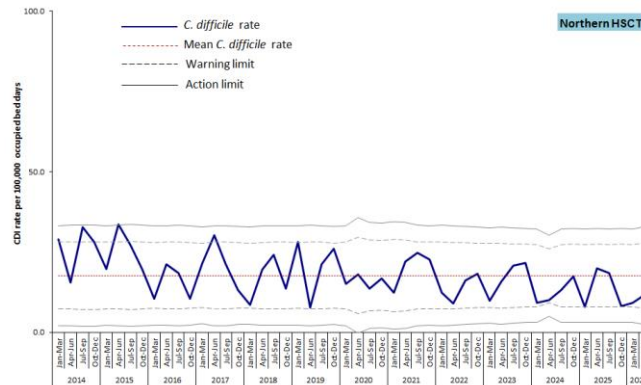
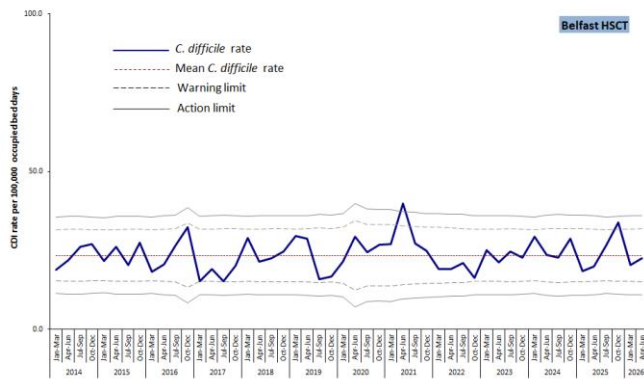
Table 7: Quarterly *C. difficile* reports in patients aged 65 years and over, by HSCT, Jul 2025 – Jun 2026.

Trust	Jul-Sep 2025 Episodes	Oct-Dec 2025 Episodes	Jan-Mar 2026 Episodes	Apr-Jun 2026 Episodes
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	29	35	21	22
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	10	4	5	8
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	10	18	11	15
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	9	11	11	13
Western Health & Social Care Trust	4	6	7	8
NI TOTAL	62	74	55	66
NI community TOTAL	70	62	60	67

Bed day data for patients aged 65 years and over were not available for SHSCT and WHSCT - provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Apr-Jun 2025).

Appendix B

Trends in *C. difficile* rates in inpatients aged 2 years and over, by HSCT and quarter, 2014 – 2026



Appendix C

Table 8: *C. difficile* reports among inpatients* in Northern Ireland aged 2 years and over, by financial year and HSCT

HSCT	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24*	2024/25*	2025/26*
Belfast	132	106	101	128	107	136	121	140
Northern	57	47	34	52	37	49	39	42
South Eastern	82	72	76	69	75	72	90	52
Southern	43	71	50	74	80	99	90	53
Western	65	63	66	80	81	39	49	33
Northern Ireland	379	359	327	403	380	395	389	320

Table 9: *C. difficile* reports among inpatients* in Northern Ireland aged 65 years and over, by financial year and HSCT

HSCT	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24*	2024/25*	2025/26*
Belfast	98	80	80	84	78	96	78	105
Northern	48	39	27	39	31	43	32	31
South Eastern	67	68	68	60	66	63	83	45
Southern	32	57	37	56	63	78	66	43
Western	41	45	51	58	66	30	40	24
Northern Ireland	286	289	263	297	304	310	299	248

*“Inpatient episodes” include all patients categorised as hospital in-patient and ED patients with a positive specimen taken $\geq$ 2 days after the decision to admit date. Previous years include inpatients only.