

# Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network (PICANet)

## National Paediatric Critical Care Audit State of the Nations Report 2025

### An overview of paediatric critical care in 2024

There were 18,021 PICU admissions for children aged 0-15 years in 2024. Around two thirds of these were from the same hospital and one-third were from another hospital with 39% coming from theatre and recovery, 23% from A&E and 21% from a ward.

During their PICU stay, 61% of admissions required invasive ventilation and 21% required non-invasive ventilation, 32.2% required vasoactive treatment, 1.6% received ECMO and 3.4% needed renal support.

Most children survived their PICU admission (96.1%) and of these a small percentage were discharged for palliative care (1.2%). Where the child survived PICU, 82.1% of admissions were discharged to the same hospital and 12.1% to another hospital. Most children were discharged to a ward (79.2%) or HDU (15%).

Of the 689 admissions where the child died in PICU: treatment was withdrawn in two-thirds of cases; treatment was limited in 17.1%; death by neurological criteria occurred in 7% and death was due to failed cardiopulmonary resuscitation in a further 9.4%. Thirty (4.3%) of those who died were transplant donors.

In addition to the 18,021 admissions for children to PICU in 2024, there were 449 children admitted to adult ICUs across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with about half (44%) for children aged 10 years or under. Admission of children to adult ICU was most common in November, December and January (respectively).

In 2024, there were 5,505 transports reported to PICANet of which the majority (n=4,059, 73.7%) were non-elective transports to PICU.