

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

National Organ Donation Committee

Investigating the increase in DBD solid organ donors

1 Background

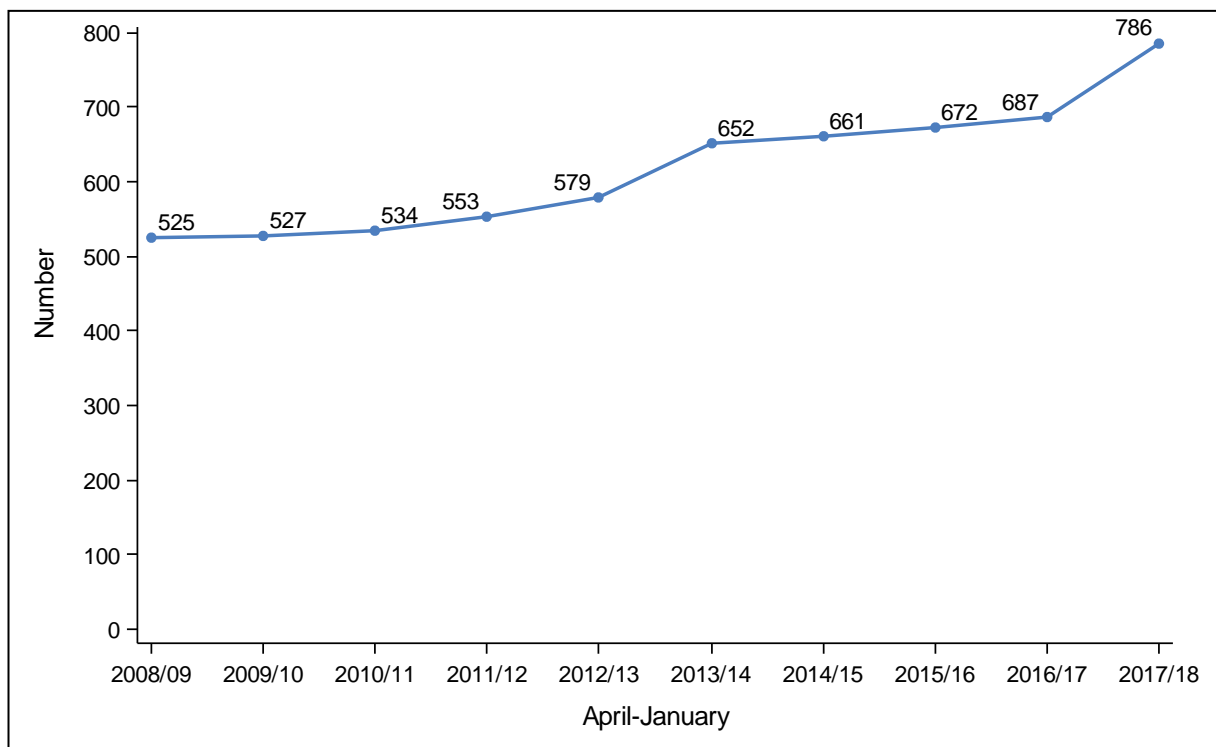
From 1 April to 31 January 2017/18 there have been 786 DBD solid organ donors. The number of donors reported in this period is a 14.4% increase on that reported for the comparable period in 2016/17.

Previous increases in DBD donor numbers for the April to January period for the past ten financial years ranges from an increase of 0.4% to an increase of 12.6%. **Figure 1** shows the numbers reported each year.

Although the percentage increase in DBD donors observed for this year to date is the highest reported in the past ten years it is not the only increase of such magnitude. An increase from 579 DBD donors in 2012/13 to 652 in 2013/14 was a record until 2017/18.

This paper builds on previous investigations into the rise in DBD by exploring different aspects of the patient group to further understand why this most recent rise has occurred.

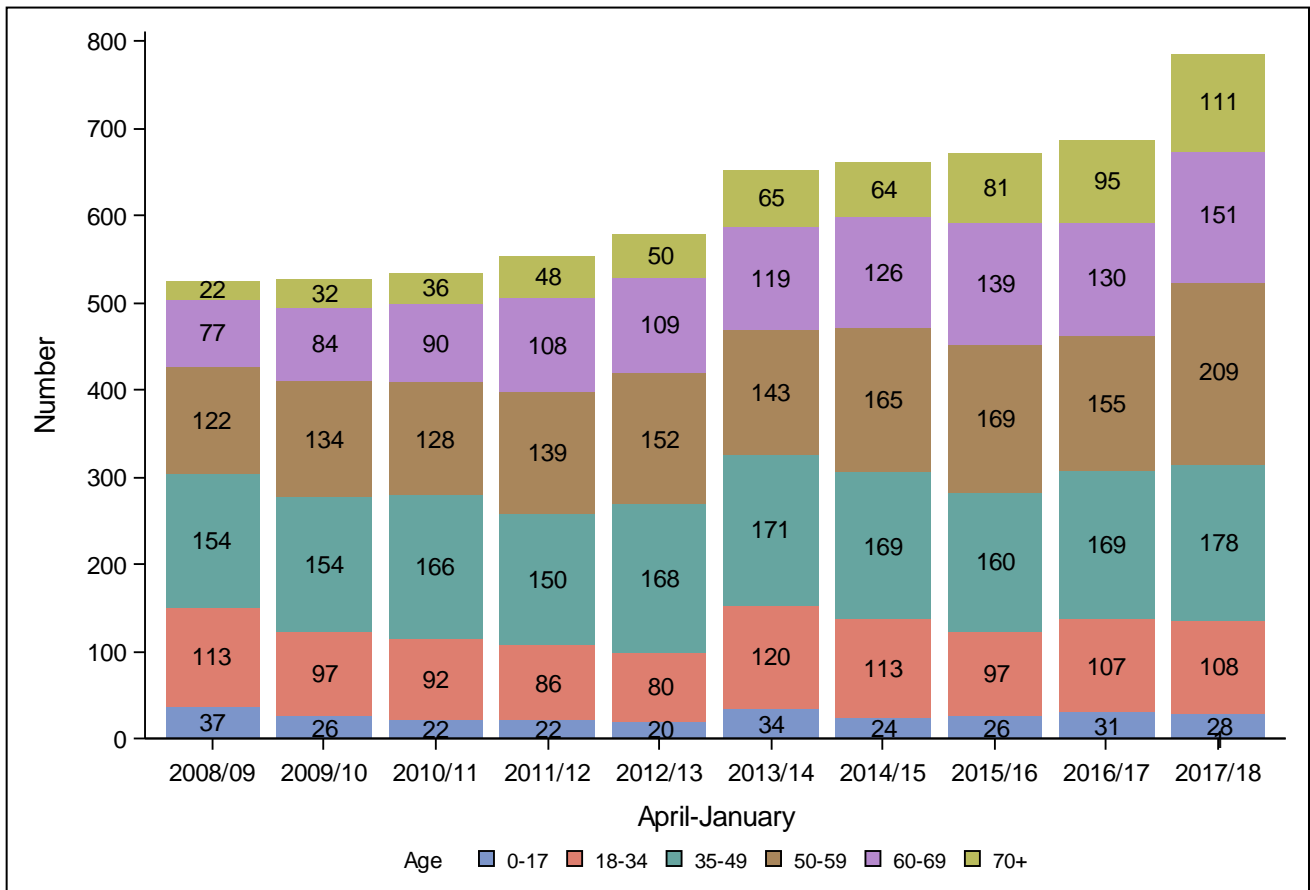
**Figure 1 – Number of DBD solid organ donors
April – January, 2008/09 – 2017/18**



2 Age

There has been much change to the distribution of ages of DBD donors in the past ten years, this data is presented in **Figure 2**. This data shows that there is an increasing number of donors from the three eldest age groups; 50-59, 60-69, and 70+, with a smaller increase also being observed in the 35-49 group. DBD donor numbers from other age groups remain fairly constant.

**Figure 2 – Age of DBD solid organ donors
April – January, 2008/09 – 2017/18**



3 Trust/board level

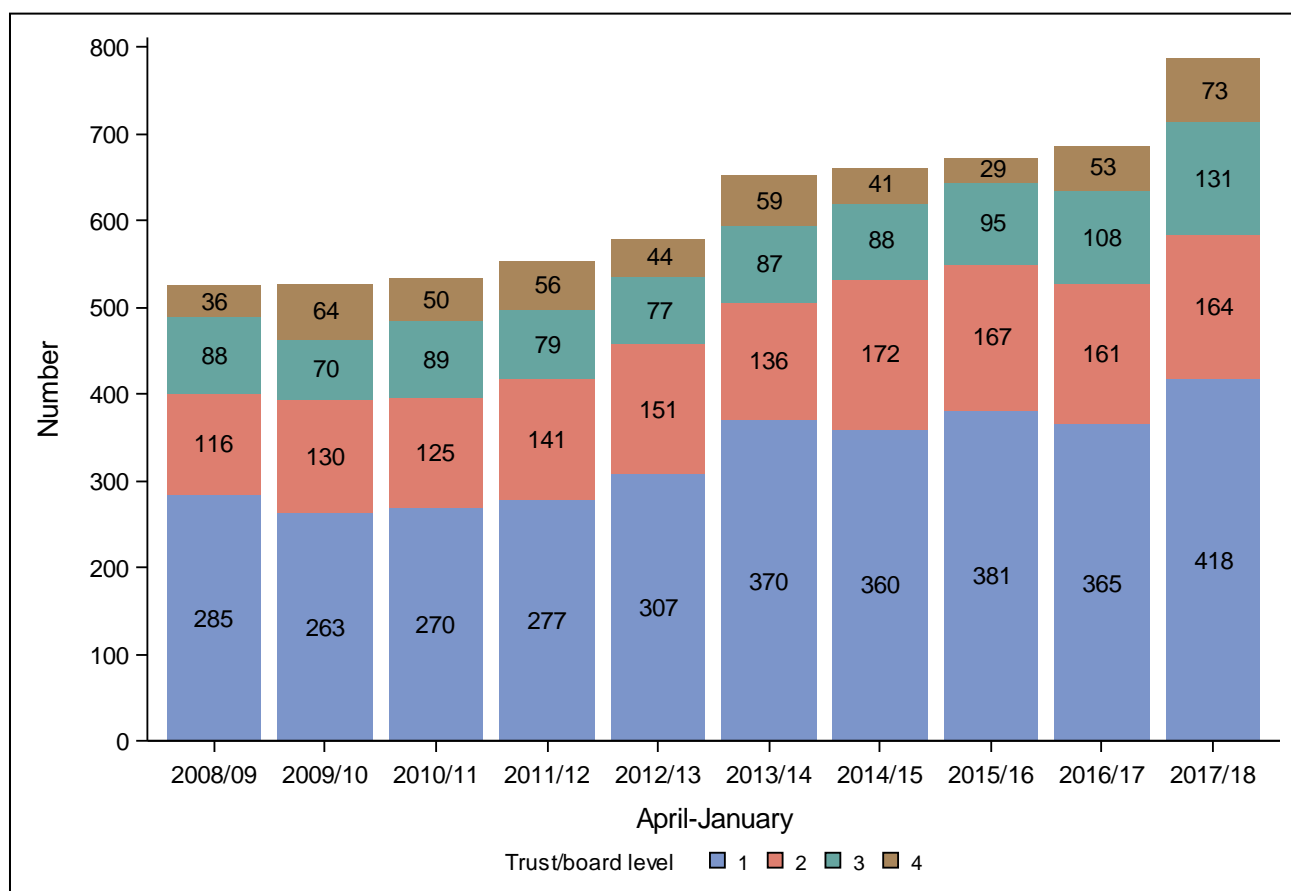
Trust/board levels are allocated based on the number of proceeding organ donors facilitated in recent years and are reviewed regularly. The most recent level allocation was carried out in 2016 based on average donor numbers for 2014/15 and 2015/16. **Table 1** details how levels were allocated.

Table 1 – Trust/board level categories

Trust/board level	Criteria	Number of trust/boards
1	12 or more proceeding donors on average per year	33
2	5-12 proceeding donors on average per year	45
3	3-5 proceeding donors on average per year	47
4	<3 proceeding donors on average per year	46

Figure 3 shows DBD solid organ donor numbers using the current level allocation. This figure shows that the increase observed in the most recent year is attributable to all levels however increases in levels 3 and 4 are more marked.

Figure 3 – Trust/board level of hospital facilitating DBD solid organ donors April – January, 2008/09 – 2017/18



4 Summary

DBD donation in the UK continues to increase at a faster rate than any other year in the last 10 years. The increase appears to be most significantly in those over 50 years old and in the smaller level trusts/boards, however the reason for the increase is still not evident. Further investigation will be carried out at the end of the financial year to try to identify the cause.

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