

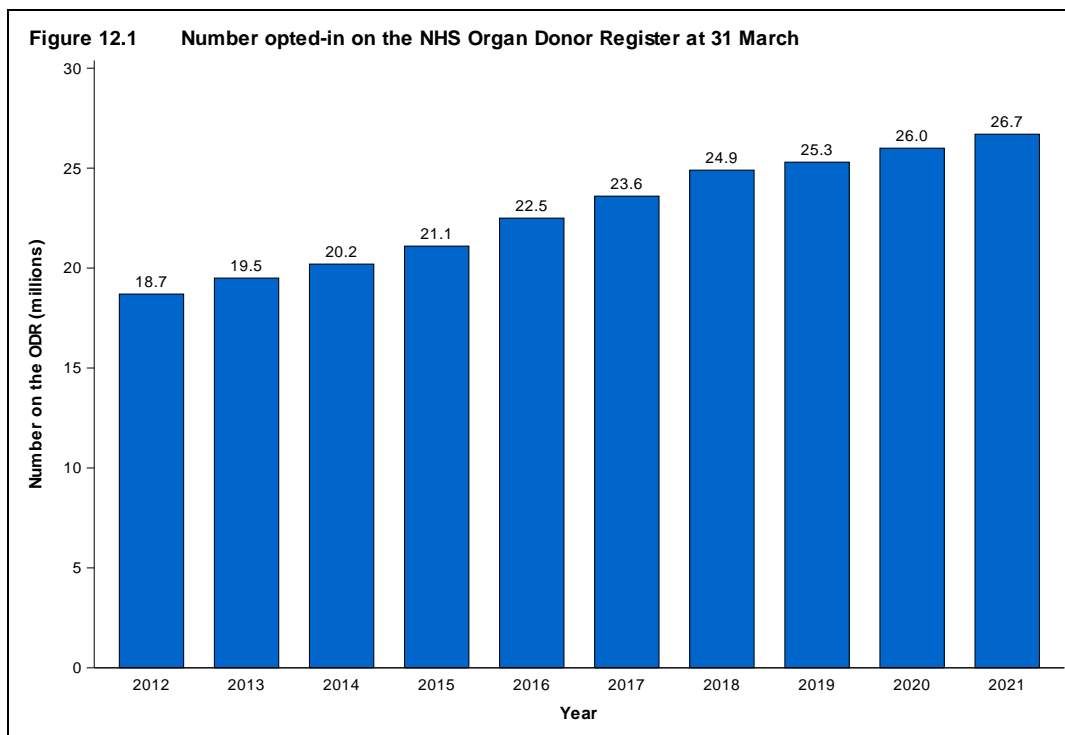
NHS Organ Donor Register

Key messages

- Opt-Out legislation introduced in England in May 2020 and in Scotland in March 2021
- 26.7 million people were on the opt-in ODR at March 2021 (39% of the population)
- 2.0 million people were on the opt-out ODR at March 2021, with a further 171 appointed representative registrations
- 51% of the 1,180 deceased organ donors last year were on the opt-in ODR
- 64% of registrations last year were through the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

By the end of March 2021, the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) held just under 26.7 million opt-in registrations. A summary of the number of registrations at the end of each financial year from 31 March 2012 to 31 March 2021 is shown in **Figure 12.1**. Opt-in registrations have seen a 2.7% increase this year, compared to a 2.8% increase in the previous year.

Of the 1,180 deceased organ donors in 2020-2021, 51% were registered on the ODR compared with 20% of organ donors in 2019-2020. This increase in the proportion of organ donors registered on the ODR could be due to the COVID-19 pandemic or the introduction of opt-out legislation in England in May 2020 and Scotland in March 2021.



Those registered on the ODR come from all parts of the UK. **Table 12.1** shows the percentage of the population registered (opt-in) in each country/NHS region at 31 March 2021, and the number of opt-in registrants. No adjustment has been made for any differences in demographics of the populations.

Table 12.2 shows the number of opt-out registrants in each country/NHS region at 31 March 2021. The proportion of the population that registered opt-out was 6% in Wales, and less for other countries and NHS regions. In the time period, Wales, England and Scotland have opt-out legislation, but it is possible for people elsewhere in the UK to opt-out. There has been an increase in opt-out registrations from across the UK ahead of the implementation of opt-out. In addition, there have been 171 appointed representative registrations.

Table 12.1 Opt-in registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2021, by country/ NHS region

Country/ NHS region of residence	N	Registrants pmp	Proportion registered
North East and Yorkshire	3,347,364	389,228	39%
North West	2,536,629	359,296	36%
Midlands	3,707,591	349,773	35%
East of England	2,667,930	408,565	41%
London	2,713,587	302,856	30%
South East	3,927,980	441,346	44%
South West	2,725,831	484,162	48%
England	21,626,912	384,205	38%
Isle of Man	13,752	171,900	17%
Channel Islands	29,065	170,971	17%
Wales	1,323,716	420,227	42%
Scotland	2,770,976	507,505	51%
Northern Ireland	924,298	489,047	49%
TOTAL¹	26,746,406	398,962	40%

¹ Includes 57,687 registrants where the postcode was unknown

Table 12.2 Opt-out registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2021, by country/ NHS region

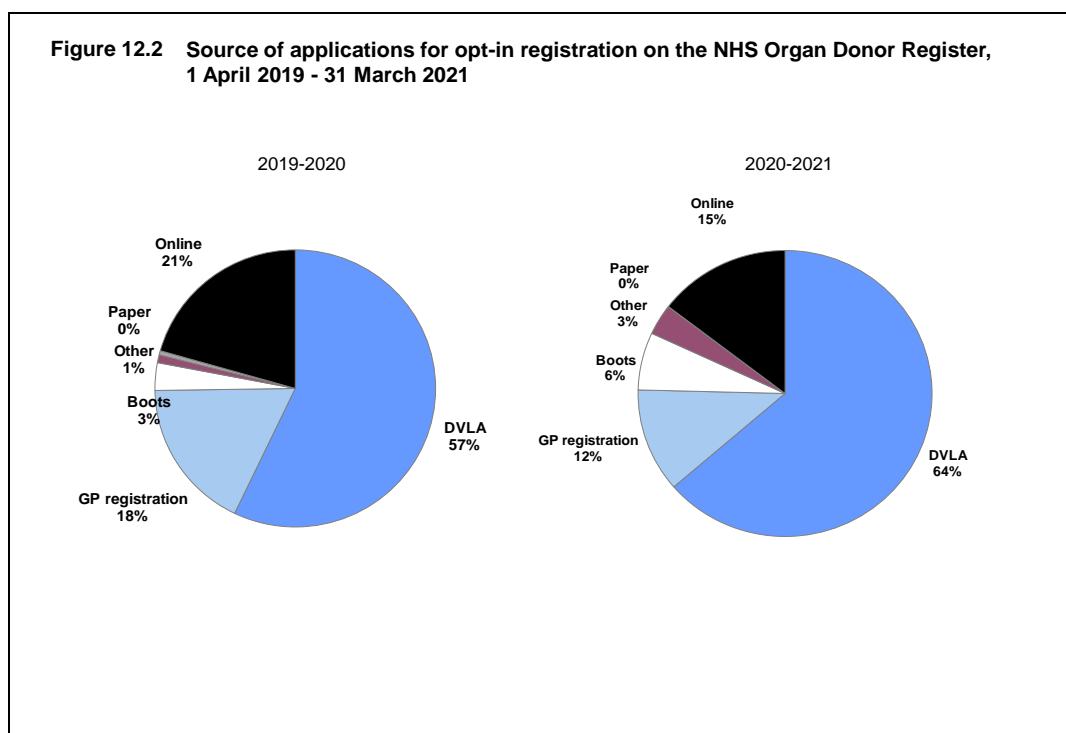
Country/ NHS region of residence	N	Registrants pmp	Proportion registered
North East and Yorkshire	231,114	26,874	2.7%
North West	225,603	31,955	3.2%
Midlands	354,738	33,466	3.3%
East of England	143,913	22,039	2.2%
London	508,461	56,748	5.7%
South East	153,445	17,241	1.7%
South West	73,140	12,991	1.3%
England	1,690,414	30,030	3.0%
Isle of Man	180	2,250	0.2%
Channel Islands	1,735	10,206	1.0%
Wales	194,957	61,891	6.2%
Scotland	139,178	25,491	2.5%
Northern Ireland	2,867	1,517	0.2%
TOTAL¹	2,029,561	30,274	3.0%

¹ Includes 230 registrants where the postcode was unknown

There are a number of registration routes to opt-in on the ODR: when registering as a patient with a General Practitioner (via the GMS1 paper form); with driving licence applications and other driving services (via the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)); the NHS App, when applying for a Boots Advantage Card; online registrations via the NHSBT Organ Donation website (www.organdonation.nhs.uk); Wales and Scotland organ donation websites, NHSBT paper forms and by telephone. There are also various external links delivering traffic to the NHSBT Organ Donation website (such as in newspapers and radio).

The source of applications for opt-in registration on the ODR is illustrated in **Figure 12.2**. This figure shows that 12% of registrations in 2020-2021 arrived by means of registering through a GP, 64% from driving licence applications and reminders through the DVLA and 15% online through the Organ Donation website.

Figure 12.2 Source of applications for opt-in registration on the NHS Organ Donor Register, 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2021



At the end of March 2021, 85% of registrants, where the information was available, indicated a willingness to donate all organs and tissue (kidneys, pancreas, heart, lungs, liver and corneas). However, of those who were not willing to donate all organs, the majority (68%) did not wish to donate their corneas. Of the restricted registrations, only 6% (less than 1% of the total register) did not wish to donate their kidneys. Willingness to donate, by organ type, is shown in **Table 12.3**.

Table 12.3 Preparedness of those opted-in on the NHS Organ Donor Register at 31 March 2021 to donate different organs¹

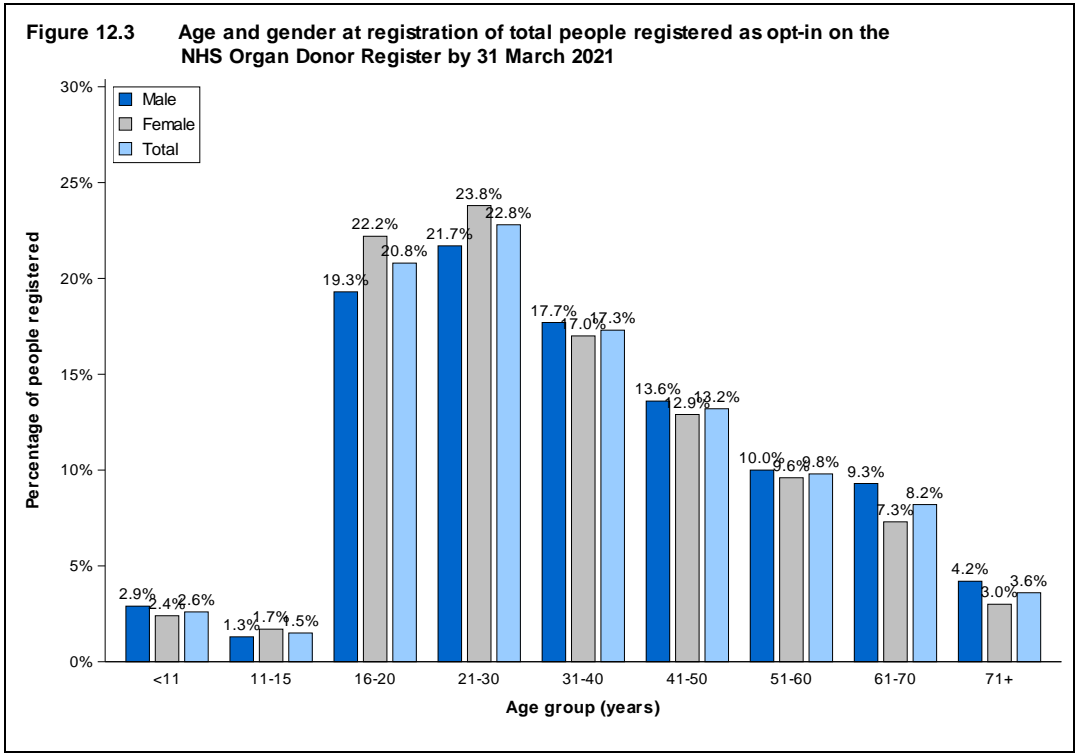
Registrants prepared to donate all organs 85%

Of those not prepared to donate all organs ('restricted donors'):

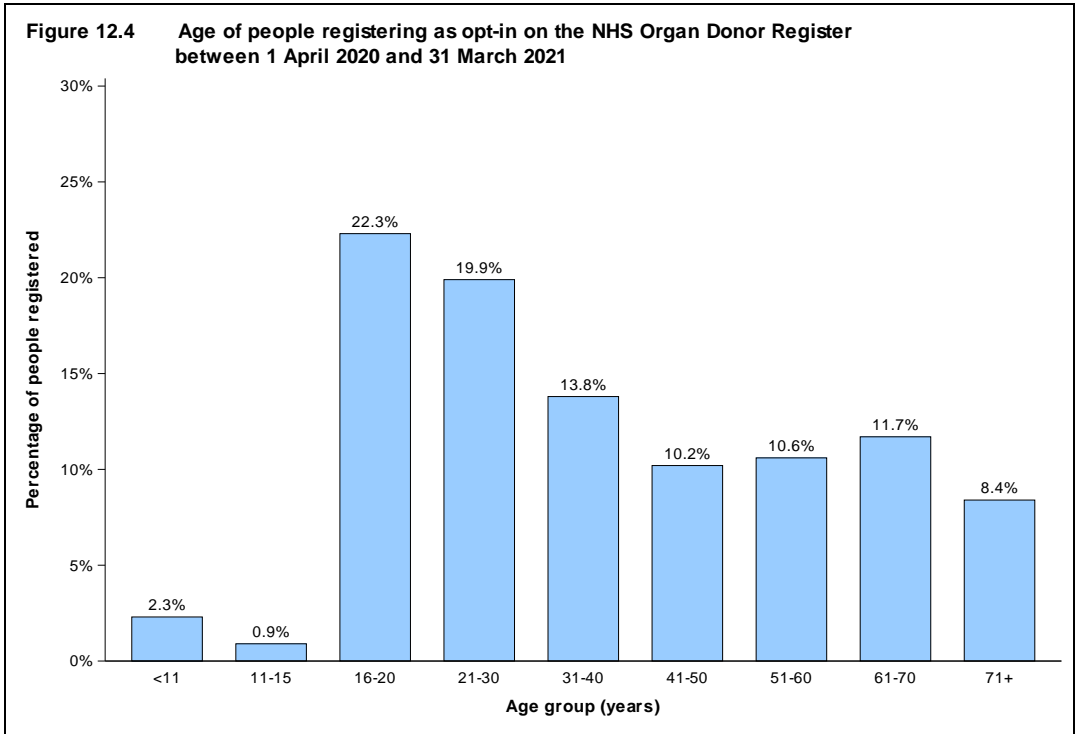
Not prepared to donate:	% of 'Restricted donors'	% of all registrants
Kidney	6	0.9
Pancreas	17	2.5
Heart	17	2.4
Lungs	16	2.3
Liver	10	1.5
Corneas	68	10.0

¹ Complete information was not available for approximately 6% of the total register

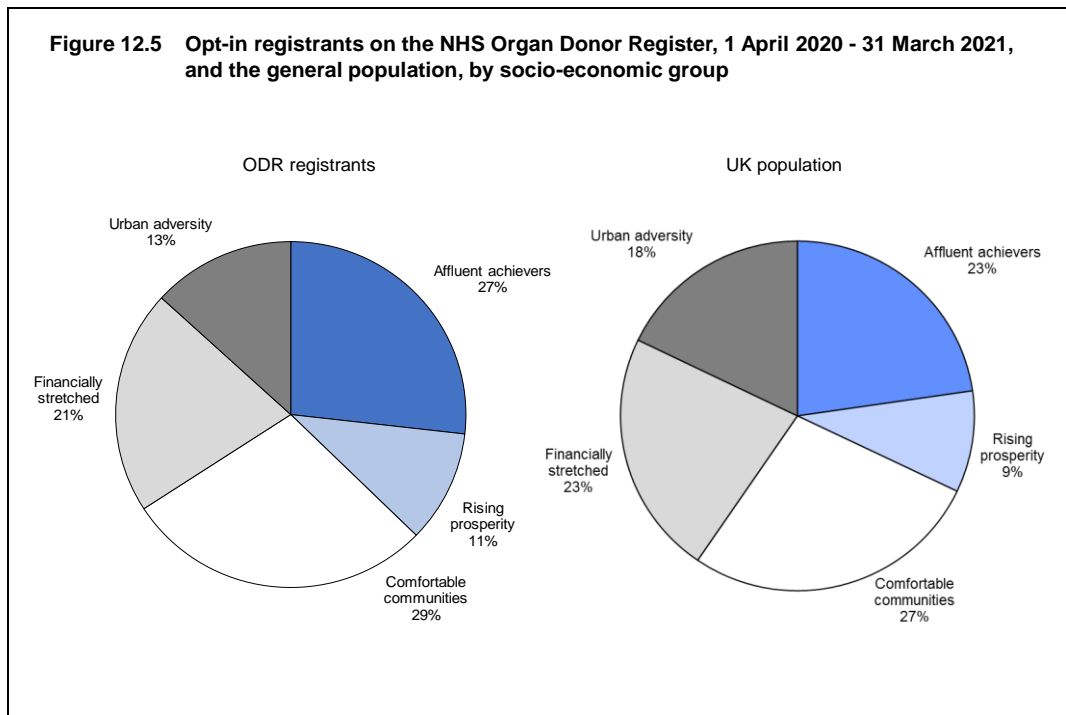
People of all ages are eligible for organ donor registration: the distribution of age by sex at time of opt-in registration is shown in **Figure 12.3**. The highest proportion of registrations (21.7% of males and 23.8% of females) are in the 21-30 years age group. The lowest proportions are in the under 11 and 11-15 age groups. Of all people registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register, 47% are male and 53% are female (<1% unknown).



Additionally, the distribution of age of people registering opt-in on the ODR during the latest financial year, 2020-2021, is shown in **Figure 12.4**. The highest proportion of registrations in this year were in the 16-20 years age group. Of the registrants in 2020-2021, 50% were male and 50% were female.



The breakdown of opt-in registrants on the ODR during 2020-2021 by socio-economic group (using the ACORN¹ classification, based on postcode) is shown in **Figure 12.5**, where it is compared with the general UK population. Though having similar distributions, there were proportionately more 'affluent achievers' and less 'urban adversity' or 'financially stretched' on the ODR than in the general population.



¹ ACORN data supplied by CACI Ltd.