

NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR)

Key messages

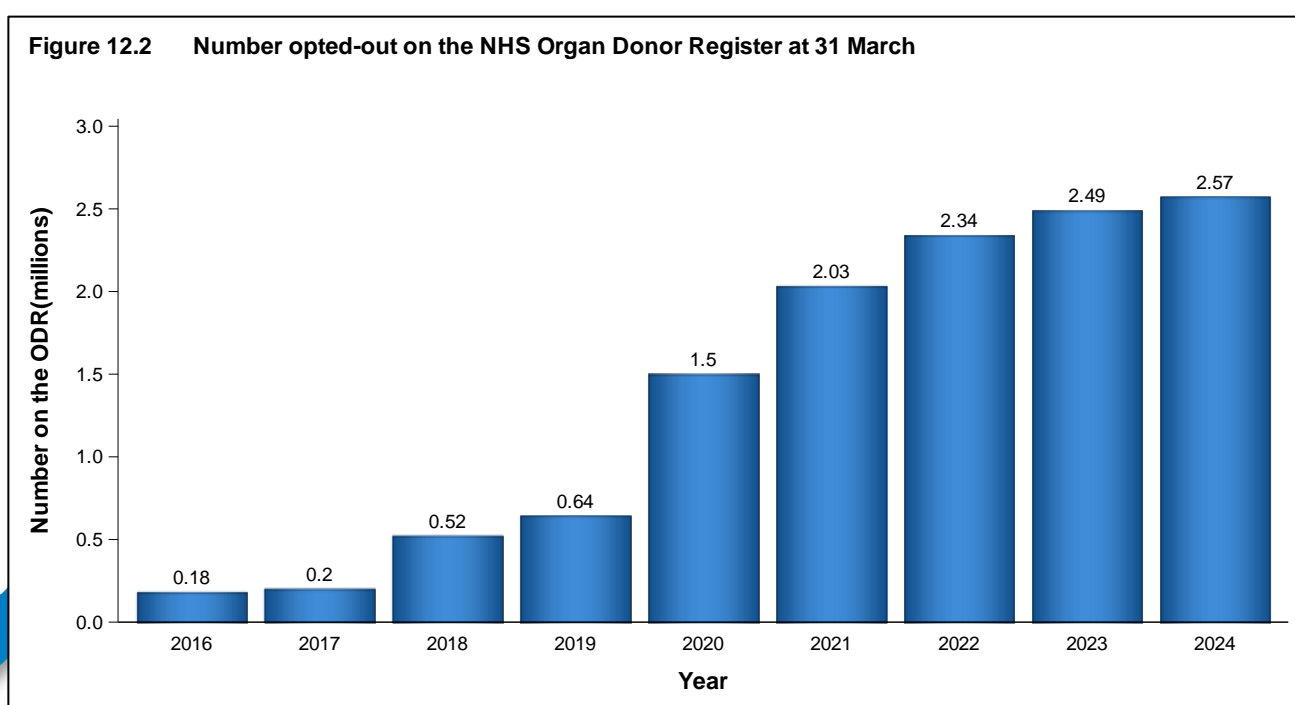
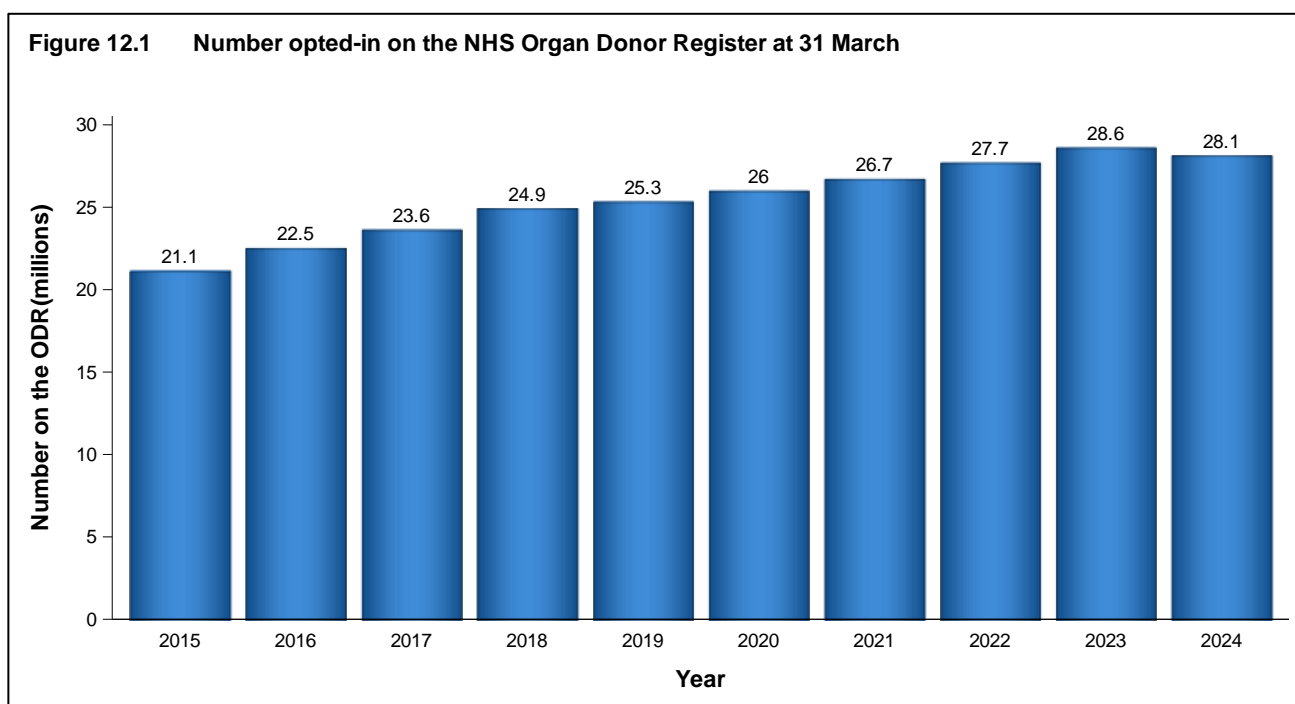
- Opt out legislation has been implemented in Wales (2015), Jersey (2019), England (2020), Scotland (2021), Guernsey (2023) and most recently Northern Ireland on 1 June 2023
- 28.1 million people were on the opt-in ODR at March 2024 (42% of the population)
- 2.6 million people were on the opt-out ODR at March 2024
- 182 people were appointed representative registrations on the ODR at March 2024
- 56% of the 1,510 deceased organ donors last year were on the opt-in ODR
- 5% of ODR registrations last year were through the NHS App

It should be noted that an improved method of recording registrant deaths was implemented in 2023, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of registrants recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register, but more accurately reflecting the number of living registrants.

By the end of March 2024, the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) held just over 28.1 million opt-in registrations. A summary of the number of registrations at the end of each financial year from 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2024, is shown in **Figure 12.1**.

By the end of March 2024, the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) held just under 2.6 million opt-out registrations. A summary of the number of opt-out registrations at the end of each financial year from 31 March 2016 to 31 March 2024 is shown in **Figure 12.2**.

Of the 1,510 deceased organ donors in 2023-2024, 56% were registered on the ODR, representing an increase of 3% from 2022-2023.



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 2024, 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 2024. The proportion of the population that registered an opt-out was 6.0% in Wales, and less for other countries and NHS regions. In the time period, Wales, England, Scotland, Guernsey and Northern Ireland have opt-out legislation in place, but it is possible for people anywhere 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 182 appointed representative registrations. An appointed representative(s), in circumstances where donation is possible, will be asked if organs should be donated.

Table 12.1. Opt-in registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2024, by country/ NHS region

Country/ NHS region of residence	N	Registrants pmp	Proportion registered
North East and Yorkshire	3,517,089	427,870	43%
North West	2,655,632	353,143	35%
Midlands	3,903,255	356,136	36%
East of England	2,801,577	437,746	44%
London	2,833,568	319,455	32%
South East	4,114,588	438,655	44%
South West	2,868,440	497,993	50%
England	22,694,149	397,376	40%
Isle of Man	56,399	704,988	70%
Channel Islands	30,109	177,112	18%
Wales	1,378,464	440,404	44%
Scotland	2,884,003	529,175	53%
Northern Ireland	1,048,273	548,834	55%
TOTAL¹	28,147,817	416,388	42%

¹ Includes 56,420 registrants where the postcode was unknown

Table 12.2. Opt-out registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2023, by country/ NHS region

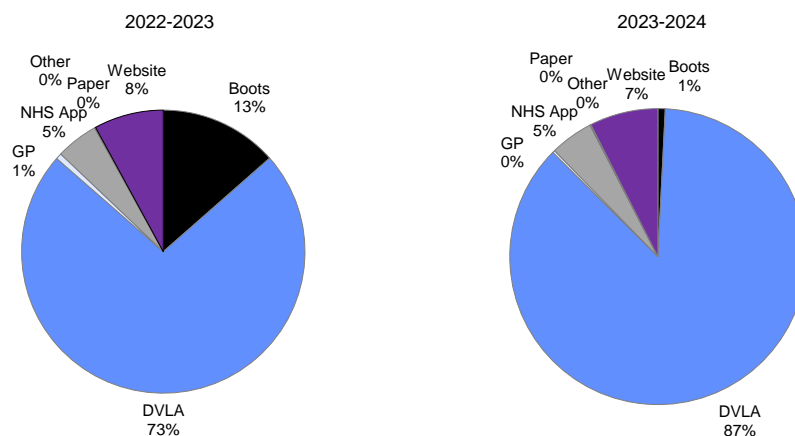
Country/ NHS region of residence	N	Registrants pmp	Proportion registered
North East and Yorkshire	303,351	36,904	3.7%
North West	281,256	37,401	3.7%
Midlands	450,332	41,089	4.1%
East of England	203,014	31,721	3.2%
London	593,659	66,929	6.7%
South East	226,166	24,112	2.4%
South West	117,373	20,377	2.0%
England	2,175,151	38,087	3.8%
Isle of Man	681	8,513	0.9%
Channel Islands	2,328	13,694	1.4%
Wales	188,578	60,249	6.0%
Scotland	179,168	32,875	3.3%
Northern Ireland	22,330	11,691	1.2%
TOTAL¹	2,568,480	37,995	3.8%

¹ Includes 244 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 12.3**. This figure shows that 87% of registrations in 2023-2024 arrived by means of registering through driving licence applications and reminders through the DVLA and 7% online through the Organ Donation website. There has been no change in applications for opt-in registrations through the NHS App, 5% in 2023-2024 and in 2022-2023.

Figure 12.3 Source of applications for opt-in registration on the NHS Organ Donor Register, 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2024



At the end of March 2024, 81% 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 (64%) did not wish to donate their corneas. Of the restricted registrations, only 6% (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 2024 to donate different organs¹

Registrants prepared to donate all organs 81%

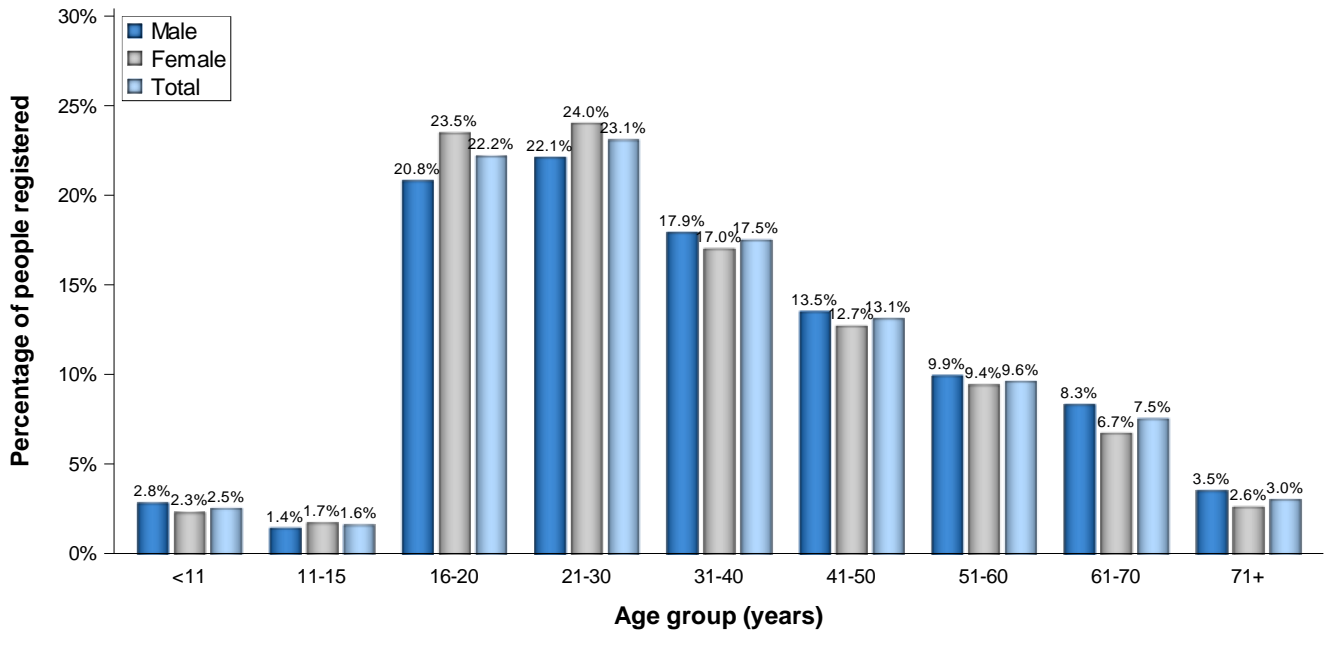
Of those not prepared to donate all organs ('restricted donors'):

Not prepared to donate:	% of 'Restricted donors'	% of all registrants
Kidney	6	0.8
Pancreas	15	2.3
Heart	15	2.3
Lungs	15	2.2
Liver	9	1.4
Corneas	64	9.5

¹ Complete information was not available for approximately 4% of the total register

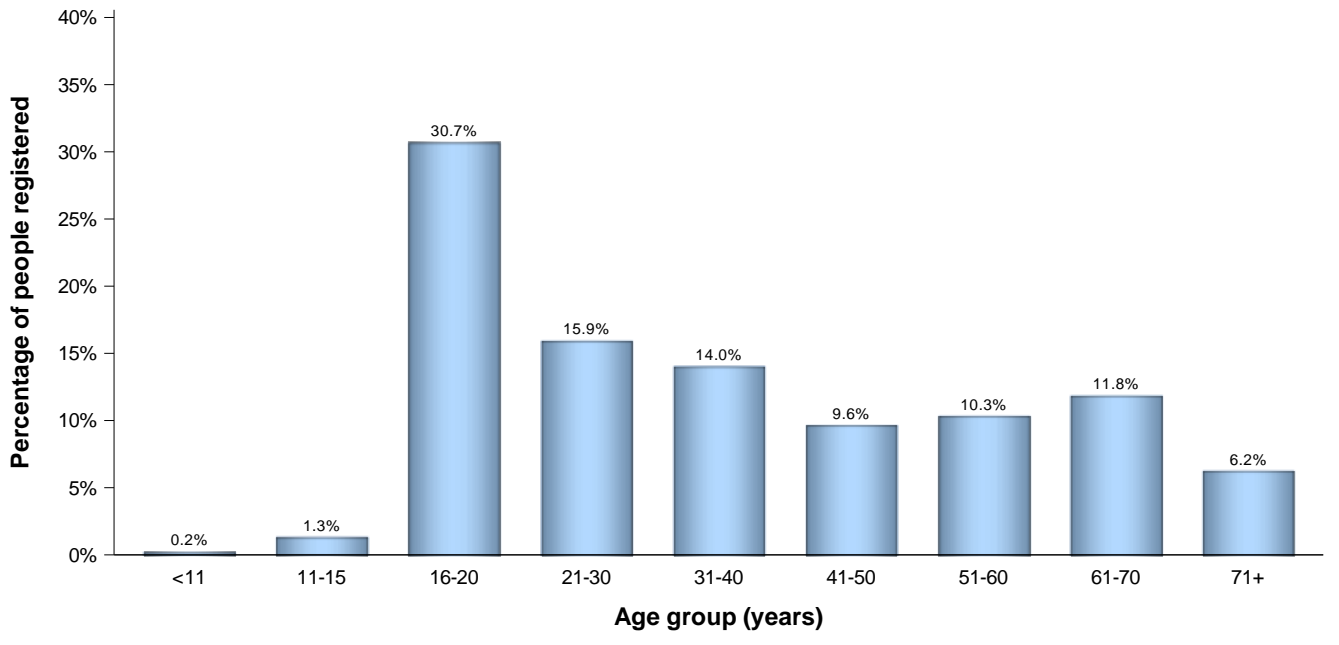
People of all ages are eligible for organ donor registration: the distribution of age by sex at time of opt-in registration is shown in **Figure 12.4**. The highest proportion of registrations (22.1% of males and 24.0% of females) are in the 21-30 years age group. The lowest proportions are in the under 16 age groups. Of all people registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register, 46% are male and 53% are female (1% unknown).

Figure 12.4 Age and gender at registration of total people registered as opt-in on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2024

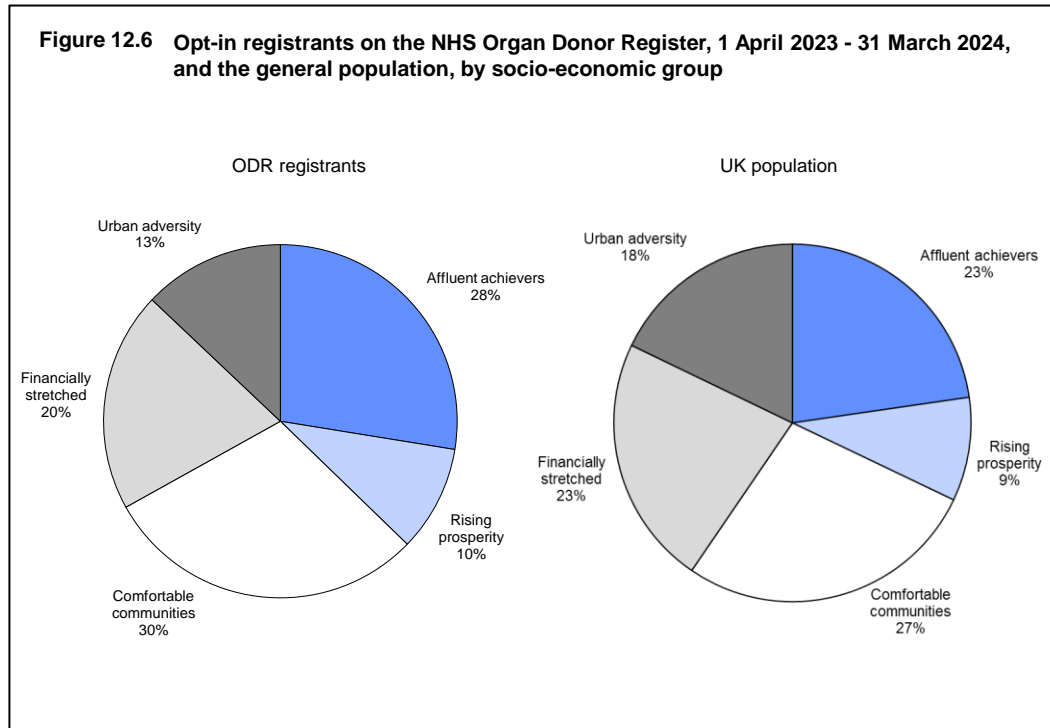


The distribution of age of people registering an opt-in on the ODR during the latest financial year, 2023-2024, is shown in **Figure 12.5**. The highest proportion of registrations in this year were in the 16-20 years age group. Of the registrants in 2023-2024, 49% were male and 51% were female (<1% unknown).

Figure 12.5 Age of people registering as opt-in on the NHS Organ Donor Register between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024



The breakdown of opt-in registrants on the ODR during 2023-2024 by socio-economic group (using the ACORN¹ classification, based on postcode) is shown in **Figure 12.6**, 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.