

# Organ Donation Activity

## Key messages

- There has been a 6% increase in deceased donors (to 1,510) and a 2% decrease in living organ donors (to 938), compared with last year
- There has been no change in number of donors after brain death at 772 and an increase of 12% in donors after circulatory death to 738, compared with last year
- Donors after brain death provide, on average, one more organ for transplantation for every two donors after circulatory death
- Following changes observed in 2020-2021, donor characteristics have returned to those similar to pre-pandemic and the long term trend towards more donors being affected by obesity has continued

### 3.1 Summary of activity

There was a 6% increase in the number of deceased organ donors in 2023-2024 (1,510). There was no change in donors after brain death (DBD) and an increase of 12% in donors after circulatory death (DCD).

The 1,510 deceased organ donors donated 4,887 organs, compared with 1,429 donors and 4,576 organs in 2022-2023. This represents a 7% increase in organs donated. **Table 3.1** shows deceased, as well as living, organ donors according to the organs they donated.

Nearly all deceased donors (96%) gave a kidney and of these, the majority (76%) also donated at least one other organ. Only 13% of donors after brain death were single organ donors, with similar proportions being liver only or kidney only donors. By contrast, 41% of donors after circulatory death were single organ donors, the majority (95%) of these donating just their kidneys.

Although the vast majority of living organ donors donated a kidney, 31 donated part of their liver. All living donations are approved by the Human Tissue Authority.

<b>Table 3.1 Solid organ donors in the UK, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024, by organ types donated</b>				
	DBD	DCD	Living donor	TOTAL
Kidney only	58	286	907	1251
Kidney & thoracic	11	21	-	32
Kidney & liver	338	269	-	607
Kidney & pancreas	5	17	-	22
Kidney, thoracic & liver	88	30	-	118
Kidney, thoracic & pancreas	5	4	-	9
Kidney, liver & pancreas	93	52	-	145
Kidney, liver and bowel	1	-	-	1
Kidney, liver, pancreas & bowel	8	-	-	8
Kidney, thoracic, liver & pancreas	104	43	-	147
Kidney, thoracic, liver, pancreas & bowel	14	-	-	14
Thoracic only	1	2	-	3
Thoracic & liver	2	1	-	3
Thoracic, liver & pancreas	1	-	-	1
Thoracic, pancreas & bowel	1	-	-	1
Liver only	39	13	31	83
Liver & pancreas	3	-	-	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>2448</b>

Bowel may include abdominal wall/colon/stomach/spleen

## 3.2 Organ donors

Organ donor rates per million population (pmp) for 2023-2024 are given by country and NHS region according to where the donor lived in **Table 3.2**, while the numbers of deceased donors are shown based on location of the hospital in which they died in **Table 3.3**. **Table 3.4** shows the number of deceased donors by Organ Donation Services Team. **Appendix I** shows a more detailed breakdown of the number of donors from the donating hospitals and **Appendix III** details the populations used. Number and rates of utilised donors are given in Chapter 4.

<b>Table 3.2 Organ donation rates per million population (pmp), in the UK, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024, by country/ NHS region of donor residence</b>								
<b>Country/ NHS region of residence</b>	<b>DBD</b>		<b>DCD</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>Living</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>(pmp)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>(pmp)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>(pmp)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>(pmp)</b>
North East and Yorkshire	112	(13.6)	103	(12.5)	215	(26.2)	86	(10.5)
North West	70	(9.3)	50	(6.6)	120	(16.0)	71	(9.4)
Midlands	92	(8.4)	97	(8.9)	189	(17.2)	98	(8.9)
East of England	66	(10.3)	94	(14.7)	160	(25.0)	55	(8.6)
London	70	(7.9)	78	(8.8)	148	(16.7)	87	(9.8)
South East	115	(12.3)	101	(10.8)	216	(23.0)	132	(14.1)
South West	72	(12.5)	74	(12.8)	146	(25.3)	60	(10.4)
<b>England</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>(10.5)</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>(10.5)</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>(20.9)</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>(10.3)</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(11.8)</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>(12.1)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>(8.0)</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>(20.1)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>(14.7)</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>(11.0)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>(9.2)</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>(20.2)</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>(15.6)</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(17.8)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>(15.7)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>(33.5)</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>(25.7)</b>
<b>TOTAL<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>772</b>	<b>(11.4)</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>(10.9)</b>	<b>1510</b>	<b>(22.3)</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>(13.5)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 217 donors (42 DBD, 36 DCD and 139 living) with an unknown UK postcode and excludes 28 living donors resident outside the UK

**Table 3.2** shows variation in the number of DBD and DCD donors pmp across the UK. There were 11.4 DBD donors pmp for the UK as a whole, but across NHS regions this ranged between 7.9 and 13.6 pmp. Across the four countries of the UK, Northern Ireland had the highest rate of 17.8 pmp. However, the number of eligible donors pmp also varies and further information can be seen in Chapter 13. It should be noted that these figures are not directly comparable, since not all donors are reported in the Potential Donor Audit. For DCD donors the UK rate is 10.9 pmp, and Northern Ireland had the highest rate of 15.7 pmp across countries of the UK, and across NHS regions it ranged from 6.6 to 14.7 pmp. No adjustment has been made for any differences in demographics of the populations across countries or NHS regions.

<b>Table 3.3 Deceased organ donors in the UK, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024, by country/ NHS region of hospital of donor death</b>			
<b>Country of donation/ NHS region</b>	<b>DBD N</b>	<b>DCD N</b>	<b>TOTAL N</b>
North East and Yorkshire	114	113	227
North West	73	49	122
Midlands	98	96	194
East of England	60	87	147
London	110	107	217
South East	103	100	203
South West	77	79	156
<b>England</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>1266</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>1510</b>

<b>Table 3.4 Deceased organ donors in the UK, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024 by Organ Donation Services Team</b>			
<b>Team</b>	<b>DBD N</b>	<b>DCD N</b>	<b>TOTAL N</b>
Eastern	66	95	161
London	80	71	151
Midlands	82	90	172
North West	85	55	140
Northern	50	41	91
Northern Ireland	33	31	64
Scotland	64	56	120
South Central	71	48	119
South East	74	89	163
South Wales	29	17	46
South West	69	73	142
Yorkshire	69	72	141
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>1510</b>

The mean number of organs retrieved per donor in 2023-2024 is given by country in **Table 3.5**. Overall, an average of 3.6 organs were donated per DBD donor and 2.9 per DCD donor. These rates ranged from 3.3 (DBD) and 2.6 (DCD) organs per donor in Wales, to 3.9 (DBD) and 3.2 (DCD) in Scotland.

<b>Table 3.5 Organs retrieved per donor, in the UK, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024, by country of donor residence</b>									
<b>Country</b>	<b>Adult</b>			<b>Paediatric</b>			<b>All</b>		
	<b>DBD</b>	<b>DCD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DBD</b>	<b>DCD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DBD</b>	<b>DCD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
England	3.5	2.8	<b>3.2</b>	5.7	3.9	<b>5.1</b>	3.6	2.8	<b>3.2</b>
Wales	3.5	2.6	<b>3.2</b>	-	-	-	3.3	2.6	<b>3.2</b>
Scotland	3.8	3.2	<b>3.5</b>	4.5	6.0	<b>4.7</b>	3.9	3.2	<b>3.6</b>
Northern Ireland	3.7	2.9	<b>3.3</b>	5.5	-	<b>5.5</b>	3.8	2.9	<b>3.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>

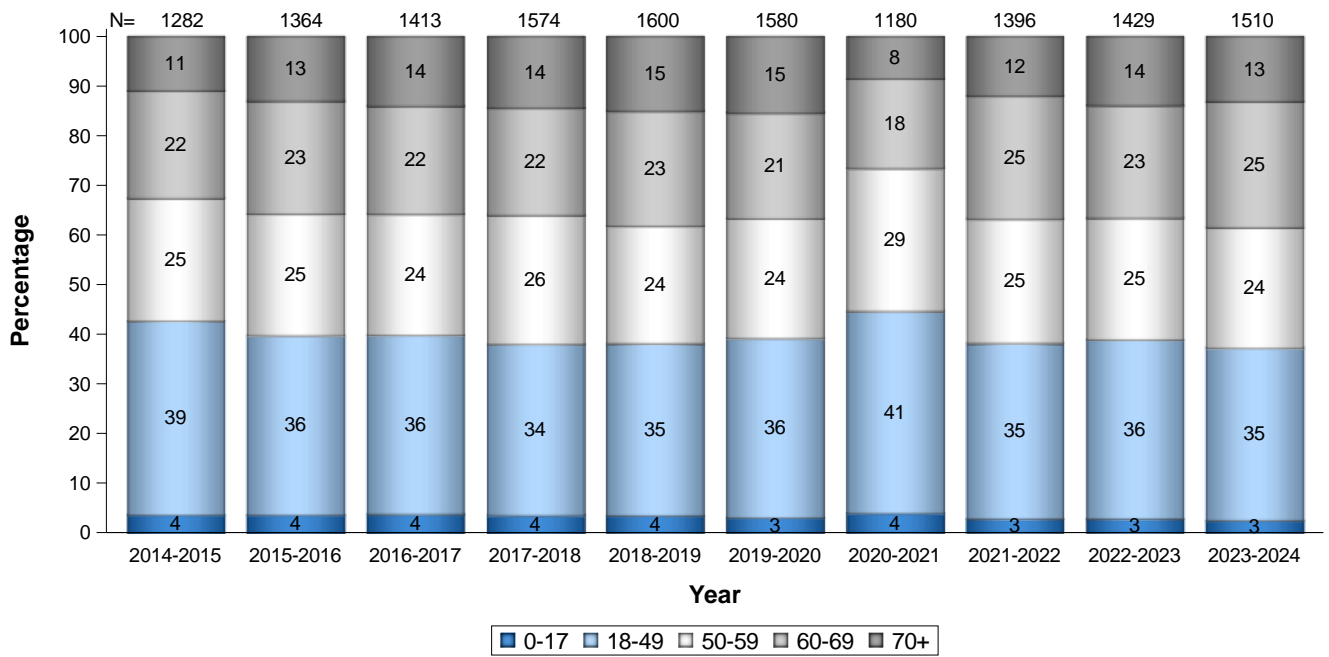
### 3.3 Demographic characteristics

While the number of donors overall has increased over the last 10 years, it is important to be aware that there have been changes over time with regard to donor characteristics (**Table 3.6**). In 2023-2024, 38% of deceased donors were aged 60 years or more (**Figure 3.1**). The proportion of clinically obese donors (Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or higher) has increased from 25% to 28% in deceased donors in the last 10 years (**Figure 3.2**). In absolute numbers, this represents approximately 100 more donors in the 30+ BMI category in 2023 than in 2014. In addition, the proportion of all deceased donors after a trauma death has decreased from 8% to 3% over the same time period. Trends towards more obese deceased donors and those with non-trauma related deaths may all have an adverse impact on the quality and utilisation of the organs, and the subsequent transplant outcome for the recipient.

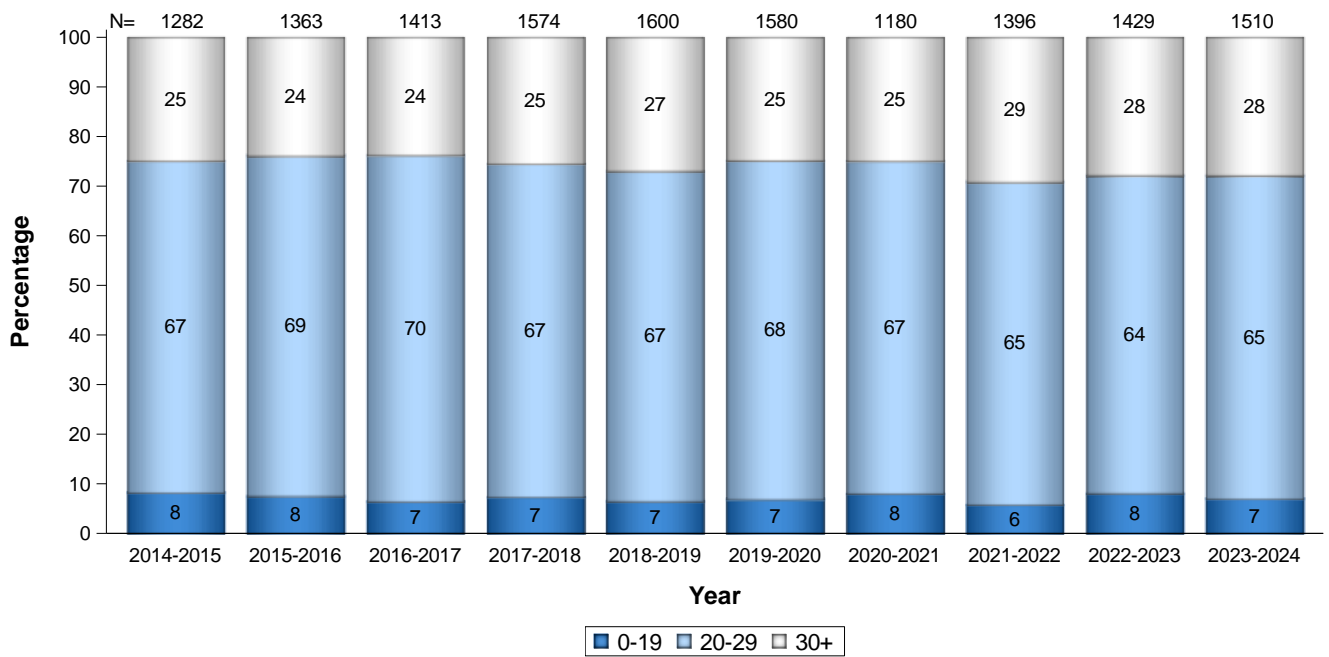
**Table 3.6** also indicates the ethnicity of deceased organ donors, highlighting that 6% of donors are from the Black, Asian and minority ethnic community. By contrast, these communities are estimated to represent 18% of the UK population.

<b>Table 3.6 Demographic characteristics of organ donors in the UK 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024</b>							
		DBD		DCD		TOTAL	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Age (Years)	0-17	28	4	11	1	39	3
	18-49	306	40	220	30	526	35
	50-59	170	22	196	27	366	24
	60-69	167	22	216	29	383	25
	70+	101	13	95	13	196	13
	Mean (SD)	50	(17)	54	(15)	52	(16)
BMI	0-19	47	6	61	8	108	7
	20-29	528	68	454	62	982	65
	30+	197	26	223	30	420	28
	Mean (SD)	27	(6)	28	(7)	27	(6)
Cause of death	Intracranial	701	91	619	84	1320	87
	Trauma	18	2	23	3	41	3
	Other	53	7	96	13	149	10
Ethnicity	White	694	92	688	96	1382	94
	Asian	36	5	18	3	54	4
	Black	13	2	6	1	19	1
	Other	8	1	7	1	15	1
	Unknown	21	-	19	-	40	-
Blood group	O	400	52	344	47	744	49
	A	270	35	276	38	546	36
	B	68	9	82	11	150	10
	AB	31	4	34	5	65	4
	Unknown	3	-	2	-	5	-
Donor gender	Male	406	53	499	68	905	60
	Female	366	47	239	32	605	40
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>772</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1510</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 3.1 Age of deceased donors in the UK, 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2024**



**Figure 3.2 BMI of deceased donors in the UK, 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2024**



Note that BMI cannot be determined for all deceased donors thus numbers indicated in **Figure 3.2** are the numbers of donors for which BMI was available, not total number of donors.