



Overview of Organ Donation and Transplantation

A summary of organ donation and transplantation activity in the UK during the financial year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

2.1 Summary of activity

Many patients became suspended from the active transplant list as transplant centres reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and 2021, hence the dip in the waiting list numbers at that time. There has since followed an increase in waiting list numbers and there were 612 more active patients at 31 March 2025 than at the end of the previous financial year. The change in donor and transplant numbers (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2025) and the number of patients registered on the transplant lists at 31 March each year are shown in **Figure 2.1**. There were 121 fewer deceased donor transplants in 2024-2025 than in the previous year, representing a 3% decrease. There was a 7% decrease in the number of deceased donors. Unfortunately, donor and transplant numbers still remain lower than pre-pandemic levels.

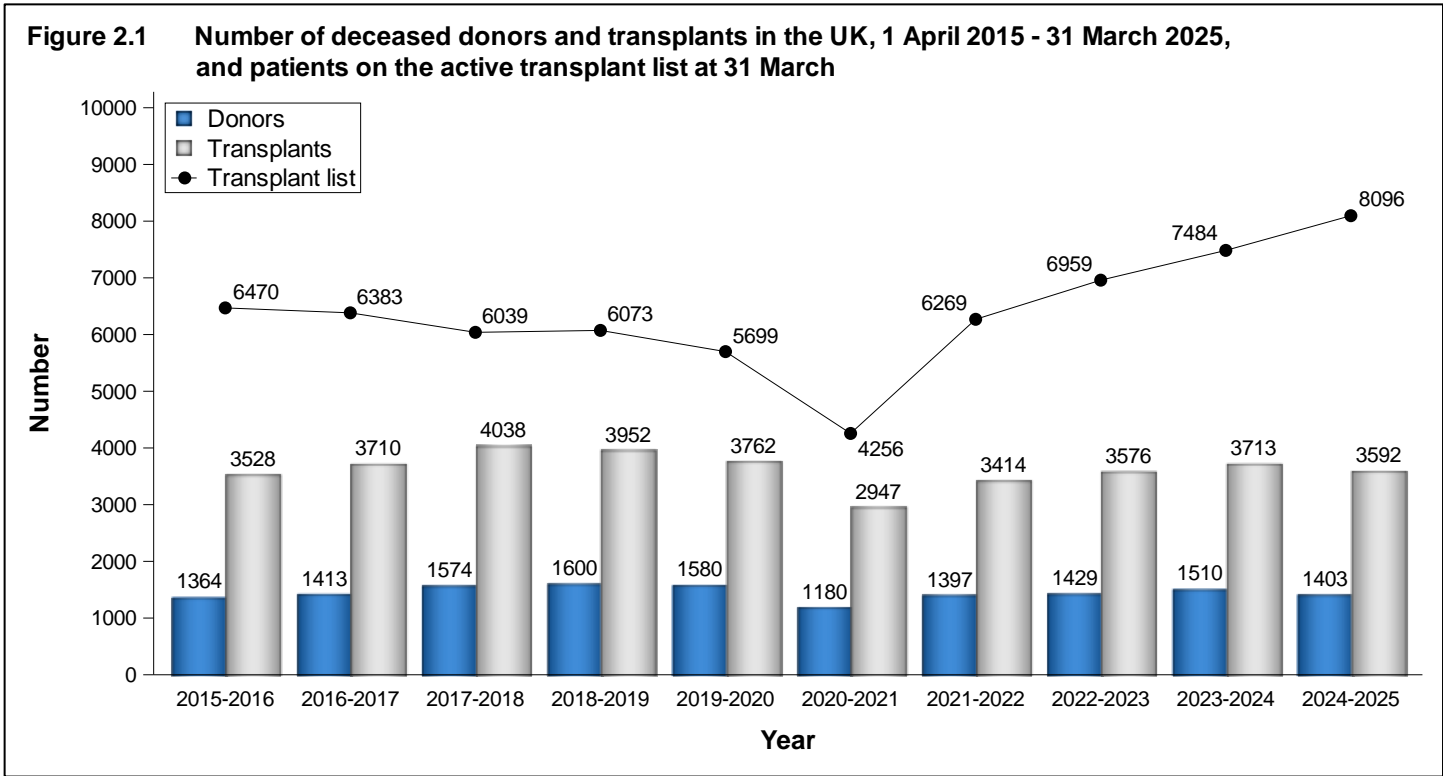


Figure 2.2 shows the number of deceased and living donors for 2015-2025. The number of deceased donors after circulatory death (DCD) has increased over the decade, while numbers of donors after brain death (DBD) have largely fallen, such that DCD donors made up over half of all deceased donors last year, for the first time. In 2024-2025, the numbers of DBD and DCD donors decreased compared to the previous year, to 676 and 727 respectively. The number of living donors has increased from 944 in 2023-2024 to 991 in 2024-2025, which represents an increase of 5%. However, it has not returned to its peak of 1,081 donors in 2015-2016.

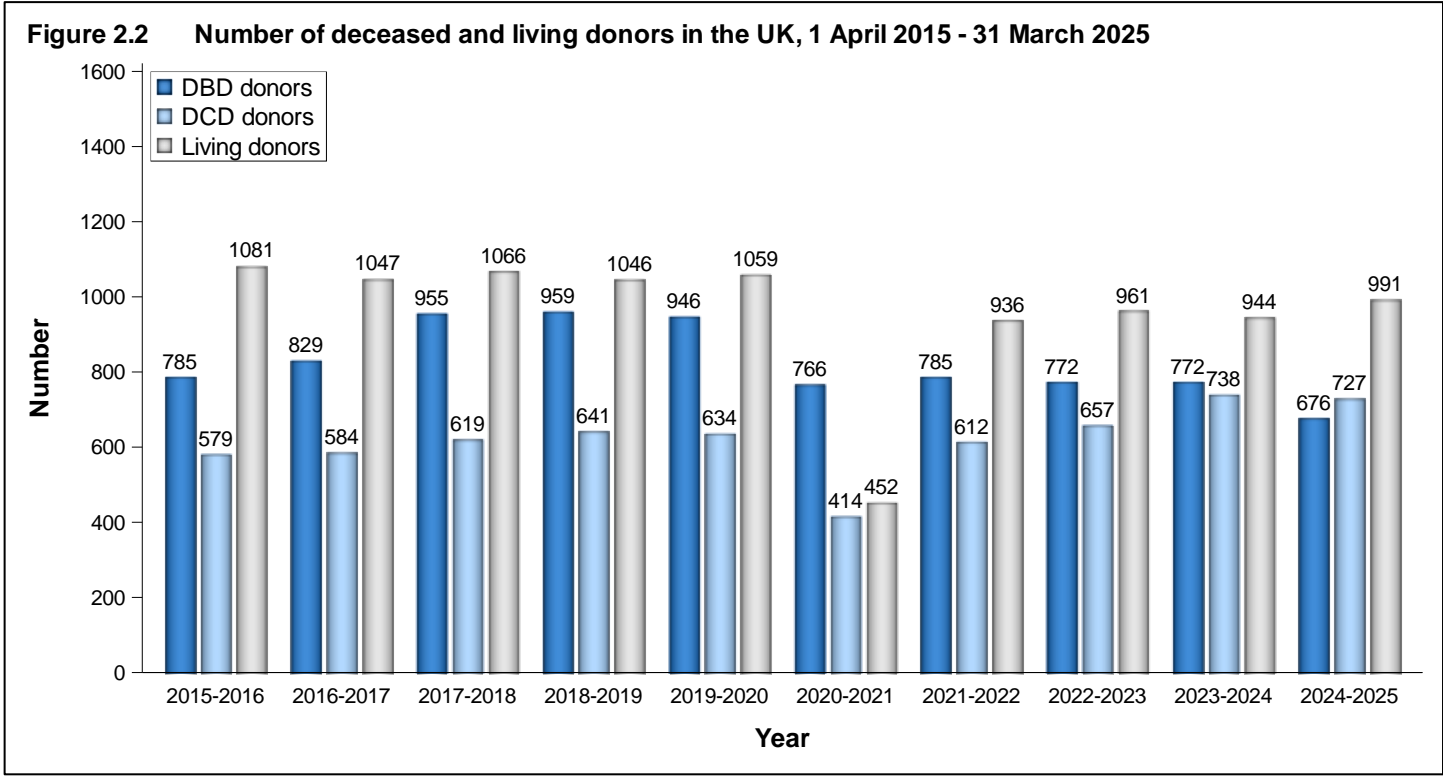
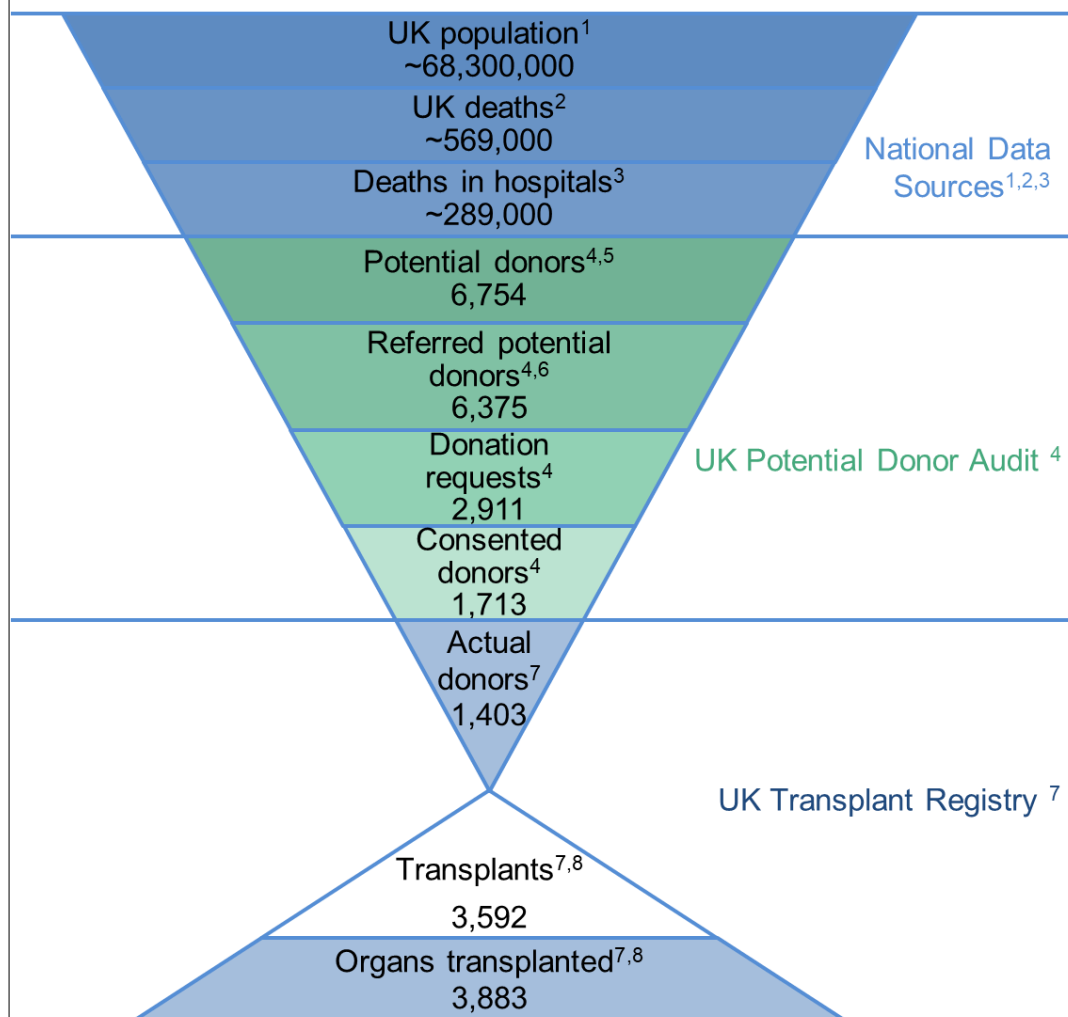


Figure 2.3 shows the potential deceased organ donor population in the UK. Not everyone can be a deceased organ donor and this figure highlights the small proportion of deaths in the UK that represent potential donors. *Please note that the information presented comes from several different sources. The NHSBT Potential Donor Audit collects information on most, but not all, actual donors and the potential for donation could therefore be slightly underestimated. The quoted numbers of transplants and organs transplanted are those achieved using organs from deceased actual donors in the UK, which may include some transplants performed overseas, and these transplant numbers do not reflect the number of deceased donor transplants in the UK reported elsewhere in this report, which may have used organs from overseas donors.*

**Figure 2.3 UK potential deceased organ donor population,
1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025**



¹ Mid 2024 estimates: www.ons.gov.uk

² 2024 data: England & Wales www.ons.gov.uk; Scotland www.nrscotland.gov.uk; Northern Ireland www.nisra.gov.uk

³ 2024 data: England & Wales www.ons.gov.uk; Scotland www.nrscotland.gov.uk; Northern Ireland www.nisra.gov.uk

⁴ 2024/2025 data, NHSBT, Potential Donor Audit as at 8 May 2025

⁵ Potential donor - patients for whom death was confirmed following neurological tests or patients who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated within a time frame to allow donation to occur

⁶ Referred potential donor – Potential donor who was discussed with a Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation

⁷ 2024/2025 deceased donor data: NHSBT, UK Transplant Registry

⁸ Using organs from actual donors in the UK

Table 2.1 shows the number of deceased donors and transplants in 2024-2025 and patients on the transplant list at 31 March 2025 for each country in the UK and overall.

Table 2.1 Deceased donors and transplants 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, and transplant lists as at 31 March 2025, by Country of residence										
Organ	Country of residence¹								TOTAL²	
	England		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland			
	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)
Kidney										
Deceased donors	1085	(19.0)	67	(21.4)	99	(18.2)	39	(20.4)	1361	(20.1)
Transplants	2046	(35.8)	108	(34.5)	147	(27.0)	28	(14.7)	2337	(34.6)
Transplant list	6007	(105.2)	264	(84.3)	533	(97.8)	98	(51.3)	6939	(102.6)
Pancreas										
Deceased donors	245	(4.3)	13	(4.2)	23	(4.2)	7	(3.7)	309	(4.6)
Transplants	113	(2.0)	6	(1.9)	22	(4.0)	0	(0.0)	142	(2.1)
Transplant list	288	(5.0)	31	(9.9)	43	(7.9)	7	(3.7)	370	(5.5)
Heart										
Deceased donors	156	(2.7)	14	(4.5)	13	(2.4)	8	(4.2)	205	(3.0)
Transplants ³	151	(2.6)	9	(2.9)	35	(6.4)	4	(2.1)	200	(3.0)
Transplant list ³	244	(4.3)	14	(4.5)	30	(5.5)	18	(9.4)	308	(4.6)
Lung										
Deceased donors	133	(2.3)	5	(1.6)	12	(2.2)	4	(2.1)	166	(2.5)
Transplants	127	(2.2)	8	(2.6)	11	(2.0)	5	(2.6)	151	(2.2)
Transplant list	153	(2.7)	16	(5.1)	16	(2.9)	8	(4.2)	194	(2.9)
Liver										
Deceased donors	831	(14.6)	53	(16.9)	84	(15.4)	30	(15.7)	1050	(15.5)
Transplants	724	(12.7)	47	(15.0)	70	(12.8)	22	(11.5)	874	(12.9)
Transplant list	514	(9.0)	33	(10.5)	67	(12.3)	39	(20.4)	662	(9.8)
Intestinal										
Deceased donors	14	(0.2)	0	(0.0)	1	(0.2)	0	(0.0)	16	(0.2)
Transplants	14	(0.2)	0	(0.0)	2	(0.4)	1	(0.5)	17	(0.3)
Transplant list	6	(0.1)	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)	1	(0.5)	8	(0.1)
Total⁴										
Deceased donors	1116	(19.5)	70	(22.4)	101	(18.5)	40	(20.9)	1403	(20.8)
Transplants	3065	(53.7)	173	(55.3)	274	(50.3)	60	(31.4)	3592	(53.1)
Transplant list	6910	(121.0)	327	(104.5)	647	(118.7)	163	(85.3)	8096	(119.8)

¹ Country of residence of donor given for deceased donor numbers, and residence of recipient given for transplant and waiting list numbers

² Includes patients resident in Channel Islands, Isle of Man, overseas and in the Republic of Ireland

³ Excludes heart-lung recipients

⁴ Organ numbers do not add up to total due to multi-organ donors and patients waiting for a multi-organ transplant

2.2 Transplant list

At 31 March 2025, 8,096 patients were registered for an organ transplant in the UK on the active transplant list. A further 3,883 patients were temporarily suspended from the active national transplant list because they were unfit or otherwise unavailable for transplant. Details of numbers of patients on each of the organ transplant lists are given in **Table 2.2** for 31 March 2024 and 2025. Between these dates the total number increased by 612 (8%). This is mostly due to increases in the kidney and pancreas transplant lists, while the number of patients on other organ lists, in particular the lung transplant list fell.

Table 2.2 Active transplant lists in the UK at 31 March 2024 and 2025			
	2024	2025	% Change
Kidney & pancreas patients	6232	6927	+11
Kidney	5898	6557	+11
Kidney & pancreas	297	316	+6
Kidney & pancreas islets	17	28	+65
Pancreas	5	7	-
Pancreas islets	15	19	+27
Cardiothoracic patients	559	497	-11
Heart	284	303	+7
Heart-lung	8	11	-
Lung(s)	267	183	-31
Liver patients	639	623	-3
Intestinal patients	13	8	-
Other multi-organ patients¹	41	41	0
ALL PATIENTS	7484	8096	+8
Percentages not reported when fewer than 10 in either year			
¹ Includes patients waiting for kidney and liver transplants (36 in 2024, 36 in 2025), kidney and heart transplants (2 in 2024, 2 in 2025), liver and heart transplants (3 in 2024, 3 in 2025)			

During 2024-2025, 463 patients died whilst active/suspended on the transplant list or within one year of removal from the list. For comparison, in 2023-2024, 418 patients died. This information is shown by organ and age group in **Table 2.3**.

Table 2.3 **Number of patient deaths on transplant lists in the UK,
1 April 2023 and 31 March 2025**

	2023-2024 Total	Total	2024-2025 Adult	Paediatric
Kidney & pancreas patients	291	337	335	2
Kidney	265	313	311	2
Kidney & pancreas	24	23	23	0
Kidney & pancreas islets	0	0	0	0
Pancreas	2	0	0	0
Pancreas islets	0	1	1	0
Cardiothoracic patients	57	64	57	7
Heart	13	27	21	6
Heart-lung	2	2	2	0
Lung(s)	42	35	34	1
Liver patients	67	53	51	2
Intestinal patients	2	4	0	4
Other multi-organ patients¹	1	5	5	0
ALL PATIENTS	418	463	448	15
Includes all deaths whilst patient active/suspended on the transplant list or within one year of removal from the list				
¹ Includes patients waiting for kidney and liver transplants (1 adult in 2024-2025) and liver and lung transplant (1 adult in 2023-2024, 4 adult in 2024-2025)				

2.3 Transplants

There was a 2% decrease in the total number of organ transplants (from deceased and living donors) last year: 4,583 transplants were performed in 2024-2025 compared with 4,658 in 2023-2024 (**Table 2.4**). All multi-organ transplants are identified separately as are transplants from living donors.

The total number of kidney transplants decreased in 2024-2025; kidney only transplants from donors after circulatory death and living donors increased by 1% and 6% respectively, while the number of DBD transplants fell by 9%. The number of heart transplants decreased by 16%, the number of lung and heart-lung transplants increased by 8%, the number of liver transplants increased by 2%, and the number of pancreas transplants (including pancreas only, intestinal, kidney/pancreas and pancreas islets) decreased by 12%.

Table 2.4 Transplants performed in the UK, 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2025

Transplant	2023-2024	2024-2025	% Change
DBD kidney	1175	1074	-9
DCD kidney	1125	1134	+1
Living donor kidney	913	964	+6
DBD kidney and pancreas	73	77	+5
DCD kidney and pancreas	55	36	-35
Kidney and pancreas islets	10	9	-
DBD pancreas	10	3	-
DCD pancreas	1	3	-
Pancreas Islets	11	14	+27
DBD heart	172	143	-17
DCD heart	65	57	-12
Heart-lung	5	2	-
DBD single lung	4	2	-
DCD single lung	1	1	-
DBD bilateral lung	98	88	-10
DCD bilateral lung	32	58	+81
DBD liver	505	471	-7
DCD liver	264	309	+17
DBD liver lobe	75	86	+15
DCD liver lobe	0	1	-
Living donor liver lobe	31	27	-13
Bowel only	4	2	-
Living bowel only	1	0	-
Liver, bowel & pancreas	0	2	-
Multivisceral ¹	6	6	-
Modified multivisceral	12	7	-
Kidney & liver	10	7	-
TOTAL ORGAN TRANSPLANTS	4658	4583	-2
Total kidney transplants	3361	3302	-2
Total pancreas transplants²	178	157	-12
Total cardiothoracic transplants	377	351	-7
Total liver transplants²	891	909	+2
Total intestinal transplants	23	17	-26

Percentage not reported when fewer than 10 in either year

¹ Including a kidney (1 in 2024-2025)

² Includes intestinal transplants

The total approximate number of patients with a functioning transplant on 31 March 2025 is 62,900 (**Table 2.5**). This reflects information held on the UK Transplant Registry database and excludes those patients who are known to be lost to follow-up.

Table 2.5 Number of transplants reported as functioning at 31 March 2025	
	Functioning transplants ¹
Kidney	46000
Pancreas	2200
Cardiothoracic	4300
Liver	12300
Intestinal	170
ALL PATIENTS	62900
¹ Approximate number of patients with a functioning transplant being followed up. Multi-organ transplants (excluding intestinal transplants) are counted in each organ. Excludes those patients known to be lost to follow-up	