

Organ Donation Activity

Key messages

- There has been a 7% decrease in deceased donors (to 1,403) and a 5% increase in living organ donors (to 991), compared with last year
- There has been a decrease of 12% in donors after brain death to 676 and an decrease of 1% in donors after circulatory death to 727, compared with last year
- On average, for every two donors after circulatory death, donors after brain death provide one additional organ for transplantation
- 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 7% decrease in the number of deceased organ donors in 2024-2025 (1,403) when compared to the previous year. There was a decrease of 1% in donors after circulatory death (DCD) and a decrease of 12% in donors after brain death (DBD).

The 1,403 deceased organ donors donated 4,605 organs, compared with 1,510 donors and 4,887 organs in 2023-2024. This represents a 6% decrease in organs donated. **Table 3.1** shows deceased, as well as living, organ donors according to the organs they donated.

Nearly all deceased donors (97%) gave a kidney and of these, the majority (78%) also donated at least one other organ. Only 10% of donors after brain death were single organ donors, with the majority being kidney only donors. By contrast, 36% of donors after circulatory death were single organ donors, the majority (94%) of these donating just their kidneys.

Although the vast majority of living organ donors donated a kidney, 27 donated part of their liver. All living donations are approved by the Human Tissue Authority.

Table 3.1 Solid organ donors in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, by organ types donated				
	DBD	DCD	Living donor	TOTAL
Kidney only	47	249	964	1260
Kidney & thoracic	11	17	-	28
Kidney & liver	301	291	-	592
Kidney & pancreas	1	14	-	15
Kidney, thoracic & liver	86	50	-	136
Kidney, thoracic & pancreas	3	6	-	9
Kidney, liver & pancreas	96	47	-	143
Kidney, liver, pancreas & bowel	5	-	-	5
Kidney, thoracic, liver & pancreas	90	36	-	126
Kidney, thoracic, liver, pancreas & bowel	11	-	-	11
Thoracic only	2	3	-	5
Thoracic & liver	2	1	-	3
Liver only	21	13	27	61
TOTAL	676	727	991	2394
Bowel may include abdominal wall/colon/stomach/spleen				

3.2 Organ donors

Organ donor rates per million population (pmp) for 2024-2025 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.

Table 3.2 Organ donation rates per million population (pmp), in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, by country/ NHS region of donor residence								
Country/ NHS region of residence	DBD		DCD		TOTAL		Living	
	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)
North East and Yorkshire	80	(9.7)	79	(9.6)	159	(19.3)	73	(8.9)
North West	57	(7.6)	48	(6.4)	105	(14.0)	79	(10.5)
Midlands	101	(9.2)	110	(10.0)	211	(19.3)	90	(8.2)
East of England	57	(8.9)	109	(17.0)	166	(25.9)	36	(5.6)
London	70	(7.9)	54	(6.1)	124	(14.0)	83	(9.4)
South East	101	(10.8)	100	(10.7)	201	(21.4)	88	(9.4)
South West	63	(10.9)	87	(15.1)	150	(26.0)	83	(14.4)
England	529	(9.3)	587	(10.3)	1116	(19.5)	532	(9.3)
Isle of Man	3	(37.5)	1	(12.5)	4	(50.0)	0	(0.0)
Channel Islands	1	(5.9)	0	(0.0)	1	(5.9)	1	(5.9)
Wales	41	(13.1)	29	(9.3)	70	(22.4)	39	(12.5)
Scotland	45	(8.3)	56	(10.3)	101	(18.5)	57	(10.5)
Northern Ireland	22	(11.5)	18	(9.4)	40	(20.9)	45	(23.6)
TOTAL¹	676	(10.0)	727	(10.8)	1403	(20.8)	965	(14.3)

¹ Includes 362 donors (35 DBD, 36 DCD and 291 living) with an unknown UK postcode and excludes 26 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 10.0 DBD donors pmp for the UK as a whole, but across NHS regions this ranged between 7.6 and 10.9 pmp. Across the four countries of the UK, Wales had the highest rate of 13.1 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 10.8 pmp, and England and Scotland had the highest rate of 10.3 pmp across countries of the UK, and across NHS regions it ranged from 6.1 to 17.0 pmp. No adjustment has been made for any differences in demographics of the populations across countries or NHS regions.

Table 3.3 Deceased organ donors in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, by country/ NHS region of hospital of donor death			
Country of donation/ NHS region	DBD N	DCD N	TOTAL N
North East and Yorkshire	84	82	166
North West	59	56	115
Midlands	108	111	219
East of England	51	102	153
London	114	86	200
South East	89	95	184
South West	64	86	150
England	569	618	1187
Isle of Man	2	0	2
Channel Islands	0	0	0
Wales	35	30	65
Scotland	45	60	105
Northern Ireland	25	19	44
TOTAL	676	727	1403

Table 3.4 Deceased organ donors in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025 by Organ Donation Services Team			
Team	DBD N	DCD N	TOTAL N
Eastern	60	109	169
London	90	64	154
Midlands	89	101	190
North West	65	60	125
Northern	46	35	81
Northern Ireland	25	19	44
Scotland	45	60	105
South Central	43	52	95
South East	72	69	141
South Wales	36	26	62
South West	60	78	138
Yorkshire	45	54	99
TOTAL	676	727	1403

The mean number of organs retrieved per donor in 2024-2025 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 3.6 (DBD) and 2.6 (DCD) organs per donor in Wales, to 3.9 (DBD) and 2.9 (DCD) in Scotland.

Table 3.5 Organs retrieved per donor, in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, by country of donor residence									
Country	DBD	Adult DCD	TOTAL	DBD	Paediatric DCD	TOTAL	DBD	All DCD	TOTAL
England	3.6	2.9	3.2	5.0	4.6	4.9	3.6	3.0	3.3
Wales	3.6	2.6	3.2	-	-	-	3.6	2.6	3.2
Scotland	3.9	2.9	3.4	-	-	-	3.9	2.9	3.4
Northern Ireland	3.6	2.9	3.3	-	3.0	3.0	3.6	2.9	3.3
TOTAL	3.6	2.9	3.2	5.0	4.5	4.8	3.6	2.9	3.3

3.3 Demographic characteristics

It is important to be aware that there have been changes over time with regard to donor characteristics (**Table 3.6**). In 2024-2025, the number of DCD donors has exceeded DBD donors for the first time and 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 24% to 31% 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 2024-2025 than in 2015-2016. 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 7% of donors are from the Black, Asian and minority ethnic community. By contrast, these communities are estimated to represent 18% of the UK population.

Table 3.6		Demographic characteristics of organ donors in the UK					
		1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025					
		DBD		DCD		TOTAL	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Age (Years)	0-17	18	3	14	2	32	2
	18-49	278	41	214	29	492	35
	50-59	151	22	205	28	356	25
	60-69	143	21	187	26	330	24
	70+	86	13	107	15	193	14
	Mean (SD)	51	(16)	54	(15)	53	(16)
BMI (kg/m ²)	0-19	52	8	39	5	91	6
	20-29	435	64	437	60	872	62
	30+	189	28	251	35	440	31
	Mean (SD)	27	(6)	28	(6)	28	(6)
Cause of death	Intracranial	613	91	620	85	1233	88
	Trauma	15	2	26	4	41	3
	Other	48	7	81	11	129	9
Ethnicity	White	589	90	658	95	1247	93
	Asian	37	6	16	2	53	4
	Black	19	3	9	1	28	2
	Other	6	1	9	1	15	1
	Unknown	25	-	35	-	60	-
Blood group	O	315	47	329	46	644	46
	A	265	39	306	42	571	41
	B	68	10	65	9	133	10
	AB	27	4	23	3	50	4
	Unknown	1	-	4	-	5	-
Donor gender	Male	359	53	442	61	801	57
	Female	317	47	285	39	602	43
TOTAL		676	100	727	101	1403	100

Figure 3.1 Age of deceased donors in the UK, 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2025

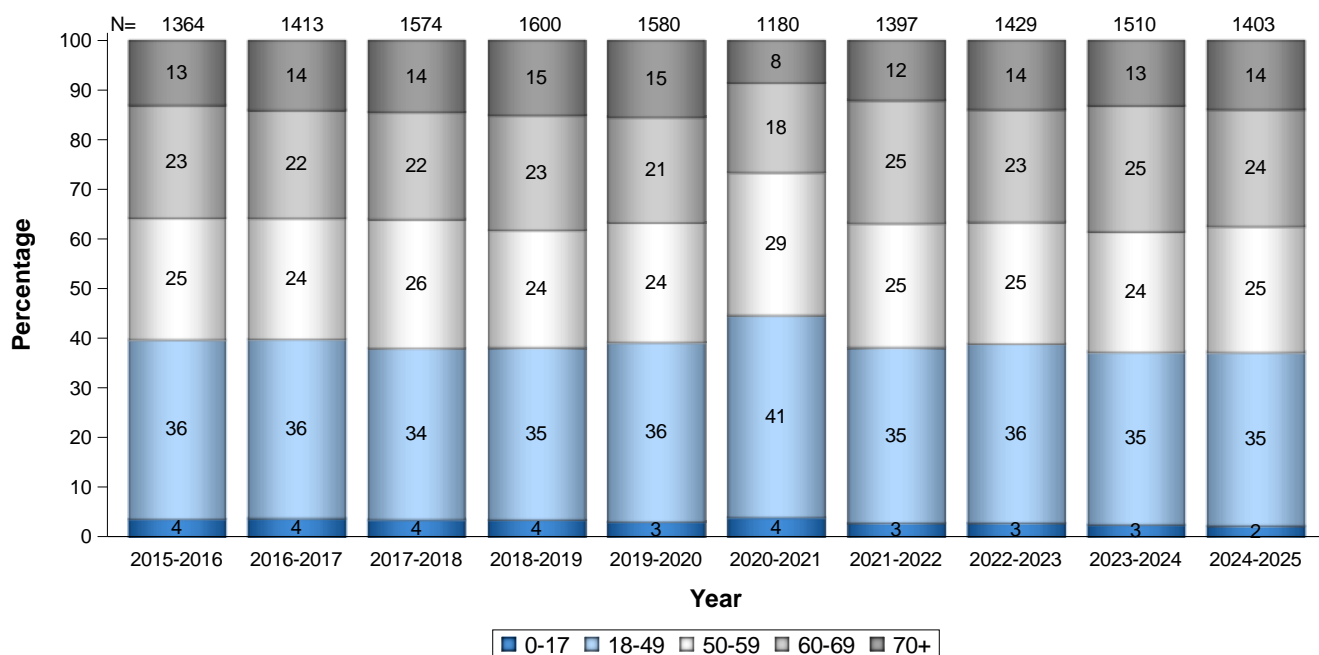
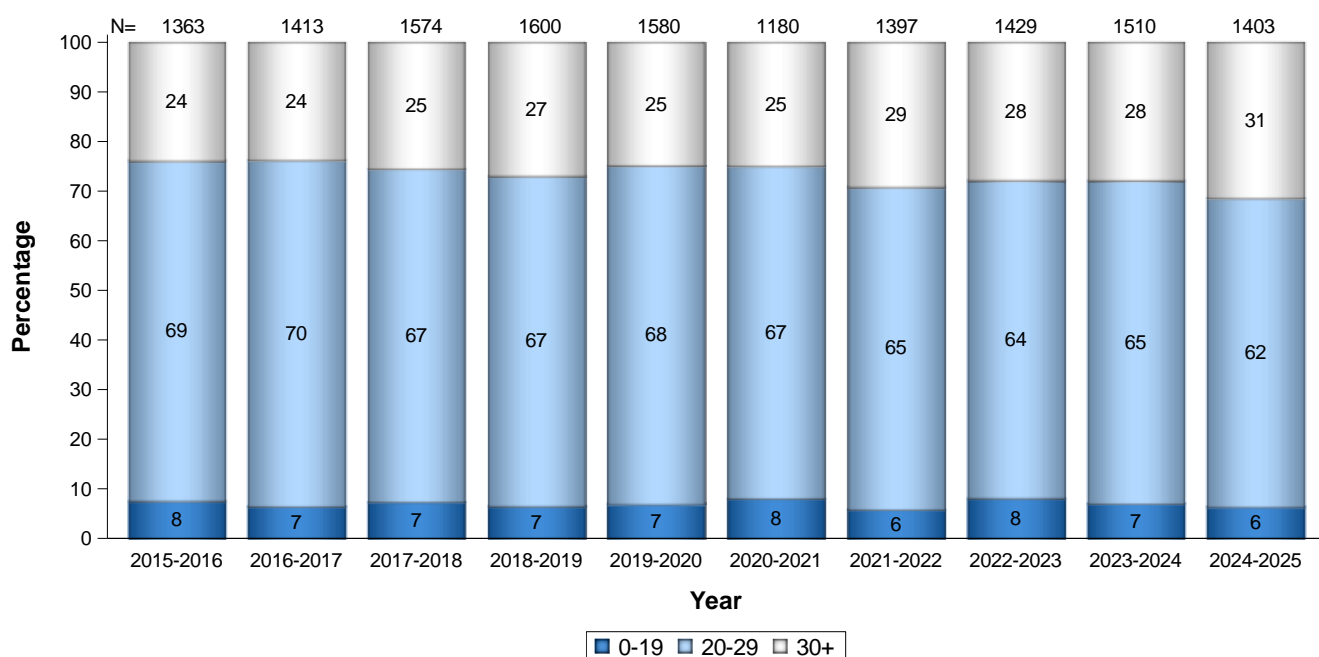


Figure 3.2 BMI of deceased donors in the UK, 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2025



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.