



Preface

This report has been produced by Statistics and Clinical Research, NHS Blood and Transplant.

All figures quoted in this report are as reported to NHS Blood and Transplant by 18 May 2026 for the UK Transplant Registry, maintained on behalf of the transplant community and National Health Service (NHS), or for the NHS Organ Donor Register, maintained on behalf of the UK Health Departments.

The information provided in the tables and figures given in Chapters 2-10 does not always distinguish between adult and paediatric transplantation. For the most part, the data also do not distinguish between patients entitled to NHS treatment (Group 1 patients) and those who are not (Group 2 patients).

The UK definition of an organ donor is any donor from whom at least one organ has been retrieved with the intention to transplant. Organs retrieved solely for research purposes have not been counted in this Activity Report. Organ donation has been recorded to reflect the number of organs retrieved. For example, if both lungs were retrieved, two lungs are recorded even if they were both used in one transplant. Similarly, if one liver is donated, one liver is recorded even if it results in two or more transplants.

The number of donors after brain death (DBD) and donors after circulatory death (DCD) by hospital are documented in **Appendix I**. Donation and transplant rates in this report are presented per million population (pmp): population figures used throughout this report are mid-2025 estimates based on ONS 2021 Census figures and are given in **Appendix III**.

All charts presented in this report are available as an accompanying slide set available from <http://www.odt.nhs.uk>.

A supplementary report on organ donation and transplantation activity for Black, Asian and ethnic minority groups is published alongside this Activity Report – *Annual report on ethnicity differences in Organ Donation and Transplantation*. It provides additional information on trends in organ donation and transplantation by ethnicity.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to unprecedented challenges for UK transplantation. Concerns about the ability to care for transplant recipients, lack of access to resource because it is being used for patients in the pandemic, and the risk versus benefit for immunosuppressed transplant recipients, resulted in a major reduction in the number of organ transplants undertaken and the impact of the pandemic is still evident.

Waiting list figures at 31 March 2020, 2021 and 2022 do not accurately reflect the need for an organ transplant due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Different practices were established across the UK and across organ groups with regards to waiting list management.

Acknowledgement

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