NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR)

Key messages

- **Deemed consent/authorisation legislation has been implemented in Wales (2015), Jersey (2019), England (2020), Scotland (2021), Guernsey (2023), Northern Ireland (2023) and Isle of Man (2026)**
- **28.7 million people had recorded a decision to donate organs/tissues (opt-in) on the NHS ODR as at March 2026 (41% of the population)**
- **2.9 million people had recorded a decision not to donate organs/tissues (opt-out) on the NHS ODR as at March 2025 (4% of the population)**
- **171 people have recorded on the NHS ODR, a decision to appoint a representative to make their donation decision on their behalf as at March 2026**
- **57% of the 1,428 deceased organ donors last year had registered their decision to donate (opt-in) on the ODR**

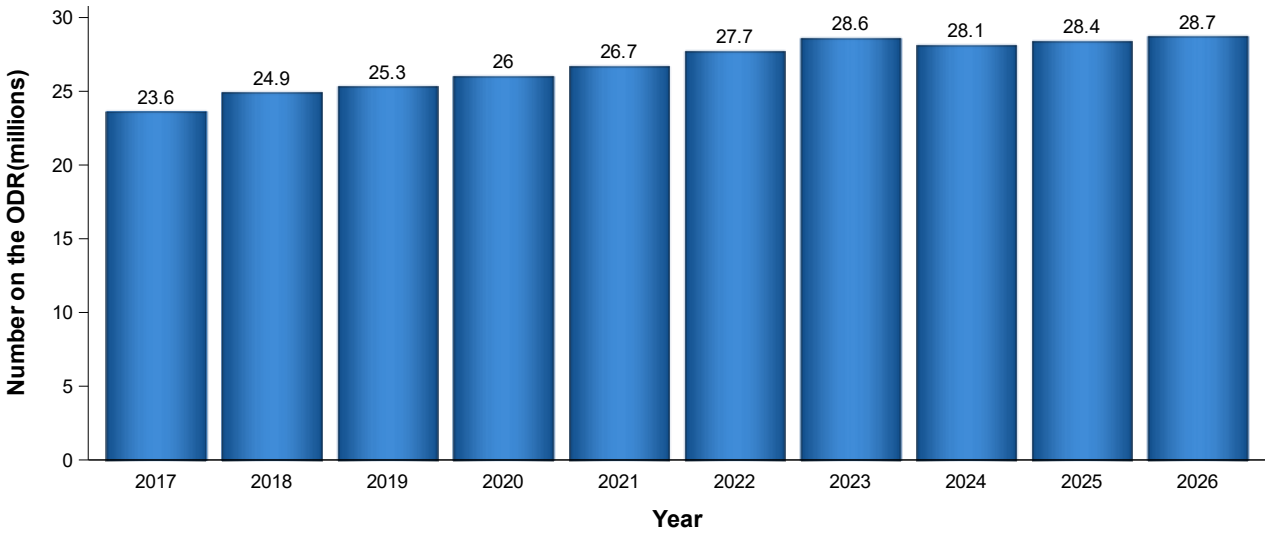
It should be noted that an improved method of recording registrant deaths was implemented in 2023, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of registrants recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR), but more accurately reflecting the number of living registrants.

By the end of March 2026, the NHS ODR held just over 28.7 million opt-in registrations. A summary of the number of registrations at the end of each financial year from 31 March 2017 to 31 March 2026, is shown in **Figure 12.1**.

By the end of March 2026, the NHS ODR held just over 2.9 million opt-out registrations. A summary of the number of opt-out registrations at the end of each financial year from 31 March 2017 to 31 March 2026 is shown in **Figure 12.2**.

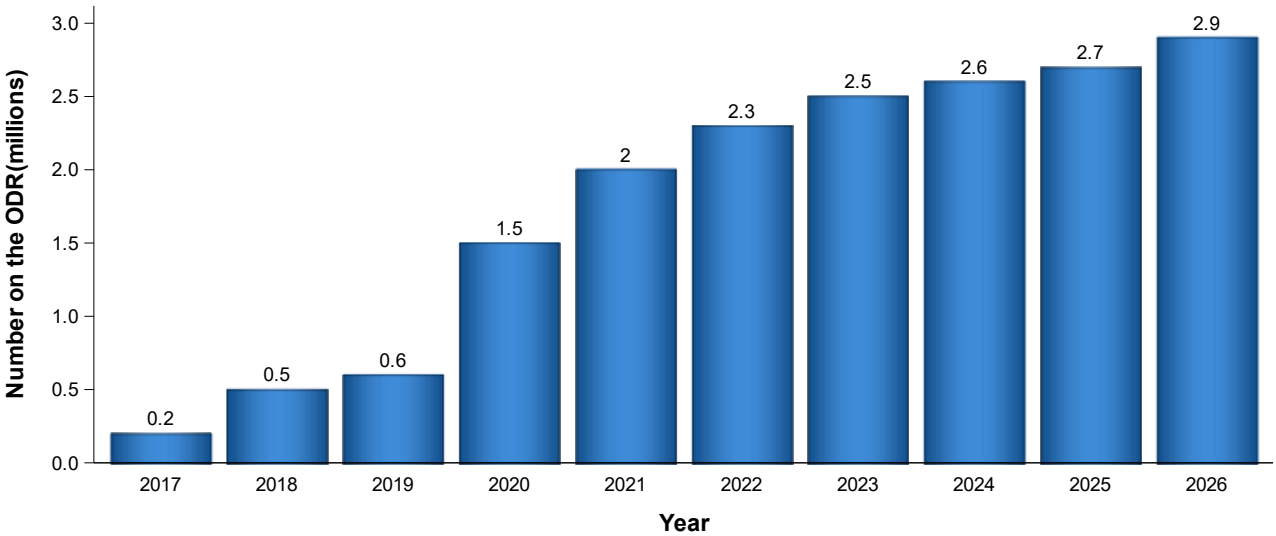
Of the 1,428 deceased organ donors in 2025-2026, 57% had registered a decision to donate (opt-in) on the ODR, representing a decrease of 2% from 2024-2025.

Figure 12.1 Number opted-in on the NHS Organ Donor Register at 31 March



Note: Method of recording registrant deaths improved in 2023, more accurately reflecting living registrants in recent years. Total numbers of registrants prior to 2024 do not include this amendment.

Figure 12.2 Number opted-out on the NHS Organ Donor Register at 31 March



Note: Method of recording registrant deaths improved in 2023, more accurately reflecting living registrants in recent years. Total numbers of registrants prior to 2024 do not include this amendment.

Those registered on the NHS ODR come from all parts of the UK. **Table 12.1** shows the number and percentage of the population who registered a decision to donate (opt-in) in each country/NHS region at 31 March 2026. 73% of the population of the Isle of Man have registered an opt-in decision, which is higher than all other countries and NHS regions. No adjustment has been made for any differences in demographics of the populations.

Table 12.2 shows the number and proportion of the population who registered a decision not to donate (opt-out) in each country/NHS region at 31 March 2026. The proportion of the population that registered an opt-out decision, was 6.0% in Wales, and less for other countries and most NHS regions. In addition, there have been 171 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 2026, by country/ NHS region

Country/ NHS region of residence	Registrants N	Registrants pmp	Proportion registered
North East and Yorkshire	3,600,623	426,109	43%
North West	2,719,231	351,776	35%
Midlands	3,968,992	352,173	35%
East of England	2,844,312	432,266	43%
London	2,886,004	316,448	32%
South East	4,175,097	433,101	43%
South West	2,909,965	491,548	49%
England	**23,104,224**	**393,464**	**39%**
Isle of Man	**58,019**	**725,238**	**73%**
Channel Islands	**30,362**	**178,600**	**18%**
Wales	**1,428,990**	**443,786**	**44%**
Scotland	**2,917,845**	**521,044**	**52%**
Northern Ireland	**1,121,775**	**572,334**	**57%**
TOTAL[1]	**28,735,282**	**413,457**	**41%**

[1] Includes 74,067 registrants where the postcode was unknown

Table 12.2 Opt-out registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2026, by country/ NHS region

Country/ NHS region of residence	Registrants N	Registrants pmp	Proportion registered
North East and Yorkshire	349,440	41,354	4.1%
North West	326,808	42,278	4.2%
Midlands	519,337	46,081	4.6%
East of England	246,028	37,390	3.7%
London	634,646	69,588	7.0%
South East	280,966	29,146	2.9%
South West	150,028	25,343	2.5%
England	**2,507,253**	**42,698**	**4.3%**
Isle of Man	**2,147**	**26,838**	**2.7%**
Channel Islands	**2,535**	**14,912**	**1.5%**
Wales	**194,237**	**60,322**	**6.0%**
Scotland	**194,149**	**34,669**	**3.5%**
Northern Ireland	**32,139**	**16,397**	**1.6%**
TOTAL[1]	**2,934,030**	**42,216**	**4.2%**

[1] Includes 1,570 registrants where the postcode was unknown

At the end of March 2026, 82% of opt-in 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 (66%) 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 2026 to donate different organs[1]

Registrants prepared to donate all organs 82%

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

Not prepared to donate:	% of 'Restricted donors'	% of all registrants
Kidney	6	0.9
Pancreas	15	2.2
Heart	16	2.3
Lungs	15	2.2
Liver	10	1.4
Corneas	66	9.5

[1] Complete information was not available for approximately 3% of the total register

The gender and current age of all people registered on the NHS ODR is shown for opt-in registrations in **Figure 12.3** and opt-out registrations in **Figure 12.4**. The highest proportion of opt-in registrations (28.3% of females and 27.6% of males) are in the 35-49 years age group. The lowest proportions of opt-in registrations are aged under 18 years. Of all people who registered a decision to donate (opt-in) on the NHS ODR, 53% are female, 46% are male (1% not reported). For opt-out registrations, the highest proportion (27.5% of females and 24.9% of males) are in the 18-34 years age group. The lowest proportion of opt-out registrations are aged under 18 years. Of all people registered to opt-out on the NHS ODR, 53% are female, 43% are male (4% not reported).

Figure 12.3 Gender and current age of total people registered to donate (opt-in) on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2026

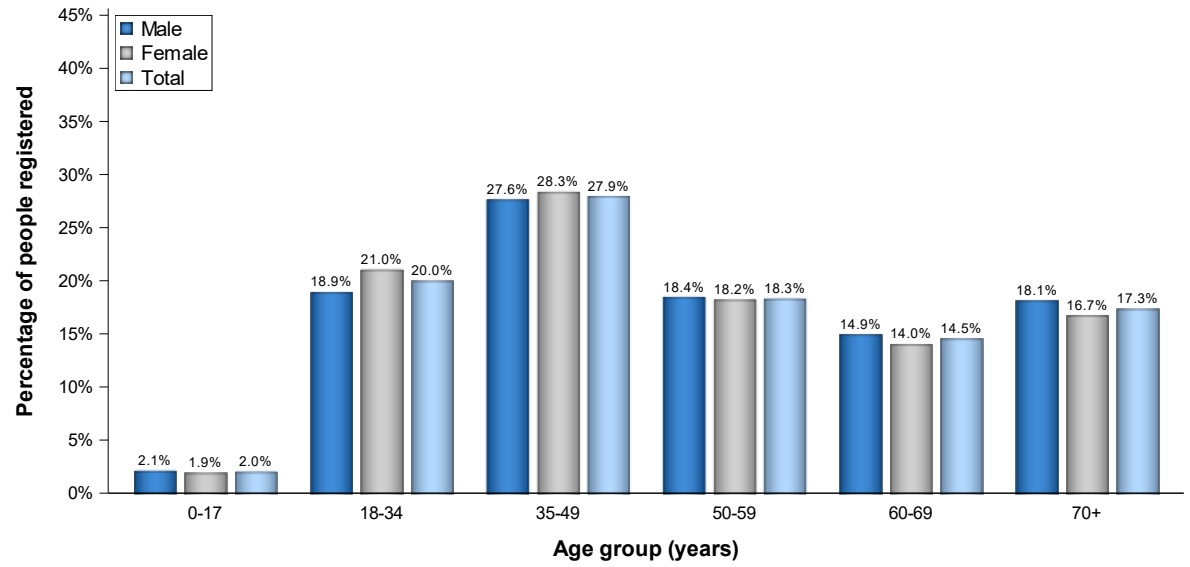
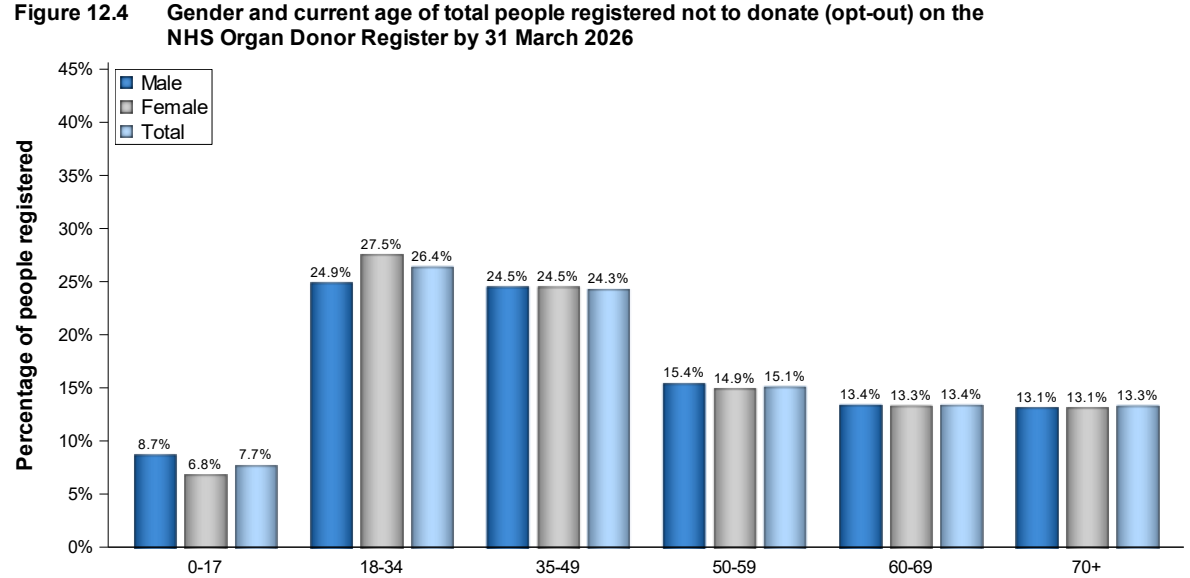


Figure 12.4 Gender and current age of total people registered not to donate (opt-out) on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2026



The total number of registrations on the ODR can fluctuate, as individuals may register their donation decision for the first time, reaffirm or change a historical donation decision or remove themselves from the register. During 2025-2026, there were a total of 4 million ODR registrations processed, 3.6 million opt-in and 0.4 million opt-out. Of all opt-in registrations in 2025-2026, 21% were new registrations and 79% were reaffirming registrations. For all opt-out registrations, 52% were new and 48% reaffirming registrations.

The number of new opt-in registrations per year are shown in **Figure 12.5** and new opt-out registrations in **Figure 12.6**. Though steadily declining to 0.7 million new opt-in registrations in 2023-2024, the number of new opt-in registrations per year have increased to 0.8 million in 2025-2026. New opt-out registrations peaked in 2019-2020 prior to the law change and in 2025-2026 there were 0.2 million new opt-out registrations.

Figure 12.5 **Number of new opt-in registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register**

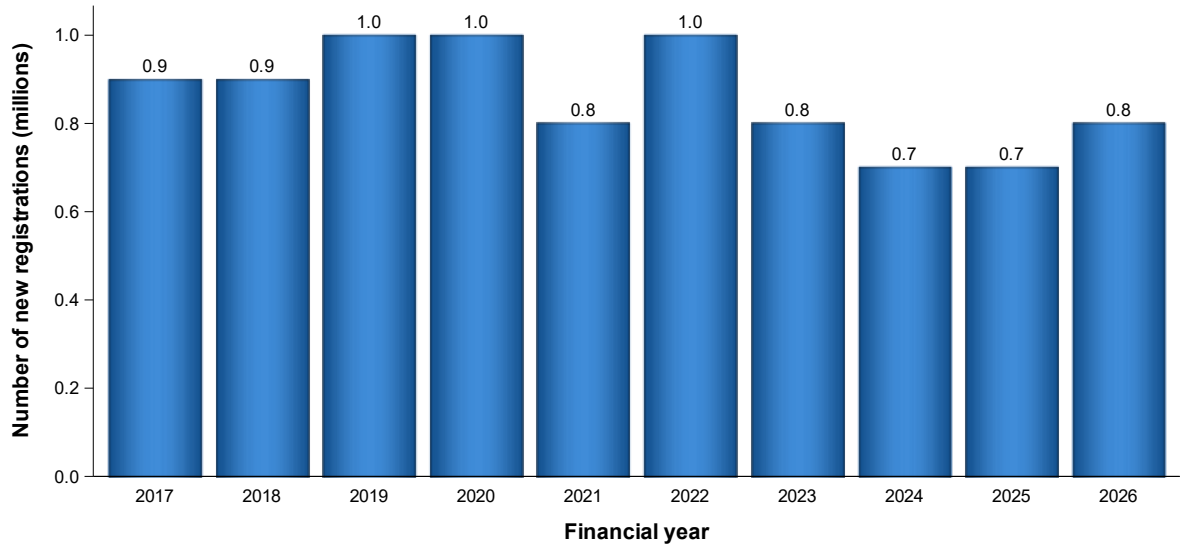
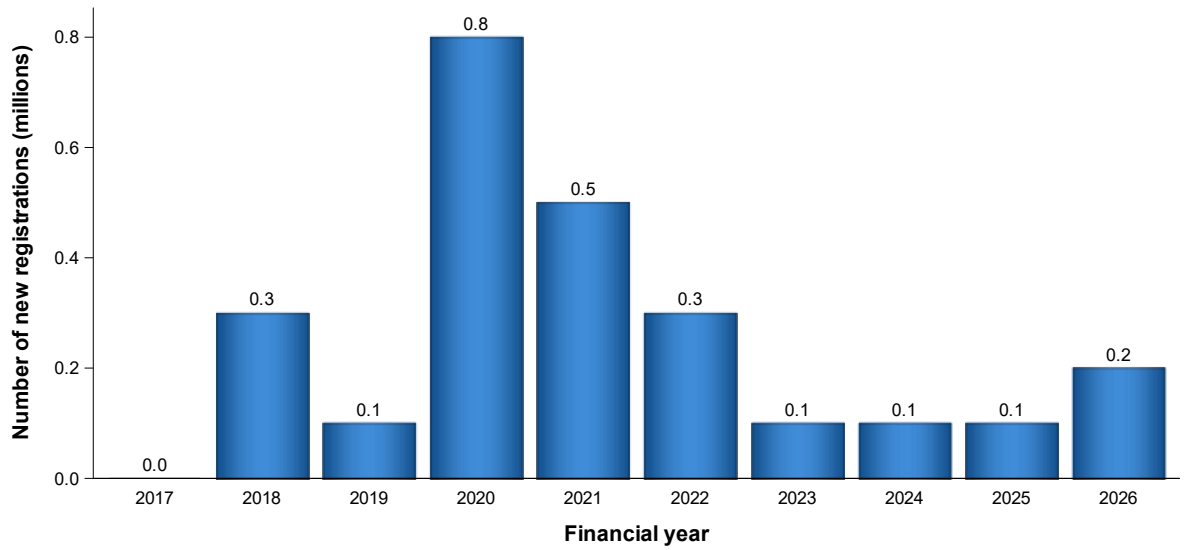
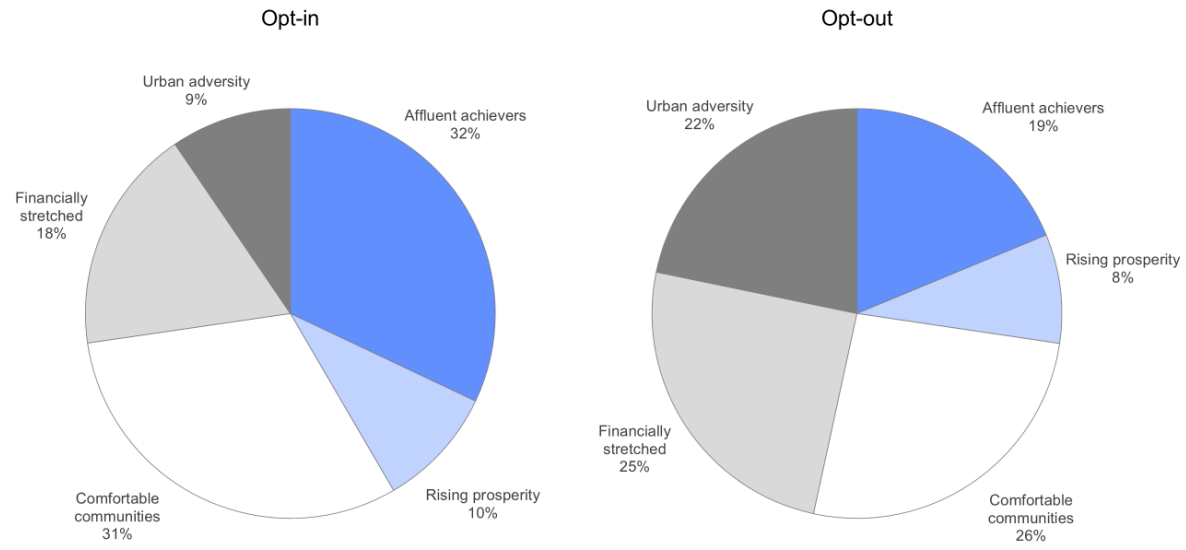


Figure 12.6 **Number of new opt-out registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register**



The breakdown of opt-in and opt-out registrations on the ODR during 2025-2026 by socio-economic group (using the ACORN[1] classification, based on postcode) is shown in **Figure 12.7**, 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' opt-in registrations than in the general population. Conversely, there were less 'affluent achievers' and more 'urban adversity' in the opt-out registrations than the general population.

Figure 12.7 Opt-in and opt-out registrants on the NHS Organ Donor Register, by socio-economic group[1], 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026



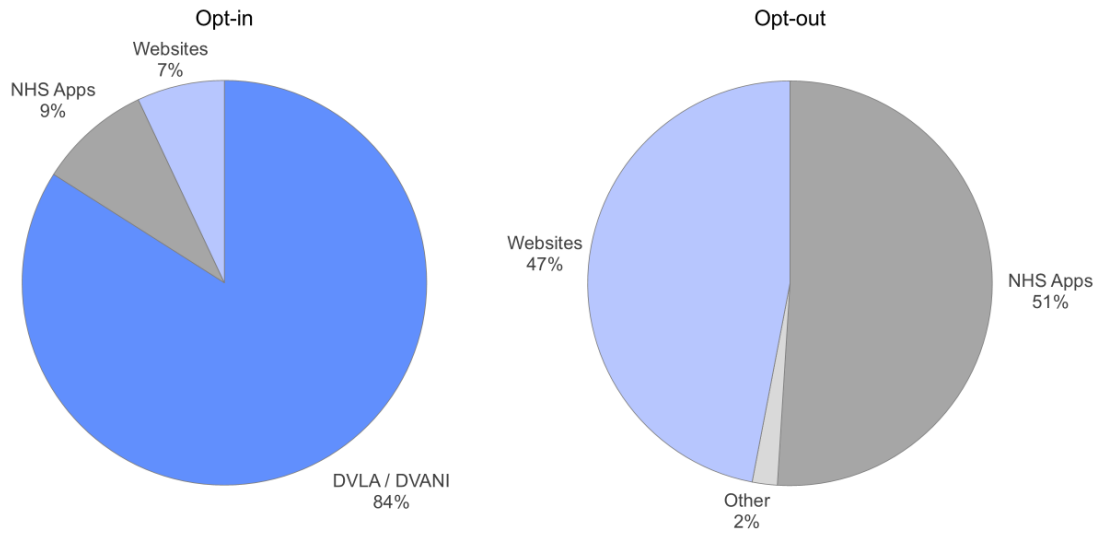
UK population: 23% Affluent achievers, 9% Rising prosperity, 27% Comfortable communities, 23% Financially stretched, 18% Urban adversity

[1] ACORN data supplied by CACI Ltd

There are a number of registration routes to register a decision to donate (opt-in) on the ODR: with driving licence applications and other driving services (via the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and Driver and Vehicle Agency – Northern Ireland (DVANI)), the NHS England App and NHS Wales App, online registrations via the NHSBT Organ Donation website (www.organdonation.nhs.uk) and 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 passport applications, newspapers and radio). Routes to register decisions not to donate are broadly similar though it's not currently possible to register a decision not to donate (opt-out) via DVLA and DVANI.

The source of applications for opt-in and opt-out registrations on the ODR is illustrated in **Figure 12.8**. This figure shows that 84% of opt-in registrations in 2025-2026 arrived by means of registering through driving licence applications and renewals through the DVLA and DVANI, 9% via NHS Apps and 7% online through the organ donation websites. Over the same period, 51% of opt-out registrations arrived via NHS Apps and 47% through the organ donation websites.

Figure 12.8 Source of applications for opt-in and opt-out registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026



People of all ages are eligible for organ donor registration: the distribution of age of people registering an opt-in decision on the ODR during the latest financial year, 2025-2026, is shown in **Figure 12.9** and the age distribution of those registering an opt-out decision is presented in **Figure 12.10**. The highest proportion of opt-in registrations in this year was in the 35-49 years age group. Of the opt-in registrants in 2025-2026, 56% were female and 44% were male (<1% not reported). For opt-out registrations the highest proportion was in the 18-34 years age group and 61% of registrants were female and 36% were male (2% not reported).

Figure 12.9 Age and gender of people registering to donate (opt-in) on the NHS Organ Donor Register between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026

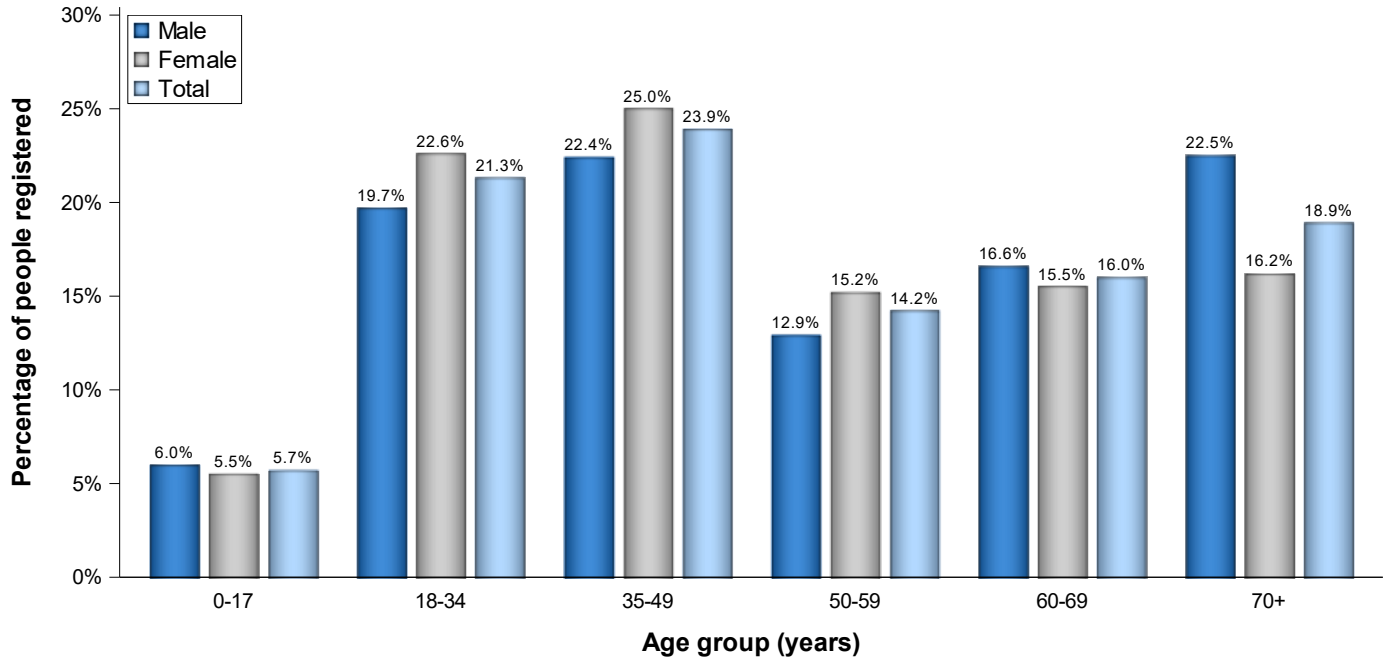
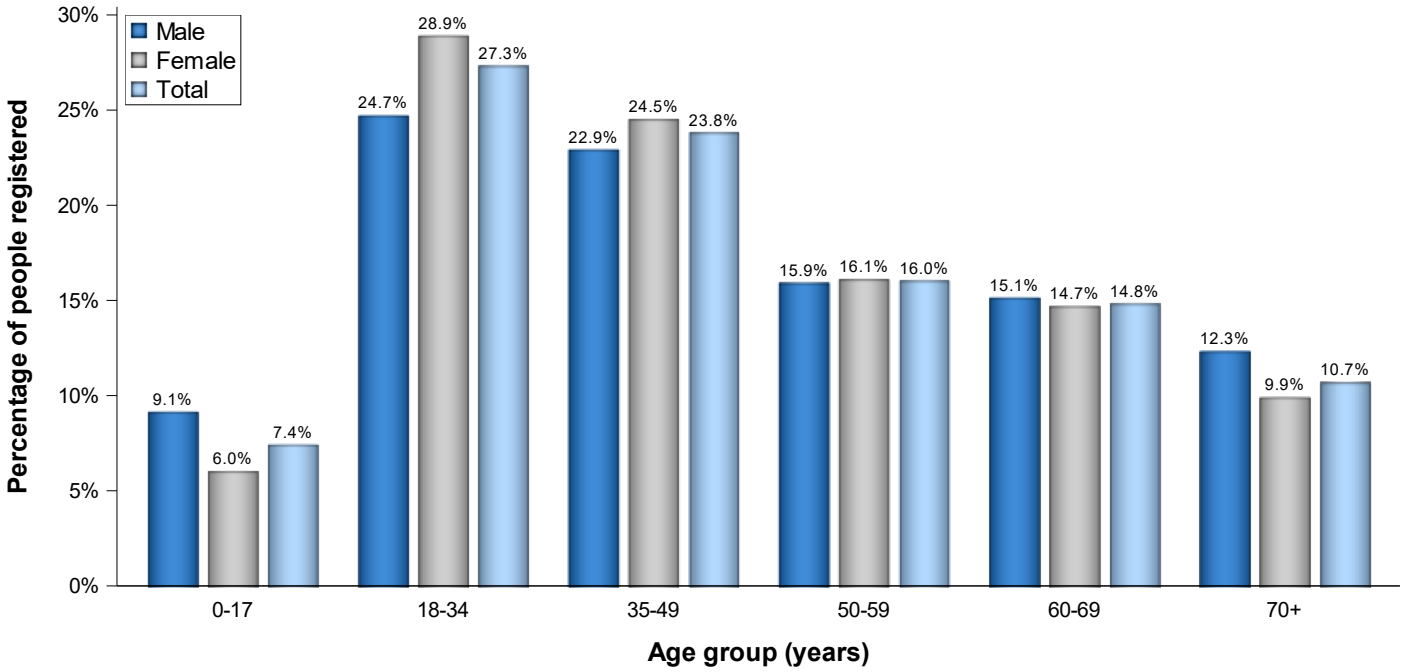



Figure 12.10 Age and gender of people registering not to donate (opt-out) on the NHS Organ Donor Register between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026