NHS
Blood and Transplant

Annual Report on Ethnicity Differences in Organ Donation and Transplantation

Report for 2025/2026
(1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026)

PREFACE

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

This report provides information related to organ donation and transplantation within the white and ethnic minority groups in the UK. It is published as a supplementary report of the *Organ Donation and Transplantation Activity Report 2025/26.*

Data analysed include registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR), deceased and living organ donors, transplant recipients, patients and deaths on the transplant lists and waiting times to transplant. Trends in relation to potential organ donors, including donation consent/authorisation rates[1], are also reported. **The categories currently used to collect data on ethnicity are not consistent between these data sources, and the information is provided in as much detail as available data permit.**

The information reported is from the last 5 financial years, unless otherwise stated. One, three and five year post-registration outcomes have been reported from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Median waiting times include all patients joining the list in a given time period, which varies by organ, and the earliest time period was from 1 April 2011.

Median waiting times are determined by using Kaplan-Meier survival estimates of time from joining the list to allow the inclusion of patients not transplanted (as censored waiting times) and thus provide meaningful estimates. However, it should be noted that none of these waiting times are risk-adjusted for other potentially influential factors (e.g. blood group), and thus should be interpreted with a degree of caution.

Ethnicity of people registering on the ODR is only captured as a registration is made and is not linked to the main ODR and any subsequent updates (removal of duplicates and notifications of death). For this reason, ethnicity can only be reported on data that include duplicates and people who have subsequently died. The updated number of registrations as reported elsewhere is also provided for completeness.

Organ donors, transplant recipients and transplant waiting list data capture does not allow for a detailed breakdown of ethnicity. Overall <1% of recipients and donors did not have ethnicity recorded and where numbers are small ethnicities have been grouped. **This report only includes donors and recipients where ethnicity is reported on 1 June 2026.**

Acknowledgement
NHS Blood and Transplant would like to thank all those in the donation and transplantation communities responsible for providing data to the UK Transplant Registry and the Potential Donor Audit, without whom this report would not be possible. Thanks also go to NHS Blood and Transplant staff responsible for data entry and accuracy and completeness of the data.

[1] The consent/authorisation rate is the percentage of eligible donor families or appointed/nominated representatives approached for formal organ donation discussion where consent/authorisation was ascertained.



FOREWORD



This year's Annual Report on Ethnicity Differences in Organ Donation and Transplantation highlights both progress and persistent inequalities in our shared efforts to ensure that everyone across the UK has an equitable opportunity to donate organs and receive a life-saving transplant.

The findings for 2025/26 demonstrate the scale of the challenge ahead. There were 1,193 transplants in people from ethnic minority backgrounds, a slight decrease from 1,201 in the previous year. The number of deceased donors from ethnic minority backgrounds increased by 4%, from 96 to 100, while the number of living donors decreased from 145 to 135.

At the same time, demand continues to grow. As of 31 March 2026, 2,580 people from ethnic minority backgrounds were on the active transplant waiting list, an increase of 2% on the previous year, and the highest recorded. People from ethnic minority backgrounds accounted for approximately one-third of everyone waiting for a transplant yet represented fewer than one in ten organ donors.

Ethnic minority groups were under-represented in opt in registrations in 2025/26; 12.7% compared with 18% of the population in England and Wales from ethnic minority background. However, there continues to be variation in the proportion of opt in among different ethnic minority groups. This data is based on 12.7% of registrants providing their ethnicity, the lowest recorded percentage.

33% of opt out registrations in 2025/26 were from ethnic minority background, based on 77% of the registrants providing their ethnicity.
These figures underline the importance of sustained, collaborative action to increase donation, address barriers to transplantation and reduce the inequalities that continue to affect patients and their families.

Understanding the inequalities
The report highlights continuing differences in family consent and authorisation for organ donation. In 2025/26, the overall consent/authorisation rate was 29.1% for potential donors from ethnic minority backgrounds, compared with 61.6% for white potential donors.

Families from ethnic minority backgrounds may have questions or concerns relating to religious and cultural beliefs, uncertainty about the wishes of their loved ones, or a lack of information about organ donation. Addressing these barriers requires open, sensitive and informed conversations that recognise the diversity of experiences, beliefs and perspectives within communities.

The report also demonstrates that inequalities persist in access to transplantation. Although waiting times have improved overall, patients from ethnic minority backgrounds generally wait longer than white patients. For kidney transplantation, the median waiting time is 648 days for Asian patients and 593 days for Black patients, compared with 501 days for white patients. These differences have real consequences for individuals and families. They reinforce the need to improve understanding of organ donation, increase opportunities for donation and ensure that our approach to transplantation continues to address disparities in waiting times and outcomes.



Working together to build trust and confidence
NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and the National BAME Transplant Alliance (NBTA) have established a successful partnership over many years, and a Partnership Board oversees this work. One of the areas of partnership working this year has been a review of this annual report on data by ethnicity. There are several changes in this report compared to previous years, including more granular information. We will, of course, continue this work.

Another area of joint working has been the implementation of the ten recommendations arising from the Messaging Conference held in 2024. A report on progress with these recommendations will be published soon and discussed at a follow up conference in November 2026.

The Community Grants Programme is now well established and was reviewed by NHSBT and NBTA. Several changes have been made to the latest round of the programme and we hope that the amazing work undertaken by many local community groups in taking the lead on organ donation will have grater impact in the future.

Strengthening our evidence and closing the gap
Reliable data are fundamental to understanding inequalities, measuring progress and identifying where further action is needed. This report provides an important overview of trends in organ donor registration, potential donors, donation consent and authorisation, transplantation and waiting times across different ethnic groups.

However, limitations in the recording of ethnicity across some data sources continue to affect the completeness of our evidence. In particular, ethnicity is recorded for only a small proportion of people registering to opt in to the NHS Organ Donor Register. Improving the quality and consistency of data will be important in helping us better understand the experiences of different communities and evaluate the impact of our work.

The findings also highlight the importance of continuing to monitor the impact of changes to kidney allocation and offering arrangements, including the revised kidney offering scheme introduced in 2019. While waiting times have reduced over time, differences remain and continued evaluation is needed to understand progress towards greater equity.

Our commitment
Reducing inequalities in organ donation and transplantation remains a priority for NHSBT and NBTA. The evidence in this report reinforces our shared commitment:

- To recognise and minimise the mis trust many ethnic minority individuals have in the NHS, and its impact on organ donation.
- to improve the quality, consistency and transparency of ethnicity data;
- to strengthen relationships with faith groups, community organisations and trusted local leaders;
- to increase awareness and understanding of deceased and living organ donation;
- to address barriers to donation and support families to make informed decisions;
- to monitor inequalities in transplantation and waiting times and use the evidence to inform further action.

We recognise that progress depends on sustained commitment, honest reflection and collaboration across the donation and transplantation community. No single organisation can address these inequalities alone.

We are profoundly grateful to every organ donor and living donor, and to the families whose generosity and compassion help save and transform lives. We also thank the clinicians, specialist nurses, community representatives, faith leaders, voluntary organisations and colleagues who continue to work alongside us.

Together, we must build on the progress made, confront the inequalities that remain and work towards a future in which a person's ethnicity does not limit their opportunity to donate or receive the life-saving transplant they need.



Derek Manas
Medical Director – Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation



Kirit Modi MBE
Hon. President of NBTA



Orin Lewis OBE
NBTA Chair

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SUMMARY

SUMMARY

Organ Donor Register

- There has been an increase in the proportion of opt-in registrations from ethnic minority groups added to the Organ Donor Register (ODR) over the past 5 years; 10.3% of opt-ins with ethnicity reported in 2021/22 and 12.7% in 2025/26.

- Overall, minority groups were under-represented in ODR registrations; ethnic minorities represent 12.7% of opt-in registrations compared with 18% of the population for England and Wales. However, there continues to be some variation in the proportion of opt in from different ethnic minority groups with Indian and other Asian groups being over-represented.

- Relative to the English and Welsh population, ethnic minorities have over representation in opt-outs at 36.3%.

- The number of ODR opt-in registrations with ethnicity reported has fallen – from 23.9% in 2021/22 to 12.4% last year. In 2025/26, the proportion of ODR opt-out registrations with ethnicity reported was 74.2%.

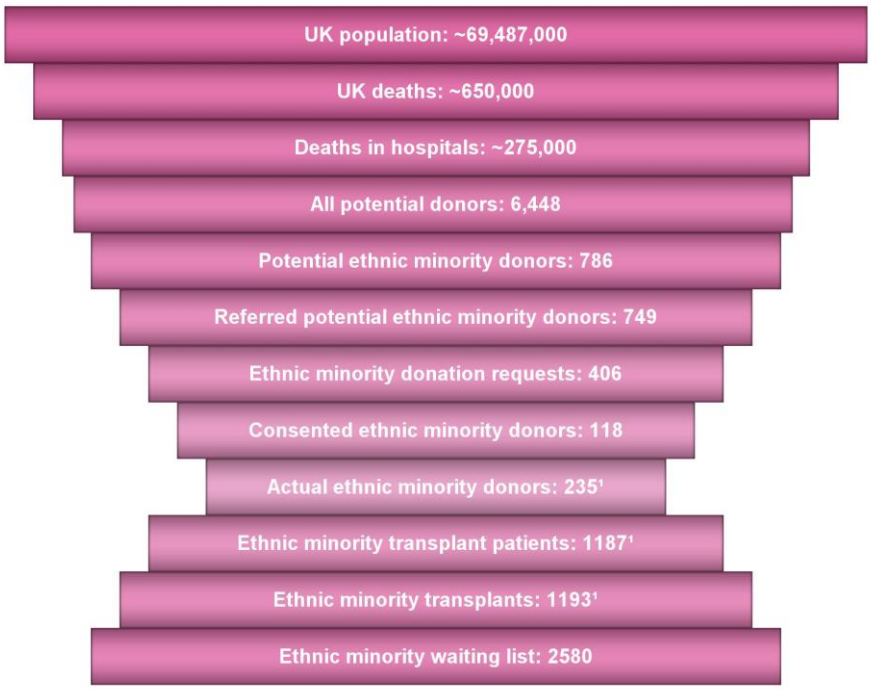
Potential organ donors

- Referral rates to specialist nurses of potential white and ethnic minority donors after brain death (DBD) last year were comparable at 99%, but were lower for potential ethnic minority donors after circulatory death (DCD) at 93%.

- Family consent/authorisation is much lower for ethnic minority potential donors (34% DBD, 24% DCD) than for white potential donors (73% DBD, 56% DCD). Overall (DBD and DCD combined) consent rates were 29.1% for ethnic minority and 61.6% for white potential donors last year, lower than the previous year.

- The main reasons families from ethnic minority backgrounds gave for declining consent/authorisation for organ donation were that they felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs or they were unsure whether the patient would have agreed to donation. Survey results of ethnic minority groups show that not knowing enough about organ donation is also a major barrier to organ donation. NHSBT and the National BAME Transplant Alliance (NBTA) have been working in partnership over several years to address these barriers. The work of the Impact Group on actions arising from the Messaging Conference in 2024 has now been completed and a report will be published on the NHSBT website, following the follow up Conference in November 2026. The Community Grants Programme has been reviewed, and several changes have been made for future funding, details are available from the NHSBT website. NHSBT and NBTA will also publish a strategic overview of issues related to addressing inequalities in current provision for ethnic minority and faith communities, after the November 2026 Conference.

Figure 1.1 UK potential organ donor population, by ethnic minority groups, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026



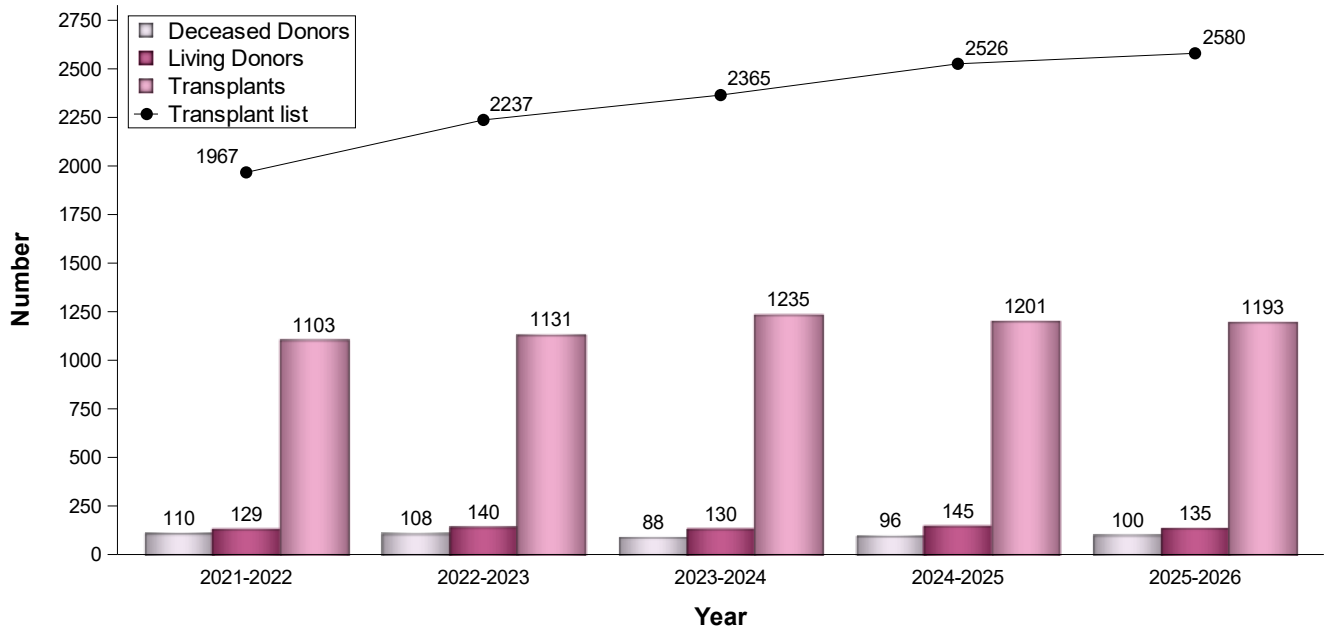
¹ Please note that 135 living donors have been included in this figure

Organ donors, transplant recipients and transplant waiting list

Overview

- The number of ethnic minority deceased organ donors has increased by 4% from 96 in 2024/25 to 100 in 2025/26. In comparison, white donors have increased by 2%.
- The number of ethnic minority living organ donors has decreased by 6.9% from 145 in 2024/25 to 135 in 2025/26. In comparison, white living organ donors have increased by 4%.
- The number of transplants in people from ethnic minority backgrounds fell by 0.7% from 1,201 in 2024/25 to 1,193 in 2025/26. In comparison, transplants in people from white backgrounds increased by 2%.
- There were 2,580 people from ethnic minority backgrounds on the active organ transplant list at 31 March 2026, an increase of 2% from 2,526 as at 31 March 2025. This is mostly due to increases in the kidney and liver transplant lists. In comparison the number of people from white backgrounds on the active organ transplant list increased by 2%.
- In 2025/26, Asian people represented 4% of deceased donors (DD), 16% of DD transplants and 19% of the transplant waiting list; black people represented 2% of DD, 12% of DD transplants and 11% of the list.
- In 2025/26, Asian people represented 8% of living donors (LD) and 10% of LD transplants; black people represented 3% of LD and 4% of LD transplants.
- One year after being listed for a transplant (all organs), 46.2% (N=1512) of white and 37.9% (N=340) of ethnic minority groups have been transplanted. Five years after listing, 74.3% (N=2428) of white and 75.6% (N=678) of ethnic minority groups have been transplanted, while 7.2% (n=237) of white and 6.1% (N=55) of ethnic minority groups have died on the list.
- Median waiting times to transplant show that, generally, white patients wait less time than patients from ethnic minority backgrounds. Asian patients often wait the longest (**Table 4.3**).
- Approximately 80% of transplants in people from ethnic minority backgrounds are from white donors.

Figure 1.2 Ethnic minority deceased and living donors and transplants in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026, and patients on the active transplant list at 31 March



Kidney

- One year after being listed for a kidney transplant, 39.8% of white and 31.1% of ethnic minority people have received a transplant. Five years after listing, 78.4% of white and 75.9% of ethnic minority people have been transplanted while 5.6% of white and 5.9% of ethnic minority people have died on the list.

- There has been an overall decline in waiting times for all ethnicities, although asian patients are waiting 5 months longer for a transplant than white patients (median waits are 593 days for black, 648 days for Asian, and 501 days for white people). Over time, it is predicted that the differences in the waiting times across ethnic minority groups will be reduced with the introduction of a revised kidney offering scheme in 2019.

- In 2025/26, Asian people represented 4% of deceased kidney donors (DD), 20% of DD kidney transplants and 20% of the transplant waiting list; black people represented 1% of kidney DD, 16% of DD transplants and 12% of the list.

- The majority of kidney transplants are from white donors across all recipient ethnic groups: approx. 90% of transplants in people from ethnic minority backgrounds are from white donors.

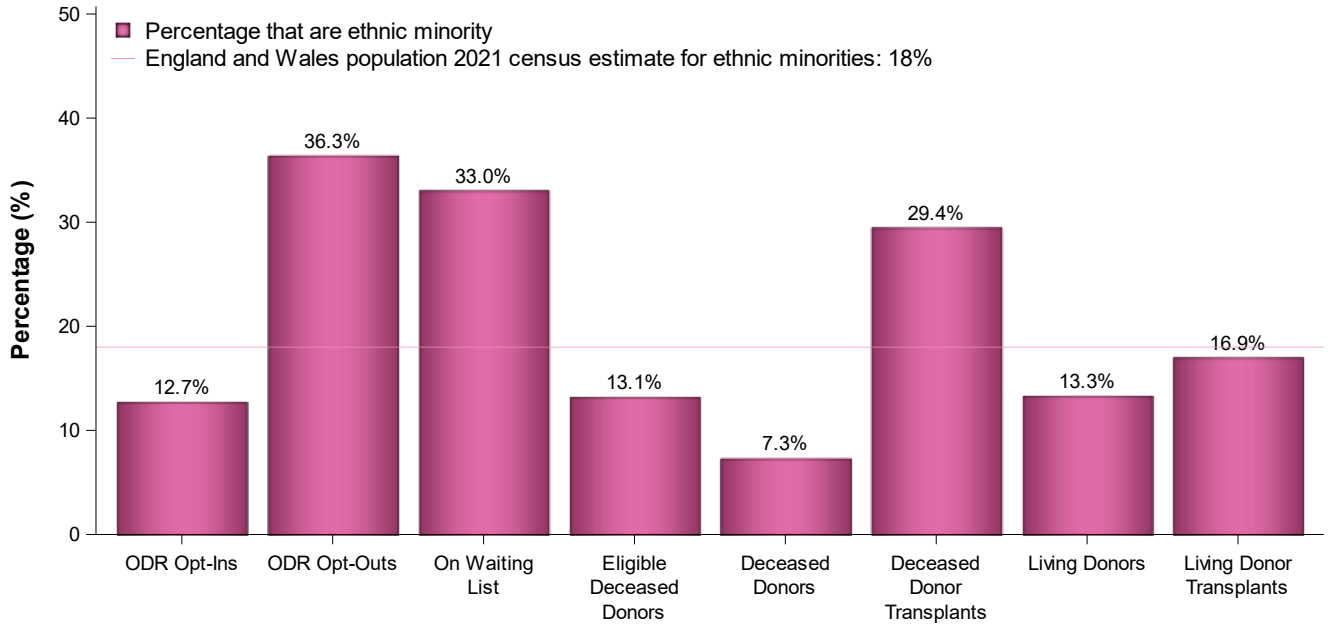
- 59.8% of Asian and 45.8% of black kidney transplant recipients receive a kidney from a living donor of the same ethnicity.

Other organs

- One year after listing for transplant:
  - **Pancreas and pancreas/kidney:** 21% of white and 35% of ethnic minority patients have received a transplant, while 0.8% and 0% have died on the list, respectively.
  - **Liver:** 65.5% of white and 62.9% of ethnic minority patients have received a transplant, while 6.1% and 2.4% have died on the list, respectively.
  - **Cardiothoracic:** 40.9% of white and 45.3% of ethnic minority patients have received a transplant, while 9.3% and 11.3% have died on the list, respectively.
- In 2025/26, Asian people represented:
  - **Pancreas and pancreas/kidney:** 3% of donors, 8% of transplants and 7% of the transplant list.
  - **Liver:** 4% of donors, 9% of transplants and 11% of the transplant list.
  - **Cardiothoracic:** 5% of donors, 10% of transplants and 11% of the transplant list.
- In 2025/26, black people represented:
  - **Pancreas and pancreas/kidney:** 0.3% of donors, 7% of transplants and 7% of the transplant list.
  - **Liver:** 2% of donors, 5% of transplants and 4% of the transplant list.
  - **Cardiothoracic:** 0.9% of donors, 5% of transplants and 4% of the transplant list.

Figure 1.3 shows an over-representation of people from ethnic minority backgrounds relative to the population of England and Wales for ODR opt-outs, those on the waiting list and deceased donor transplants. Ethnic minority groups are under-represented in deceased donors as well as eligible deceased donors, living donors, living donor transplants and those registering on the opt-in ODR.

Figure 1.3 Percentage that are ethnic minority relative to the population, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026



ORGAN DONOR REGISTER



2 Organ Donor Register (ODR)

Ethnicity of people registering on the ODR is only captured as a registration is made and is not linked to the main ODR and any subsequent updates (removal of duplicates and notifications of death). For this reason, ethnicity can only be reported on data that include duplicates and people who have subsequently died. The updated number of registrations as reported elsewhere is also provided for completeness.

Most sources of opt-in registration provided by NHSBT's partners do not have an option to record or report ethnicity. Even when the option is available, it is not possible to tell how many people choose not to provide the information when registering via these routes. Consequently, only 12% of people registering on the ODR in 2025/26 have their ethnicity recorded.

Table 2.1 shows the number of opt-in registrations per year by ethnicity from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026. In 2025/26, 87% of registrations with ethnicity recorded were by white people, 7% from Asian, and 2% from black.

Table 2.2 shows the number of opt-out registrations per year by ethnicity from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026. Most opt-out registrations are entered online and as a result have a higher proportion of people reporting their ethnicity (74% in 2025/26). In the last year, there has been an increase in the number of opt-out registrations. In 2025/26, the majority of opt-out registrations were among white people (64%), followed by Asian people (17%) and black people (12%).

Table 2.1 Ethnicity of all ODR opt-in registrations by year of registration[1], 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	British	231,273	77.6	116,666	78.0	92,785	76.8	95,975	76.5	78,259	73.4
	Irish	4,890	1.6	2,106	1.4	1,957	1.6	2,128	1.7	1,996	1.9
	Other	31,229	10.5	13,372	8.9	11,617	9.6	12,345	9.8	12,850	12.1
	Total	**267,392**	**89.7**	**132,144**	**88.3**	**106,359**	**88.0**	**110,448**	**88.0**	**93,105**	**87.3**
Asian	Bangladeshi	398	0.1	209	0.1	212	0.2	202	0.2	221	0.2
	Chinese	2,333	0.8	1,360	0.9	997	0.8	847	0.7	791	0.7
	Indian	8,643	2.9	5,158	3.4	4,070	3.4	4,027	3.2	3,663	3.4
	Pakistani	1,276	0.4	757	0.5	627	0.5	702	0.6	622	0.6
	Other	4,499	1.5	2,585	1.7	2,213	1.8	2,269	1.8	2,096	2.0
	Total	**17,149**	**5.8**	**10,069**	**6.7**	**8,119**	**6.7**	**8,047**	**6.4**	**7,393**	**6.9**
Black	African	1,729	0.6	1,127	0.8	1,037	0.9	1,129	0.9	977	0.9
	Caribbean	1,105	0.4	643	0.4	523	0.4	568	0.5	440	0.4
	Other	821	0.3	335	0.2	272	0.2	271	0.2	327	0.3
	Total	**3,655**	**1.2**	**2,105**	**1.4**	**1,832**	**1.5**	**1,968**	**1.6**	**1,744**	**1.6**
Mixed	White/Asian	2,177	0.7	1,154	0.8	1,002	0.8	1,134	0.9	963	0.9
	White/Black African	990	0.3	510	0.3	417	0.3	496	0.4	438	0.4
	White/Black Caribbean	1,776	0.6	936	0.6	788	0.7	915	0.7	769	0.7
	Other	2,562	0.9	1,407	0.9	1,213	1.0	1,221	1.0	1,055	1.0
	Total	**7,505**	**2.5**	**4,007**	**2.7**	**3,420**	**2.8**	**3,766**	**3.0**	**3,225**	**3.0**
Other		2,306	0.8	1,276	0.9	1,155	1.0	1,244	1.0	1,162	1.1
Total reported		298,007	100.0	149,601	100.0	120,885	100.0	125,473	100.0	106,629	100.0
Not reported		946,640	76.1	874,033	85.4	729,562	85.8	741,635	85.5	754,953	87.6
TOTAL OPT-IN REGISTRATIONS		**1,244,647**		**1,023,634**		**850,447**		**867,108**		**861,582**	

[1] Most sources of registration onto the ODR provided by NHSBT's partners do not have an option to record or report ethnicity

Table 2.2 Ethnicity of all ODR opt-out registrations by year of registration, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
		N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%	N	%
White	British	133,549	61.9	61,393	58.2	55,578	58.7	52,709	54.9	81,290	50.2
	Irish	1,839	0.9	1,080	1.0	2,731	2.9	1,239	1.3	2,404	1.5
	Other	20,693	9.6	9,547	9.1	7,988	8.4	9,506	9.9	19,405	12.0
	Total	**156,081**	**72.4**	**72,020**	**68.3**	**66,297**	**70.0**	**63,454**	**66.1**	**103,099**	**63.7**
Asian	Bangladeshi	4,115	1.9	2,201	2.1	2,153	2.3	2,473	2.6	4,095	2.5
	Chinese	5,644	2.6	4,368	4.1	2,066	2.2	1,414	1.5	2,781	1.7
	Indian	8,239	3.8	4,014	3.8	3,424	3.6	3,527	3.7	4,525	2.8
	Pakistani	12,595	5.8	6,859	6.5	6,346	6.7	6,791	7.1	11,348	7.0
	Other	6,191	2.9	3,698	3.5	3,166	3.3	3,286	3.4	5,250	3.2
	Total	**36,784**	**17.1**	**21,140**	**20.1**	**17,155**	**18.1**	**17,491**	**18.2**	**27,999**	**17.3**
Black	African	6,485	3.0	3,829	3.6	3,670	3.9	5,578	5.8	12,595	7.8
	Caribbean	2,938	1.4	1,535	1.5	1,364	1.4	1,844	1.9	3,694	2.3
	Other	3,593	1.7	1,507	1.4	1,422	1.5	1,488	1.5	3,363	2.1
	Total	**13,016**	**6.0**	**6,871**	**6.5**	**6,456**	**6.8**	**8,910**	**9.3**	**19,652**	**12.1**
Mixed	White/Asian	1,078	0.5	562	0.5	558	0.6	690	0.7	1,059	0.7
	White/Black African	944	0.4	471	0.4	408	0.4	523	0.5	1,177	0.7
	White/Black Caribbean	1,327	0.6	713	0.7	674	0.7	944	1.0	1,721	1.1
	Other	2,012	0.9	1,246	1.2	1,070	1.1	1,353	1.4	2,286	1.4
	Total	**5,361**	**2.5**	**2,992**	**2.8**	**2,710**	**2.9**	**3,510**	**3.7**	**6,243**	**3.9**
Other		4,412	2.0	2,386	2.3	2,026	2.1	2,675	2.8	4,860	3.0
Total reported		215,654	100.0	105,409	100.0	94,644	100.0	96,040	100.0	161,853	100.0
Not reported		54,699	20.2	24,505	18.9	19,933	17.4	24,778	20.5	56,393	25.8
TOTAL OPT-OUT REGISTRATIONS		**270,353**		**129,914**		**114,577**		**120,818**		**218,246**	

Given the lack of opt-in registrations for which ethnicity is recorded, it is not meaningful to compare absolute numbers of people registering each year. However, looking at proportions of those with ethnicity reported is meaningful. If it is assumed that the proportions are representative of all ODR opt-in and opt-out registrations, it is possible to see differences relative to the population of England and Wales (Appendix, **Table I**).

The population of England and Wales broken down by ethnicity is reported using the census data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the most recent census reported was 2021. **Table 2.3** shows data on percentage of the ODR opt-in registrations in 2021/22 and 2025/26 against the percentage of the general population for England and Wales. In 2021/22, 9.5% of ODR opt-in registrations of known ethnicity were ethnic minority groups which has increased to 11.6% in 2025/26. It is estimated that 18.3% of the population for England and Wales are from ethnic minority backgrounds, reflecting an under-representation of ethnic minority groups on the ODR opt-in and an over-representation on the ODR opt-out.

Table 2.3 Ethnic minority opt-in registrations on the ODR vs the population for England and Wales

		2021-2022 % of the ODR registrations[1]	2025-2026 % of the ODR registrations[1]	2021 % of the population[2]
Asian	Bangladeshi	0.1	0.2	1.1
	Chinese	0.8	0.7	0.7
	Indian	2.9	3.4	3.1
	Pakistani	0.4	0.6	2.7
	Other	1.5	2.0	1.6
	Total	**5.8**	**6.9**	**9.2**
Black	African	0.6	0.9	2.5
	Caribbean	0.4	0.4	1.0
	Other	0.3	0.3	0.5
	Total	**1.2**	**1.6**	**4.0**
Mixed	White/Asian	0.7	0.9	0.8
	White/Black African	0.3	0.4	0.4
	White/Black Caribbean	0.6	0.7	0.9
	Other	0.9	1.0	0.8
	Total	**2.5**	**3.0**	**2.9**
Other		0.8	1.1	2.2
Total		9.5	11.6	18.3

[1] Where ethnicity is reported
[2] Source - Office of National Statistics
Note some rounding effects

POTENTIAL ORGAN DONORS

3 Potential organ donors

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) capture information about potential organ donors through the Potential Donor Audit (PDA). This audit is of all patient deaths in UK Intensive Care Units and emergency departments, excluding deaths on wards and any patients over 80 years of age. The PDA provides information about the organ donation process and identifies potential barriers to organ donation. All data shown in this section use the following definitions:

Neurological death suspected patients who meet all of the following criteria: invasive ventilation, Glasgow Coma Scale 3 not explained by sedation, no respiratory effort, fixed pupils, no cough or gag reflex. Excluding those not tested as cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation, brain stem reflexes returned, or below 37 weeks corrected gestational age.

Eligible donors after brain death (DBD) are defined as patients for whom death was confirmed following neurological tests and who had no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

Eligible donors after circulatory death (DCD) are defined as patients who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated, with no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

The neurological death testing rate is the proportion of patients in whom neurological death was suspected who were tested (DBD donor process only).

The referral rate is the percentage of patients for whom neurological death was suspected, or imminent death was anticipated, that were discussed with the Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD).

The consent/authorisation rate is the percentage of eligible donor families or nominated/appointed representatives approached for formal organ donation discussion where consent/authorisation was ascertained.

Tables II and III in the Appendix show more detailed data by ethnic minority groups from both the DBD and DCD organ donation processes, respectively. The data in these tables are used to produce some of the figures in this chapter.

The neurological death testing rate for white and ethnic minority potential DBD donors has been fairly constant over the past 5 years. Rates of neurological death testing for white and ethnic minority potential donors were comparable in 2022/23 (79.4% and 77.9%, respectively).

Figure 3.1 presents the DBD and DCD referral rates for white and ethnic minority groups. The referral rates for ethnic minority and white potential DBD donors are 99%, and 94% and 93% for DCD donors, respectively.

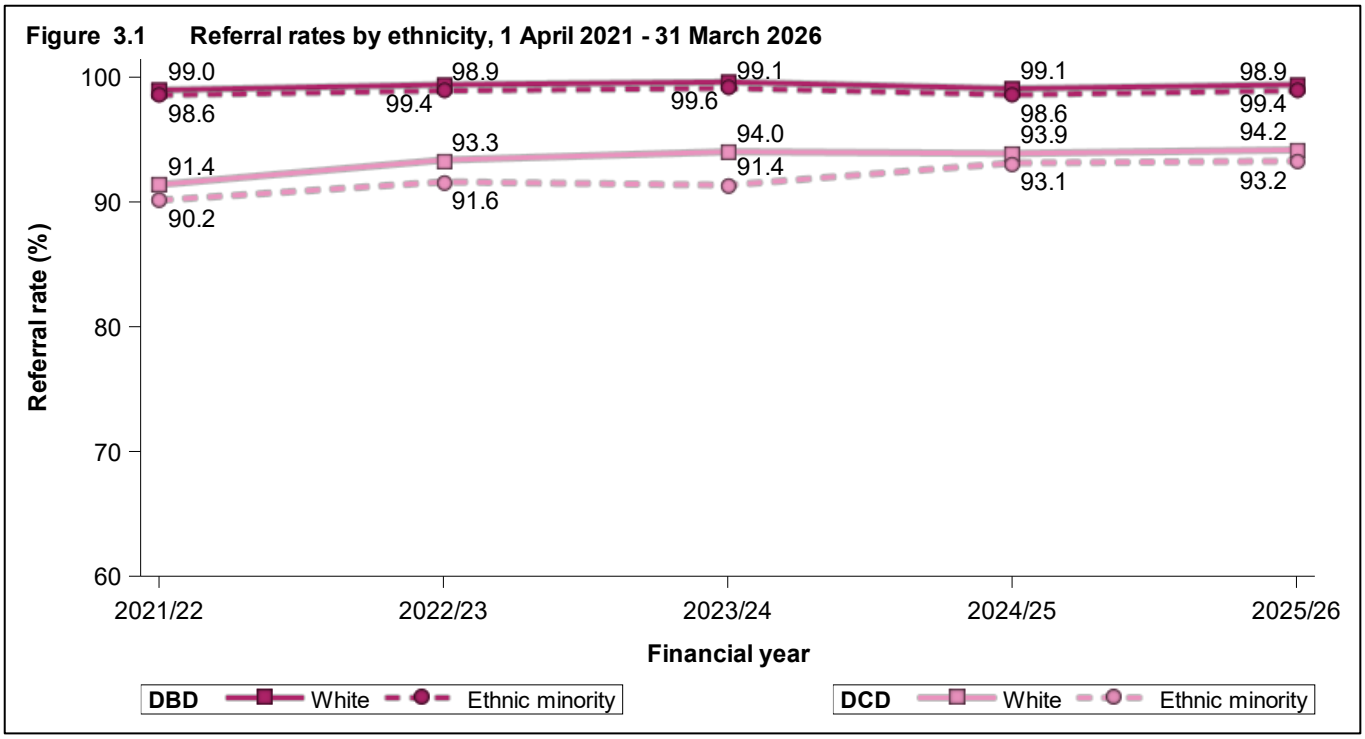


Figure 3.2 shows the number of eligible DBD donors and eligible DBD donors with consent ascertained over time for white and ethnic minority groups, **Figure 3.3** shows the overall DBD consent/authorisation rates. Similarly, **Figure 3.4** and **Figure 3.5** illustrate the same information for DCD donation, respectively.

Figure 3.2 demonstrates that the number of white and ethnic minority eligible DBD donors has fallen to 889 and 236 respectively and that the number of white and ethnic minority eligible consented/authorised DBD donors has fallen to 603 and 68, respectively.

Whilst there is a large pool of eligible DCD donors, additional DCD assessment and screening processes identify those unsuitable for organ donation and preclude them from the donation process. In combination with lower consent/authorisation rates, this results in fewer consented/authorised DCD donors as shown in **Figure 3.4**.

Figure 3.2 Eligible DBD donors and eligible consented\authorised DBD donors, by ethnicity, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

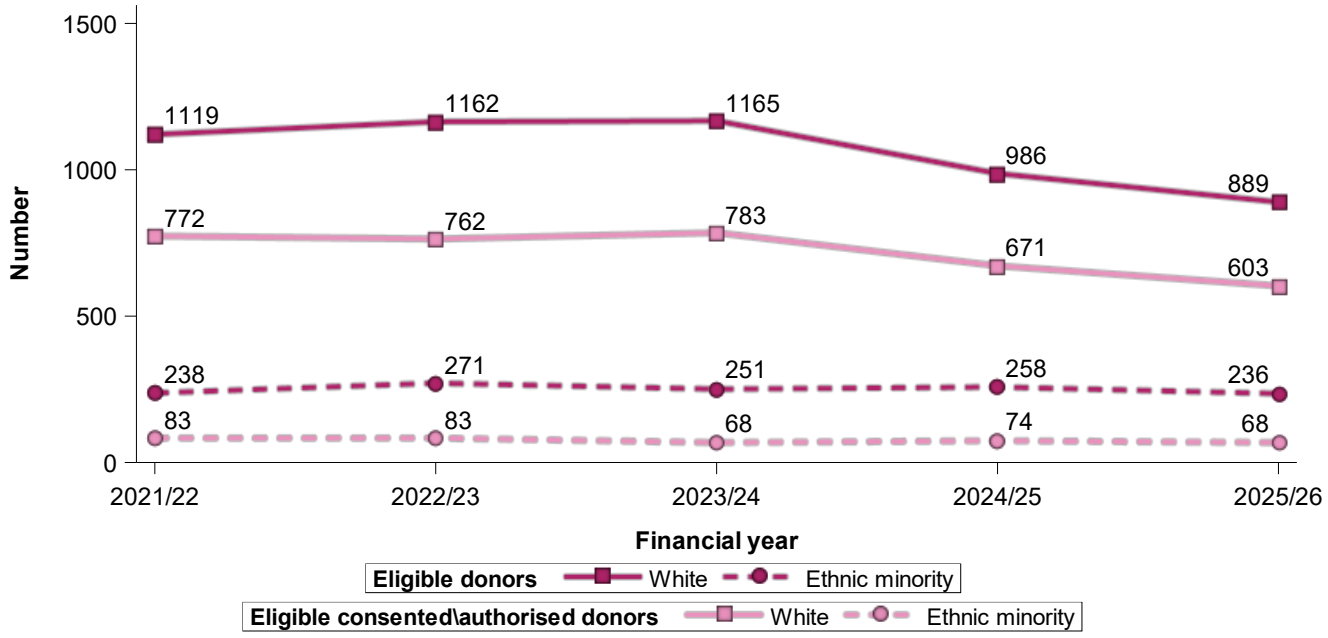
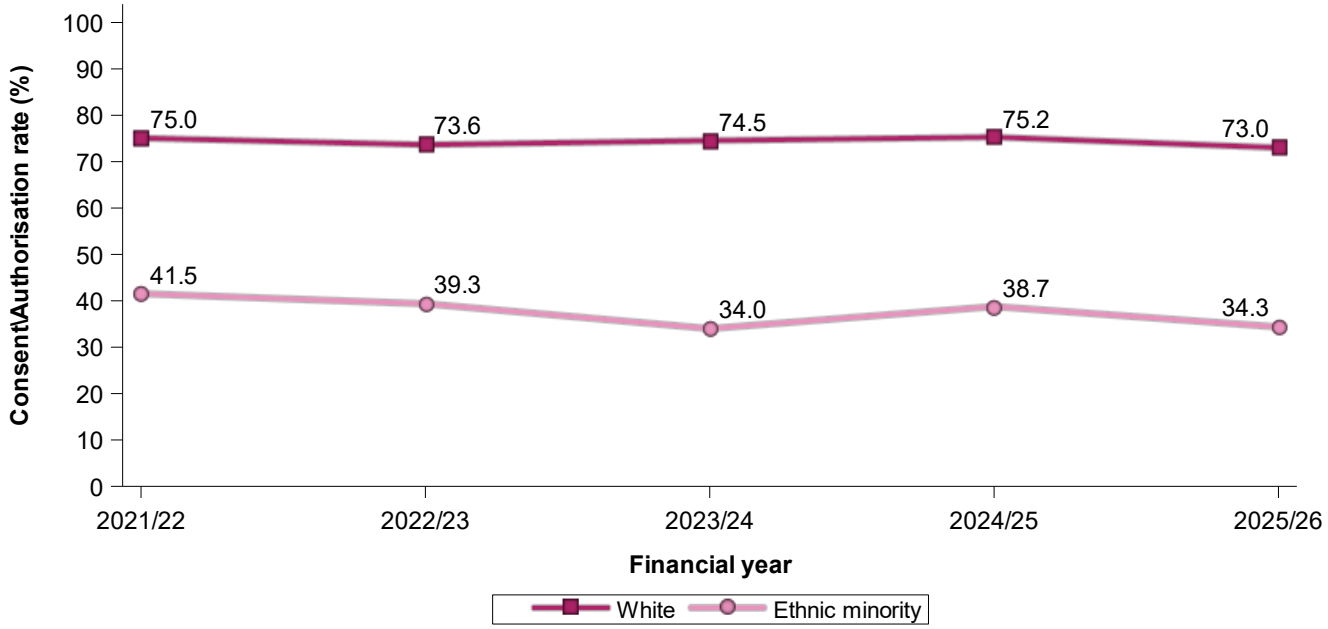


Figure 3.3 DBD consent\authorisation rates by ethnicity, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026



Rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers of ethnic minority patients' families approached

Figure 3.4 Eligible DCD donors and eligible consented\authorised DCD donors, by ethnicity, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

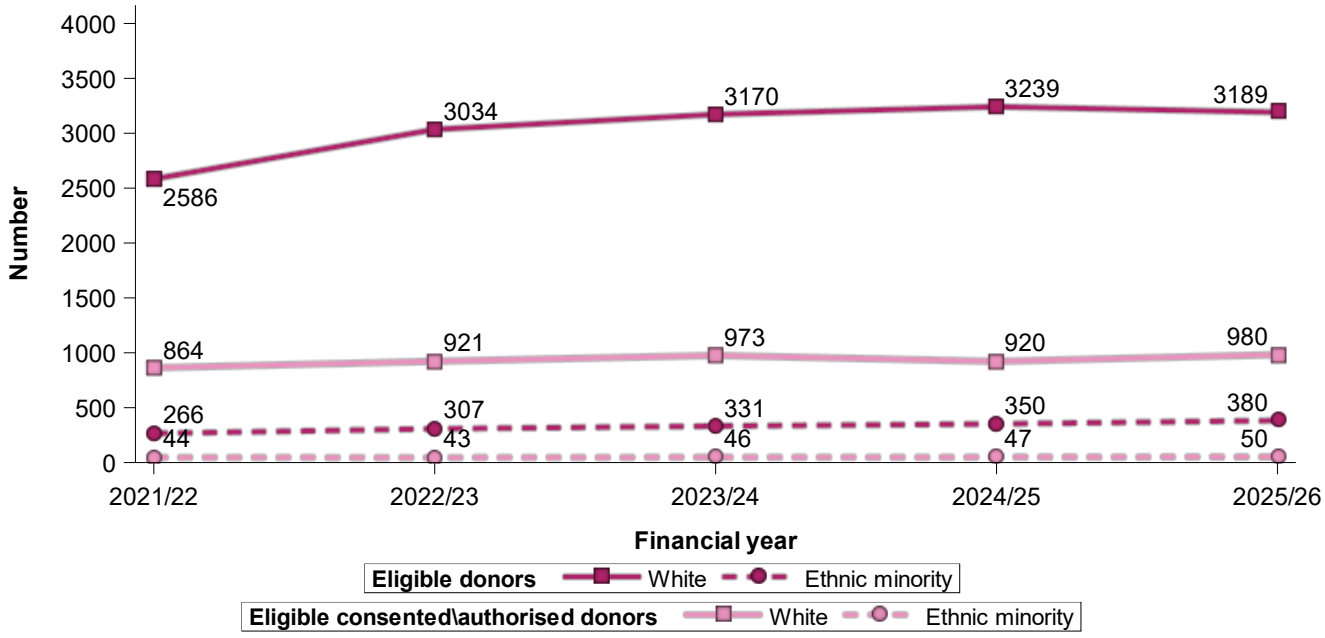
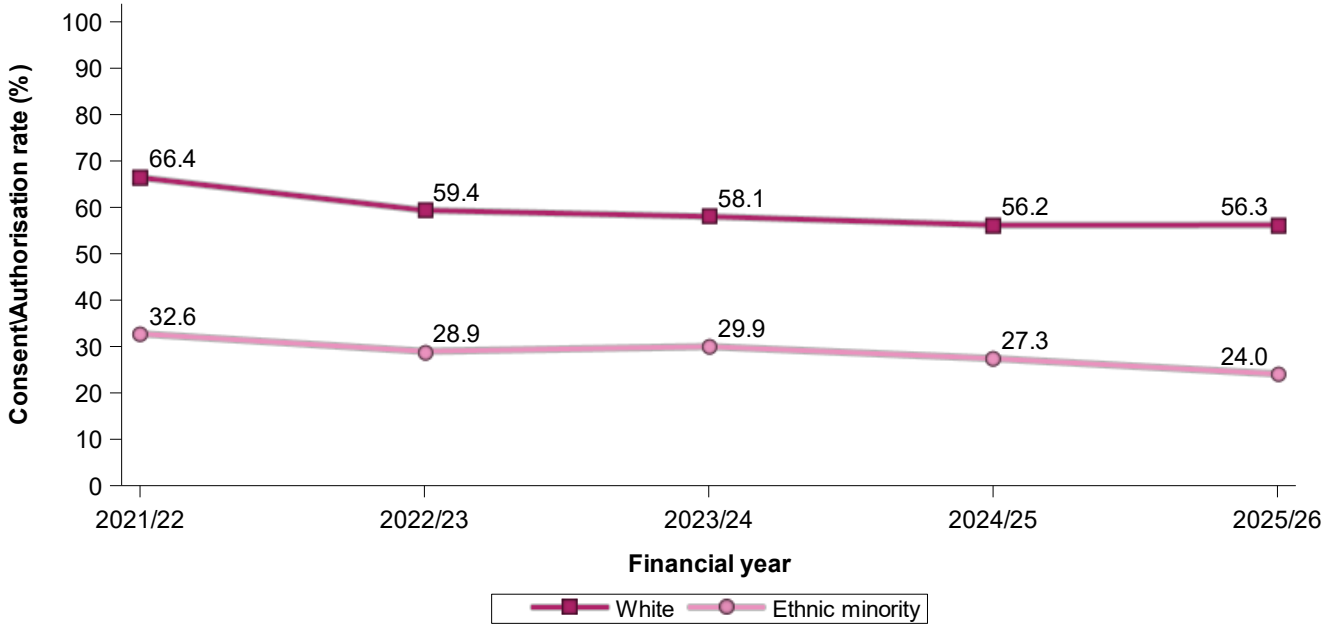


Figure 3.5 DCD consent\authorisation rates by ethnicity, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026



Rates should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers of ethnic minority patients' families approached

Table 3.1 shows the consent/authorisation rates separately for white and ethnic minority patients broken down by the Organ Donation Services Teams (ODSTs) in the UK from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026. The data reports on a five-year period due to a small number of eligible ethnic minority donors in some regions.

Table 3.1 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates from the Potential Donor Audit by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) and ethnicity, 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2026

ODST	Number of eligible DBD donors	Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached	DBD consent/ authorisation rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donors	Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached	DCD consent/ authorisation rate (%)	Overall consent/ authorisation rate (%)
White							
Eastern	525	488	71.5	2182	1192	59.5	63.0
London	560	509	70.5	1039	540	57.2	63.7
Midlands	613	562	70.3	1943	1140	52.0	58.0
North West	631	540	73.9	2281	804	61.9	66.7
Northern	365	326	74.5	1009	457	61.9	67.2
Northern Ireland	255	239	70.7	303	236	63.1	66.9
Scotland	380	334	74.6	865	546	58.8	64.8
South Central	381	360	78.1	1364	657	58.3	65.3
South East	495	443	75.6	1384	733	63.0	67.8
South Wales	249	230	75.2	542	301	49.8	60.8
South West	392	379	85.2	978	588	68.0	74.8
Yorkshire	475	423	74.7	1328	713	56.2	63.1
Total	**5321**	**4833**	**74.3**	**15218**	**7907**	**58.9**	**64.7**
Ethnic minority							
Eastern	100	85	49.4	215	116	24.1	34.8
London	471	383	35.8	498	261	28.7	32.9
Midlands	189	143	39.2	277	145	26.2	32.6
North West	85	61	34.4	146	40	22.5	29.7
Northern	18	13	30.8	37	15	33.3	32.1
Northern Ireland	10	9	33.3	4	2	0.0	27.3
Scotland	20	14	42.9	20	13	46.2	44.4
South Central	69	55	36.4	111	69	34.8	35.5
South East	163	132	39.4	171	88	33.0	36.8
South Wales	24	18	33.3	21	15	33.3	33.3
South West	29	20	55.0	41	16	31.3	44.4
Yorkshire	76	67	26.9	93	38	15.8	22.9
Total	**1254**	**1000**	**37.6**	**1634**	**818**	**28.1**	**33.3**

Families of ethnic minority eligible donors consent/authorise organ donation at a rate of 38% for DBD donation and 33% for DCD donation compared with families of white eligible donors who consent/authorise organ donation at a rate of 74% for DBD donation and 65% for DCD donation from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026.

Table 3.2 shows the consent/authorisation rates for families approached for organ donation by ethnicity and financial year for the same time period. The consent/authorisation rates for white and ethnic minority people were 62% and 29%, respectively, in 2025/26.

Table 3.2 Consent/authorisation (Con/auth) rates for families approached (app) for organ donation by ethnicity and financial year, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

Ethnicity	Financial year 2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		2025-2026	
	App	Con/auth rate %	App	Con/auth rate %	App	Con/auth rate %	App	Con/auth rate %	App	Con/auth rate %
White	**2331**	**70.2**	**2584**	**65.1**	**2727**	**64.4**	**2528**	**62.9**	**2568**	**61.6**
Asian	182	33.5	209	33.5	201	32.3	216	32.9	227	28.6
Black	83	36.1	99	29.3	107	26.2	106	30.2	123	22.8
Other	70	51.4	52	51.9	46	45.7	40	45.0	56	44.6
Ethnic minority	**335**	**37.9**	**360**	**35.0**	**354**	**32.2**	**362**	**33.4**	**406**	**29.1**

Table 3.3 Reasons given why family were not asked to make or support patient's organ donation decision by ethnicity, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

Consent/authorisation refusal reason	Medically suitable eligible donor ethnicity: White		Asian		Black		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Deemed unsuitable by DCD assessment prior to approach	6019	77.2	399	62.2	136	45.9	71	53.4
Not identified as a potential donor	612	7.8	66	10.3	26	8.8	11	8.3
Subsequently assessed to be medically unsuitable	431	5.5	47	7.3	36	12.2	15	11.3
Coroner/Proc Fiscal refused permission	281	3.6	41	6.4	36	12.2	14	10.5
Family stated they would not consent/authorise prior to donation decision conversation	224	2.9	44	6.9	25	8.4	12	9.0
Family untraceable - No first person consent (donation cannot proceed)	72	0.9	18	2.8	12	4.1	3	2.3
Other	70	0.9	16	2.5	14	4.7	5	3.8
Pressure on ICU beds	42	0.5	1	0.2	1	0.3		
Cardiac arrest before approach could be made	25	0.3	5	0.8	3	1.0		
First person Consent or Expressed Authorisation / Family untraceable (donation can proceed)	23	0.3	4	0.6	7	2.4	2	1.5
Total	**7799**	**100.0**	**641**	**100.0**	**296**	**100.0**	**133**	**100.0**

Table 3.3 and **Table 3.4** show the reasons given why the families of eligible DBD and medically suitable eligible DCD donors were not approached and reason given by a family when declining consent/authorisation for organ donation, by ethnicity from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025. The main reasons families from ethnic minority backgrounds gave for refusing consent/authorisation for organ donation was that they felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs or they were unsure whether the patient would have agreed to donation. It is important to note that the most fitting reason following family discussion is chosen from a list by the attending/facilitating SNOD. Survey results of ethnic minority groups shows that not knowing enough about organ donation is also a major barrier to organ donation. NHSBT and the National BAME Transplant Alliance (NBTA) have been working in partnership over a number of years to address these barriers. The Community Investment Scheme and the Living Transplant Initiative are now well-established programmes which empower ethnic minority groups to promote organ donation in targeted groups.

Table 3.4 Reasons for family's refusal to give consent/authorise to organ donation by ethnicity, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

Consent/authorisation refusal reason	Potential donor ethnicity							
	White		Asian		Black		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Patient had previously expressed a wish not to donate	1081	24.1	114	16.2	88	23.7	23	16.8
Family felt the length of time for the donation process was too long	770	17.1	36	5.1	10	2.7	9	6.6
Family were not sure whether the patient would have agreed to donation	583	13.0	69	9.8	43	11.6	8	5.8
Family did not want surgery to the body	410	9.1	46	6.5	23	6.2	13	9.5
Family felt patient had suffered enough	394	8.8	18	2.6	18	4.8	9	6.6
Other	357	7.9	44	6.3	14	3.8	11	8.0
Patient had registered a decision to Opt Out	191	4.3	59	8.4	28	7.5	6	4.4
Strong refusal - probing not appropriate	185	4.1	31	4.4	27	7.3	12	8.8
Family divided over the decision	137	3.1	18	2.6	5	1.3	2	1.5
Family felt that the body should be buried whole (unrelated to religious/cultural reasons)	119	2.6	17	2.4	15	4.0	7	5.1
Family wanted to stay with the patient after death	75	1.7	2	0.3			1	0.7
Family did not believe in donation	61	1.4	26	3.7	10	2.7	5	3.6
Family felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs	61	1.4	207	29.4	83	22.3	28	20.4
Family concerned that organs may not be transplantable	40	0.9	2	0.3				
Missing	8	0.2						
Family had difficulty understanding/accepting neurological testing	6	0.1	3	0.4	1	0.3		
Family concerned other people may disapprove/be offended	5	0.1	8	1.1	6	1.6	3	2.2
Family believe patient's treatment may have been limited to facilitate organ donation	4	0.1			1	0.3		
Family concerned donation may delay the funeral	3	0.1	3	0.4				
Family concerned about organ allocation	1	0.0						
Total	**4491**	**100.0**	**703**	**100.0**	**372**	**100.0**	**137**	**100.0**

ORGAN DONORS, TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS AND TRANSPLANT WAITING LIST

4.1 Overview

This section contains data on all organ donors (living and deceased), transplants and patients on the transplant waiting list over time. Further information is also included on post-registration outcomes, median waiting times to transplant and donor to recipient ethnicities.

Figure 4.1 shows ethnic minority deceased and living donors, transplants and those patients on the active transplant list as at 31 March every financial year from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026.

There were 54 more active ethnic minority patients at 31 March 2026. There was <1% decrease in the number of ethnic minority transplant recipients in 2025/26 and a 4% increase in the number of ethnic minority deceased organ donors. There is also a 7% decrease in the number of living donors.

Figure 4.1 Ethnic minority deceased and living donors and transplants in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026, and patients on the active transplant list at 31 March

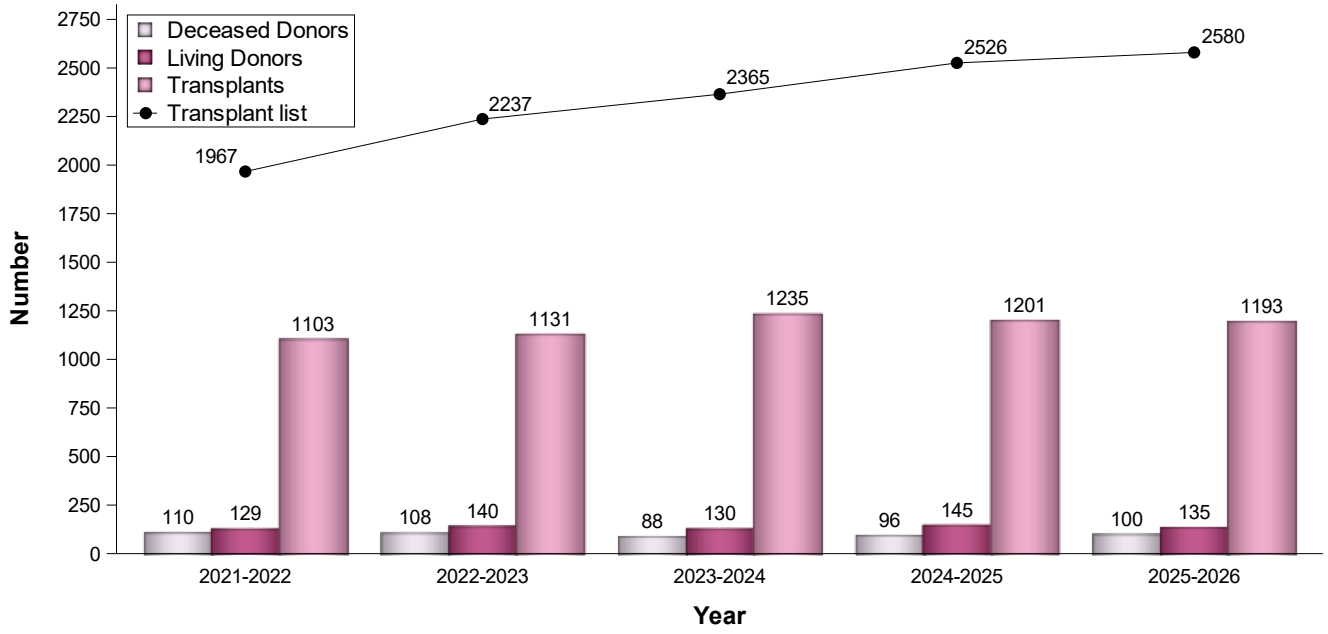


Table 4.1 shows a further breakdown of the number of living and deceased ethnic minority donors, transplants and those on the transplant waiting list from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026, where totals exclude those with ethnicity not recorded. Rates per million population (pmp) of the total population are also shown. Last year, patients from ethnic minority backgrounds accounted for a third of patients on the transplant waiting list, a quarter of all transplants and 10% of donors.

Table 4.1 Number of donors, transplants and waiting list in the UK, by financial year, and ethnic minority groups, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Waiting list[1]	6126	6730	7172	7647	7821
Ethnic minority waiting list[1]	1967	2237	2365	2526	2580
Ethnic minority % of waiting list	32.1	33.2	33	33	33
Ethnic minority on waiting list per million population of total UK population (pmp)	28.3	32.2	34	36.3	37.1
Total donors	2301	2358	2416	2337	2390
Total ethnic minority donors	239	248	218	241	235
Ethnic minority % of donors	10.4	10.5	9	10.3	9.8
Ethnic minority donors pmp	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.5	3.4
Deceased donors	1363	1397	1470	1343	1373
Deceased ethnic minority donors	110	108	88	96	100
DBD ethnic minority donors	75	77	57	62	62
DCD ethnic minority donors	35	31	31	34	38
Ethnic minority % of deceased donors	8.1	7.7	6	7.1	7.3
Deceased ethnic minority donors pmp	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4
Living donors	938	961	946	994	1017
Living ethnic minority donors	129	140	130	145	135
Ethnic minority % of living donors	13.8	14.6	13.8	14.6	13.3
Living ethnic minority donors pmp	1.9	2	1.9	2.1	1.9
Total transplants	4265	4417	4513	4389	4460
Total ethnic minority transplants	1103	1131	1235	1201	1193
Ethnic minority % of transplants	25.9	25.6	27.4	27.4	26.7
Ethnic minority transplants pmp	15.9	16.3	17.8	17.3	17.2
Deceased donor (DD) transplants	3350	3483	3603	3470	3503
Ethnic minority DD transplants	937	949	1080	1026	1031
Ethnic minority % of deceased donor transplants	28	27.2	30	29.6	29.4
Ethnic minority DD transplants pmp	13.5	13.7	15.5	14.8	14.8
Living donor (LD) transplants	915	934	910	919	957
Ethnic minority LD transplants	166	182	155	175	162
Ethnic minority % of LD transplants	18.1	19.5	17	19	16.9
Ethnic minority LD transplants pmp	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.3

Unknown ethnicity was excluded
Per million population of total UK population in 2021
[1] Waiting list as at 31 March

Figure 4.2 and **Table 4.2** show post-registration outcomes (transplanted, still waiting, removed from the list or died waiting on the list) for all organs after one year, three years and five years for white patients compared to patients from ethnic minority backgrounds registered between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. Liver and cardiothoracic patients that were removed from the list because their condition deteriorated were grouped with those who died. This figure illustrates that ethnic minority groups tend to wait for an organ longer than white patients, however, proportionally fewer are removed from the transplant list or die waiting for a transplant.

Figure 4.2 **Post-registration outcome for 3270 white compared to 897 ethnic minority adult registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021**

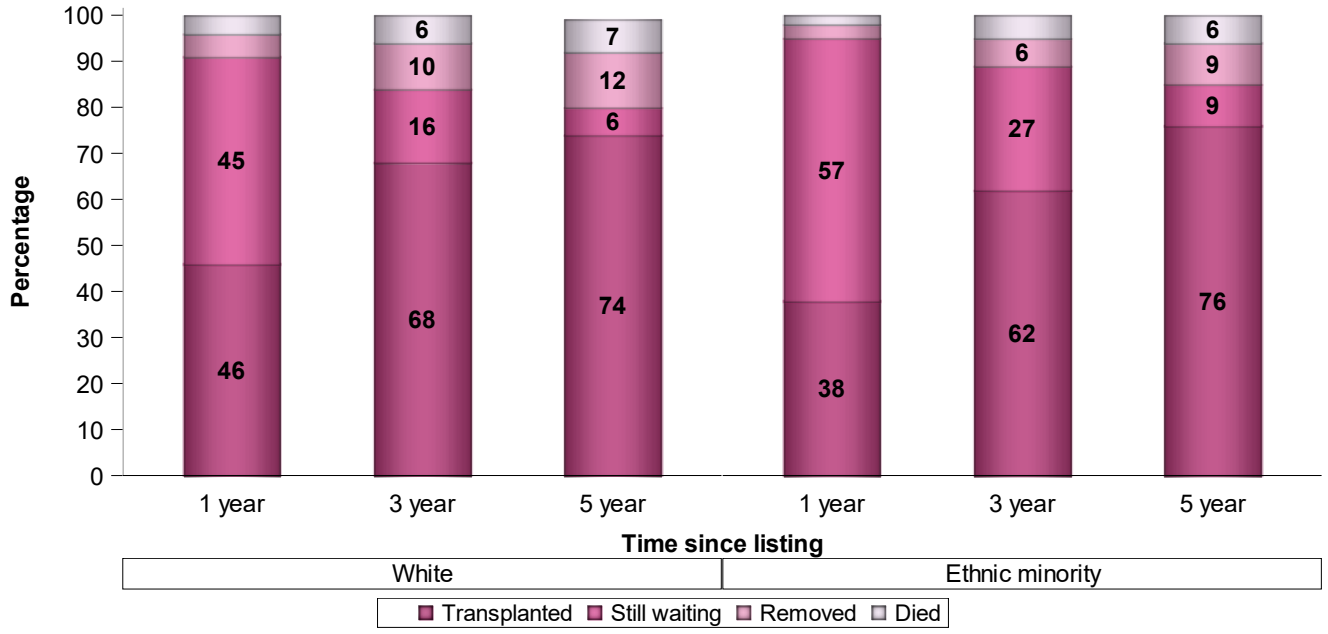


Table 4.2 **Post-registration outcome for 3270 white compared to 897 ethnic minority adult registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021, all organs**

	1 year		3 year		5 year	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White						
Transplanted	1512	46.2	2223	68.0	2428	74.3
Still waiting	1463	44.7	516	15.8	208	6.4
Removed	177	5.4	326	10.0	397	12.1
Died	118	3.6	205	6.3	237	7.2
Ethnic minority						
Transplanted	340	37.9	556	62.0	678	75.6
Still waiting	513	57.2	244	27.2	82	9.1
Removed	27	3.0	52	5.8	82	9.1
Died	17	1.9	45	5.0	55	6.1

This pattern is further demonstrated in **Table 4.3** which gives the median waiting time to transplant for adult and paediatric patients for each organ. Generally, white patients wait less time than ethnic minority patients. Black patients or those of other ethnic minority groups tend to wait the longest across organs.

Table 4.3 Median waiting time to transplant in the UK

Ethnicity	Number of patients registered	Waiting time (days) Median	95% Confidence interval
Adult kidney			
White	7445	501	479 - 523
Asian	2167	648	598 - 698
Black	1329	593	534 - 652
Other	396	577	463 - 691
TOTAL	**11628**	**547**	**528 - 566**
Paediatric kidney			
White	144	347	283 - 411
Asian	69	709	612 - 806
Black	25	350	275 - 425
Other	19	761	597 - 925
TOTAL	**269**	**450**	**347 - 553**
Adult pancreas			
White	711	625	582 - 668
Asian	46	464	384 - 544
Black	45	549	423 - 675
Other	15	469	182 - 756
TOTAL	**839**	**598**	**551 - 645**
Adult liver			
White	1573	126	110 - 142
Asian	141	145	95 - 195
Black	53	84	13 - 155
Other	21	136	38 - 234
TOTAL	**1815**	**130**	**115 - 145**
Paediatric liver	**146**	**254**	**160 - 348**
Adult never urgent heart			
White	460	1665	1176 - 2154
Asian	56		-
Black	15		-
Other	10	1146	0 - 2474
TOTAL	**550**	**1710**	**1217 - 2203**
Adult ever urgent heart			
White	565	48	41 - 55
Asian	80	66	33 - 99
Black	35	33	14 - 52
Other	10	59	13 - 105
TOTAL	**695**	**50**	**43 - 57**
Adult super-urgent heart	**258**	**14**	**11 - 17**
Paediatric never urgent heart	**64**	**762**	**339 - 1185**
Paediatric urgent heart	**196**	**155**	**103 - 207**
Adult never urgent lung			
White	950	553	483 - 623
Asian	65	1689	0 - 3497
Black	25	709	409 - 1009
TOTAL	**1053**	**558**	**491 - 625**
Adult urgent lung	**212**	**24**	**17 - 31**
Paediatric never urgent lung	**19**	**361**	**0 - 1137**

The number of deaths on the transplant waiting list broken down by financial year, organ type and ethnicity are shown in **Table 4.4**. Over the last year, there has been a fall in the number of deaths on the waiting list across all organs, from 494 to 434. Patients from ethnic minority backgrounds accounted for 25% of those who died waiting for a transplant in 2025/26.

Table 4.4 **Number of deaths on the transplant waiting list, by financial year, organ and ethnicity, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		2025-2026	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kidney										
White	224	71.3	204	68.2	198	69.7	241	71.9	226	73.1
Asian	50	15.9	57	19.1	41	14.4	55	16.4	52	16.8
Black	34	10.8	30	10.0	35	12.3	26	7.8	23	7.4
Other	6	1.9	8	2.7	10	3.5	12	3.6	6	1.9
Unknown	5		4		7		7	0.3	9	0.6
Total	**319**	**100.0**	**303**	**100.0**	**291**	**100.0**	**341**	**100.0**	**316**	**100.0**
Pancreas										
White	21	87.5	31	93.9	25	83.3	21	84.0	18	72.0
Asian	1	4.2	2	6.1	2	6.7			1	4.0
Black	1	4.2			2	6.7	2	8.0	1	4.0
Other	1	4.2			1	3.3	1	4.0	1	4.0
Unknown							2	4.0	4	16.0
Total	**24**	**100.0**	**33**	**100.0**	**30**	**100.0**	**26**	**100.0**	**25**	**100.0**
Liver										
White	59	84.3	62	87.3	60	87.0	52	89.7	41	89.1
Asian	4	5.7	3	4.2	7	10.1	4	6.9	3	6.5
Black	4	5.7	4	5.6			2	3.4	2	4.3
Other	3	4.3	2	2.8	2	2.9				
Unknown	2		1				1			
Total	**72**	**100.0**	**72**	**100.0**	**69**	**100.0**	**59**	**100.0**	**46**	**100.0**
Cardiothoracic										
White	73	84.9	73	89.0	63	84.0	57	85.1	39	73.6
Asian	8	9.3	8	9.8	6	8.0	10	14.9	10	18.9
Black	4	4.7			5	6.7			2	3.8
Other	1	1.2	1	1.2	1	1.3				
Unknown			3		1		1		2	3.8
Total	**86**	**100.0**	**85**	**100.0**	**76**	**100.0**	**68**	**100.0**	**53**	**100.0**
Total										
White	375	76.2	369	76.2	347	75.6	370	76.3	319	74.7
Asian	63	12.8	70	14.5	56	12.2	69	14.2	65	15.2
Black	43	8.7	34	7.0	42	9.2	31	6.4	28	6.6
Other	11	2.2	11	2.3	14	3.1	13	2.7	7	1.6
Unknown	7		8		8		11	0.4	15	1.9
Total	**499**	**100.0**	**492**	**100.0**	**467**	**100.0**	**494**	**100.0**	**434**	**100.0**

Figure 4.3 and **Table 4.5** display donor ethnicities for each recipient ethnic group for all transplants in the UK over the last 5 years (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026). It shows that most ethnicities receive an organ from a white donor (living or deceased). There is also evidence of ethnicity matching between donor and recipient, with the second most common donor ethnicity being the same as the recipient's ethnicity for most ethnic minority groups.

Figure 4.3 Donor to recipient ethnicities for all transplants in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

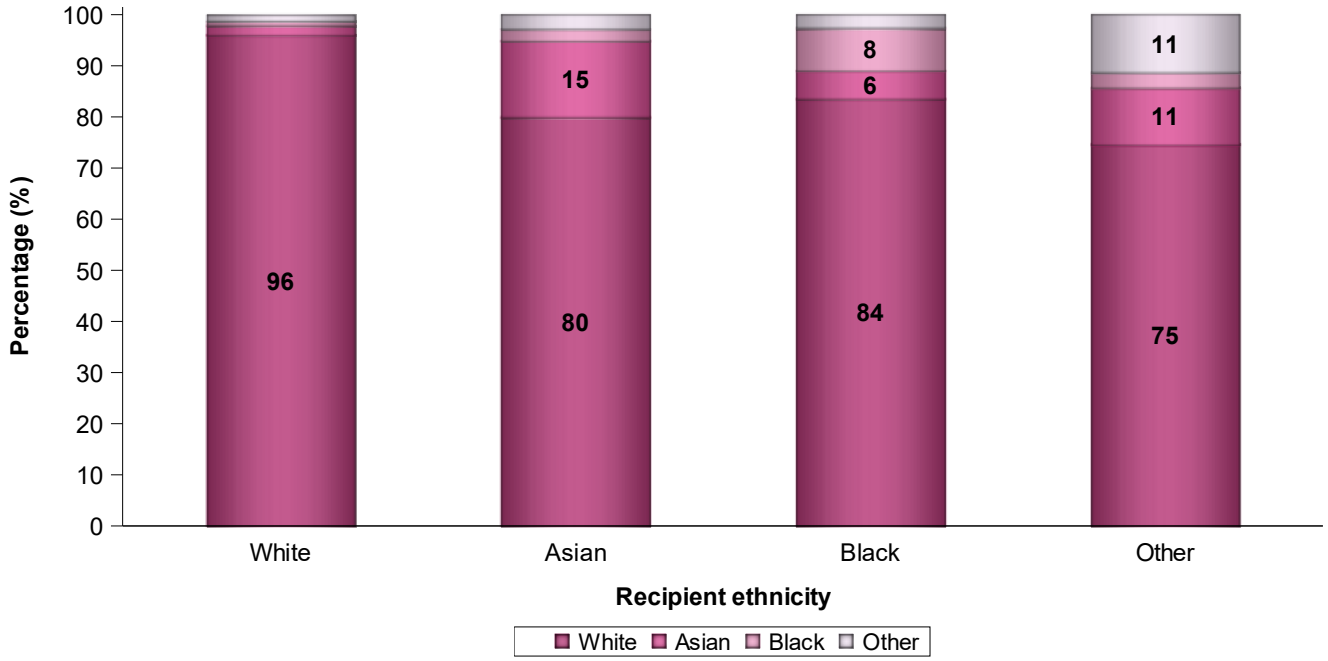


Table 4.5 Donor to recipient ethnicities for all transplants in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

Donor ethnicity	Recipient ethnicity: White N	White %	Asian N	Asian %	Black N	Black %	Other N	Other %	Total N	Total %
White	10367	96.0	2071	80.0	1362	83.6	378	74.7	14178	91.4
Asian	209	1.9	387	14.9	90	5.5	56	11.1	742	4.8
Black	89	0.8	60	2.3	135	8.3	15	3.0	299	1.9
Other	129	1.2	72	2.8	42	2.6	57	11.3	300	1.9
Total	**10794**	**100.0**	**2590**	**100.0**	**1629**	**100.0**	**506**	**100.0**	**15519**	**100.0**

Deceased organ donors, deceased donor transplant recipients and patients on the transplant list at 31 March each year are shown by ethnicity from 2021/22 to 2025/26 in **Figure 4.4** and **Figure 4.5** where **Figure 4.4** includes all patients and **Figure 4.5** only includes ethnic minority groups. Similarly, **Figure 4.6** and **Figure 4.7** display this information for living donors and living donor transplant recipients receiving a kidney or liver. Numbers relating to **Figures 4.4 to 4.7** are shown in **Table 4.6**; numbers in these charts are subject to rounding effects.

The figures illustrate that there are proportionally more ethnic minority living donors than deceased donors. There are proportionally more ethnic minority people on the list for transplant than there are among people transplanted, reflecting an inequity of access to transplant for some organs.

Figure 4.4 **Deceased donors, deceased donor transplants and patients on the waiting list (as at 31 March each year), 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

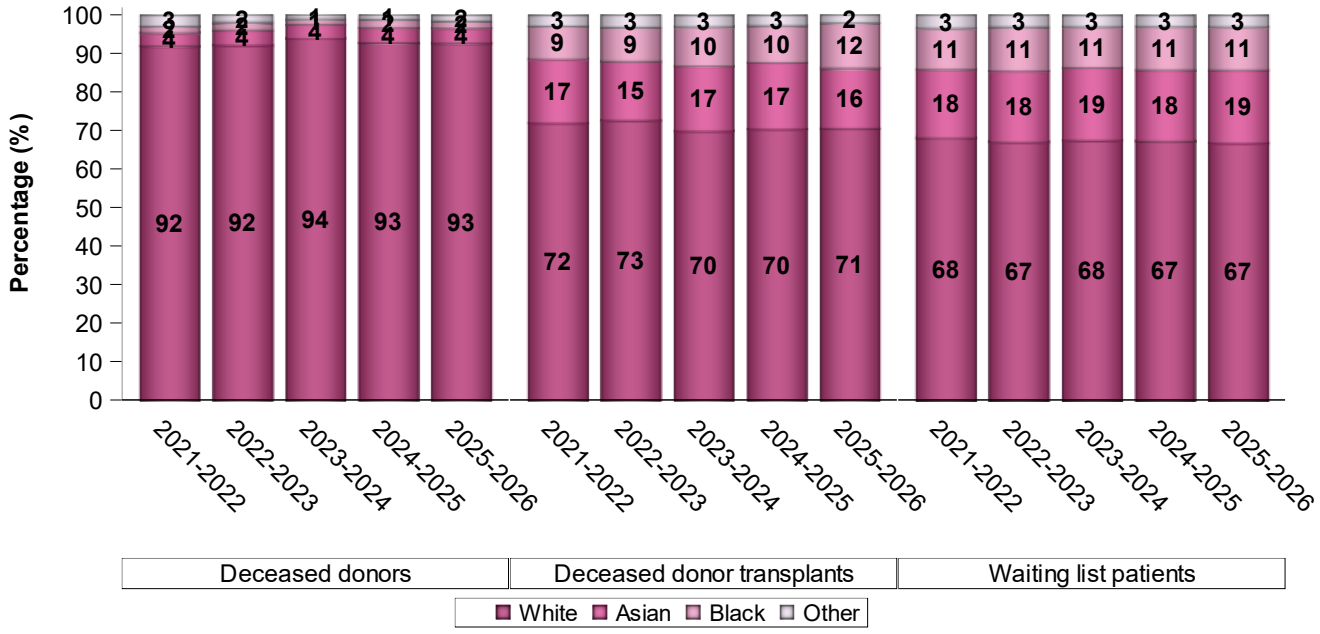


Figure 4.5 **Ethnic minority groups - Deceased donors, deceased donor transplants and patients on the waiting list (as at 31 March each year), 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

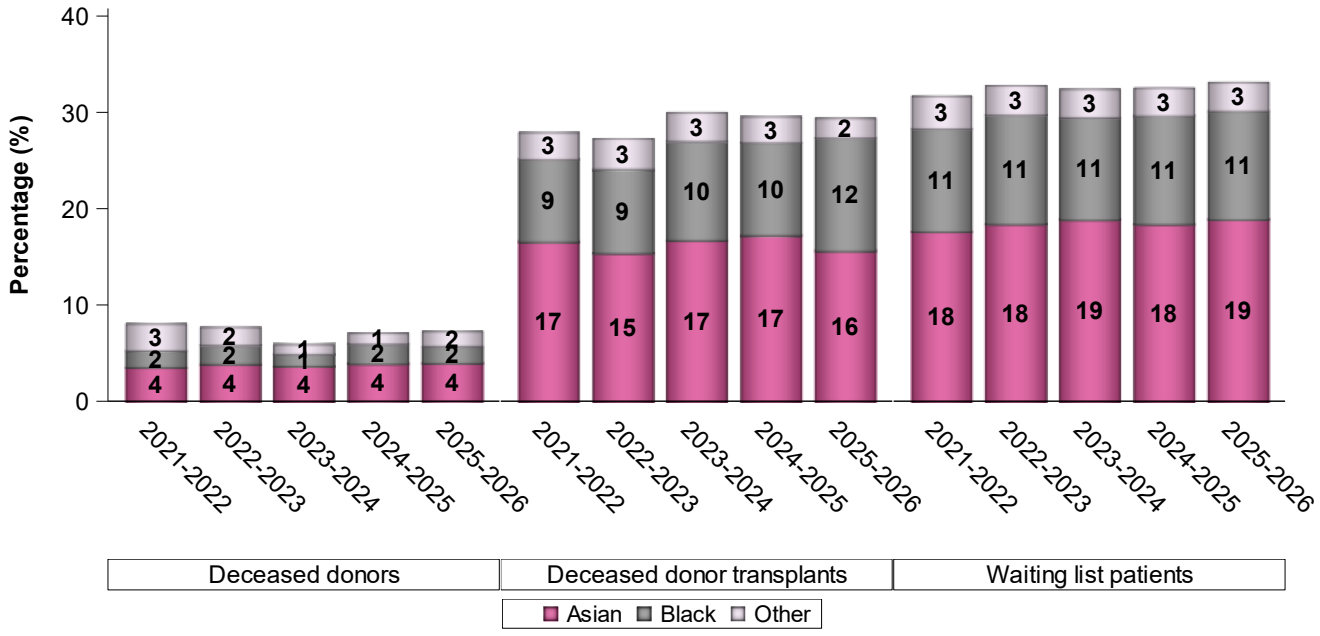


Figure 4.6 Living donors and transplants 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

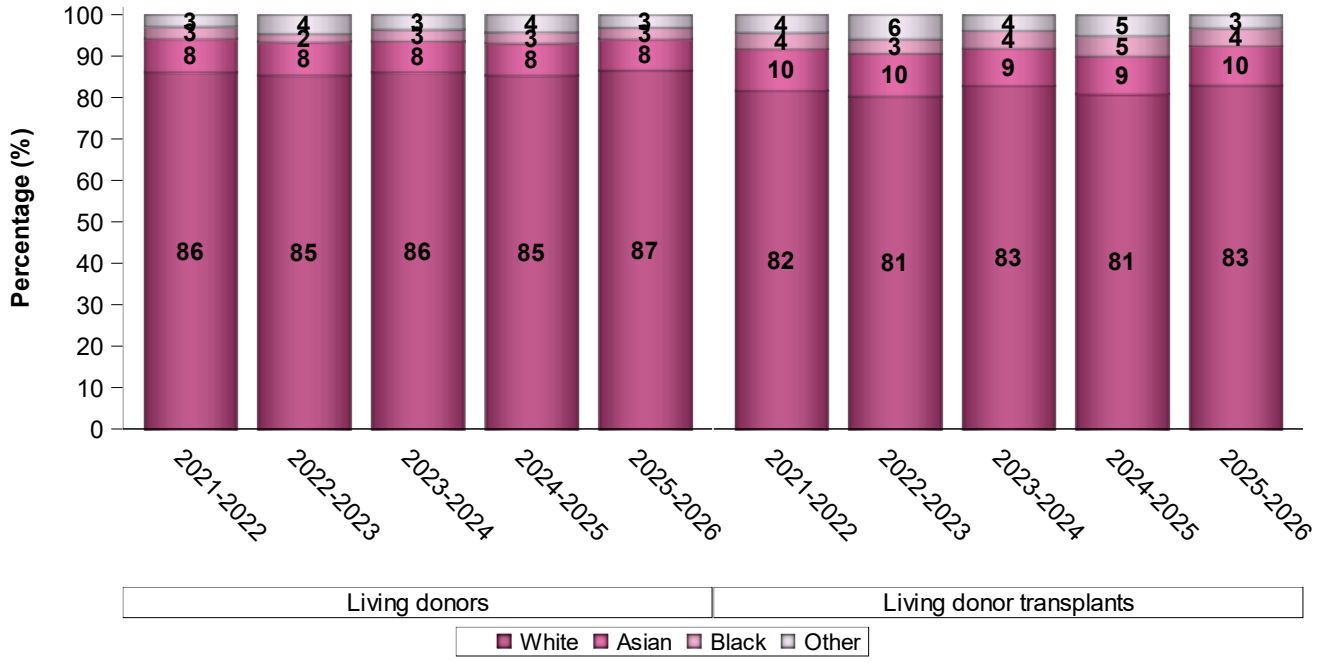


Figure 4.7 Ethnic minority groups - Living donors and transplants, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

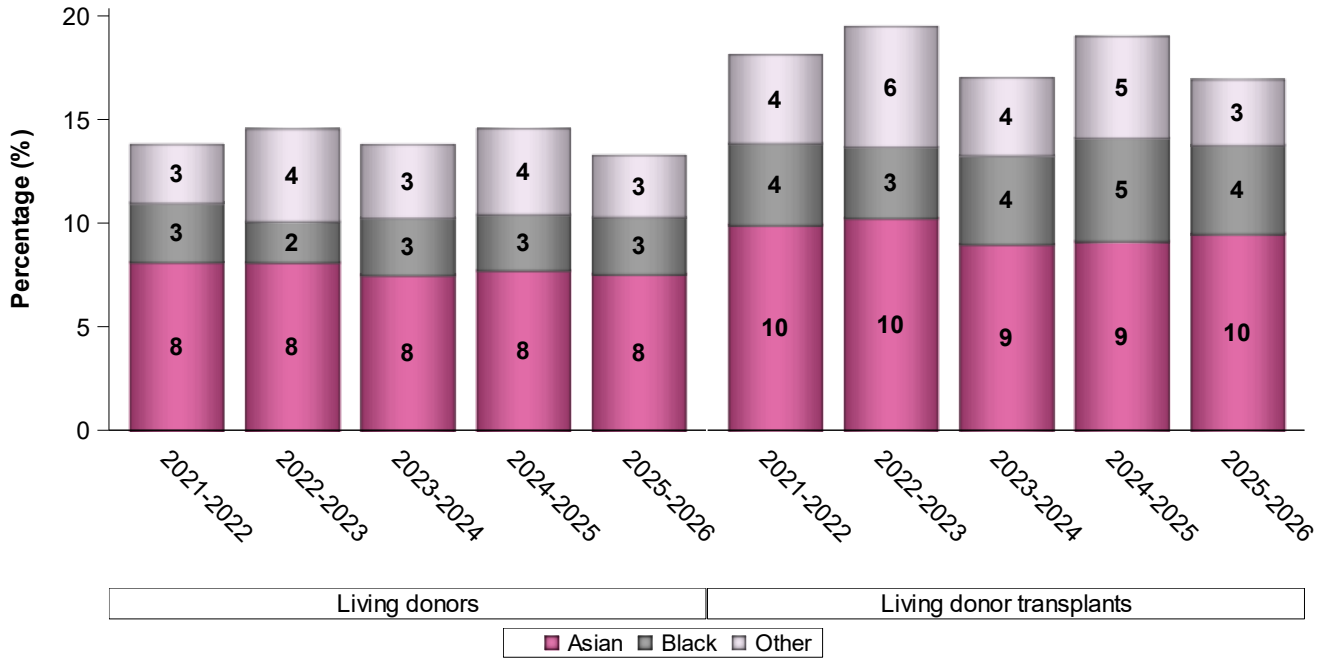


Table 4.6 **Number of donors, transplants and waiting list patients in the UK, by ethnicity and, financial year, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

	Financial year									
	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		2025-2026	
Ethnicity	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Deceased donors										
White	1253	91.9	1289	92.3	1382	94.0	1247	92.9	1273	92.7
Asian	48	3.5	54	3.9	54	3.7	53	3.9	55	4.0
Black	24	1.8	28	2.0	19	1.3	28	2.1	24	1.7
Other	38	2.8	26	1.9	15	1.0	15	1.1	21	1.5
Total	**1363**	**100.0**	**1397**	**100.0**	**1470**	**100.0**	**1343**	**100.0**	**1373**	**100.0**
Deceased donor transplants										
White	2413	72.0	2534	72.8	2523	70.0	2444	70.4	2472	70.6
Asian	557	16.6	536	15.4	604	16.8	599	17.3	549	15.7
Black	287	8.6	304	8.7	370	10.3	335	9.7	411	11.7
Other	93	2.8	109	3.1	106	2.9	92	2.7	71	2.0
Total	**3350**	**100.0**	**3483**	**100.0**	**3603**	**100.0**	**3470**	**100.0**	**3503**	**100.0**
Waiting list										
White	4159	67.9	4493	66.8	4807	67.0	5121	67.0	5241	67.0
Asian	1129	18.4	1264	18.8	1388	19.4	1460	19.1	1505	19.2
Black	628	10.3	766	11.4	760	10.6	857	11.2	852	10.9
Other	210	3.4	207	3.1	217	3.0	209	2.7	223	2.9
Total	**6126**	**100.0**	**6730**	**100.0**	**7172**	**100.0**	**7647**	**100.0**	**7821**	**100.0**
Living donors										
White	806	86.2	821	85.4	813	86.2	849	85.4	882	86.7
Asian	76	8.1	78	8.1	71	7.5	77	7.7	77	7.6
Black	27	2.9	19	2.0	26	2.8	27	2.7	28	2.8
Other	26	2.8	43	4.5	33	3.5	41	4.1	30	2.9
Total	**935**	**100.0**	**961**	**100.0**	**943**	**100.0**	**994**	**100.0**	**1017**	**100.0**
Living donor transplants										
White	749	81.9	752	80.5	755	83.0	744	81.0	795	83.1
Asian	91	9.9	96	10.3	82	9.0	84	9.1	91	9.5
Black	36	3.9	32	3.4	39	4.3	46	5.0	41	4.3
Other	39	4.3	54	5.8	34	3.7	45	4.9	30	3.1
Total	**915**	**100.0**	**934**	**100.0**	**910**	**100.0**	**919**	**100.0**	**957**	**100.0**

A detailed breakdown of ethnicity was introduced on 7 August 2024. Prior to this only high-level ethnicity was recorded. Several patients remain on the waiting list that were registered prior to this date, and this is reflected in the unknown categories for each ethnic group. **Table 4.7** shows deceased organ donors, deceased donor transplant recipients and patients on the transplant list broken down by detailed ethnicity.

Table 4.8 summarises all deceased donor transplants by country of residence, ethnicity of recipient and organ transplanted in 2025/26. Patients in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland requiring transplants that are not undertaken in that country are referred to another UK country (usually England) for transplantation. If the patient's address was unknown the country of transplant was used instead. Few ethnic minority deceased donor transplant recipients live in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

Table 4.7 Number of donors, transplants and waiting list patients in the UK, by ethnicity, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026

Ethnicity		Deceased donors		Deceased donor transplants		Waiting list 31 March 2026		Living donors		Living donor transplants	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	Welsh/ English/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	1911	70.4	1897	27.2	2767	35.4	542	27.0	535	28.5
	Irish	18	0.7	20	0.3	18	0.2	9	0.4	11	0.6
	Any other White Background	130	4.8	148	2.1	203	2.6	18	0.9	27	1.4
	Unknown	461	17.0	2851	40.9	2253	28.9	1162	57.8	966	51.5
Asian/ Asian British	Indian	40	1.5	98	1.4	204	2.6	17	0.8	13	0.7
	Pakistani	3	0.1	97	1.4	225	2.9	17	0.8	26	1.4
	Bangladeshi			22	0.3	55	0.7	2	0.1	2	0.1
	Chinese	10	0.4	30	0.4	35	0.4	4	0.2	2	0.1
	Any other Asian Background	31	1.1	57	0.8	108	1.4	18	0.9	11	0.6
	Unknown	24	0.9	844	11.1	878	11.2	96	4.7	121	6.4
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	African	19	0.7	150	2.2	239	3.1	13	0.6	21	1.1
	Caribbean	13	0.5	56	0.8	93	1.2	3	0.1	2	0.1
	Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background	3	0.1	16	0.2	38	0.5	2	0.1	2	0.1
	Unknown	17	0.6	524	7.5	482	6.1	37	1.8	62	3.3
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups	White and Black Caribbean	4	0.1	7	0.1	16	0.2	1	0.0	1	0.1
	White and Black African	5	0.2	3	0.0	8	0.1				
	White and Asian	2	0.1	1	0.0	3	0.0			4	0.2
	Any other Mixed/ Multiple ethnic background	5	0.2	10	0.1	14	0.2	6	0.3	1	0.1
	Unknown	3	0.1	27	0.4	33	0.4	8	0.3	10	0.6
Other ethnic group	Arab	3	0.1	8	0.1	14	0.2	16	0.8	35	1.9
	Any other ethnic group	14	0.5	107	1.6	135	1.7	40	1.9	24	1.3
TOTAL		**2716**	**100**	**6973**	**100**	**7821**	**100**	**2011**	**100**	**1876**	**100**

Table 4.8 Deceased donor transplants by country of residence, organ and ethnicity, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

	Transplants (N)								
Country of residence	**Kidney**	**Pancreas[1]**	**Kidney/pancreas[2]**	**Heart**	**Lung**	**Liver**	**Intestinal**	**Multiorgan[3]**	**Total**
ENGLAND									
White	1047	18	66	107	127	589	12	7	1973
Asian	392	1	10	23	12	75		1	514
Black	322		10	15	2	41		1	391
Other	47		1	6		12			66
WALES									
White	70		10	7	16	37	1		141
Asian	6			1	1	1			9
Black	4			2					6
Other	2								2
SCOTLAND									
White	107	10	16	40	20	77	1		271
Asian	18			2					20
Black	5			2		3			10
Other	1			1					2
NORTHERN IRELAND									
White	17		1	3	8	36	1		66
Asian	1					1			2
Black	2					1			3
Other	1								1

[1] Includes 21 islet transplants
[2] Includes 7 islet/kidney transplants
[3] Includes 8 liver/kidney transplants and 1 liver/heart transplant

4.2 Kidney

The vast majority of transplants are for patients who require a kidney either from living or deceased donation. Post-registration outcomes, median waiting times, donor to recipient ethnicities, deceased and living donor transplants are detailed in this section.

Figure 4.8 and **Table 4.9** show post-registration outcome comparisons for white and ethnic minority adult kidney patients registered from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Post-registration, 31% of ethnic minority kidney patients compared to 40% of white patients are transplanted in the first year. Patients from ethnic minority backgrounds are waiting longer for a kidney compared to white patients but have a lower death or removal rate, with a higher rate of patients waiting on the list.

Figure 4.8 **Post-registration outcome for 1895 white compared to 660 ethnic minority adult kidney registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021**

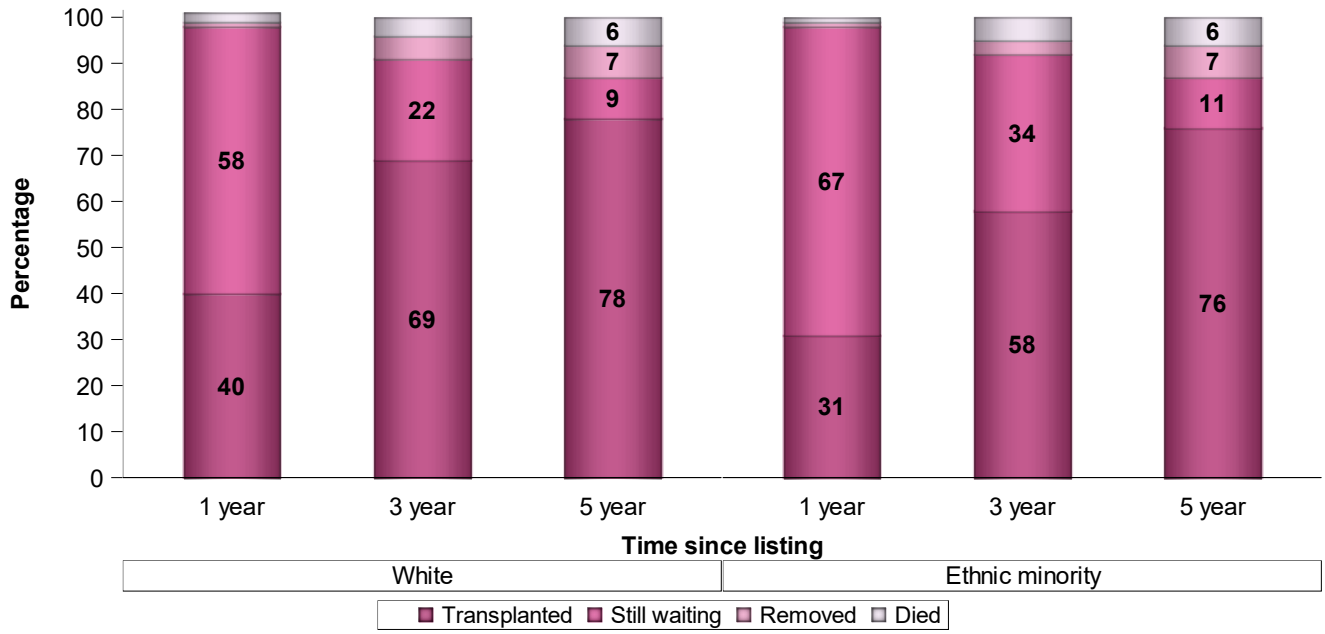
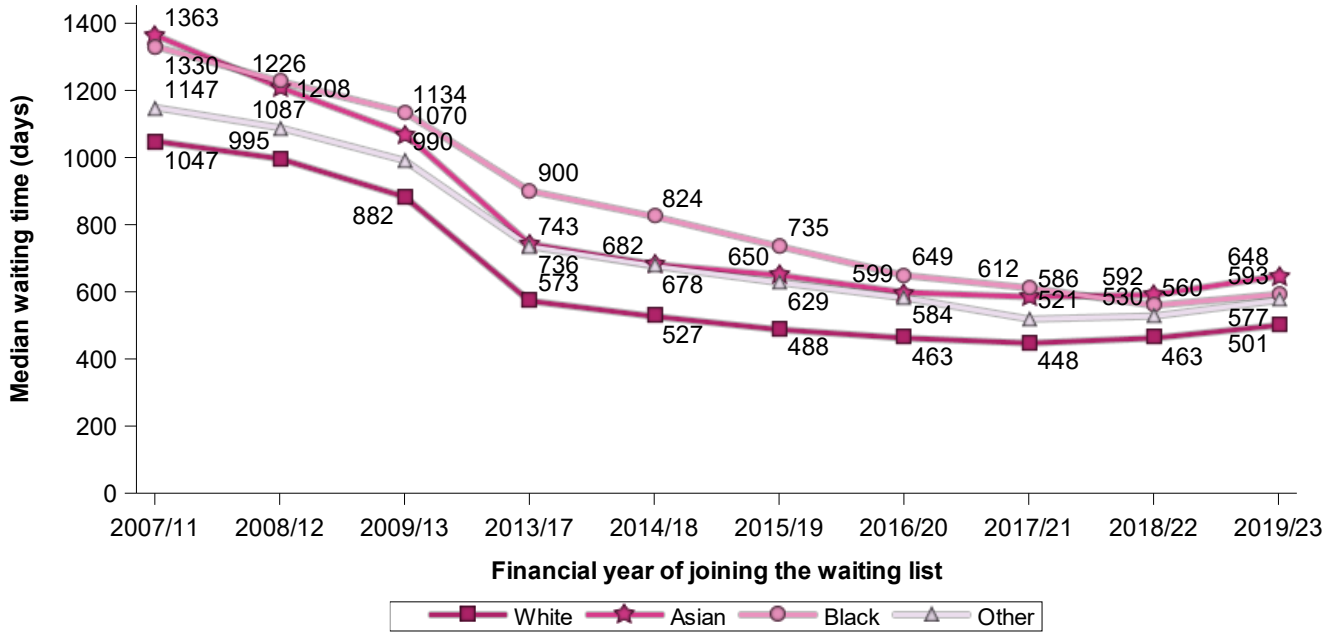


Table 4.9 **Post-registration outcome for 1895 white compared to 660 ethnic minority adult kidney registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021**

	1 year		3 year		5 year	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White						
Transplanted	755	39.8	1303	68.8	1485	78.4
Still waiting	1099	58.0	414	21.8	166	8.8
Removed	12	0.6	96	5.1	138	7.3
Died	29	1.5	82	4.3	106	5.6
Ethnic minority						
Transplanted	205	31.1	386	58.5	501	75.9
Still waiting	444	67.3	222	33.6	75	11.4
Removed	4	0.6	22	3.3	45	6.8
Died	7	1.1	30	4.5	39	5.9

Figure 4.9 gives the adult median waiting time for a kidney transplant in days, by ethnicity and financial year group from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2023. It shows an overall decline in waiting times for all ethnicities, although asian patients are waiting five months longer for a transplant than white patients.

Figure 4.9 **Median adult kidney waiting time (days) by ethnicity and financial years, 1 April 2007 - 31 March 2023**



In the last year, **Figure 4.10** shows that 6% of deceased kidney donors are from ethnic minority groups whilst ethnic minority patients represent 38% of transplants and account for 35% of the kidney transplant waiting list. **Table 4.10** provides the numbers for **Figure 4.10.**

Figure 4.11 and **Table 4.11** display deceased donor to recipient ethnicities for kidney transplants in the UK from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026. Likewise, **Figure 4.12** and **Table 4.12** show the living donor to recipient ethnicities. Generally, ethnic minority kidney transplant recipients receive white donor organs. However, for living donor transplants, recipients are much more likely to receive a kidney from someone of the same ethnicity with the exception of mixed ethnic group.

Figure 4.10 Kidney statistics (waiting list as at 31 March each year), 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

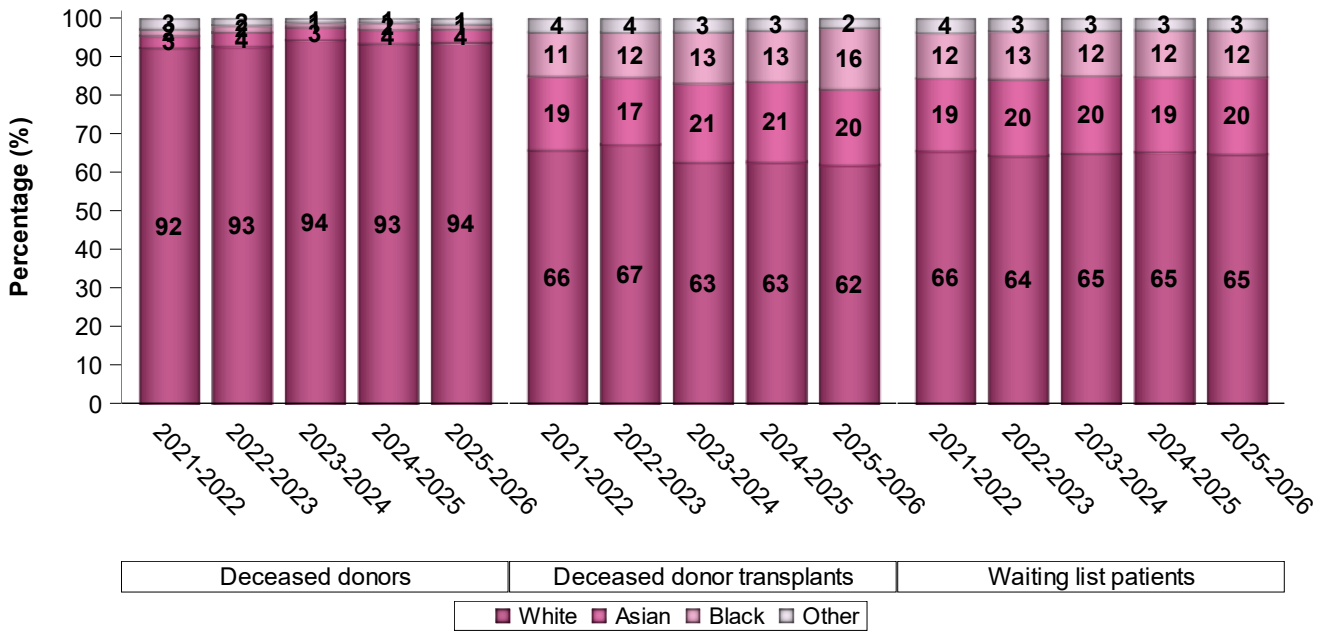


Table 4.10 Kidney statistics (waiting list as at 31 March), 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2025

Ethnicity	Deceased donors					Deceased donor transplants					Waiting list patients				
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
White	1200	1233	1330	1216	1215	1463	1553	1487	1409	1350	5651	5781	6104	6536	6799
Asian	41	50	48	49	47	427	402	487	469	431	1621	1773	1902	1951	2092
Black	23	24	17	24	16	254	271	318	296	345	1023	1124	1091	1221	1273
Other	35	23	14	13	19	78	82	82	70	52	315	293	297	304	327
Total	**1299**	**1330**	**1409**	**1302**	**1297**	**2222**	**2308**	**2374**	**2244**	**2178**	**8610**	**8971**	**9394**	**10012**	**10491**

Figure 4.11 **Deceased donor to recipient ethnicities for kidney transplants in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

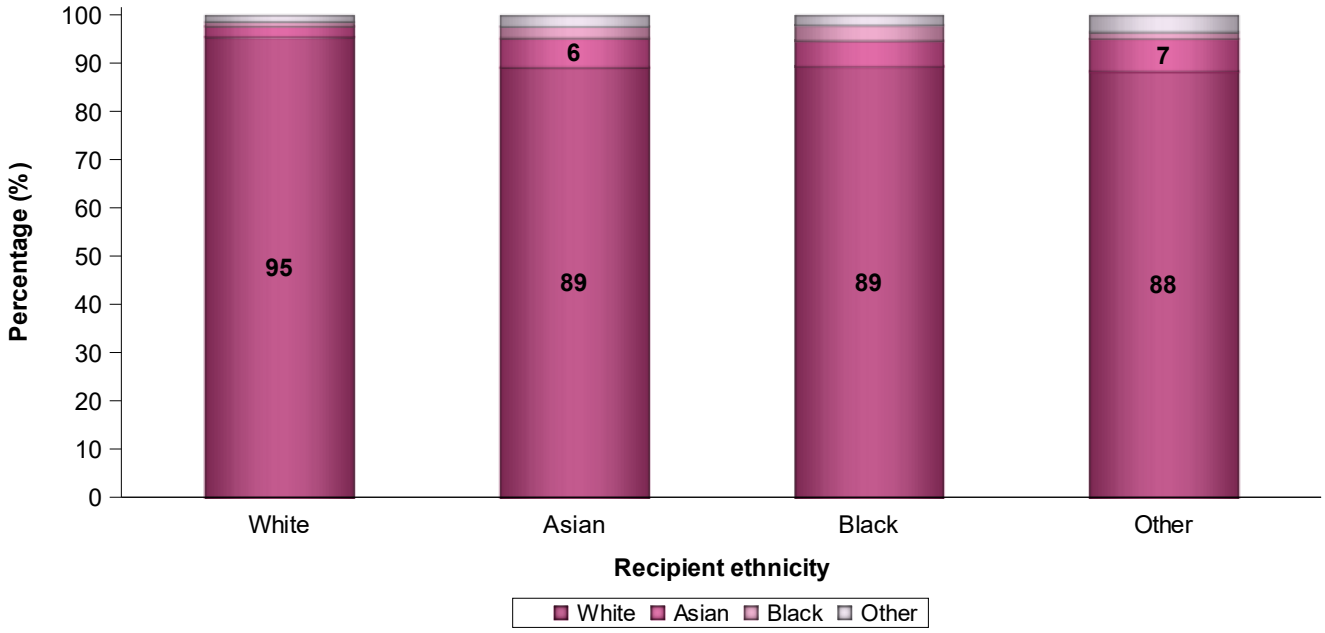


Table 4.11 **Deceased donor to recipient ethnicities for kidney transplants in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

Donor ethnicity	Recipient ethnicity: White N	White %	Asian N	Asian %	Black N	Black %	Other N	Other %	Total N	Total %
White	6660	95.5	1926	89.2	1286	89.4	312	88.4	10184	93.2
Asian	161	2.3	131	6.1	76	5.3	24	6.8	392	3.6
Black	68	1.0	53	2.5	47	3.3	5	1.4	173	1.6
Other	88	1.3	49	2.3	29	2.0	12	3.4	178	1.6
Total	**6977**	**100.0**	**2159**	**100.0**	**1438**	**100.0**	**353**	**100.0**	**10927**	**100.0**

Figure 4.12 **Living donor to recipient ethnicities for kidney transplants in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

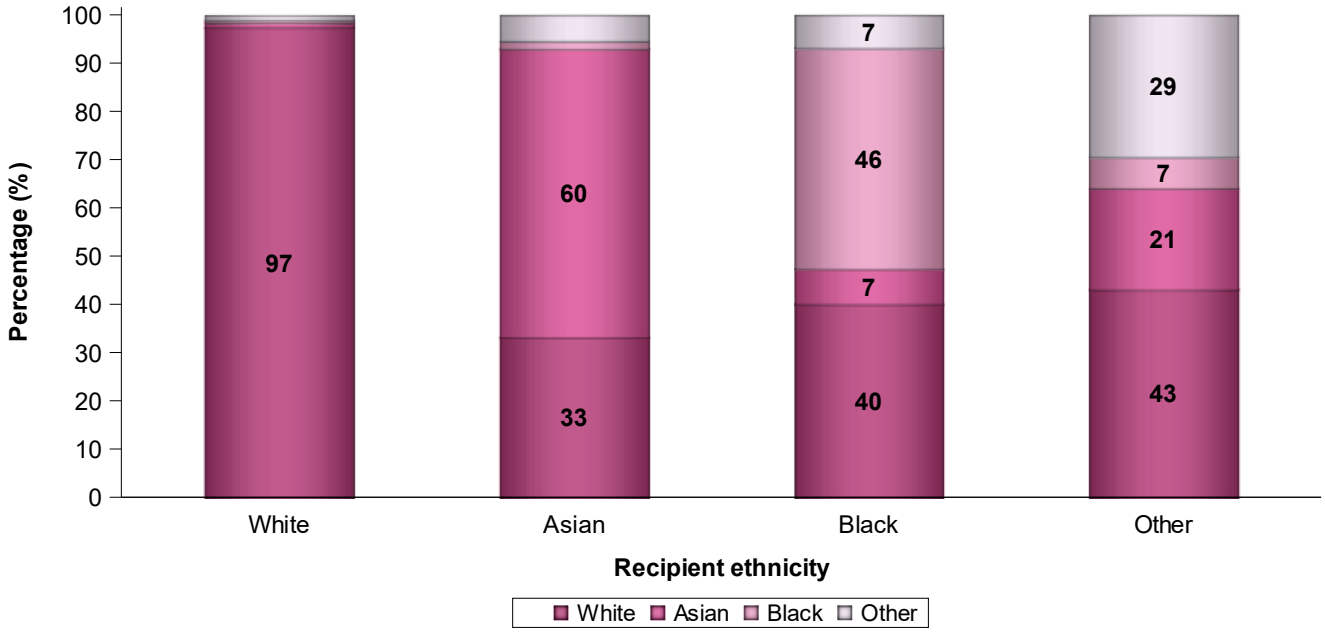


Table 4.12 **Living donor to recipient ethnicities for kidney transplants in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

Donor ethnicity	Recipient ethnicity: White N	White %	Asian N	Asian %	Black N	Black %	Other N	Other %	Total N	Total %
White	3612	97.4	142	33.2	76	40.0	66	43.1	3896	87.0
Asian	41	1.1	256	59.8	14	7.4	32	20.9	343	7.7
Black	20	0.5	7	1.6	87	45.8	10	6.5	124	2.8
Other	36	1.0	23	5.4	13	6.8	45	29.4	117	2.6
Total	**3709**	**100.0**	**428**	**100.0**	**190**	**100.0**	**153**	**100.0**	**4480**	**100.0**

Figure 4.13 and **Table 4.13** break down adult living donor kidney recipients by transplant type and ethnicity for the same time period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026. Ethnic minority living donor transplant recipients mostly received a kidney from family or friends (related/unrelated). In the last 5 years, there have been 5 Asian, 1 black and 3 other ethnic minority altruistic donors.

Figure 4.13 **Living donor kidney transplants in the UK by ethnicity and transplant type, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

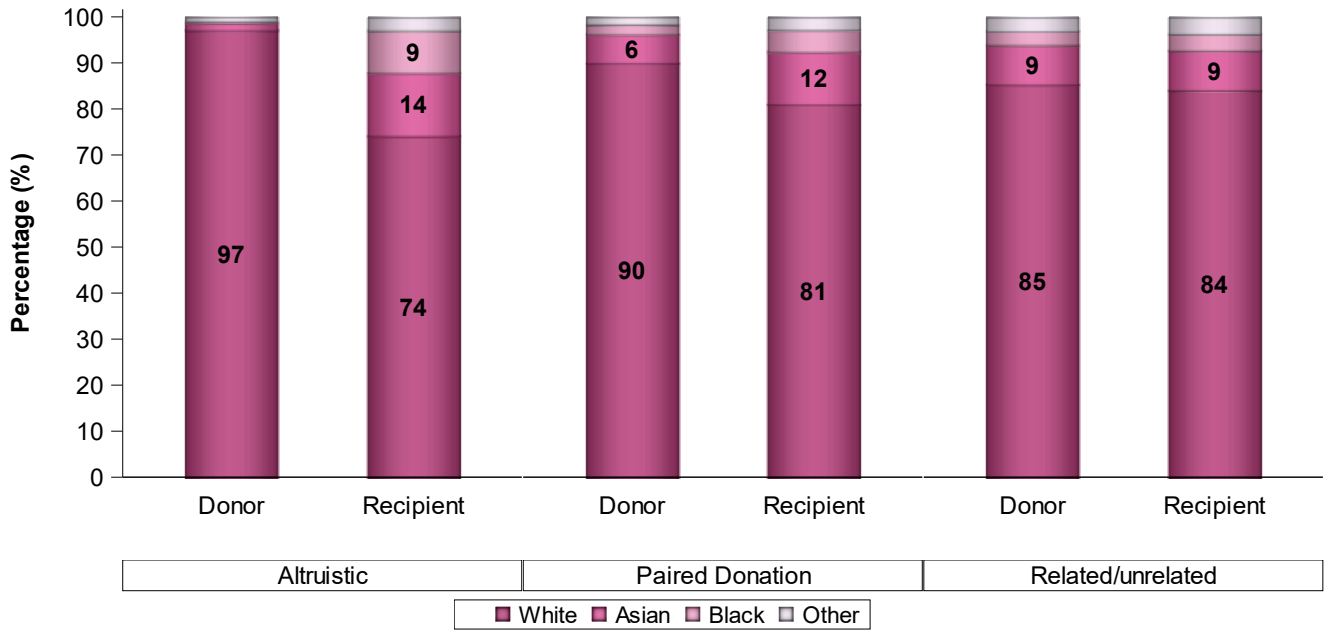


Table 4.13 **Living donor kidney transplants in the UK by ethnicity and transplant type, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026**

Type of living donation	Ethnicity	Donor		Recipient	
		N	%	N	%
Altruistic	White	305	97.1	233	74.2
	Asian	5	1.6	43	13.7
	Black	1	0.3	29	9.2
	Other	3	1.0	9	2.9
		314	**100.0**	**314**	**100.0**
Paired Donation	White	720	90.0	648	81.0
	Asian	50	6.3	92	11.5
	Black	17	2.1	38	4.8
	Other	13	1.6	22	2.8
		800	**100.0**	**800**	**100.0**
Related/unrelated	White	2871	85.3	2828	84.0
	Asian	288	8.6	293	8.7
	Black	106	3.1	123	3.7
	Other	101	3.0	122	3.6
		3366	**100.0**	**3366**	**100.0**

4.3 Pancreas and kidney/pancreas

This section focuses on pancreas and kidney/pancreas transplantation, reporting on post-registration outcomes and deceased pancreas donors, transplant recipients and transplant waiting list. The number of pancreas or kidney/pancreas transplants per year are small for patients from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Figure 4.14 and **Table 4.14** shows post-registration outcome comparisons for white and ethnic minority adult pancreas patients registered from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Of the 17 ethnic minority pancreas patients listed, 82% were transplanted within 5 years. This rate is higher than white patients. The number of patients from ethnic minority backgrounds is very small so results should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 4.14 Post-registration outcome for 123 white compared to 17 ethnic minority adult pancreas registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

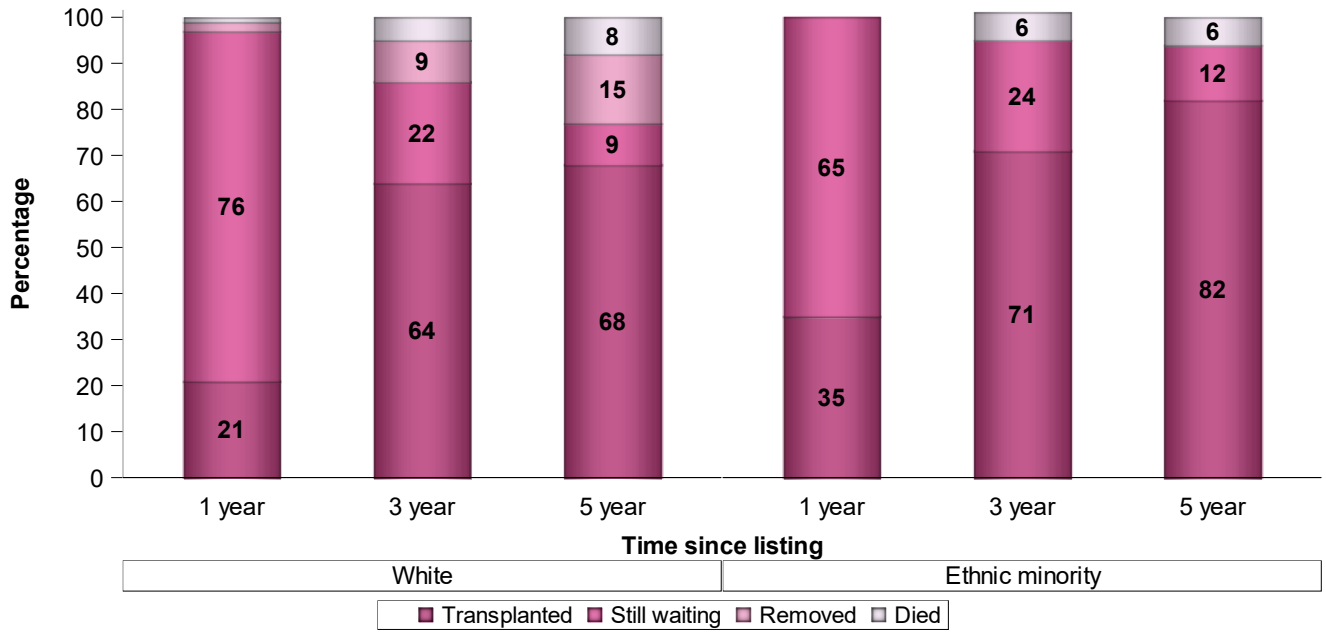


Table 4.14 Post-registration outcome for 123 white compared to 17 ethnic minority adult pancreas registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

	1 year		3 year		5 year	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White						
Transplanted	26	21.1	79	64.2	84	68.3
Still waiting	94	76.4	27	22.0	11	8.9
Removed	2	1.6	11	8.9	18	14.6
Died	1	0.8	6	4.9	10	8.1
Ethnic minority						
Transplanted	6	35.3	12	70.6	14	82.4
Still waiting	11	64.7	4	23.5	2	11.8
Removed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Died	0	0.0	1	5.9	1	5.9

Figure 4.15 shows in the last financial year that 7% of deceased pancreas donors are from ethnic minority groups whilst patients from ethnic minority backgrounds represent 15% of transplants and 15% of the pancreas or islet transplant waiting list. **Table 4.15** shows the numbers in **Figure 4.15**.

Figure 4.15 Pancreas statistics (waiting list as at 31 March each year), 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

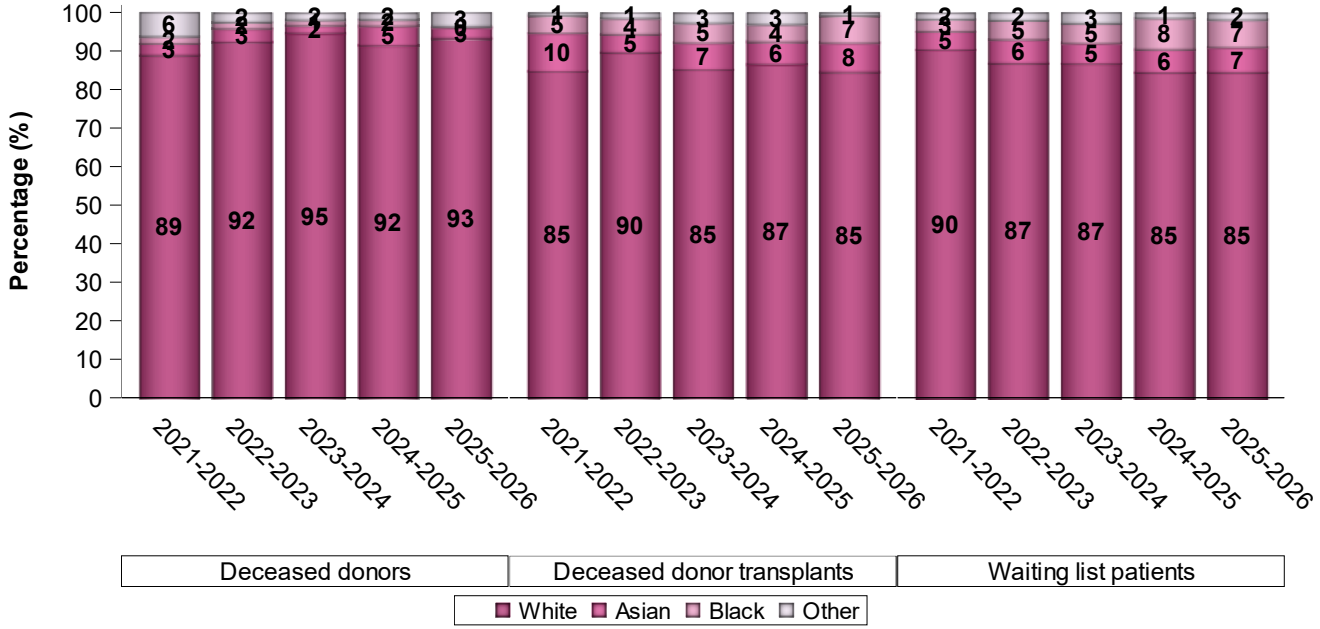


Table 4.15 Pancreas statistics (waiting list as at 31 March), 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

	Deceased donors					Deceased donor transplants					Waiting list patients				
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Ethnicity															
White	291	318	319	272	294	129	131	133	117	121	227	226	257	251	246
Asian	10	12	7	15	9	15	7	11	8	11	12	16	16	18	19
Black	6	6	5	5	1	7	6	8	6	10	8	13	15	24	21
Other	20	8	6	5	11	1	2	4	4	1	4	5	8	4	5
Total	**327**	**344**	**337**	**297**	**315**	**152**	**146**	**156**	**135**	**143**	**251**	**260**	**296**	**297**	**291**

4.4 Liver

This section focuses on liver transplantation reporting on post-registration outcomes, median waiting times and deceased liver donors, transplant recipients and transplant waiting list. Figures for living liver donation have not been reported on separately due to the small number of ethnic minority recipients.

Figure 4.16 and **Table 4.16** shows post-registration outcome comparisons for white and ethnic minority adult liver patients registered from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Liver patients that were removed from the list because their condition deteriorated were defined as having died. A similar proportion of ethnic minority patients are transplanted compared to white patients at each time point post listing.

Figure 4.16 **Post-registration outcome for 888 white compared to 167 ethnic minority adult liver registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021**

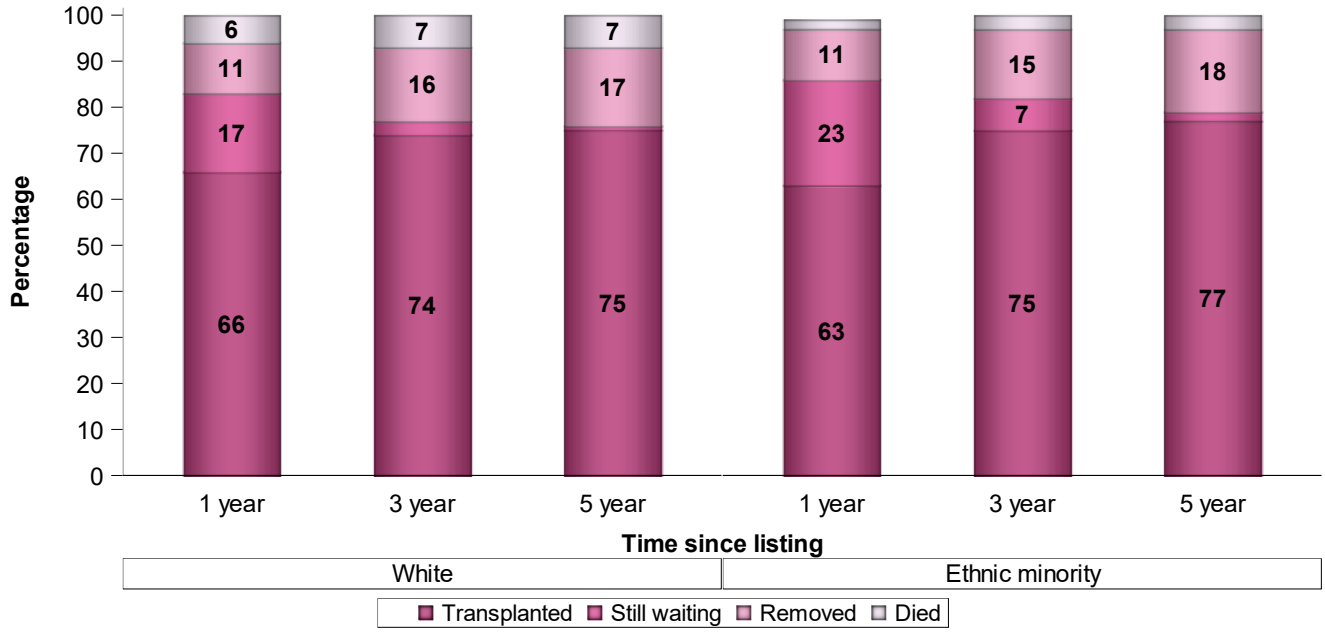


Table 4.16 **Post-registration outcome for 888 white compared to 167 ethnic minority adult liver registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021**

	1 year		3 year		5 year	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White						
Transplanted	582	65.5	654	73.6	667	75.1
Still waiting	151	17.0	31	3.5	10	1.1
Removed	101	11.4	139	15.7	147	16.6
Died	54	6.1	64	7.2	64	7.2
Ethnic minority						
Transplanted	105	62.9	125	74.9	128	76.6
Still waiting	39	23.4	12	7.2	4	2.4
Removed	19	11.4	25	15.0	30	18.0
Died	4	2.4	5	3.0	5	3.0

Figure 4.17 gives the adult median waiting time for a liver in days by ethnicity and financial year from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2025. It shows a recent decrease in waiting times for all ethnicities.

Figure 4.17 Median adult liver waiting time (days) by ethnicity and financial years, 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2024

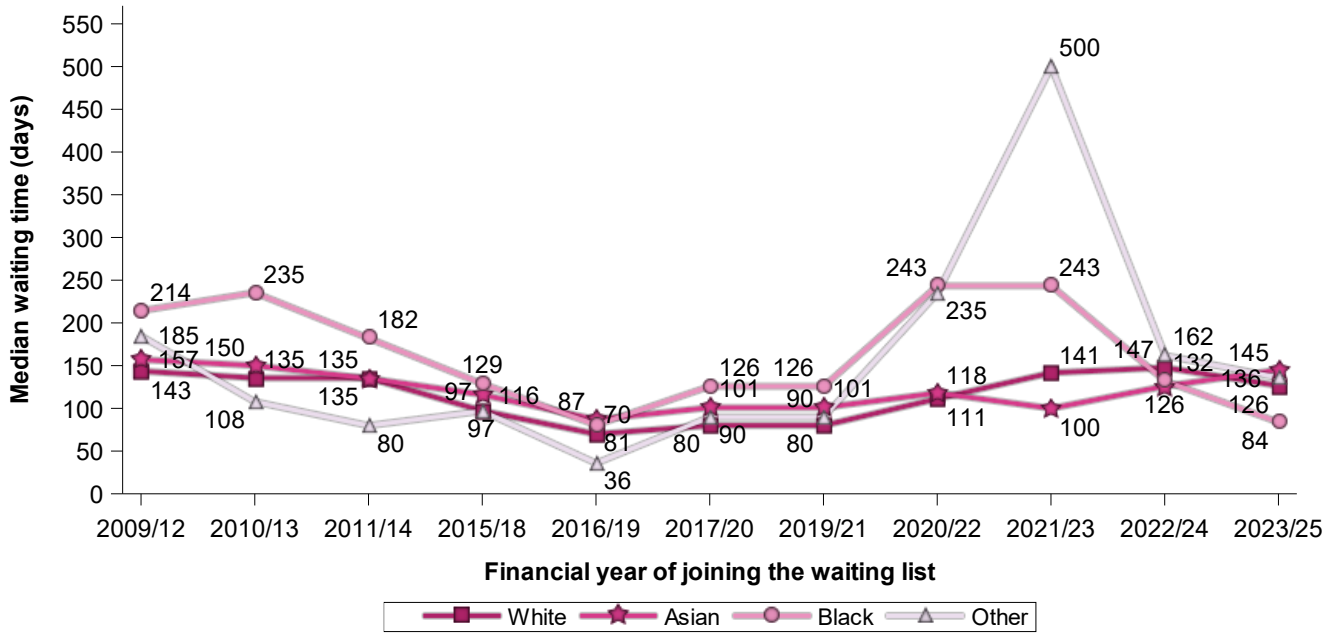


Figure 4.18 shows that 8% of deceased liver donors are from ethnic minority groups whilst patients from ethnic minority backgrounds represent 15% of transplants and 16% of the liver transplant waiting list in 2025/26. **Table 4.17** shows the numbers in **Figure 4.18**.

Figure 4.18 Liver statistics (waiting list as at 31 March each year), 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

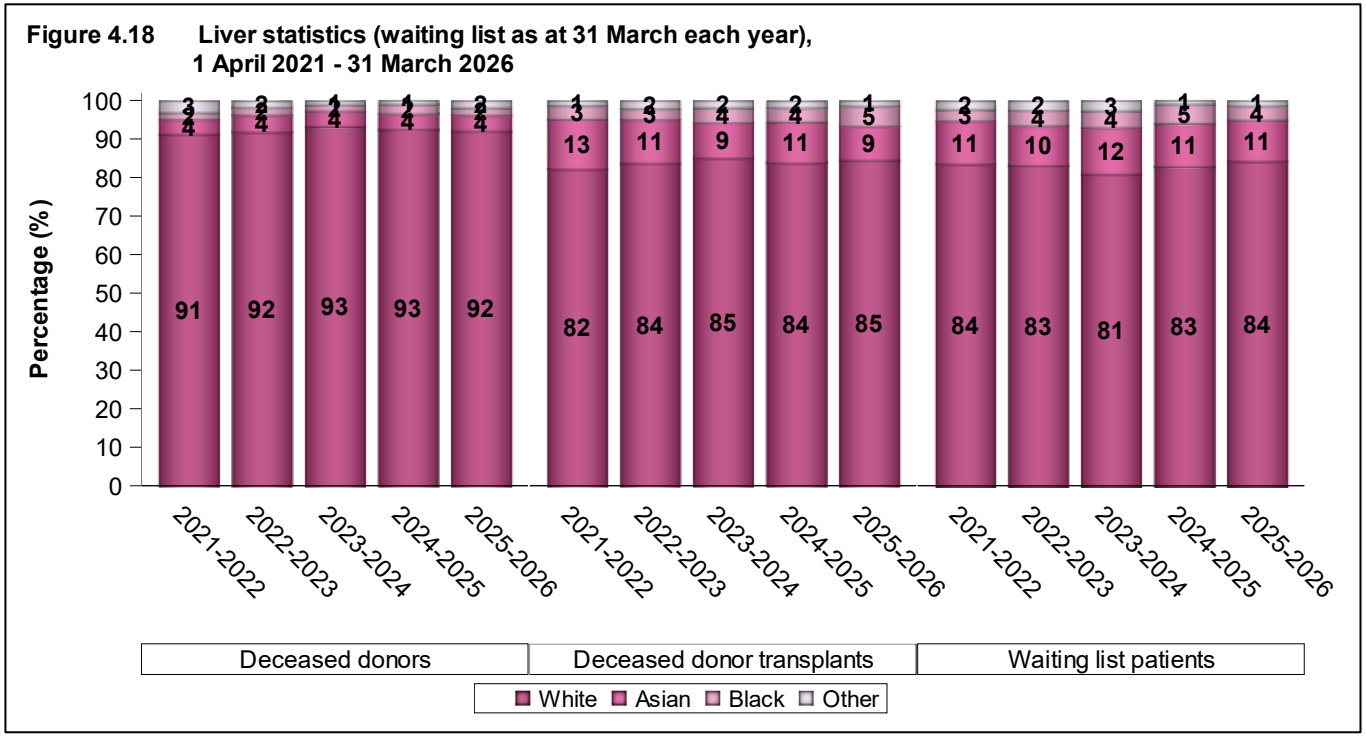


Table 4.17 Liver statistics (waiting list as at 31 March), 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

	Deceased donors					Deceased donor transplants					Waiting list patients				
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Ethnicity															
White	908	966	997	937	998	663	698	700	717	752	523	542	523	532	505
Asian	38	46	44	41	45	104	95	76	90	79	70	67	78	72	64
Black	18	21	17	24	20	28	23	31	32	46	19	26	28	32	22
Other	30	18	11	10	20	10	17	15	15	12	14	16	17	6	8
Total	**994**	**1051**	**1069**	**1012**	**1083**	**805**	**833**	**822**	**854**	**889**	**626**	**651**	**646**	**642**	**599**

4.5 Cardiothoracic

This section focuses on cardiothoracic transplantation reporting on post-registration outcomes and deceased cardiothoracic donors, transplant recipients and transplant waiting list.

Figure 4.19 and **Table 4.18** shows post-registration outcome comparisons for white and ethnic minority adult cardiothoracic patients registered from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Cardiothoracic recipients from ethnic minority backgrounds wait a similar time for a heart or lung compared to white patients but have a higher chance of removal from the list.

Figure 4.19 **Post-registration outcome for 364 white compared to 53 ethnic minority adult cardiothoracic registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021**

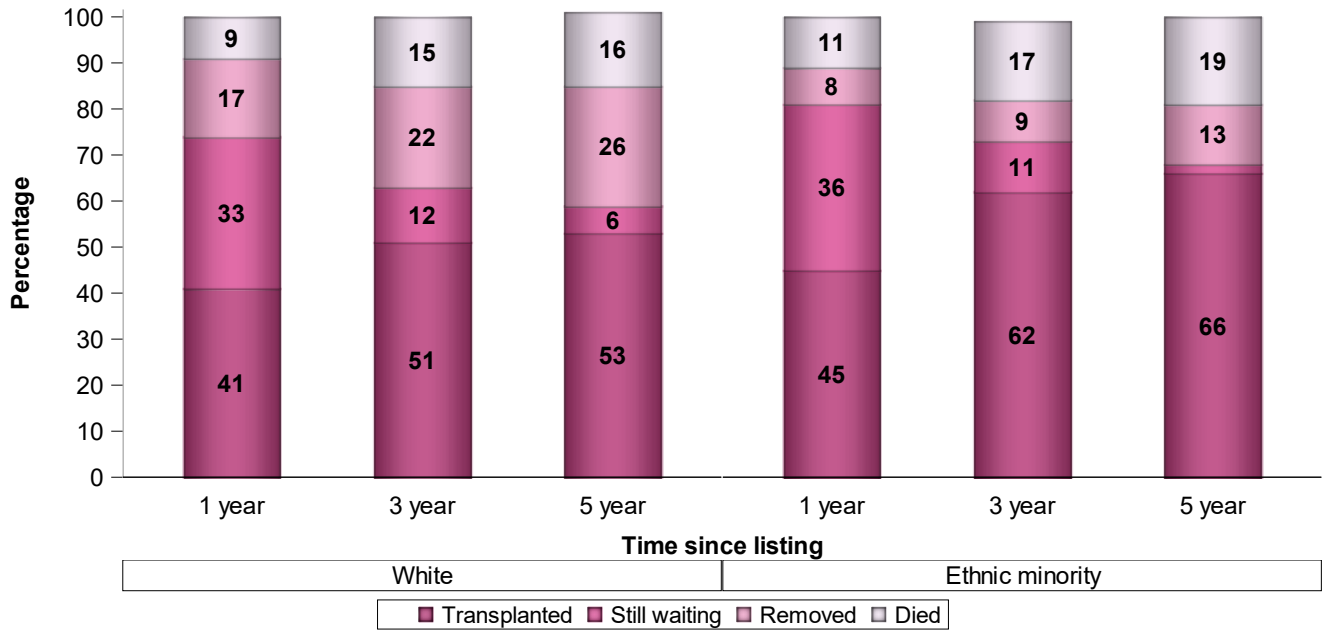


Table 4.18 **Post-registration outcome for 888 white compared to 167 ethnic minority adult cardiothoracic registrations, 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021**

	1 year		3 year		5 year	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White						
Transplanted	149	40.9	187	51.4	192	52.7
Still waiting	119	32.7	44	12.1	21	5.8
Removed	62	17.0	80	22.0	94	25.8
Died	34	9.3	53	14.6	57	15.7
Ethnic minority						
Transplanted	24	45.3	33	62.3	35	66.0
Still waiting	19	35.8	6	11.3	1	1.9
Removed	4	7.5	5	9.4	7	13.2
Died	6	11.3	9	17.0	10	18.9

In the last financial year, **Figure 4.20** shows that 7% of deceased cardiothoracic donors are from ethnic minority groups whilst patients from ethnic minority backgrounds represent 17% of transplants and 18% of the cardiothoracic transplant waiting list. **Table 4.19** shows the numbers in **Figure 4.20**.

Figure 4.20 Cardiothoracic statistics (waiting list as at 31 March each year), 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2026

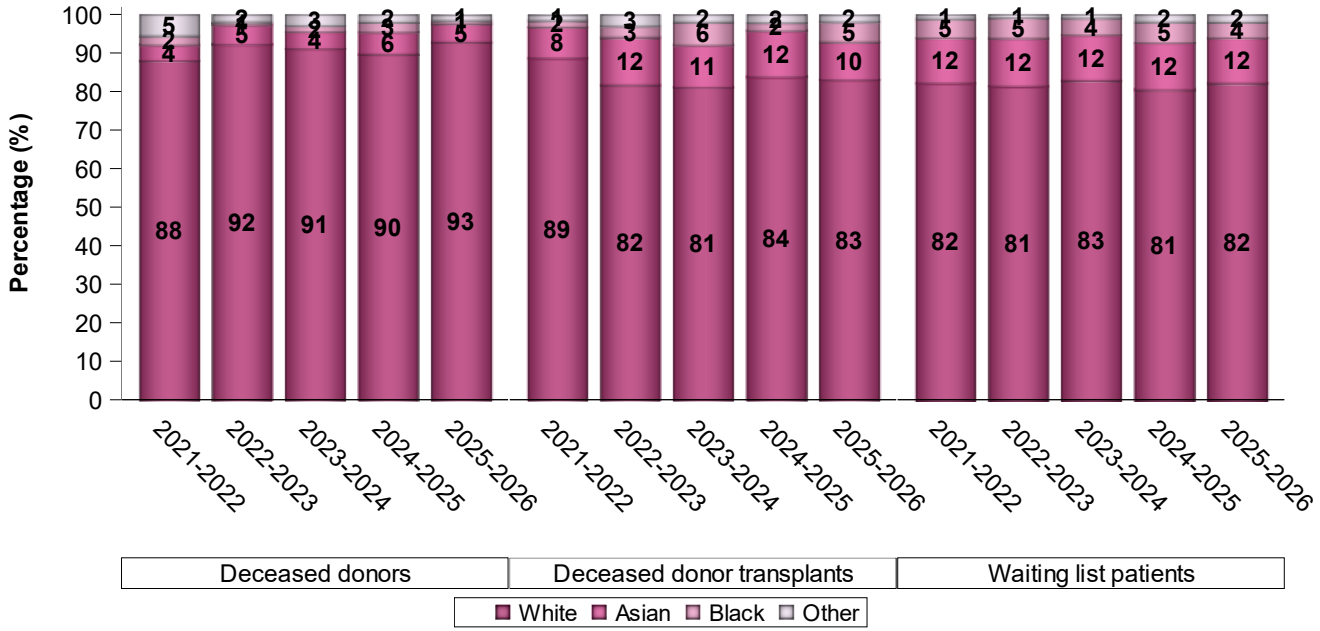


Table 4.19 Cardiothoracic statistics (waiting list as at 31 March), 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2025

	Deceased donors					Deceased donor transplants					Waiting list patients				
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Ethnicity															
White	228	254	290	280	327	252	252	304	287	332	480	493	457	392	384
Asian	11	14	14	18	17	23	38	41	41	39	68	75	65	59	55
Black	6	2	5	8	3	5	9	22	7	21	29	32	24	26	19
Other	14	5	9	6	5	4	9	7	7	7	6	5	5	9	9
Total	**259**	**275**	**318**	**312**	**352**	**284**	**308**	**374**	**342**	**399**	**583**	**605**	**551**	**486**	**467**

APPENDIX

Table I Population of England and Wales by ethnicity, mid-2021 census data estimates per thousands

Ethnicity	N (thousands)	%
White British	44,355	74.4
White Irish	507	0.9
Other White	3,837	6.5
Total White	**48,699**	**81.8**
Asian-Indian	1,864	3.1
Asian-Pakistani	1,588	2.7
Asian-Bangladeshi	645	1.1
Asian-Chinese	446	0.7
Other Asian	973	1.6
Total Asian	**5,516**	**9.2**
Black-African	1,488	2.5
Black-Caribbean	623	1.0
Other Black	298	0.5
Total Black	**2,409**	**4.0**
White & Black Caribbean	513	0.9
White & Black African	250	0.4
White & Asian	488	0.8
Other Mixed	467	0.8
Other ethnicity	1,256	2.2
Total Other	**1,723**	**3.0**
TOTAL	**59,598**	**100.0**

Source - Office of National Statistics

Table II National data from the NHSBT Potential Donor Audit for donation after brain death, 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2026

Financial Year	Ethnic origin	Number of patients where neurological death was suspected	Number of patients that were neurological death tested	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Number of patients where neurological death was suspected that were referred to the SN-OD	DBD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached	Number where consent/authorisation ascertained	DBD consent/ authorisation rate (%)
2021/22	White	1527	1231	80.6	1511	99.0	1029	772	75.0
	Ethnic minority	355	280	78.9	350	98.6	200	83	41.5
	Unknown	36	23	63.9	34	94.4	12	7	58.3
2022/23	White	1583	1254	79.2	1573	99.4	1035	762	73.6
	Ethnic minority	376	293	77.9	372	98.9	211	83	39.3
	Unknown	34	14	41.2	32	94.1	1	0	0.0
2023/24	White	1655	1247	75.3	1648	99.6	1051	783	74.5
	Ethnic minority	346	273	78.9	343	99.1	200	68	34.0
	Unknown	33	18	54.5	31	93.9	10	7	70.0
2024/25	White	1498	1069	71.4	1484	99.1	892	671	75.2
	Ethnic minority	363	282	77.7	358	98.6	191	74	38.7
	Unknown	29	8	27.6	24	82.8	3	0	0.0
2025/26	White	1433	968	67.6	1424	99.4	826	603	73.0
	Ethnic minority	378	264	69.8	374	98.9	198	68	34.3
	Unknown	42	19	45.2	42	100.0	9	5	55.6

All data for neonatal ICUs has been excluded from this data

Table III National data from the NHSBT Potential Donor Audit for donation after circulatory death, 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2026

Financial Year	Ethnic origin	Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated	Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated that were referred to the SN-OD	DCD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached	Number where consent/ authorisation ascertained	DCD consent/ Authorisation rate (%)
2021/22	White	4367	3991	91.4	1302	864	66.4
	Ethnic minority	529	477	90.2	135	44	32.6
	Unknown	338	264	78.1	18	2	11.1
2022/23	White	4614	4307	93.3	1551	921	59.4
	Ethnic minority	465	426	91.6	149	43	28.9
	Unknown	267	186	69.7	7	1	14.3
2023/24	White	4619	4342	94.0	1676	973	58.1
	Ethnic minority	486	444	91.4	154	46	29.9
	Unknown	244	178	73.0	23	4	17.4
2024/25	White	4745	4454	93.9	1636	920	56.2
	Ethnic minority	507	472	93.1	172	47	27.3
	Unknown	272	204	75.0	21	2	9.5
2025/26	White	4548	4282	94.2	1742	980	56.3
	Ethnic minority	533	497	93.2	208	50	24.0
	Unknown	207	165	79.7	26	7	26.9

All data for neonatal ICUs has been excluded from this data.