

# National Potential Donor Audit

## Key messages

- There were 34,369 audited deaths reported through the Potential Donor Audit in the financial year to 31 March 2017, including 1,384 (98%) of the 1,413 deceased organ donors.
- Improvements have been observed in the overall referral rate of potential donors (from 86% to 88%), in the proportion of approaches involving a Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation (from 83% to 86%), and in the overall consent/authorisation rate (from 62% to 63%).
- The consent/authorisation rate was 91% when a patient's decision was known at the time of potential donation, but 100 families overruled their loved one's known decision to be an organ donor.
- A significant difference is still apparent in the consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from minority ethnic groups (66% and 35% respectively).

## 13.1 Introduction

In this chapter, summary data from the National Potential Donor Audit (PDA) are shown for 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 and data from the previous three financial years are also provided for comparison purposes. The data comprise all audited patient deaths in UK Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and emergency departments, excluding wards and patients over 80 years of age, in the time period. Paediatric ICU data are included however neonatal ICU data have been excluded. The data are based on information received by 8 May 2017. **The number of solid organ donors reported in this chapter will differ from that shown in the rest of the report, due to the national PDA excluding specific patients.**

On 1 December 2015, The Human Transplantation (Wales) Act 2013 became operational in Wales, introducing new legislation for a soft opt-out system for organ donation (deemed consent). More information can be found here <http://organdonationwales.org/>

## 13.2 Definitions

All data shown in this chapter use the following definitions.

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**Eligible donors after circulatory death (DCD)** are defined as patients who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated within four hours, with no absolute medical contraindications to solid organ donation.

**Absolute medical contraindications** to organ donation are listed here: [http://www.odt.nhs.uk/pdf/contraindications\\_to\\_organ\\_donation.pdf](http://www.odt.nhs.uk/pdf/contraindications_to_organ_donation.pdf)

**Imminent death anticipated** patients who are not confirmed dead using neurological criteria, receiving assisted ventilation, a clinical decision to withdraw treatment has been made and death is anticipated within four hours.

**Neurological death suspected** patients who meet all of the following criteria: apnoea, coma from known aetiology and unresponsive, ventilated, fixed pupils. Excluding those not tested as cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation, brain stem reflexes returned, or neonates less than 2 months post term.

**The neurological death testing rate** is the percentage of patients for whom neurological death was suspected who were tested.

**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 proportion of approaches involving a SN-OD** is the percentage of eligible donor families or appointed/nominated representatives approached where a SN-OD was involved.

**Deemed consent** applies if a person has not registered an organ donation decision either to opt-in or opt-out or appoint a representative, is aged 18 or over, has lived for longer than 12 months and is ordinarily resident and also died in Wales, and had the capacity to understand the notion of deemed consent for a significant period before their death.

**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.

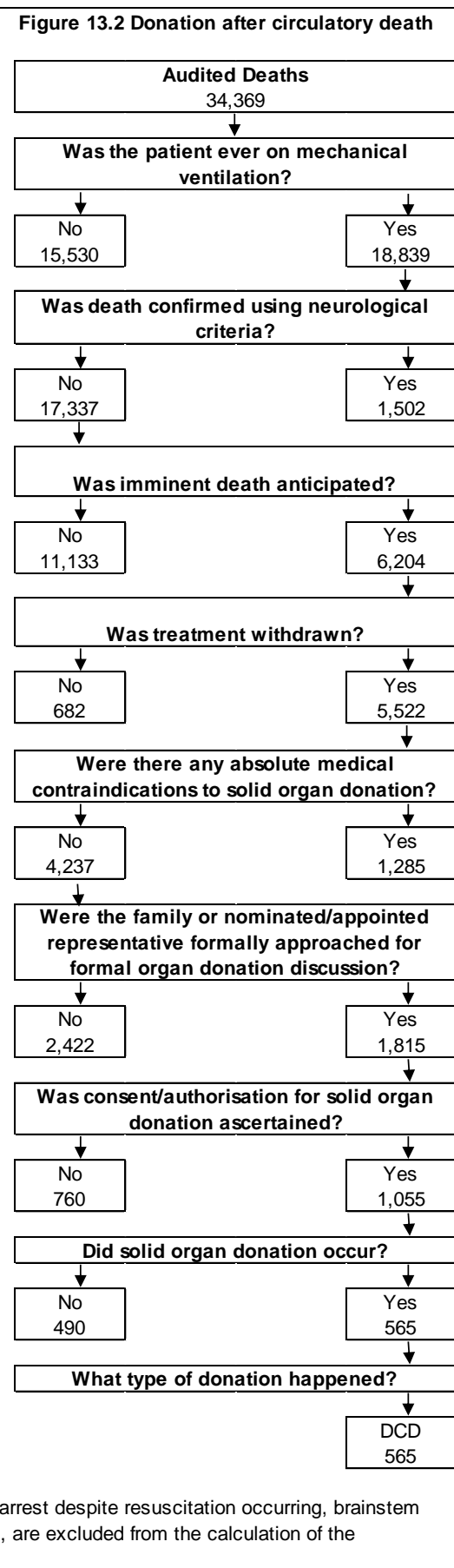
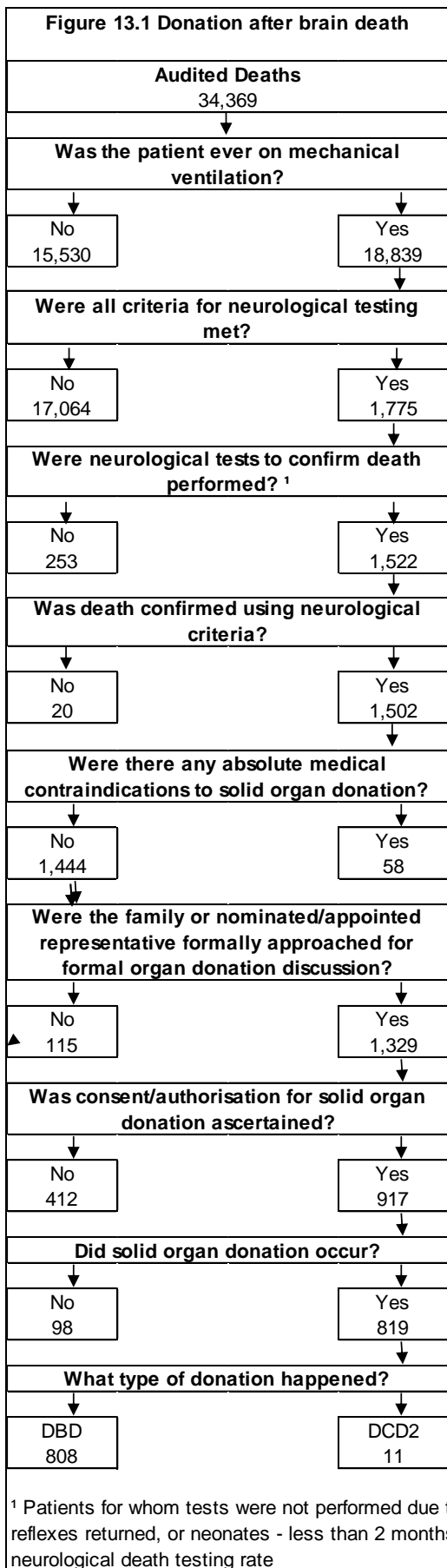
### 13.3 Breakdown of audited deaths in ICUs and emergency departments

In the 12-month period there were a total of 34,369 audited patient deaths in the UK. **Figures 13.1** and **13.2** show a detailed breakdown from the number of audited patient deaths to the number of solid organ donors for potential DBD and DCD donors, respectively. In total there were 1384 solid organ donors reported through the PDA.

**Table 13.1** shows the key percentages calculated from the flow chart information. Consent/authorisation rates have also been provided for cases where the SN-OD was/was not involved in the approach to the family and/or whether the patient's decision to be a donor was known at the time of potential donation. Details of ODR, known decision and deemed consent overrides are included in the footnote of the table.

An ODR override is a case where the family overruled their loved one's known decision to be an organ donor where the decision was recorded on the ODR. This decision was known at the time that the families were approached. Similarly, a known decision override is a case where the family overruled their loved one's known decision to donate and includes decisions registered on the ODR, those expressed via carrying a donor card, verbally, in a will, or via an appointed/nominated representative. Again, the decision was known at the time that the family were approached. A deemed consent override is a case where the family did not support deemed consent.

**Figure 13.3** uses the flow chart information to illustrate the stages where opportunities are lost pre-donation. Current practice within DCD donation has led to a significant proportion of DCD patients dropping out of the donation process prior to the approach stage; this is because eligible donors are screened out due to medical unsuitability and therefore families or nominated/appointed representatives are not approached for a formal organ donation discussion.



<sup>1</sup> Patients for whom tests were not performed due to; cardiac arrest despite resuscitation occurring, brainstem reflexes returned, or neonates - less than 2 months post term, are excluded from the calculation of the neurological death testing rate

**Table 13.1 Summary of key percentages, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017**

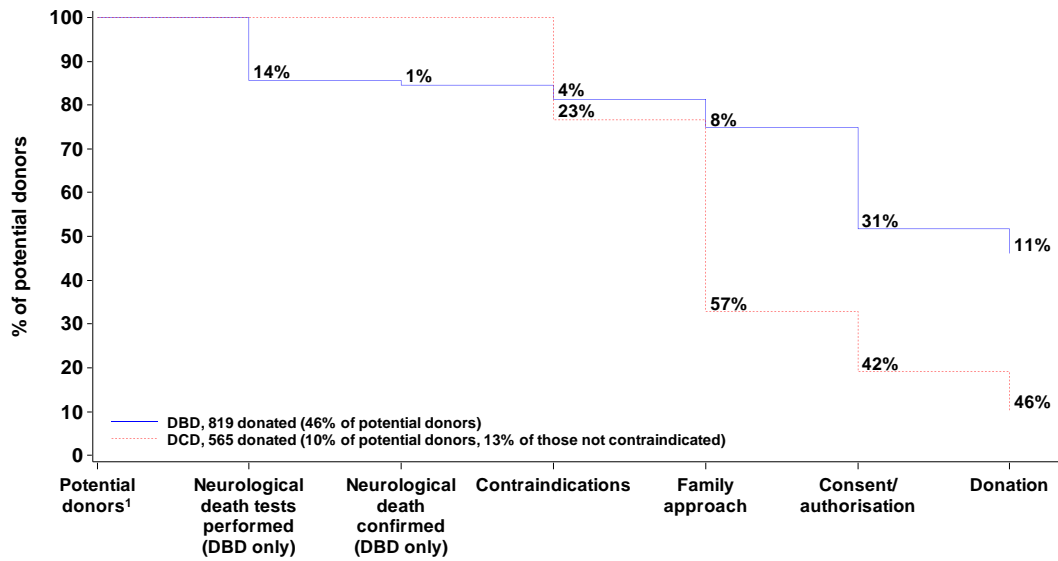
	DBD	DCD	ALL
Neurological death testing rate	85.7%		
Referral rate	97.4%	85.6%	88.2%
Proportion of approaches involving a SN-OD	93.0%	80.4%	85.8%
Consent/authorisation rate	69.0%	58.1%	62.7%
- when SN-OD not involved in approach	38.7%	24.5%	27.5%
- when SN-OD involved in approach	71.3%	66.3%	68.6%
- when patient had not expressed a wish to donate or the patient's ODR status was not known at the time of potential donation	54.1%	41.5%	46.7%
- when patient's wish on ODR and known at time of potential donation*	93.7%	88.0%	90.5%
- when patient's wish (by any method) is known at time of potential donation**	94.0%	89.0%	91.2%
- when SN-OD involved in approach and patient known to be on ODR at time of potential donation	94.3%	91.3%	92.6%
- when deemed consent applied***	66.7%	57.1%	60.6%

\*89 families overruled their loved one's known ODR decision to be an organ donor

\*\* 100 families overruled their loved one's known decision (by any method) to be an organ donor

\*\*\* 13 families did not support deemed consent (of 33 cases where deemed consent applied)

**Figure 13.3 Stages at which potential organ donors lose the opportunity to become actual donors, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017**



<sup>1</sup> Potential DBD donor - A patient who meets all four criteria for neurological death testing excluding those for which cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation, brain stem reflexes returned, and neonates less than 2 months post term

Potential DCD donor - A patient who had treatment withdrawn and death was anticipated within four hours

### 13.4 Eligible donors

The number of eligible donors (as defined earlier) and rates per million population (pmp) are shown in **Table 13.2**, by country/Strategic Health Authority (SHA). The number of actual donors pmp can be found in Table 3.2 of Chapter 3. Eligible DBD ranged from 13.2 pmp in East of England SHA to 35.1 pmp in North East SHA. Eligible DCD ranged from 47.7 pmp in South West SHA to 110.3 pmp in North East SHA. Across the countries, there was a range of 72.8 eligible donors pmp in Scotland to 98.4 eligible donors pmp in Wales. Overall, there were 1,444 eligible DBD (22.1 pmp) and 4,237 eligible DCD (64.8 pmp) in the UK, resulting in a total of 86.9 eligible donors per million population.

**Tables 13.3** and **13.4** show more detailed information by country/SHA for DBD and DCD data, respectively.

<b>Table 13.2 Eligible donor rates per million population (pmp), in the UK, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by country and Strategic Health Authority</b>						
<b>Country/ Strategic Health Authority of donation</b>	<b>Eligible DBD</b>		<b>Eligible DCD</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>(pmp)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>(pmp)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>(pmp)</b>
North East	92	(35.1)	289	(110.3)	<b>381</b>	<b>(145.4)</b>
North West	170	(23.7)	657	(91.6)	<b>827</b>	<b>(115.3)</b>
Yorkshire and the Humber	105	(19.5)	304	(56.4)	<b>409</b>	<b>(75.9)</b>
<b>North of England</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>(24.2)</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>(82.3)</b>	<b>1617</b>	<b>(106.5)</b>
East Midlands	64	(13.7)	252	(53.8)	<b>316</b>	<b>(67.5)</b>
West Midlands	109	(19.0)	397	(69.0)	<b>506</b>	<b>(88.0)</b>
East of England	80	(13.2)	429	(70.6)	<b>509</b>	<b>(83.7)</b>
<b>Midlands and East</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>(15.3)</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>(65.3)</b>	<b>1331</b>	<b>(80.6)</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>(34.3)</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>(53.5)</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>(87.8)</b>
South East Coast	102	(22.0)	276	(59.6)	<b>378</b>	<b>(81.6)</b>
South Central	83	(19.2)	279	(64.6)	<b>362</b>	<b>(83.8)</b>
South West	112	(20.5)	261	(47.7)	<b>373</b>	<b>(68.2)</b>
<b>South of England</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>(20.6)</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>(56.6)</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>(77.2)</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>1214</b>	<b>(22.2)</b>	<b>3608</b>	<b>(65.9)</b>	<b>4822</b>	<b>(88.0)</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(25.0)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(25.0)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(50.0)</b>
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(18.8)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(25.0)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(43.8)</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>(17.4)</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>(81.0)</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>(98.4)</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>(22.0)</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>(50.8)</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>(72.8)</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>(28.6)</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>(53.5)</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>(82.2)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1444</b>	<b>(22.1)</b>	<b>4237</b>	<b>(64.8)</b>	<b>5681</b>	<b>(86.9)</b>

**Table 13.3 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by country and former English Strategic Health Authority**

Country/ Strategic Health Authority of donation	Number of patients where neurological death was suspected	Neurological death testing rate (%)	DBD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached	Percentage of DBD approaches that involved a SN-OD (%)	DBD consent/ authorisation rate (%)
North East	98	95.9	100.0	89	96.6	62.9
North West	228	80.7	98.7	163	98.8	66.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	124	88.7	100.0	96	92.7	66.7
<b>North of England</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>65.8</b>
East Midlands	83	78.3	95.2	54	88.9	66.7
West Midlands	150	79.3	93.3	98	89.8	72.4
East of England	108	74.1	97.2	78	91.0	78.2
<b>Midlands and East</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>73.0</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>58.7</b>
South East Coast	130	81.5	96.2	93	86.0	71.0
South Central	101	88.1	99.0	80	91.3	70.0
South West	129	90.7	99.2	99	92.9	77.8
<b>South of England</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>73.2</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>1508</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>1114</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>67.4</b>
Isle of Man	2	100.0	100.0	2	50.0	100.0
Channel Islands	3	100.0	100.0	3	100.0	100.0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>78.0</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>78.4</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>71.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1775</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>69.0</b>

**Table 13.4 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by country and former English Strategic Health Authority**

Country/ Strategic Health Authority of donation	Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated	DCD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached	Percentage of DCD approaches that involved a SN-OD (%)	DCD consent/ authorisation rate (%)
North East	384	94.0	83	83.1	63.9
North West	924	84.2	239	85.8	58.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	596	89.4	134	83.6	56.0
<b>North of England</b>	<b>1904</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>58.6</b>
East Midlands	335	82.1	125	72.0	53.6
West Midlands	550	80.5	173	73.4	53.2
East of England	632	83.5	185	80.5	60.5
<b>Midlands and East</b>	<b>1517</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>56.1</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>58.1</b>
South East Coast	404	89.1	119	85.7	72.3
South Central	386	81.9	124	75.8	54.8
South West	379	90.2	127	84.3	63.0
<b>South of England</b>	<b>1169</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>63.2</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>5317</b>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>1524</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>58.9</b>
Isle of Man	5	100.0	1	100.0	100.0
Channel Islands	7	71.4	3	100.0	66.7
<b>Wales</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>56.0</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>81.2</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>52.5</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>55.3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6204</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>1815</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>58.1</b>



**Tables 13.5** and **13.6** show more detailed information on the key metrics by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) for DBD and DCD data, respectively. Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation (SN-ODs) work within an ODST, which covers an area of the UK. As seen in **Table 13.5**, the neurological death testing rate was highest for the Northern team. The Northern, Northern Ireland and Yorkshire teams had 100% DBD referral rates. The proportion of DBD approaches involving a SN-OD was highest for the North West team and DBD consent/authorisation was highest in Scotland.

<b>Table 13.5 DBD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>						
<b>ODST</b>	<b>Number of patients where neurological death was suspected</b>	<b>Neurological death testing rate (%)</b>	<b>DBD referral rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Percentage of DBD approaches that involved a SN-OD (%)</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
Eastern	112	75.0	97.3	81	91.4	77.8
London	284	90.8	97.5	206	94.7	58.7
Midlands	205	77.6	93.2	134	88.8	68.7
North West	238	81.5	98.7	173	97.7	68.8
Northern	103	95.1	100.0	93	96.8	63.4
Northern Ireland	64	84.4	100.0	49	93.9	71.4
Scotland	136	89.7	93.4	111	90.1	78.4
South Central	130	87.7	99.2	104	93.3	71.2
South East	206	84.0	96.1	154	89.6	66.9
South Wales	55	89.1	98.2	41	95.1	75.6
South West	109	90.8	99.1	82	91.5	78.0
Yorkshire	133	88.7	100.0	101	93.1	68.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1775</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>69.0</b>

**Table 13.6** indicates that for DCD patients, the highest referral rate was for the Northern team. The proportion of DCD approaches involving a SN-OD was highest for the South Wales team. The DCD consent/authorisation rate was highest in the Northern team. No account has been taken of the demographics of the populations within the teams which may impact on the rates presented.

**Table 13.6 DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)**

ODST	Number of patients for whom imminent death was anticipated	DCD referral rate (%)	Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached	Percentage of DCD approaches that involved a SN-OD (%)	DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)
Eastern	666	90.5	220	82.3	58.6
London	631	88.9	175	81.1	51.4
Midlands	879	72.6	274	72.3	52.9
North West	806	82.0	218	84.4	59.2
Northern	446	92.8	126	74.6	64.3
Northern Ireland	250	81.2	68	82.4	55.9
Scotland	350	83.1	169	65.1	49.7
South Central	533	73.4	141	75.2	60.3
South East	653	84.1	195	81.5	60.5
South Wales	275	87.3	85	87.1	54.1
South West	361	80.9	128	68.8	62.5
Yorkshire	652	85.3	142	83.8	61.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6502</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>57.3</b>

**Table 13.7** shows key metrics separately for patients meeting the PDA criteria who were referred in an ICU or an emergency department (irrespective of where the patient died), for DBD and DCD, respectively. Note that the total number of patients in this table and the associated rates do not match the other tables throughout this chapter as **Table 13.7** is based on the subset of patients who were referred to the ODST.

**Table 13.8** shows key metrics separately for adult and paediatric patients, for DBD and DCD, respectively. Note that of the 111 paediatric patients for whom neurological death was suspected, tests were not performed on 36 patients.

**Table 13.7 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by unit where patient referred from, for patients who met the PDA criteria and were referred**

Eligible donor type	Unit where patient was referred from	Number of patients who were referred <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Percentage of approaches involving a SN-OD (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>
DBD	Critical care	1566	87.8	1202	92.9	68.1	732
	Emergency dept.	162	83.3	125	95.2	78.4	87
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1728</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>1327</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>819</b>
DCD	Critical care	5011		1619	82.2	59.4	513
	Emergency dept.	297		157	82.2	59.9	52
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5308</b>		<b>1776</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>565</b>

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 11 DCD donors referred from critical care and 0 DCD donors referred from emergency departments

**Table 13.8 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by age group**

Eligible donor type	Age group	Number of patients who met referral criteria <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Percentage of approaches involving a SN-OD (%)	Consent/authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>
DBD	Adult (>=18)	1664	86.7	97.9	1266	93.6	69.2	782
	Paediatric (<18)	111	72.1	89.2	63	81.0	65.1	37
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1775</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>819</b>
DCD	Adult (>=18)	5990		85.9	1747	80.9	59.3	553
	Paediatric (<18)	214		75.7	68	67.6	27.9	12
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6204</b>		<b>85.6</b>	<b>1815</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>565</b>

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 2 DCD donors under 18 and 9 DCD donors aged 18 and over

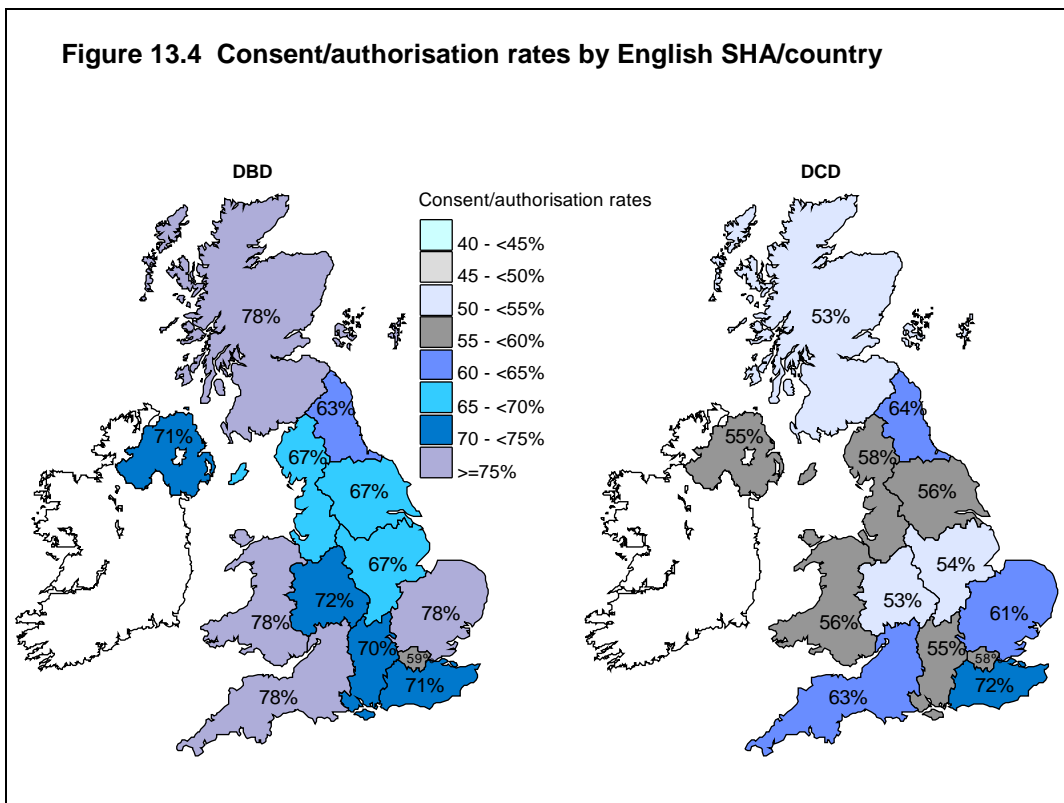
### 13.5 Consent/ authorisation rates

The overall DBD consent/authorisation rate was 69% and the 95% confidence limits for this percentage are 67% - 72%. For DCD, the overall rate was 58% and the 95% confidence limits are 56% - 60%.

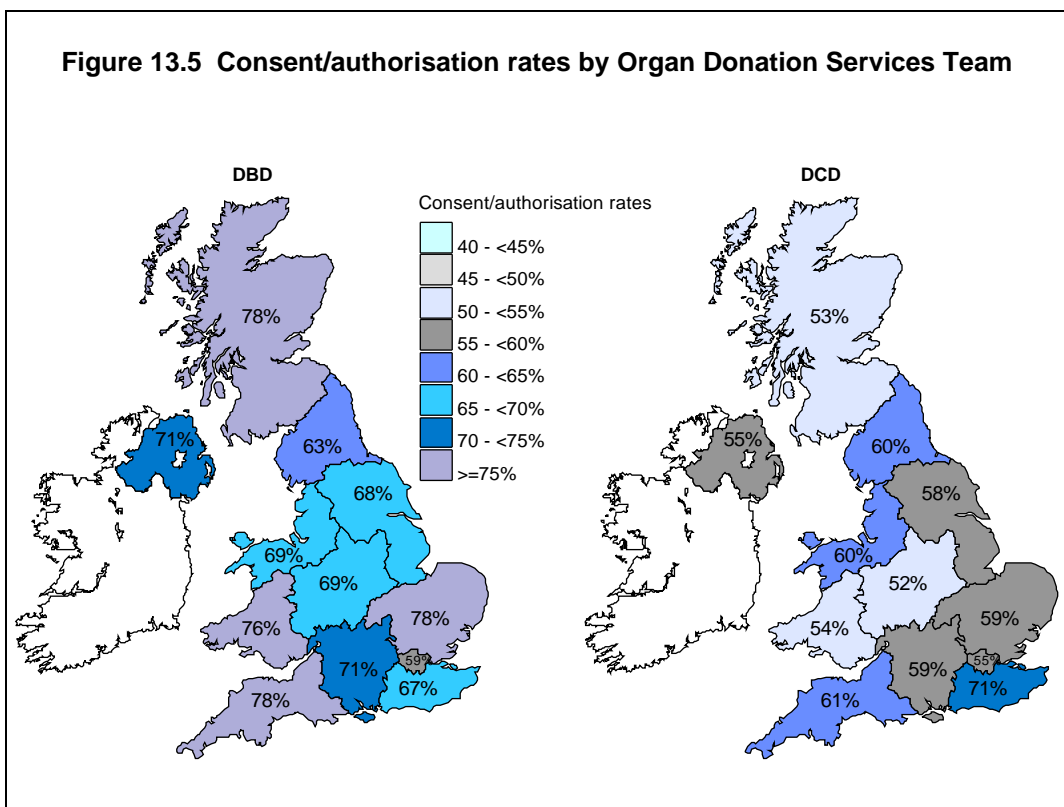
Consent/authorisation rates by country/Strategic Health Authority are illustrated in **Figure 13.4** and by Organ Donation Services Team in **Figure 13.5** for both DBD and DCD. Caution should be applied when interpreting these consent/authorisation rates as no adjustment has been made for the mix of patients in terms of age, sex and ethnicity.

Across the countries and SHAs, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 59% in London to 78% in several areas. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 53% in Scotland and the West Midlands to 72% in South East Coast.

The overall consent/authorisation rates (combining DBD and DCD) for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were 63%, 64%, 63% and 64%, respectively.



Across the Organ Donation Services Teams, the DBD consent/authorisation rates range from 59% in the London team to 78% in the Eastern, Scotland, and South West teams. DCD consent/authorisation rates range from 52% in the Midlands team to 71% in the South East team.



**Table 13.9** shows the consent/authorisation rate separately for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups. The DBD consent/authorisation rates for white patients and patients from ethnic minority groups were 74% and 34%, respectively. A smaller, but still significant, difference was observed for DCD consent/authorisation rates: 61% and 37%, respectively. Note that there were an additional 35 DBD and 67 DCD families approached where the ethnicity was not known or not reported.

The Northern, Scotland, South Wales and South West teams each accounted for only 1-2% of families from ethnic minority groups approached for a formal organ donation discussion, with Northern Ireland at less than 1%, whereas London accounted for 37%. Most teams had a very small proportion, therefore accounting for some of the variation observed in overall consent/authorisation rates between teams. Note that consent/authorisation rates have not been provided where the number of families approached is less than ten.

<b>Table 13.9 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST) and ethnicity</b>											
<b>ODST</b>	<b>White eligible donors</b>					<b>Eligible donors from ethnic minority groups</b>					<b>All</b>
	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)<sup>1</sup></b>
Eastern	73	83.6	177	62.7	<b>68.8</b>	6	16.7	6	16.7	<b>16.7</b>	<b>64.8</b>
London	135	71.9	122	59.0	<b>65.8</b>	70	32.9	40	47.5	<b>38.2</b>	<b>57.0</b>
Midlands	103	76.7	244	54.5	<b>61.1</b>	27	37.0	20	25.0	<b>31.9</b>	<b>57.3</b>
North West	148	73.6	226	60.6	<b>65.8</b>	22	36.4	5	40.0	<b>37.0</b>	<b>63.7</b>
Northern	88	62.5	89	64.0	<b>63.3</b>	3	66.7	3	33.3	<b>50.0</b>	<b>61.9</b>
Northern Ireland	47	70.2	37	56.8	<b>64.3</b>	0		1	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	<b>64.4</b>
Scotland	101	77.2	151	53.6	<b>63.1</b>	1	0.0	3	33.3	<b>25.0</b>	<b>63.2</b>
South Central	91	74.7	130	62.3	<b>67.4</b>	12	41.7	10	40.0	<b>40.9</b>	<b>64.1</b>
South East	119	73.1	153	73.9	<b>73.5</b>	32	40.6	13	30.8	<b>37.8</b>	<b>69.2</b>
South Wales	39	76.9	68	58.8	<b>65.4</b>	0		3	66.7	<b>66.7</b>	<b>61.5</b>
South West	77	80.5	105	61.0	<b>69.2</b>	2	0.0	1	100.0	<b>33.3</b>	<b>68.0</b>
Yorkshire	86	75.6	134	59.7	<b>65.9</b>	12	16.7	7	14.3	<b>15.8</b>	<b>62.2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>1636</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>62.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 102 families approached where the ethnicity was not known or not reported

**Table 13.10** shows the reasons why the family did not give consent/authorisation, by donor type. The most common reason reported for why the families of both eligible DBD and DCD families did not give consent/authorisation was that the patient had previously expressed a wish not to donate. Overall, this reason was reported in 21% of cases

<b>Table 13.10 Reasons why the family did not support organ donation, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by donor type</b>						
<b>Primary reason why family did not support organ donation</b>	<b>Donor type</b>				<b>Total</b>	
	<b>DBD</b>		<b>DCD</b>		<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>		
Patient previously expressed a wish not to donate	83	20.2	162	21.3	245	20.9
Family were not sure whether the patient would have agreed to donation	63	15.3	114	15.0	177	15.1
Family did not believe in donation	20	4.9	23	3.0	43	3.7
Family felt it was against their religious/cultural beliefs	45	10.9	21	2.8	66	5.6
Family were divided over the decision	25	6.1	32	4.2	57	4.9
Family felt the patient had suffered enough	21	5.1	59	7.8	80	6.8
Family did not want surgery to the body	53	12.9	65	8.6	118	10.1
Family wanted to stay with the patient after death	2	0.5	11	1.5	13	1.1
Family had difficulty understanding/accepting neurological testing	3	0.7	2	0.3	5	0.4
Family felt the length of time for donation process was too long	19	4.6	125	16.5	144	12.3
Family concerned that other people may disapprove/be offended	1	0.2	.	.	1	0.1
Family felt the body needs to be buried whole (unrelated to religious or cultural reasons)	21	5.1	23	3.0	44	3.8
Family concerned that organs may not be transplanted	4	1.0	8	1.1	12	1.0
Families concerned about organ allocation	.	.	2	0.3	2	0.2
Strong refusal - probing not appropriate	27	6.6	39	5.1	66	5.6
Other	25	6.1	74	9.7	99	8.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>100</b>

### 13.6 Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD) involvement

**Table 13.11** shows the proportion of family approaches that involved a SN-OD, for DBD and DCD separately, and overall. Nationally, 93% of DBD and 80% of DCD family approaches involved a SN-OD, but there is wide variation between teams.

<b>Table 13.11 Percentage of family approaches involving a Specialist Nurse - Organ Donation (SN-OD) from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>							
<b>ODST</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors where SN-OD involved in approach</b>	<b>Percentage of DBD approaches that involved a SN-OD (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors where SN-OD involved in approach</b>	<b>Percentage of DCD approaches that involved a SN-OD (%)</b>	<b>Overall percentage of DBD/DCD approaches that involved a SN-OD (%)</b>
Eastern	81	74	91.4	192	154	80.2	<b>83.5</b>
London	206	195	94.7	166	141	84.9	<b>90.3</b>
Midlands	134	119	88.8	271	193	71.2	<b>77.0</b>
North West	173	169	97.7	238	213	89.5	<b>92.9</b>
Northern	93	90	96.8	96	73	76.0	<b>86.2</b>
Northern Ireland	49	46	93.9	38	34	89.5	<b>92.0</b>
Scotland	111	100	90.1	158	105	66.5	<b>76.2</b>
South Central	104	97	93.3	144	113	78.5	<b>84.7</b>
South East	154	138	89.6	171	150	87.7	<b>88.6</b>
South Wales	41	39	95.1	81	66	81.5	<b>86.1</b>
South West	82	75	91.5	115	96	83.5	<b>86.8</b>
Yorkshire	101	94	93.1	145	122	84.1	<b>87.8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>1236</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>1815</b>	<b>1460</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>85.8</b>



**Table 13.12** shows the effect on the consent/authorisation rate when a SN-OD is involved or not involved in the approach to a family for a formal organ donation discussion. Evidence shows that the family is more likely to support organ donation when a trained SN-OD is involved in the approach and this is particularly apparent for eligible DCD donors. Again, there is wide variation between teams.

Caution should be applied when interpreting these rates as no account has been taken of approaches initiated by the family, ODR status or ethnicity.

<b>Table 13.12 DBD and DCD consent/authorisation rates with/without SN-OD involvement from the Potential Donor Audit, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST)</b>											
	<b>SN-OD involved in approach</b>					<b>SN-OD not involved in approach</b>					<b>All</b>
	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DBD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DBD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Number of eligible DCD donors whose family were approached</b>	<b>DCD consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>	<b>Overall consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
<b>ODST</b>											
Eastern	74	81.1	154	67.5	<b>71.9</b>	7	42.9	38	26.3	<b>28.9</b>	<b>64.8</b>
London	195	60.0	141	61.7	<b>60.7</b>	11	36.4	25	16.0	<b>22.2</b>	<b>57.0</b>
Midlands	119	69.7	193	57.0	<b>61.9</b>	15	60.0	78	38.5	<b>41.9</b>	<b>57.3</b>
North West	169	69.8	213	67.1	<b>68.3</b>	4	25.0	25	0.0	<b>3.4</b>	<b>63.7</b>
Northern	90	65.6	73	69.9	<b>67.5</b>	3	0.0	23	30.4	<b>26.9</b>	<b>61.9</b>
Northern Ireland	46	76.1	34	61.8	<b>70.0</b>	3	0.0	4	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	<b>64.4</b>
Scotland	100	86.0	105	73.3	<b>79.5</b>	11	9.1	53	11.3	<b>10.9</b>	<b>63.2</b>
South Central	97	75.3	113	71.7	<b>73.3</b>	7	14.3	31	12.9	<b>13.2</b>	<b>64.1</b>
South East	138	67.4	150	72.7	<b>70.1</b>	16	62.5	21	61.9	<b>62.2</b>	<b>69.2</b>
South Wales	39	76.9	66	63.6	<b>68.6</b>	2	50.0	15	13.3	<b>17.6</b>	<b>61.5</b>
South West	75	81.3	96	66.7	<b>73.1</b>	7	42.9	19	31.6	<b>34.6</b>	<b>68.0</b>
Yorkshire	94	70.2	122	64.8	<b>67.1</b>	7	42.9	23	21.7	<b>26.7</b>	<b>62.2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1236</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>1460</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>62.7</b>

## 13.7 Comparison with previous years

Table 13.13 and Figure 13.6 show the key metrics from the PDA for the last four financial years.

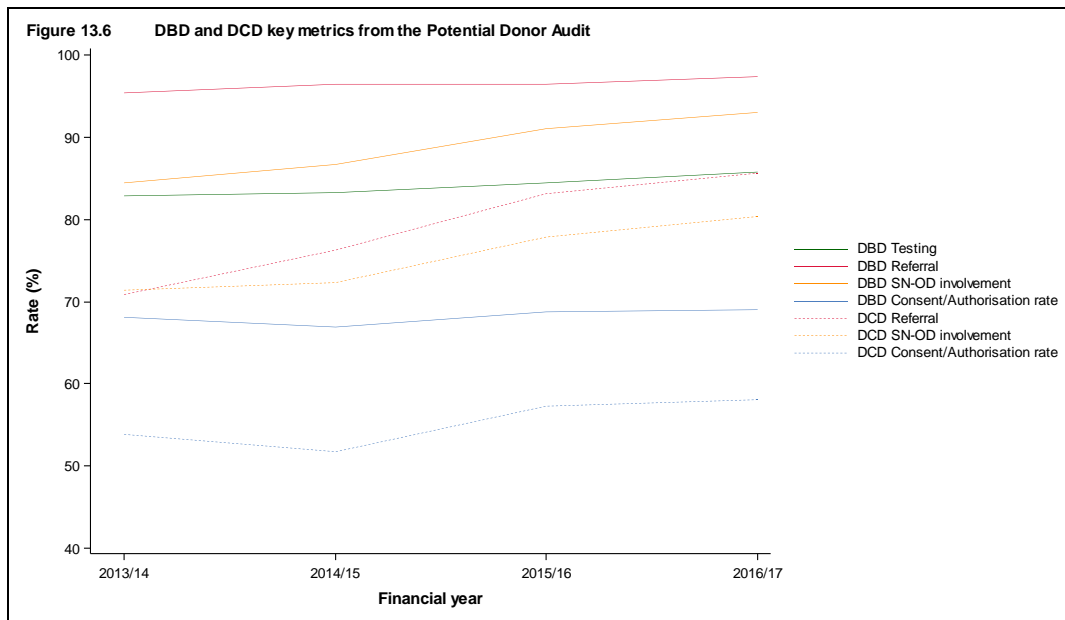
Table 13.13 DBD and DCD key metrics from the Potential Donor Audit, by financial year										
Eligible donor type	Financial year	Number of patients who met referral criteria <sup>1</sup>	Neurological death testing rate (%)	Referral rate (%)	Number of eligible donors whose family were approached	Proportion of family approaches involving a SN-OD (%)	Number of families who consented to/ authorised donation	Consent/ authorisation rate (%)	Number of actual donors <sup>2</sup>	
DBD	2013-2014	1717	82.9	95.4	1258	84.4	857	68.1	788	
	2014-2015	1734	83.3	96.4	1284	86.7	859	66.9	780	
	2015-2016	1747	84.5	96.4	1296	91.0	891	68.8	786	
	2016-2017	1775	85.7	97.4	1329	93.0	917	69.0	819	
DCD	2013-2014	7201		70.9	1992	71.4	1073	53.9	522	
	2014-2015	6761		76.3	2019	72.3	1046	51.8	492	
	2015-2016	6500		83.1	1942	77.8	1113	57.3	564	
	2016-2017	6204		85.6	1815	80.4	1055	58.1	565	
TOTAL	2013-2014	8918		75.7	3250	76.4	1930	59.4	1310	
	2014-2015	8495		80.4	3303	77.9	1905	57.7	1272	
	2015-2016	8247		85.9	3238	83.1	2004	61.9	1350	
	2016-2017	7979		88.2	3144	85.8	1972	62.7	1384	

<sup>1</sup> DBD referral criteria: patients where neurological death was suspected (excluding those for which cardiac arrest occurred despite resuscitation, brain stem reflexes returned, and neonates less than 2 months post term; DCD referral criteria: patients for whom imminent death was anticipated

<sup>2</sup> Actual donors resulting from eligible DBD donors includes 15 DCD donors in 2013-2014, 13 DCD donors in 2014-2015, 7 DCD donors in 2015-2016 and 11 DCD donors in 2016-2017

An increase has been observed in the neurological death testing rate, but 14% of patients who met the criteria were not tested in 2016-2017. Details, such as the reasons for not testing, can be found in the accompanying PDA Annual Report available at <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/odt/potential-donor-audit/>.

Increases have been observed in the rates of referral to the SN-ODs, especially for DCD. Increases have also been observed in the proportion of approaches involving a SN-OD for both DBD and DCD as well as the DCD consent/authorisation rate.



### 13.8 Consented/authorised cases not proceeding to solid organ donation

Consent/authorisation for donation was ascertained for 917 eligible DBD donors and 1,055 eligible DCD donors; 819 (89%) and 565 (54%) of these cases proceeded to donate at least one solid organ, respectively. **Table 13.14** shows the reasons why donation did not proceed for the 98 eligible DBD and 490 eligible DCD cases where consent/authorisation was ascertained. The main reason reported for consented/authorised eligible DBD donors not proceeding to donate was that the organs were deemed to be medically unsuitable by transplant centres. The main reason for consented/authorised DCD donors was prolonged time to asystole, meaning that the donor did not die in a timeframe suitable for organ donation.

**Table 13.14 Reasons why consented/authorised eligible donors did not proceed to donate, 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, by donor type**

Primary reason why donation did not proceed	Donor type				TOTAL	
	DBD		DCD		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Family changed mind	10	10.2	18	3.7	28	4.8
Coroner/Procurator Fiscal refusal	10	10.2	24	4.9	34	5.8
Organs deemed medically unsuitable by recipient centres	40	40.8	141	28.8	181	30.8
Organs deemed medically unsuitable on surgical inspection	6	6.1	12	2.5	18	3.1
Prolonged time to asystole	0	0	222	45.3	222	37.8
Cardiac Arrest	10	10.2	7	1.4	17	2.9
General instability	9	9.2	26	5.3	35	6.0
Logistic reasons	0	0	2	0.4	2	0.3
Positive virology	6	6.1	5	1.0	11	1.9
Other	7	7.1	33	6.7	40	6.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>100.0</b>