

The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



The Number of People in the UK Starting Dialysis or Going Straight to Kidney Transplantation in 2014

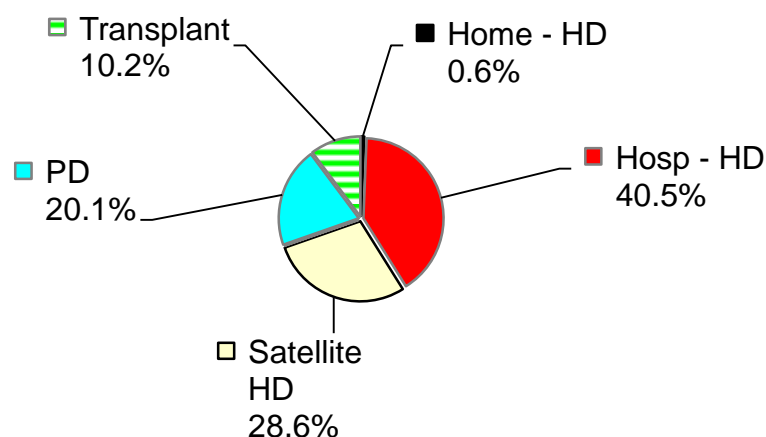
Lay summary

For the full annual report chapters [click here](#) or visit <https://www.renalreg.org/reports/2015-eighteenth-annual-report/>

Just over 7,400 people started renal replacement therapy (RRT) in the UK in 2014. The majority of these started receiving dialysis treatment and a smaller number received a kidney transplant (before having any regular dialysis). So, on average, for every one million people living in the UK, approximately 115 started dialysis or went straight to kidney transplantation. This number has been largely unchanged for almost 10 years but increased slightly from 2013 to 2014.

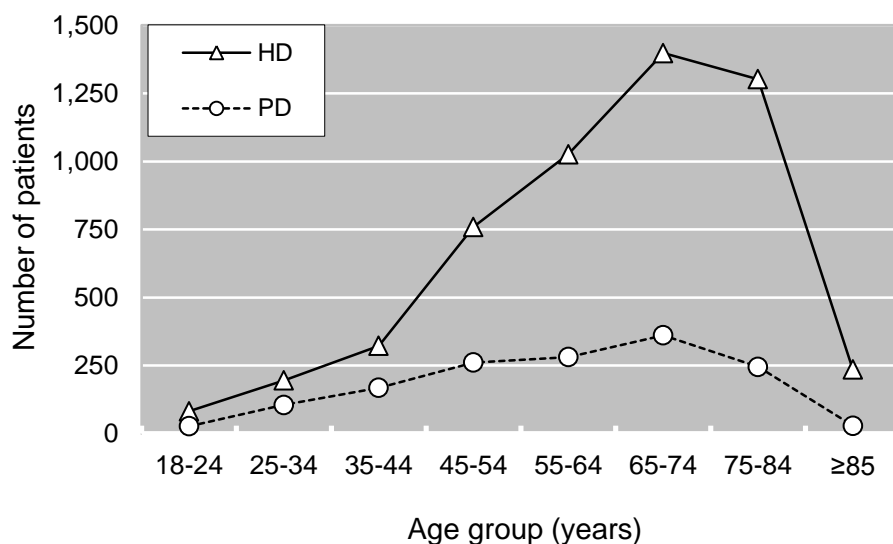
After 90 days on treatment, 70% of people were on haemodialysis (HD), 20% on peritoneal dialysis (PD) and 10% had a functioning kidney transplant (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Treatment modality at 90 days (people starting dialysis or going straight to kidney transplantation between 1/10/2013 and 30/09/2014)



Kidney disease is more common as we get older, and although people of all ages can need to start RRT, this is most common in people aged between 65 and 84. Figure 2 shows the number of people starting dialysis in each age group in 2014. The age group with the most people starting dialysis was 65–74 for both haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. In 2014, the average age of people starting treatment was 65 years and this has changed little over recent years. The average age at start was 67 years for people starting on haemodialysis, 61 for people starting on peritoneal dialysis and 50 for those having a transplant before having regular dialysis.

Figure 2 Number of new patients in 2014 by age group and initial dialysis modality



More men started treatment in 2014 than women (63% male versus 37% female) and diabetes was the single most common cause of kidney failure (27%).

Different ethnic groups have different risks of kidney failure needing RRT, with Black and Asian patients at most risk. About 20% of those who started RRT in England in 2014 were from a Black or Asian background which is much higher than the percentage of the whole population made up by these ethnic groups. The reasons for this difference are complex and not fully understood. Part of the explanation may be that diabetes (the most common single cause of kidney failure) is more common in Black and Asian than White people.