

The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



Dialysis and Transplantation in Children in the UK in 2014

Lay summary

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

Severe kidney failure is rare in childhood. In 2014, this affected 917 children in the UK, whilst 57,000 adults were affected. There are 13 kidney units for children and 71 for adults. The main cause for needing renal replacement therapy (RRT) was being born with kidneys that did not form properly. For every 100 children treated for kidney disease, 70 have a transplant, 10 are on haemodialysis and 10 are on peritoneal dialysis.

Children on dialysis grow poorly. Those with a transplant grow more but are still shorter than healthy children. Children on dialysis weigh less than healthy children, and children with a transplant have a similar weight to healthy children. Children with transplants tend to be classed as overweight. This is because they are too heavy for their height.

One in three children has a kidney transplant before they need dialysis. Blood test results show children's kidney transplants are working well overall. Half of children with a transplant have a kidney from a live donor and half from a deceased donor. At the time that young people move to an adult kidney unit, 90 out of every 100 have a working transplant.

Survival with severe kidney failure has been improving although it is lower for very young children and those on dialysis compared to transplant. In addition to kidney problems, one in three children has another condition. This makes their care more complicated. For every 100 children with kidney failure, 77 will have one or more risk factors for stroke or heart disease. For every 100 children, 10 will have three or more risk factors. We need more research to help understand the importance of these risk factors in children.

Information is also gathered and reported on blood pressure control, blood counts and blood salts.