

# The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



## The Number of People in the UK Receiving Renal Replacement Therapy Treatment in 2014

### *Lay summary*

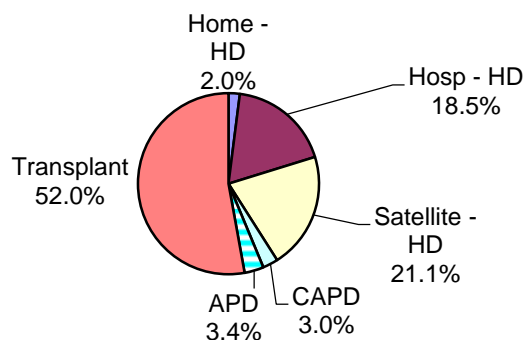
For the full annual report chapters [click here](#) or visit <https://www.renalreg.org/reports/2015-eighteenth-annual-report/>

This paper describes how many adults received renal replacement therapy (RRT) treatment for people with long-term kidney disease in 2014. Some started RRT for the first time in 2014 and others started treatment long ago. This paper also describes the characteristics of these people, their age, gender, the form of RRT they received, where they received treatment and other important features.

At the end of December 2014 nearly 59,000 adults in the UK were receiving RRT – an increase of 4% compared to the year before. This is equivalent to 913 people for every one million people living in the UK. This is comparable to other European countries like Denmark and Norway, but lower than in the USA.

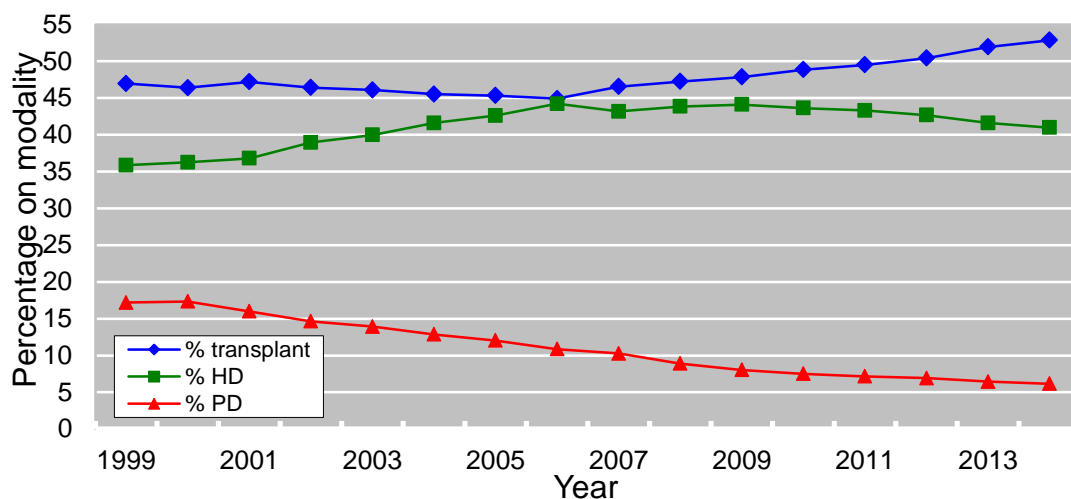
There are different types (or modalities) of RRT. Of adults receiving RRT in 2014, the largest proportion (53%) have received a working kidney transplant as shown in Figure 1 below. Haemodialysis (HD) is more common than peritoneal dialysis (PD); 41% compared to 6%. Amongst those receiving haemodialysis, some will receive it at home, some in hospital and others in a smaller satellite unit.

**Figure 1: Treatment type in RRT patients on 31/12/2014**



In the last 15 years there has been a significant shift in the relative proportion of these different modalities. In 1999, over 15% of people received peritoneal dialysis (continuous ambulatory PD (CAPD) or automated PD (APD)) compared to only 6% in 2014 and increasing proportions of people have now received a working kidney transplant (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Changes in modality between 1999 and 2014**



In 2014, adults had on average been receiving RRT for six years. However the average for transplant patients was 10 years compared to three years for HD and two years for PD.

People of all ages start RRT, but kidney disease becomes more common as we get older and the average age of adults receiving RRT is 59 years. This is older than in 2000 when the average age was 55 years. When we look at the different forms of RRT, we can see that those receiving HD tend to be a bit older (67 years) than those receiving PD (64 years) and those who have had working kidney transplants (53 years).

Whatever their age, a larger proportion of men receive RRT than women. The biggest difference occurs in the 75-79 year age group. For every one million men in this age group in the UK, 3,100 will have received RRT in 2014. For every one million women in the same age group, 1,600 received RRT.

The most common cause of kidney failure is glomerulonephritis (19%) followed by diabetes (16%) and uncertain causes (16%).

In 2014, the population of adults receiving RRT continued to increase due in part to the increasing number of patients receiving working kidney transplants and having improved survival. There remains however, a need to continue to improve the health and quality of life for this growing group of adults.