

The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



Numbers of people in the UK needing dialysis or a kidney transplant

Lay summary

For the full annual report chapters [click here](#) or visit www.renalreg.org/reports/2014-seventeenth-annual-report

People starting treatment

For every one million people living in the UK, approximately 109 started dialysis or went straight to kidney transplantation in 2013. This number has remained largely unchanged for almost 10 years and in 2013 was 7,006. 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).

People already receiving treatment

At the end of December 2013, approximately 57,000 adults in the UK were on treatment for kidney failure. Of these, 29,592 (52%) had a working kidney transplant, 23,683 (42%) were receiving haemodialysis and 3,665 (6%) were on peritoneal dialysis. Of those receiving haemodialysis, 1,113 (5%) were on home haemodialysis. The overall number of people on home haemodialysis has increased by 3% since 2012.

Kidney disease is more common as we get older, and although people of all ages can need to start dialysis, it most commonly affects people aged between 65 and 84 years. Figure 2 shows the number of people starting dialysis or going straight to transplantation in each age group and it can be seen that the age group with the most people was 65–74 for both haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. In 2013, the average age of people starting treatment was 65 years and this has changed little over the last six years. The average age at start was 67 years for people starting on haemodialysis, 60 for people starting on peritoneal dialysis and 50 for those having a transplant before they start dialysis. In 2013, more men started treatment than women (63% male versus 37% female). Diabetes was the single most common cause of kidney failure (25%).

For every 100 people who started treatment in 2012, 85 were alive twelve months later, a significant improvement from 78 in the year 2000. This improvement has occurred even though more elderly patients and patients with health problems other than kidney failure started treatment in 2012 compared to 2000.

For every 100 people who started treatment in 2008, 54 were alive five years later in 2013 (73 of every 100 aged 18-64 and 33 of every 100 aged 65 and over).

There is still much work to be done to continue to improve the health and wellbeing of people requiring dialysis or kidney transplantation.

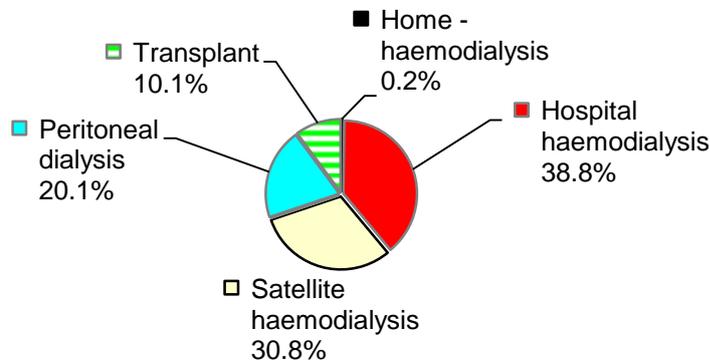


Figure 1. Type of treatment at 90 days (people starting dialysis or going straight to kidney transplantation between 1/10/2012 and 30/09/2013)

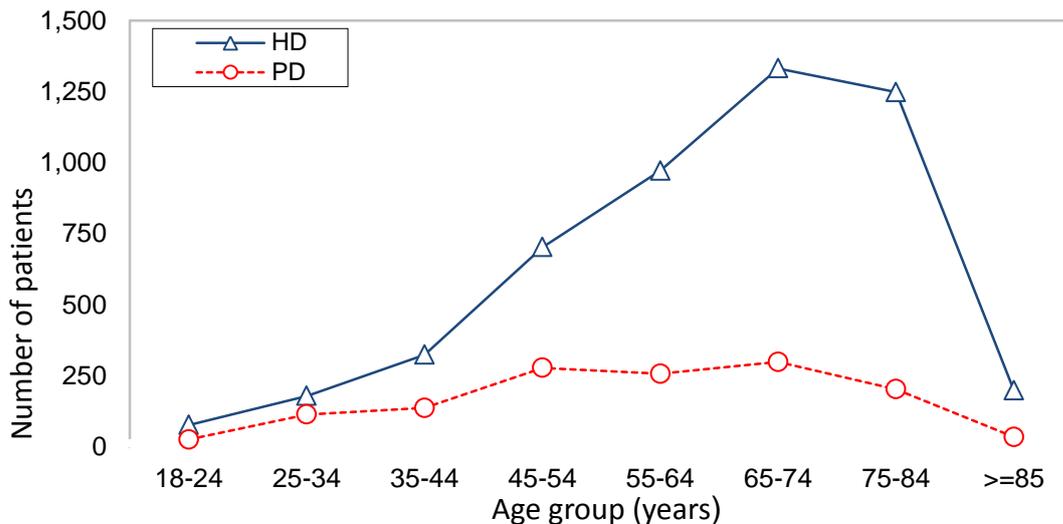


Figure 2. Number of new patients in 2013 by age group and initial dialysis modality

Disclaimer

The UK Renal Registry collects information on patients in general. This lay summary was prepared in association with the UK Renal Registry’s Patient Council including representation from the British Kidney Patient Association and the National Kidney Federation. For individual assessment and advice please speak to your health care professional. For further detail on information contained in this lay summary, please visit www.renalregistry.org.