ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Analyses of data for children and young people under 18 years to the end of 2021
CHILDREN STARTING TREATMENT

In 2021, **110 children** under 16 years of age started long-term treatment for kidney failure, which equated to **9 children in every million** of the UK child population. This was a similar number of children compared with previous years. Approximately 60% were male.

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**Chart:**

- **12 to <16 years** (38 children) - 35%
- **0 to <4 years** (27 children) - 25%
- **8 to <12 years** (29 children) - 26%
- **4 to <8 years** (16 children) - 15%
CHILDREN STARTING TREATMENT

Between 2017-2021, just under half of all children who started treatment had conditions affecting the kidneys or other structures of the urinary tract that were present from birth.

Children were under specialist kidney care for an average of 27 months* before needing to start treatment.

In 2021, 2 in 10 children* first saw a kidney specialist within 90 days of needing to start treatment. This is called late presentation.

*Based on children with available data.
At the end of 2021, 842 children under 16 years of age were on long-term treatment for kidney failure. This has increased from 812 children in 2020.

**CHILDREN ALREADY ON TREATMENT**

- 12 to <16 years (369 children) - 44%
- 8 to <12 years (261 children) - 31%
- 4 to <8 years (151 children) - 18%
- 0 to <4 years (61 children) - 7%

**Total**

842 children
CHILDREN ALREADY ON TREATMENT

At the end of 2021, most children on long-term treatment for kidney failure had a kidney transplant. The most common was a living donor transplant.

At time of transfer to adult services, most young people (84%) had a functioning kidney transplant.
GROWTH AND BLOOD PRESSURE

At the end of 2021, children with kidney failure were shorter than UK children of the same age and sex. This was less pronounced for children who had a functioning kidney transplant.

On average, children on dialysis weighed less than those without kidney failure. Children with functioning kidney transplants had a similar weight compared to the average for their age and sex.

4 in 10 children who received long-term treatment for kidney failure were classified as overweight or obese.

73% of children had systolic and 77% had diastolic blood pressure values within target range*.

*For children under 16 years with available data; blood pressure targets are based on a child’s age and height.
CHILDREN WITH KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS

At the end of 2021, 643 children across the UK were receiving long-term treatment for kidney failure in the form of a kidney transplant.

Almost 8 in 10 children who received treatment for kidney failure had a transplant.

The average eGFR* for all transplant patients was 61 mL/min/1.73m².

19 children had a transplant that was failing, with an eGFR of less than 30 mL/min/1.73m².

*eGFR is a blood test that measures kidney function. In healthy children this typically exceeds 90 mL/min/1.73m².
Data from both adult and paediatric centres were used to identify the number of young people aged 16-18 years on long-term treatment for kidney failure.

In 2021, **26 young people** started treatment, equating to 17 people in every million of the UK young person population.

12 were managed in paediatric centres

14 were managed in adult centres

Familial/inherited conditions were the commonest cause of kidney failure.

Over half (58%) of young people who started treatment were male.

Most were of White ethnic background (67%), followed by Asian (25%), and other ethnicities (8%).
At the end of 2021, 225 young people aged 16-18 years were on long-term treatment for kidney failure: 58 young people were on dialysis, while 167 had a functioning kidney transplant.

For young people with a transplant, the average eGFR* was 70 mL/min/1.73m$^2$.

Half (50%) of young people on dialysis and almost two-thirds (66%) of those with a transplant had a blood pressure within the 'normal' range (less than 130/80).

*eGFR is a blood test that measures kidney function. In healthy young people this typically exceeds 90 mL/min/1.73m$^2$. 

**YOUNG PEOPLE ALREADY ON TREATMENT**
For more information about this report, the UK Renal Registry or the Renal Association, now the UK Kidney Association, please contact:

ukka@ukkidney.org

www.ukkidney.org

@UKKidney

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