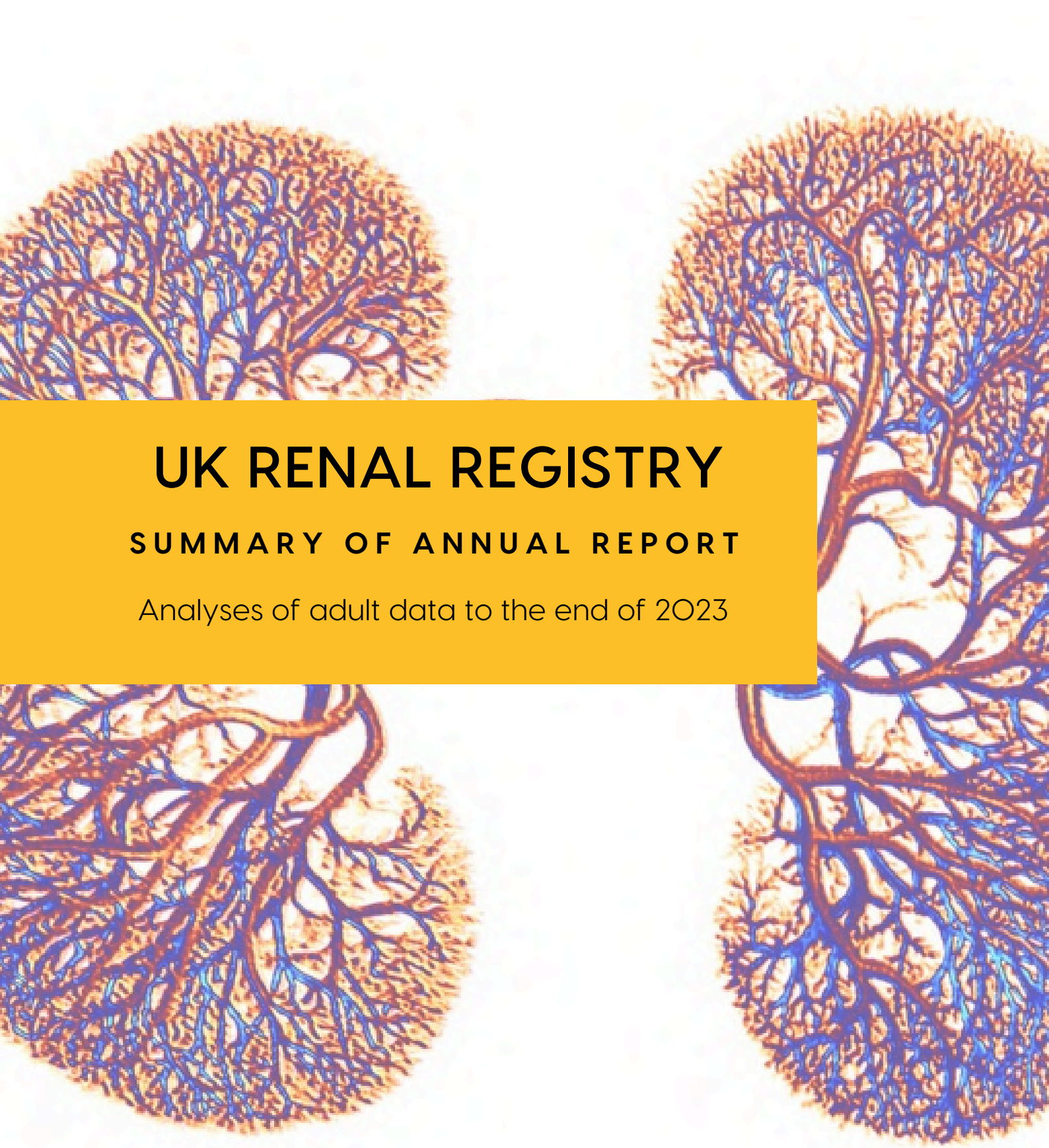


UK RENAL REGISTRY

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT

Analyses of adult data to the end of 2023

UKKA

UK Kidney Association
UK Renal Registry

INTRODUCTION

Sue Lyon
Chair, UKKA Patient Council

Welcome to the latest Summary of the UK Renal Registry Annual Report, which analyses data to the end of 2023 for over 70,000 people with kidney failure. This report highlights that, while some aspects of kidney care are improving, they are yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Prevalence - the number of people already on kidney replacement treatment (KRT: dialysis or transplantation) - approached the annual pre-pandemic annual growth of 2.5%, increasing from 70,919 to 72,708 in 2022.

In 2023, there was a slight improvement in the numbers of people starting dialysis with a definitive access (fistula, graft, peritoneal dialysis catheter). However, the overall rate in prevalent patients has not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

Since 2019, fewer hospital-based dialysis patients are receiving 4–5 hour sessions: 63% in 2023 compared to 70.9% in 2019. Many people lose residual kidney function (the ability to produce urine) the longer they have been on dialysis and so need to be careful to restrict the total amount of fluid they can drink. There is some limited evidence that using less aggressive dialysis can help maintain residual kidney function for longer.

Incidence - or the number of people newly starting KRT - continued to recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2023. For the first time since the pandemic people presenting late to their kidney centre - i.e. within 90 days of starting KRT - has dropped to 17.5 % in 2023 compared to 18.5% in 2022. This is however higher than the pre-pandemic levels, possibly indicating some continuing difficulty in accessing timely care, including referral to kidney services.

Kidney transplants increased by 5% in 2023 compared to 2022, but numbers were still below 2019 levels. The proportion of people receiving a pre-emptive transplant (before starting dialysis) rose to 6.7% in 2023. While this remains below the 8–9% seen before the pandemic, it may indicate some recovery.

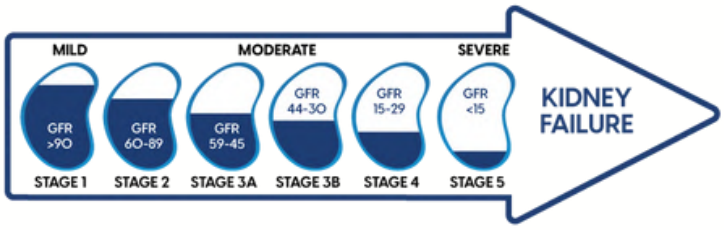
When it comes to more recent developments, it is encouraging to see that more centres are now submitting data for people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) not receiving KRT, which allows for a widely applicable analysis. For the first time, this information includes basic CKD data from paediatric and young adult populations - an important step forward in building a fuller picture of kidney health across all ages.

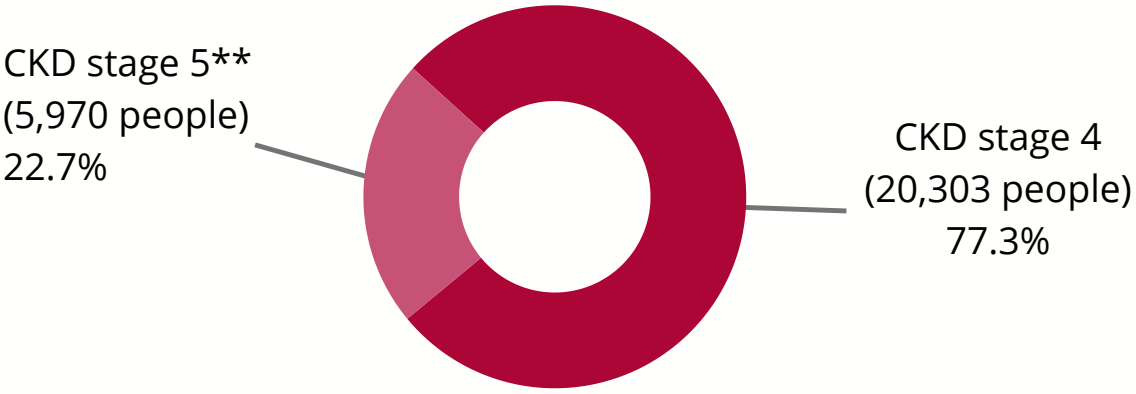
On behalf of the Patient Council, my thanks to everyone at the UK Renal Registry for their continued efforts to support people living with kidney disease.

ADVANCED CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE (eGFR< 30 mL/min/1.73m²) NOT ON KIDNEY REPLACEMENT TREATMENT

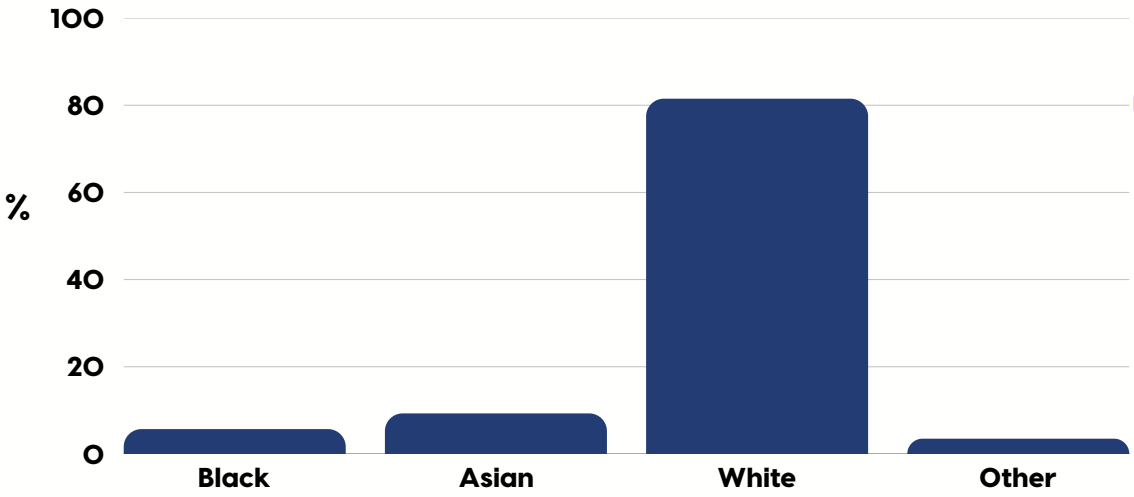
By the end of 2023, 24 out of 67 kidney centres told us about 26,000 adults with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD) who did not have a transplant or dialysis.

These people represent only a small proportion of all those who are receiving care from a GP or specialist for advanced CKD.





Characteristics of people with advanced chronic kidney disease not on kidney replacement treatment reported to the UKRR in 2022***



6/10 MALE

77 YEARS average age

*eGFR is a blood test that measures kidney function. In young healthy adults, this typically exceeds 90 mL/min/1.73m^2 but it does tend to decline with age.

**People with stage 5 CKD include those who have opted not to start dialysis when their kidneys fail, but instead have kidney care focused on symptom control and quality of life, also known as conservative care.

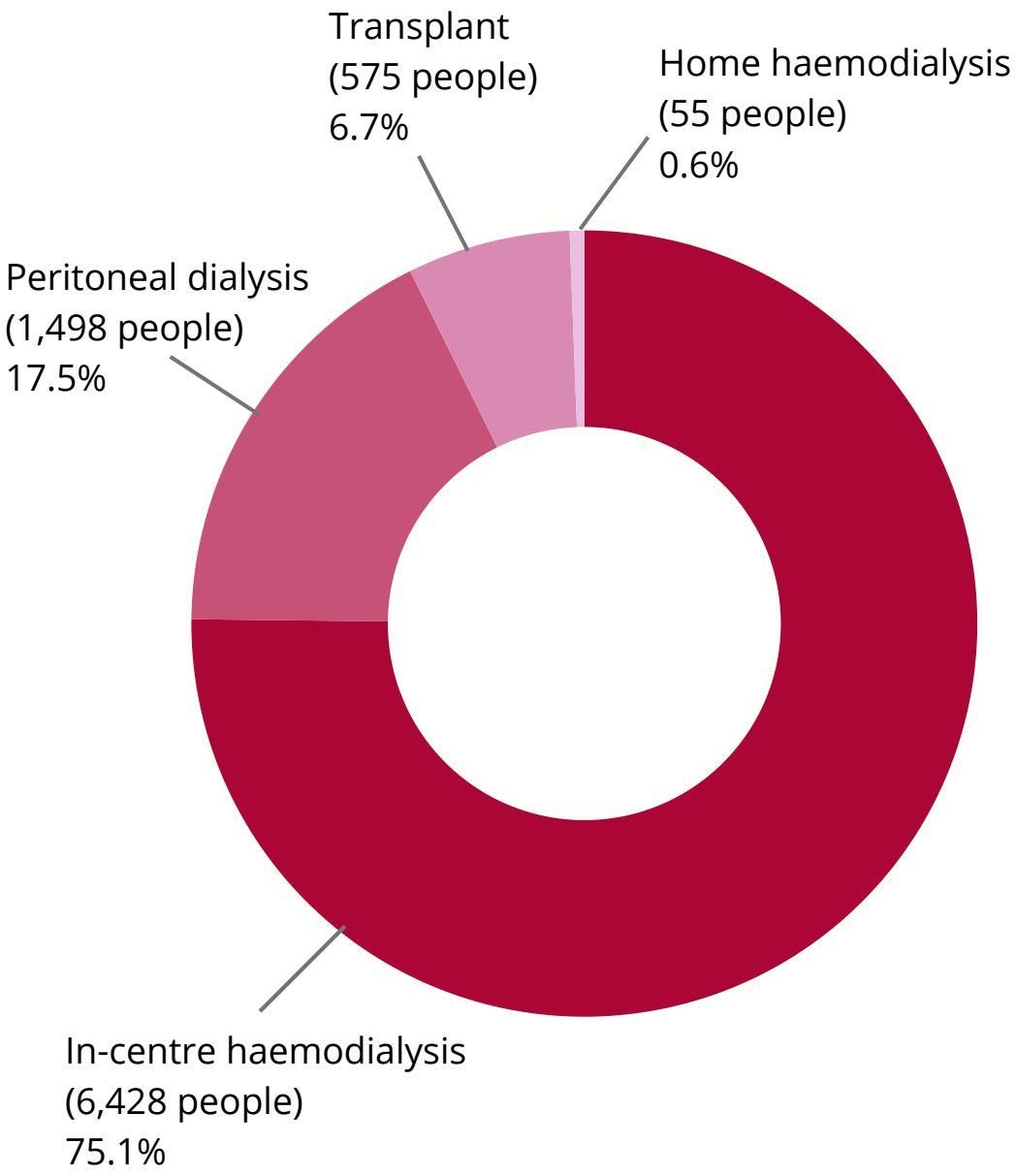
***27% with ethnicity not known

STARTING KIDNEY REPLACEMENT TREATMENT

Around **8,560 adults** started kidney replacement treatment in 2023

Their average eGFR* was 6.9 mL/min/1.73m^2

Most people started on **in-centre haemodialysis**.

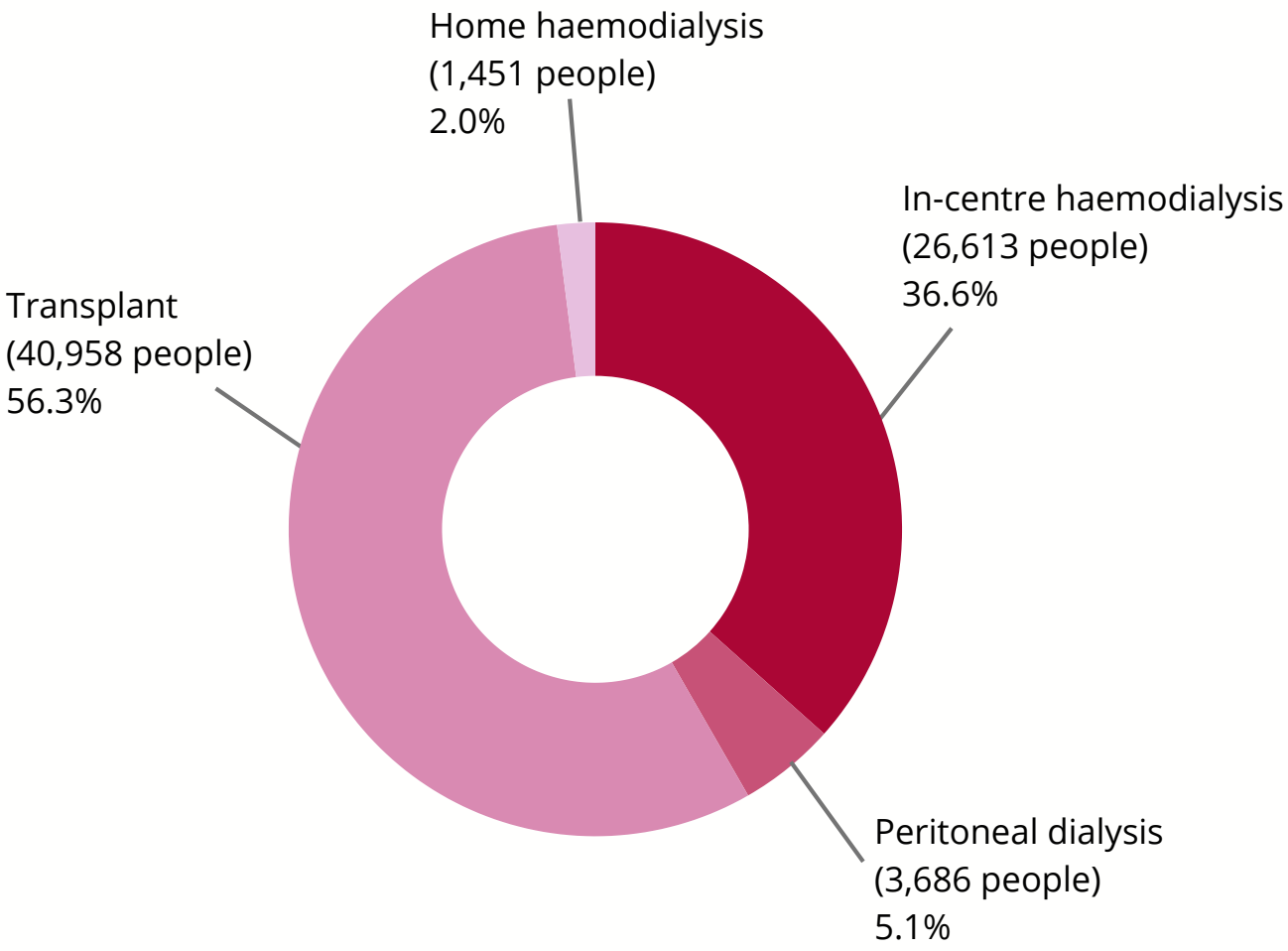


*eGFR is a blood test that measures kidney function. In young healthy adults, this typically exceeds 90 mL/min/1.73m^2 but it does tend to decline with age.

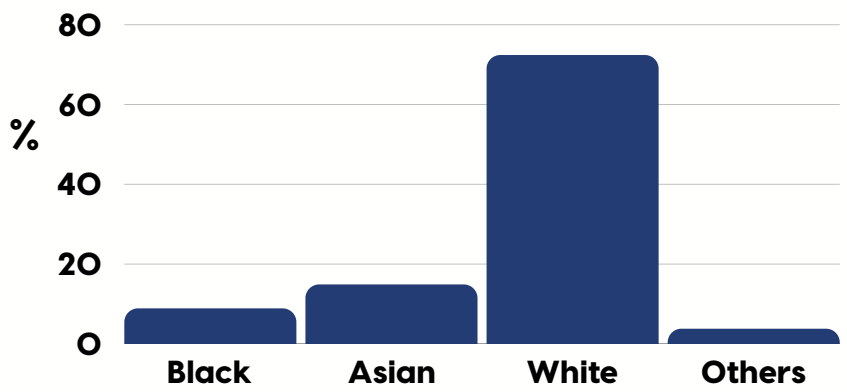
ON KIDNEY REPLACEMENT TREATMENT

Nearly **73,000 adults** were on kidney replacement treatment in 2023. This includes people with kidney transplants and those on dialysis.

Most people had a **transplant**.



Characteristics of all people with a kidney transplant or receiving dialysis treatment in 2023*



6/10 MALE

60 YEARS average age

*3% with ethnicity not known

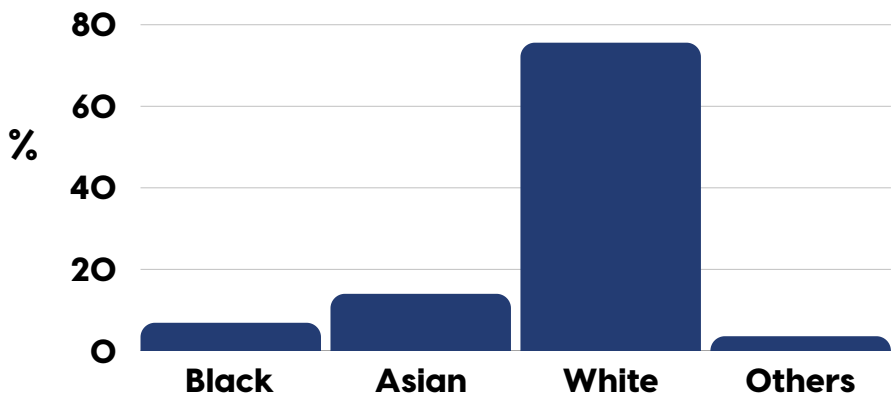
PEOPLE WITH A TRANSPLANT

Around **41,000 adults** had a working **transplant** at the end of 2023 - almost **6 in 10** of all those on **kidney replacement treatments.**

In 2023 the number of adults who started kidney replacement treatment with a transplant varied between 0 in 10 at some centres to 4 in 10 at others.

from to 

Characteristics of all people with a transplant in 2023



6/10 MALE

57 YEARS average age

Around half of all people with a kidney transplant were not at the blood pressure target*

The average **eGFR** for a person with a transplant 1 year after transplant was **52 mL/min/1.73m^2** **

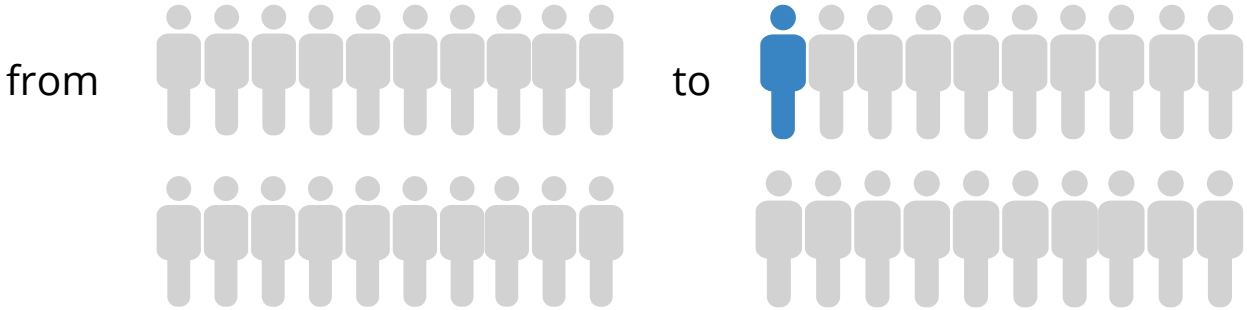
*Blood pressure target for transplant patients is below 140/90.

**eGFR is a blood test that measures kidney function. In young healthy adults, this typically exceeds 90 mL/min/1.73m^2, but it does tend to decline with age.

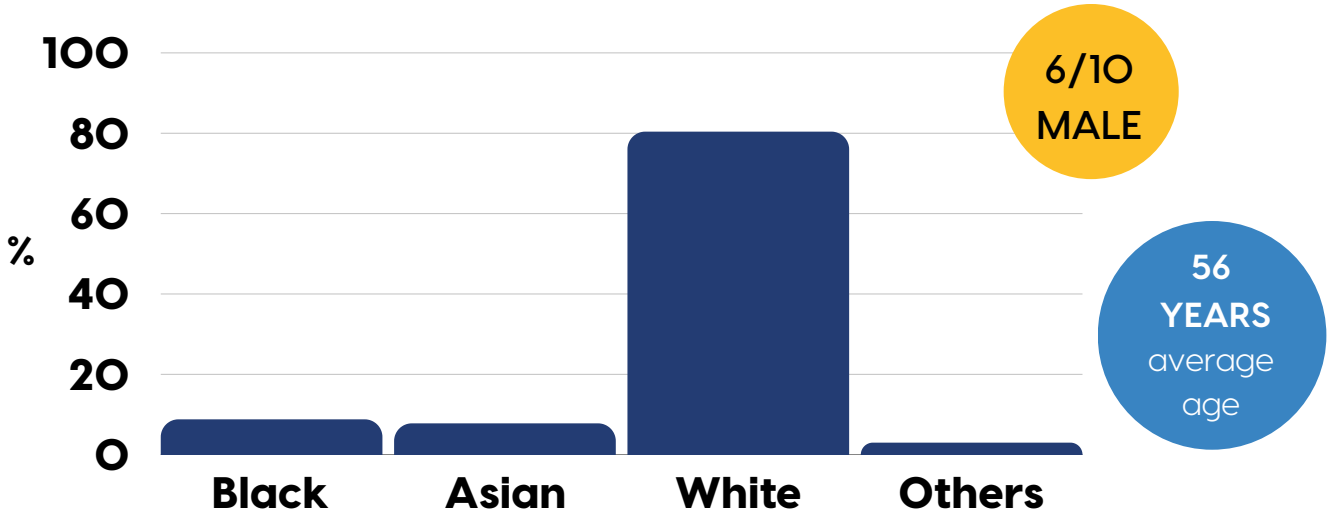
PEOPLE ON HOME HAEMODIALYSIS

Around **1,450 adults** were on **home haemodialysis** at the end of 2023, around **1 in 50** of all those on **kidney replacement treatments**.

In 2023 the number of adults who started kidney replacement treatment on home haemodialysis varied between 0 in 20 at some centres to 1 in 20 at others.



Characteristics of all people on home haemodialysis in 2023*



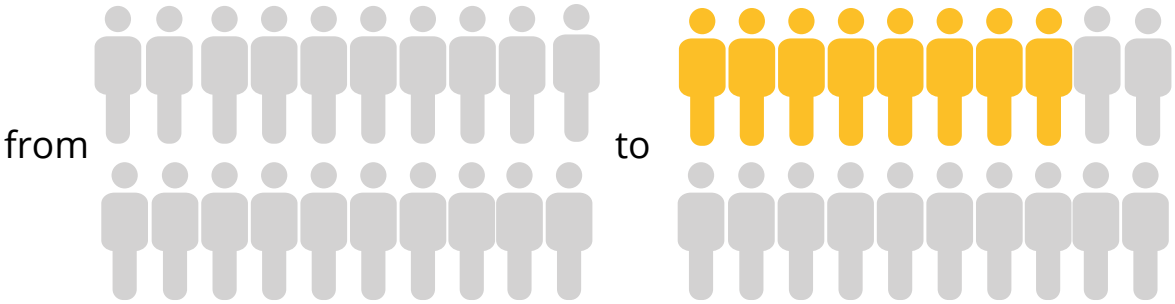
*3% with ethnicity not known

PEOPLE ON PERITONEAL DIALYSIS

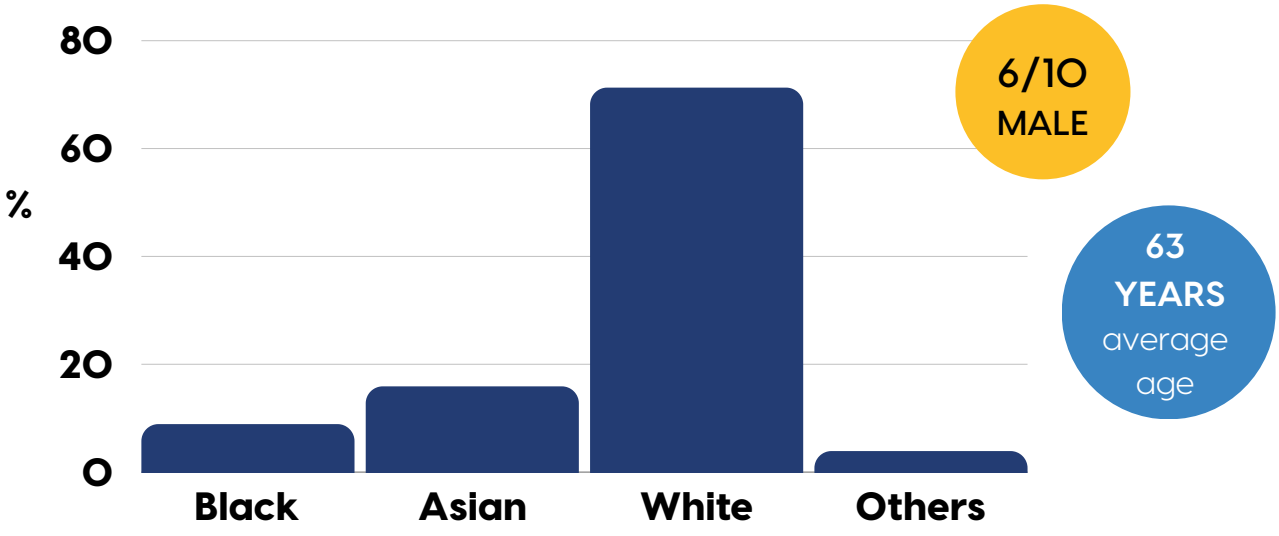
Peritoneal dialysis is one of the ways a person can manage their treatment at home.

Around **3,700 adults** were on **peritoneal dialysis** at the end of 2023 - around **1 in 20** of all those on **kidney replacement treatments**.

In 2023 the number of adults who started kidney replacement treatment on peritoneal dialysis varied between 0 in 20 at some centres to 8 in 20 at others.

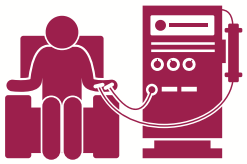


Characteristics of all people on peritoneal dialysis in 2023*



*7% with ethnicity not known

PEOPLE ON IN-CENTRE HAEMODIALYSIS



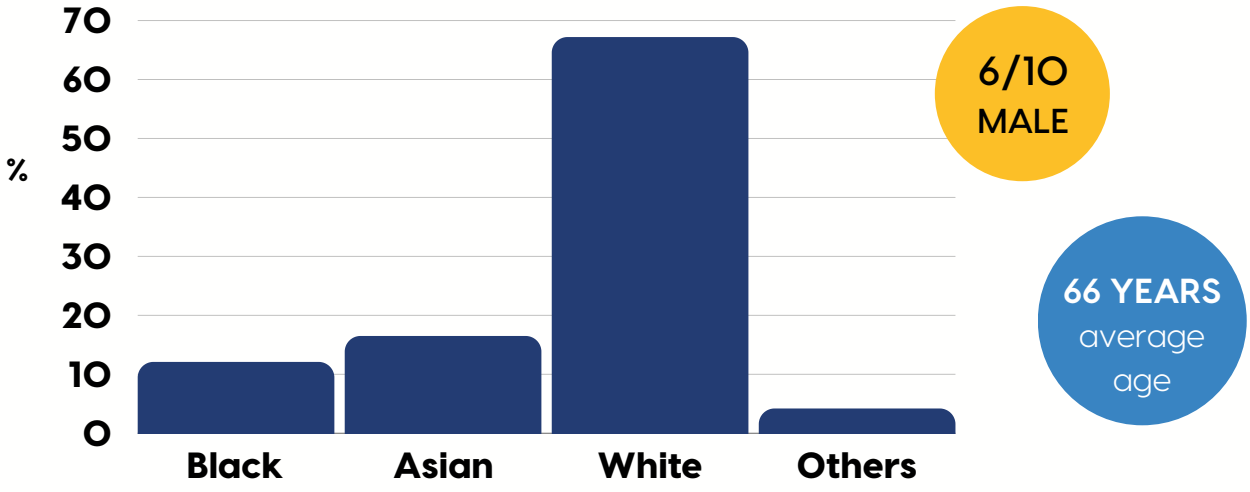
Most people receiving haemodialysis are treated in a kidney centre or a satellite dialysis unit.

Around **26,600 adults** were on **in-centre haemodialysis** at the end of 2023 - nearly **4 in 10** of all those on **kidney replacement treatments**.

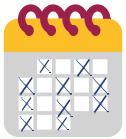
In 2023 the number of adults who started kidney replacement treatment on in-centre haemodialysis varied between 5 in 10 at some centres to all at others.

from  to 

Characteristics of all people on in-centre haemodialysis in 2023*



2/3 of people dialysed for 4-5 hours per session.



The vast majority of people dialysed 3 times per week.

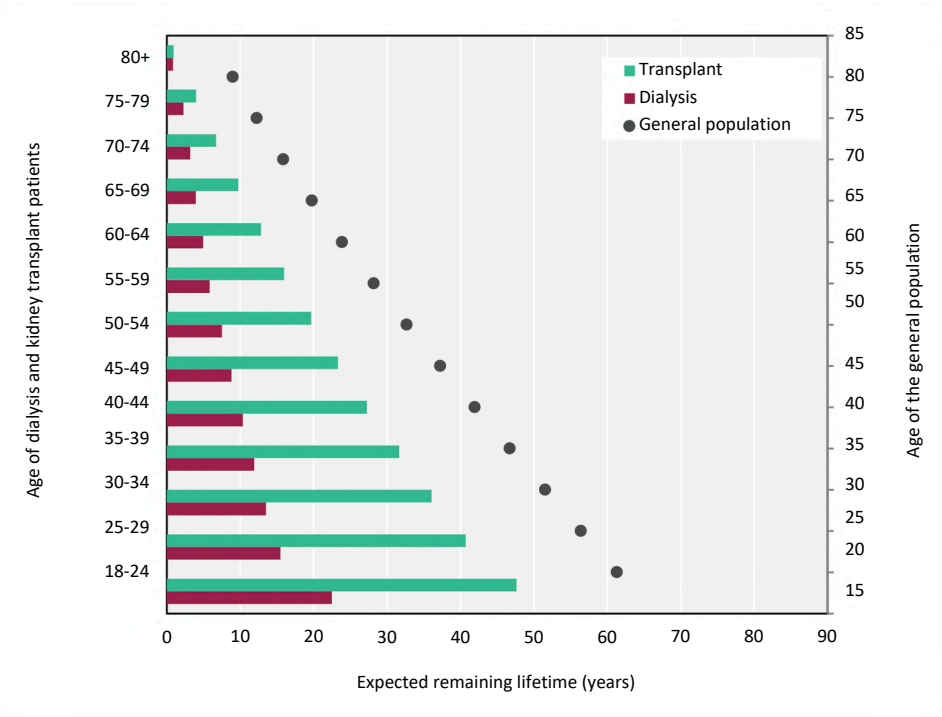
*5% with ethnicity not known

LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR PEOPLE ON KIDNEY REPLACEMENT TREATMENT

Life expectancy* of people on kidney replacement treatment depends on a number of factors, for example, a person's age and other health problems.

Older adults over the age of 70 years, who are on **dialysis,** have an average **life expectancy** which is about **half** of that of people with a **kidney transplant**, and about 5 **times less** than people of the same age in the **general population.** The difference in average life expectancy increases with decreasing age.

Across all age groups under 80 years, patients with a working transplant have a higher remaining life span than those on dialysis.



Average life expectancy amongst younger transplant patients improved compared to the previous year.

For those on dialysis, average life expectancy remained similar to the previous year.

*Life expectancy is defined as the average number of years remaining for an individual or a group of people at a given age. However, as life expectancy is calculated based on averages, a person may live for many years more or less than expected. For example, life expectancy may also be affected by other illnesses as well as kidney disease.

This analysis is based on data collected in 2023. It has been produced for this summary and it is not reported in the UKRR Annual Report.

UK Kidney Association
UK Renal Registry

For more information about this report, or the UK Renal Registry, please contact:


ukka@ukkidney.org


www.ukkidney.org


@UKKidney

Kidney Patient Reported Experience Measure (PREM) reports are available from:

ukkidney.org/kidney-patient-reported-experience-measure

The UK Renal Registry Data Portals, with information on the Annual Report, are available from:

ukkidney.org/audit-research/data-portals