

The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



The Number of People in the UK Receiving Renal Replacement Therapy Treatment in 2015

This paper describes how many adults were receiving renal replacement therapy (RRT) for long-term kidney disease in 2015. RRT refers to treatments that take over the role of the kidneys when they have failed. This may be dialysis (blood cleaning) or a kidney transplant. The numbers in this paper cover everyone receiving RRT in 2015 (whether they only recently started or started years ago).

At the end of December 2015, 61,256 adults were receiving RRT in the UK. So for every one million people living in the UK, 941 people were receiving RRT. This is comparable to many other European countries, but lower than in the USA.

There are different types of RRT. In 2015, half of adults had a kidney transplant (see figure 1). There are two kinds of dialysis and haemodialysis (HD) is more common than peritoneal dialysis (PD). HD can be received at home, in hospital or in smaller satellite units.

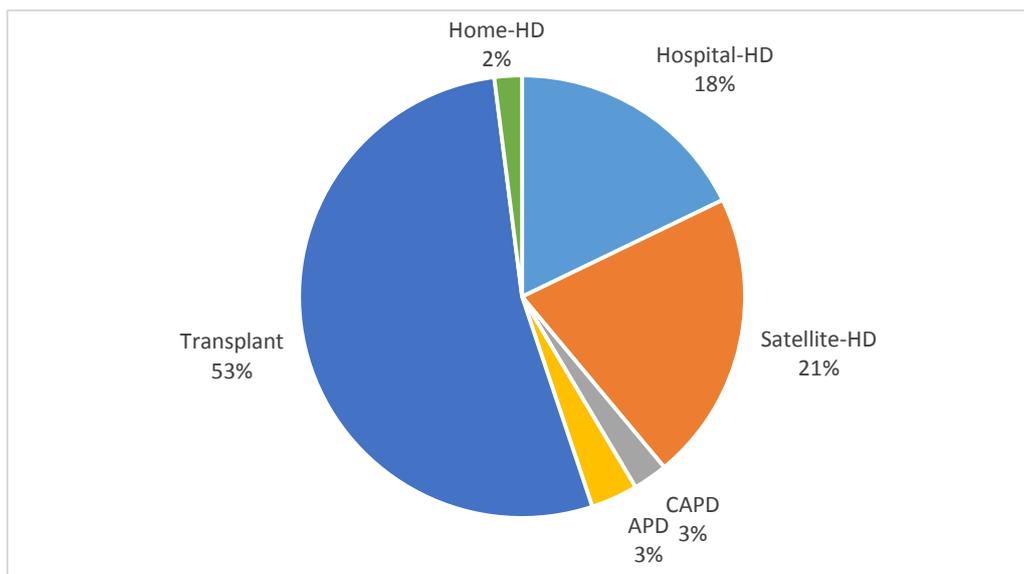


Figure 1. Treatment type in RRT patients on 31/12/2015

CAPD – continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis

APD – automated peritoneal dialysis

Kidney transplants have long been the most common type (modality) of RRT (figure 2). Since 2006 however, transplantation has become even more common whilst PD became less common (figure 2).

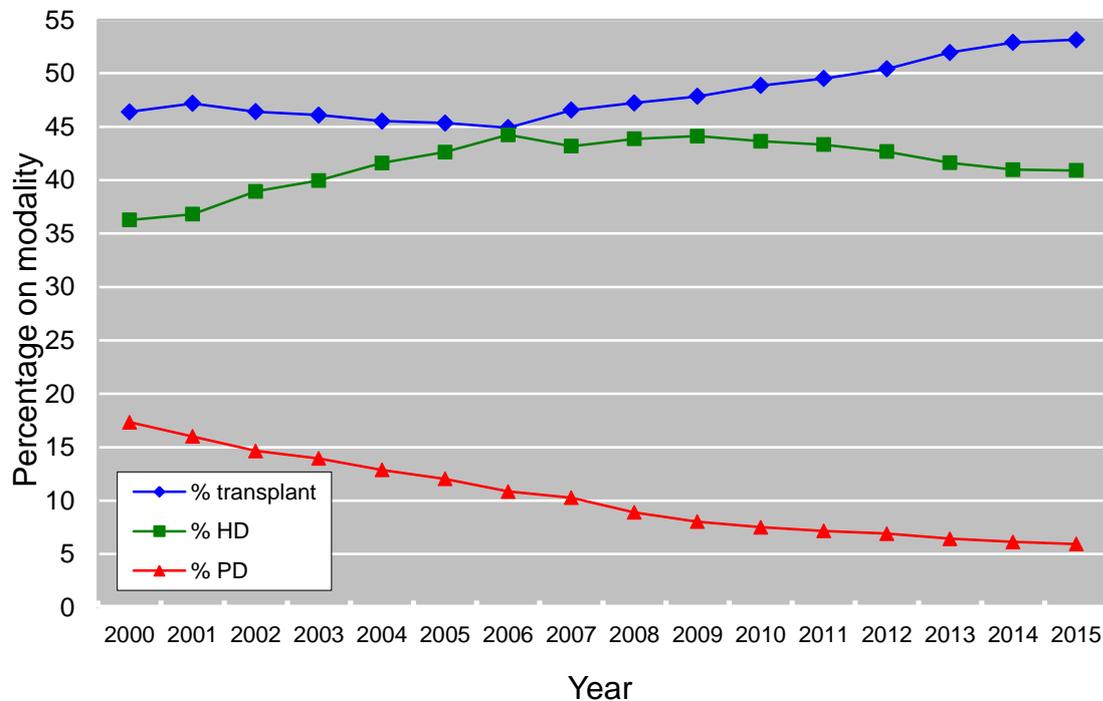


Figure 2. Changes in modality between 2000 and 2015

Among people receiving RRT in 2015, there were some who started recently and others who started many years ago. However, on average, people have been receiving RRT for six years.

Kidney disease can happen at any age, but it becomes more common as we get older. The average age of adults receiving RRT in 2015 was 59 years. This is older than in 2000 when the average age was 55 years. Those receiving HD tend to be a bit older (67 years) than those receiving PD (64 years) and those who have had kidney transplants (54 years).

Whatever their age, a larger proportion of men receive RRT than women. RRT is most common in the 75-79 year age group. For every one million men in this age group in the UK, 3,074 will have received RRT in 2015. For every one million women in the same age group, 1,589 received RRT.

In 2015, the number of adults receiving RRT continued to increase. This was partly because of increasing patients receiving kidney transplants and having improved survival. Despite this, we still need to improve the health and quality of life for this growing group of adults.

For the complete annual report, please visit the UK Renal Registry website:

www.renalreg.org/reports/2016-nineteenth-annual-report/