

# The Renal Association UK Renal Registry



## The Number of People in the UK Receiving Renal Replacement Therapy Treatment in 2016

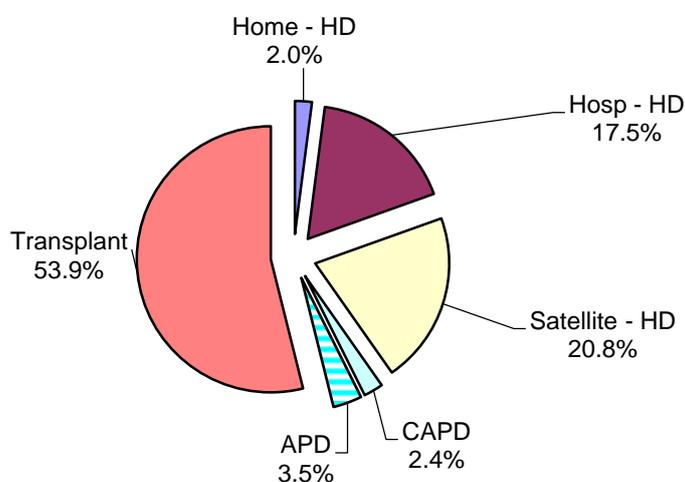
### ***Plain English Summary***

This paper describes how many adults were receiving renal replacement therapy (RRT) for long-term kidney disease in 2016. RRT is a term used to describe treatments that take over the role of the kidneys. These are needed when a person's kidney have failed. RRT treatments include dialysis (blood cleaning) and kidney transplantation. This paper describes everyone receiving RRT whether they only recently started or started years ago.

At the end of December 2016 there were 63,162 adults receiving RRT. This means that for every one million people living on the UK, 962 were receiving RRT. This is comparable to many other European countries, but lower than in the USA.

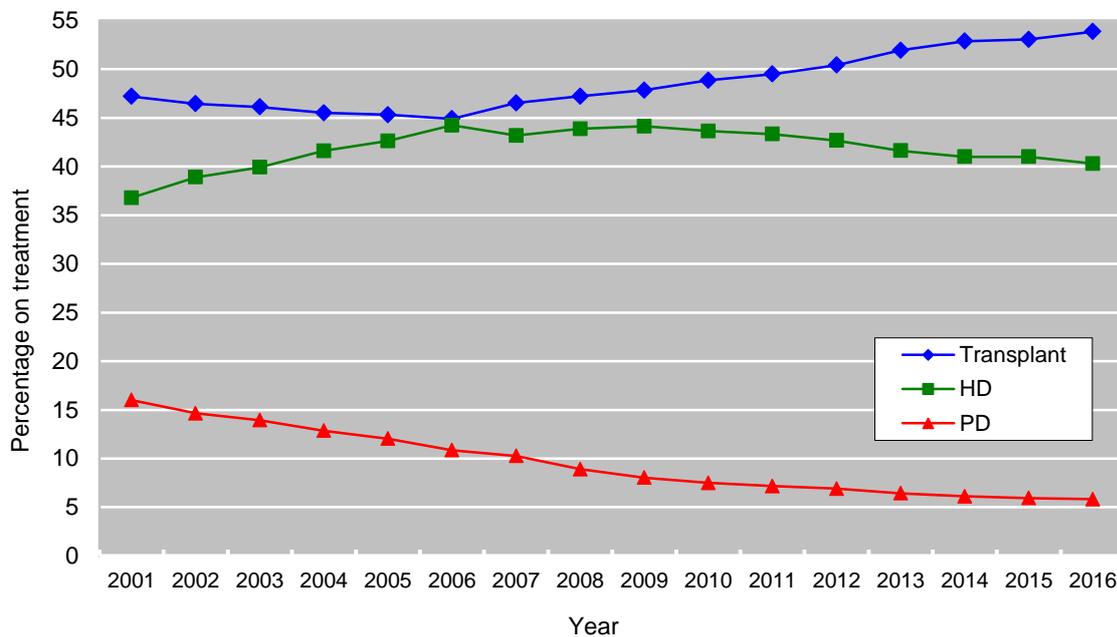
There are different types of RRT. In 2016, over half of adults had a kidney transplant (see figure 1 below). There are two kinds of dialysis and haemodialysis (HD) is more common than peritoneal dialysis (PD). HD can be received at home, in hospital or in smaller satellite units.

**Figure 1. Treatment type in RRT patients on 31/12/2016**



Kidney transplants have long been the most common kind of RRT (figure 2). Since 2006, however, it has become even more common while PD became less common (figure 2).

**Figure 2. Change in % of RRT patients on each type of treatment between 2000 and 2016**



Among people receiving RRT in 2016, there were some who started recently and others who started many years ago. On average, however, people have been receiving RRT for just over 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 is 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 was most common in the 80-84 years age group in men and for every one million men in this age group in the UK, 3,072 received RRT in 2016. By contrast, RRT was most common in the 70-74 years age group in women and for every one million women in the this age group, 1,657 received RRT.

In 2016, the population of adults receiving RRT continued to increase. This is partly because of increasing numbers of patients receiving kidney transplants and having improved survival. Despite this, we still need to continue to improve the health and quality of life for this growing group of adults.

For the full annual report chapters, please visit [www.renalreg.org/reports/2017-twentieth-annual-report/](http://www.renalreg.org/reports/2017-twentieth-annual-report/)