NHS Organ Donor Register

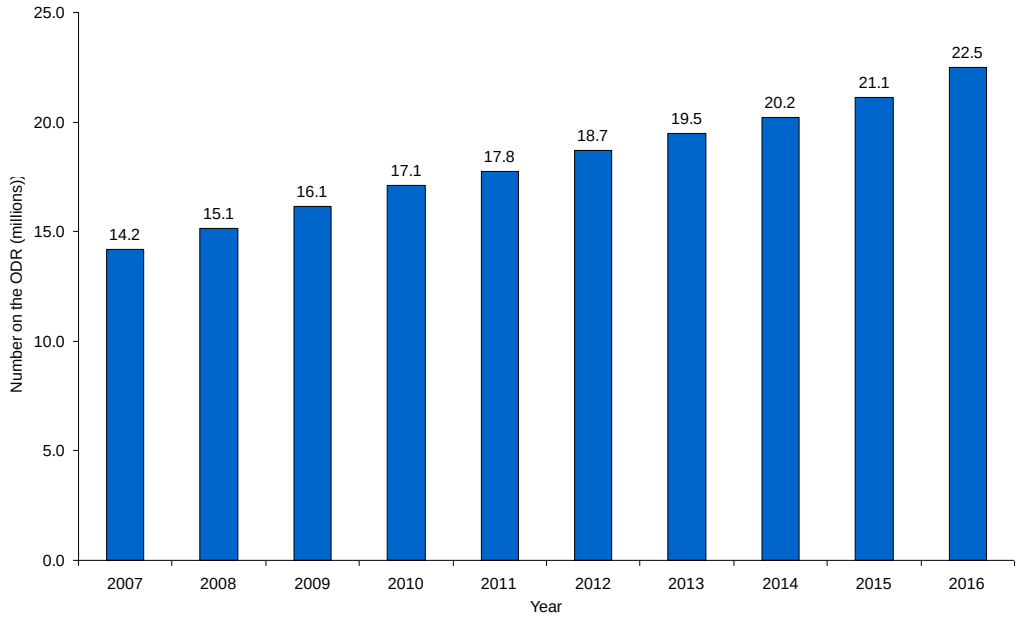
Key messages

- **22.5 million people on the opt-in ODR at March 2016 (35% of the population)**
- **177,204 people on the opt-out ODR at March 2016, with a further 57 appointed representative registrations**
- **43% of the 1,364 deceased organ donors last year were on the opt-in ODR**
- **50% of 1,351,661 registrations last year were through the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). The number of online registrations increased from 20% in 2014/15 to 32% in 2015-2016.**

By the end of March 2016 the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) held just under 22.5 million opt-in registrations. A summary of the number of registrations at the end of each financial year from 31 March 2007 to 31 March 2016 is shown **Figure 12.1**. During the year data on the register were continually reviewed and validated in respect of people known to have died, and those withdrawn from the list. Duplicate registrations were also resolved. Opt-in registrations have seen a 6.6% increase this year, the highest rate in the last 5 years.

Of the 1,364 deceased organ donors in 2015-2016, 43% were registered on the ODR, the same proportion as in 2014-2015. Similarly, 50% of cornea-only donors in 2015-2016 were registered on the ODR compared with 49% in 2014-2015.

Figure 12.1 Number opted-in on the NHS Organ Donor Register at 31 March



Those registered on the ODR come from all parts of the UK. **Table 12.1** shows the percentage of the population registered (opt-in) in each country/Strategic Health Authority at 31 March 2016, and the number of opt-in registrants. This information is also illustrated in **Figure 12.2**. No adjustment has been made for any differences in demographics of the populations.

On 1 December 2015, Wales became the first UK country to introduce a soft opt-out system for organ and tissue donation. Those who haven't registered a decision to opt-in or opt-out of organ donation will be treated as having no objection to being an organ donor. This is called deemed consent.

The ODR can now also accommodate opt-outs elsewhere in the UK; the main avenues are online or through a national call centre.

Table 12.2 shows the number of opt-out registrants in each country/Strategic Health Authority at 31 March 2016. The proportion of the population registered opt-out was 5% in Wales, and less than 1% for other countries and Strategic Health Authorities. In addition there have been 57 appointed representative registrations.

Table 12.1 Opt-in registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2016, by country/ Strategic Health Authority

Country/ Strategic Health Authority	Registrants N	Registrants pmp	Proportion registered
North East	874,203	333,665	33%
North West	2,303,724	323,103	32%
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,746,948	325,923	33%
North of England	**4,924,875**	**325,935**	**33%**
East Midlands	1,533,691	330,537	33%
West Midlands	1,629,334	285,348	29%
East of England	2,170,714	360,584	36%
Midlands and East	**5,333,739**	**325,824**	**33%**
London	**2,358,509**	**276,172**	**28%**
South East Coast	1,791,433	390,290	39%
South Central	1,629,465	379,829	38%
South West	2,268,198	418,487	42%
South of England	**5,689,096**	**397,839**	**40%**
England	**18,306,219**	**337,007**	**34%**
Isle of Man	**12,290**	**153,625**	**15%**
Channel Islands	**17,297**	**108,106**	**11%**
Wales	**1,113,090**	**360,223**	**36%**
Scotland	**2,292,724**	**428,547**	**43%**
Northern Ireland	**679,000**	**369,022**	**37%**
TOTAL[1]	**22,486,594**	**346,801**	**35%**

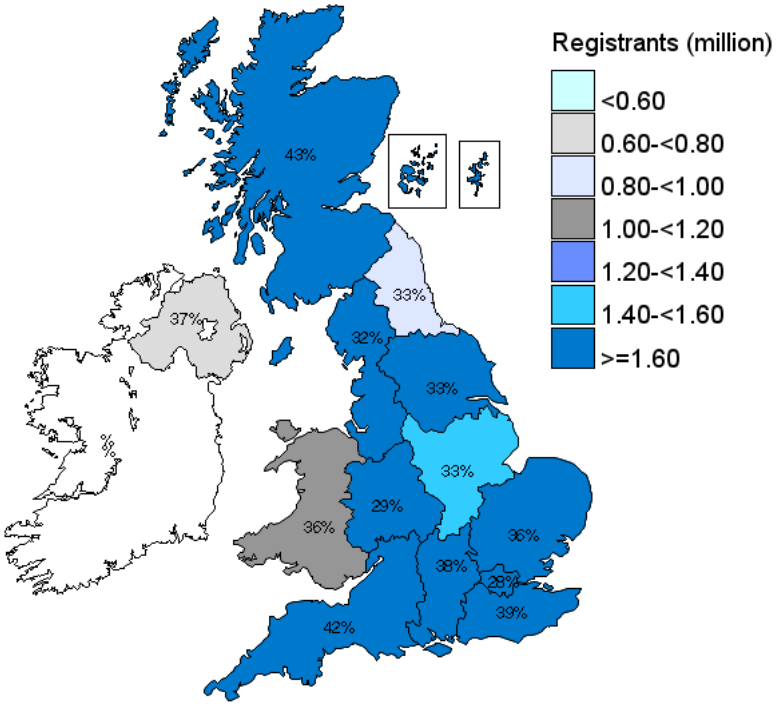
[1] Includes 65,974 registrants where the postcode was unknown

Table 12.2 Opt-out registrations on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2016, by country/ Strategic Health Authority

Country/ Strategic Health Authority	Registrants N	Registrants pmp
North East	385	147
North West	1,469	206
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,062	198
North of England	**2,916**	**193**
East Midlands	858	185
West Midlands	1,400	245
East of England	1,259	209
Midlands and East	**3,517**	**215**
London	**1,759**	**206**
South East Coast	845	184
South Central	865	202
South West	1,227	226
South of England	**2,937**	**205**
England	**11,129**	**205**
Isle of Man	**1**	**13**
Channel Islands	**6**	**38**
Wales	**165,129**	**53,440**
Scotland	**751**	**140**
Northern Ireland	**99**	**54**
TOTAL[1]	**177,204**	**2,733**

[1] Includes 89 registrants where the postcode was unknown

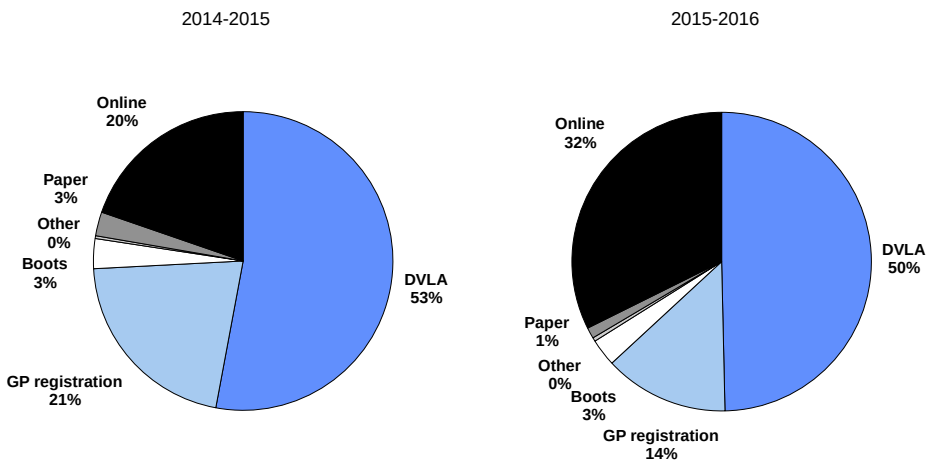
Figure 12.2 Proportion of population who opted–in on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2016, by Strategic Health Authority



There are a number of registration routes to opt-in on the ODR: Health Department registration leaflets readily available in the community; campaigns in both national and regional newspapers and by community groups; the European Health Insurance Card; when registering as a patient with a General Practitioner (via the Family Health Services Authorities); with driving licence applications and reminders (via the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA); from the Passport Agency when applying for a new passport; when applying for a Boots Advantage Card; online registrations via the Organ Donation and Transplantation (ODT) website (www.odt.nhs.uk) and by telephone.

The source of applications for opt-in registration on the ODR is illustrated in **Figure 12.3**. This figure shows that 14% of registrations in 2015-2016 arrived by means of registering through a GP, 50% from driving licence applications and reminders through the DVLA and 32% online through the ODT website. We have seen an increase in the proportion of online registrations in the latest year compared to 2014-2015, and a decrease in the proportion of GP registrations. However, GP registrations in Scotland in 2015-2016 are not included in the numbers as the data were unavailable at the time of reporting.

Figure 12.3 Source of applications for opt-in registration on the NHS Organ Donor Register, 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2016



At the end of March 2016, 88% of registrants, where the information was available, indicated a willingness to donate all organs and tissue (kidneys, pancreas, heart, lungs, liver and corneas). However, of those who were not willing to donate all organs, the majority (89%) did not wish to donate their corneas. Of the restricted registrations, only 7% (less than 1% of the total register) did not wish to donate their kidneys. Willingness to donate, by organ type, is shown in **Table 12.3**.

Table 12.3 Preparedness of those opted-in on the NHS Organ Donor Register at 31 March 2016 to donate different organs[1]

Registrants prepared to donate all organs 88%

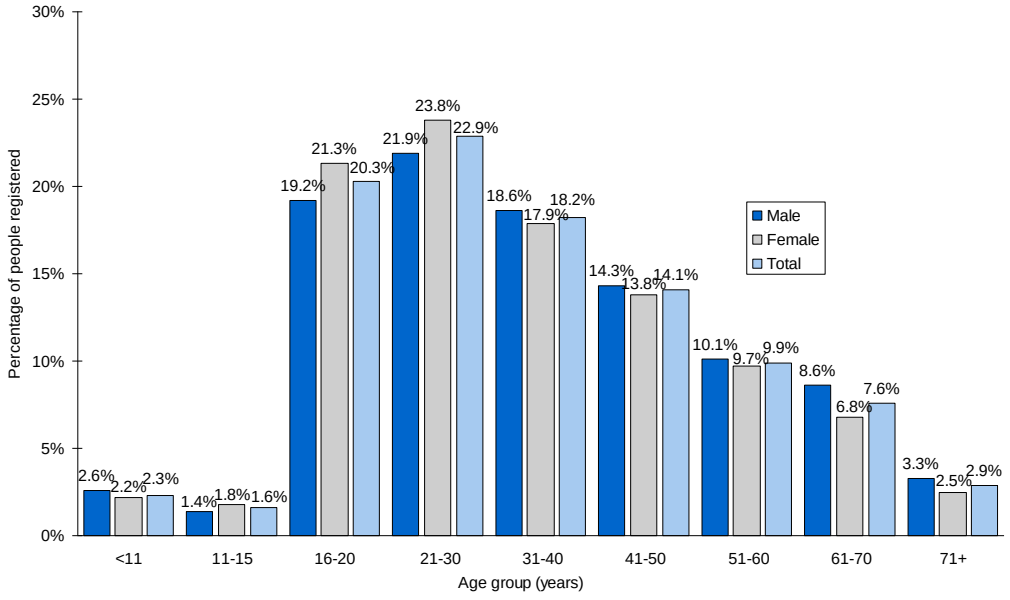
Of those not prepared to donate all organs ('restricted donors'):

Not prepared to donate:	% of 'Restricted donors'	% of all registrants
Kidney	7	0.8
Pancreas	22	2.6
Heart	23	2.7
Lungs	21	2.5
Liver	13	1.5
Corneas	89	10.7

[1] This information was not available for approximately 5% of the total register

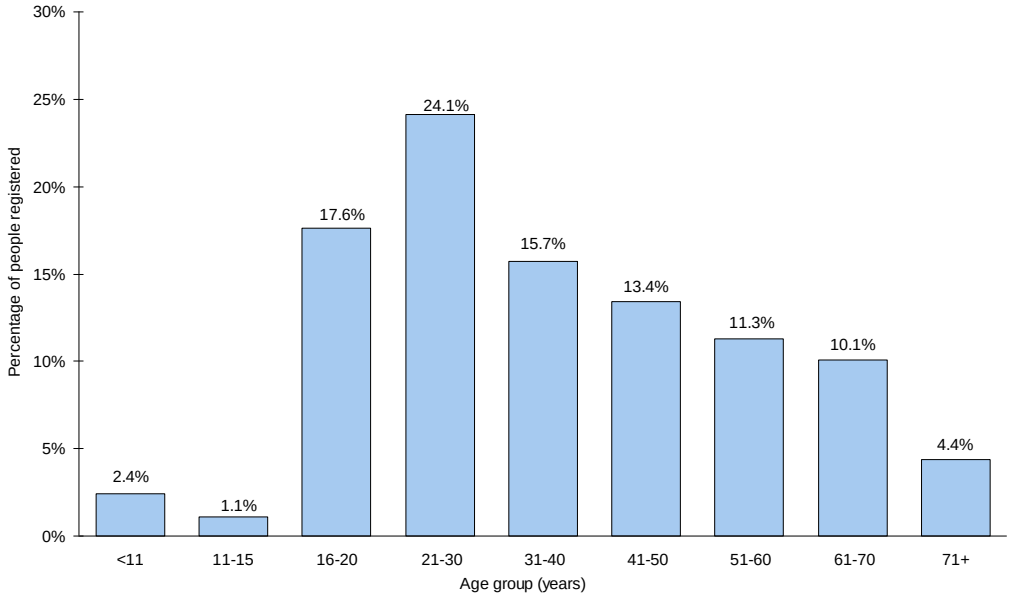
People of all ages are eligible for organ donor registration: the distribution of age by sex at time of opt-in registration is shown in **Figure 12.4** for all opt-in ODR registrations to the end of March 2016. The highest proportion of registrations (21.9% of males and 23.8% of females) are in the 21-30 years age group. The lowest proportions are in the under 11 and 11-15 age groups. Of all people registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register, 46% are male and 53% are female (<1% unknown).

Figure 12.4 Age and gender of total people registered as opt-in on the NHS Organ Donor Register by 31 March 2016



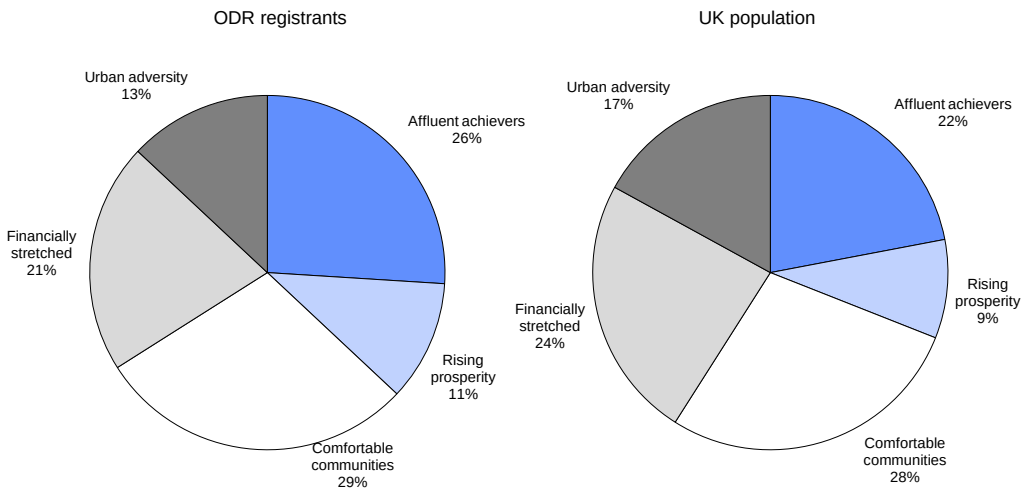
Additionally, the distribution of age of people registering on the opt-in ODR during the latest financial year, 2015-2016, is shown in **Figure 12.5**. The highest proportion of registrations in this year were also in the 21-30 years age group. Of the registrants in 2015-2016, 46% were male and 54% were female.

Figure 12.5 Age of people registered as opt-in on the NHS Organ Donor Register between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016



The breakdown of opt-in registrants on the ODR during 2015-2016 by socio-economic group (using the ACORN[1] classification, based on postcode) is shown in **Figure 12.6**, where it is compared with the general UK population. Though having basically similar distributions, there were proportionately more 'affluent achievers' and less 'urban adversity' on the ODR than in the general population.

Figure 12.6 Opt-in registrants on the NHS Organ Donor Register, 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016, and the general population, by socio-economic group



[1] ACORN data supplied by CACI Ltd.