



# ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SCOTLAND

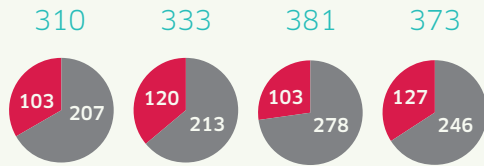
## HOW ARE WE DOING?

REPORT 2016/2017



**Healthier  
Scotland**  
Scottish  
Government

## REFERRALS

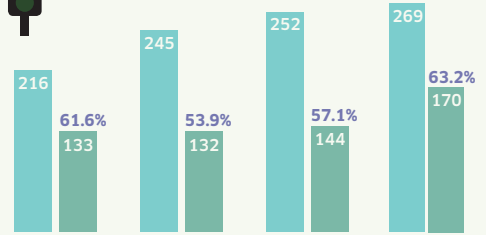


2013/14 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17

- Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD)
- Donation after Brainstem Death (DBD)

- Since 2013/14 there has been a **23% increase** in the number of DBD referrals. 2016/17 saw the **highest ever** number of DBD referrals to the donation service; however, 4 potential DBD donors were **not** referred to the service.
- Although DCD referrals have increased over the last 4 year period, the number of referrals actually **fell by 32** last year. **31 potential DCD donors were not** referred to the service. The decrease in referrals can also be partly attributed to patients with catastrophic brain injuries progressing to a death diagnosis through neurological criteria and a reduction in patients who met referral criteria.
- The NHS Organ Donor Register must always be checked by a Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation **prior** to approaching a family about donation.
- Acceptance criteria for organs changes frequently and can depend on how sick someone is on the transplant waiting list. **If in doubt as to whether to refer a patient**, contact the Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation on **07659 594979**.

## AUTHORISATION

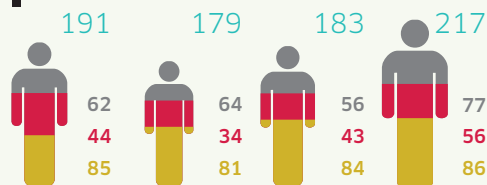


2013/14 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17

- Number of eligible DBD and DCD donors whose family were approached
- Number of families authorising donation
- DBD and DCD combined rate (%)

- More families than ever before were approached and went on to authorise donation, meaning more organs became available for transplant.
- The combined authorisation rate for DCD and DBD **increased to 63.2%**.
- This is the highest it has been since records began; however it is far short of the ambitious target Scotland has set to increase authorisation rates from 78% to **85%** (DBD) and from 53% to **80%** (DCD) by 2020.
- Unless there is a **revolution in attitudes to organ donation**, people on the transplant waiting lists will continue to die. Last year **10 families overturned their loved one's decisions to donate**. That's why it's vital families discuss organ donation and make their decision known so that it can be honoured in the event of their death.

## DONORS



2013/14 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17



- **Only around 1% of all deaths in Scotland occur in circumstances that allow deceased organ donation to proceed.**

• Since 2013/14, the number of people donating their organs after death has risen by **25%**.

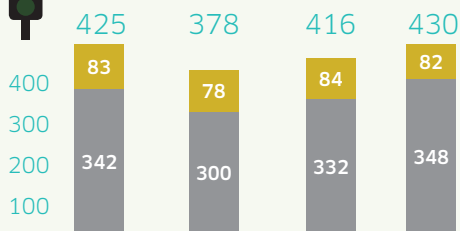
• One deceased donor can help save the lives of up to **7** people and save or enhance the lives of many more through tissue donation.

• In 2016/17, **15** living people in Scotland donated a kidney to a stranger (altruistic donation).

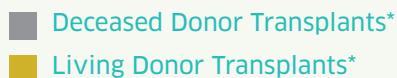
• The number of living donors has remained relatively static over the last 4 years.

• For more information on living donation visit [www.livingdonationscotland.org](http://www.livingdonationscotland.org).

## TRANSPLANTS



2013/14 2014/15 2015/16 2016/17

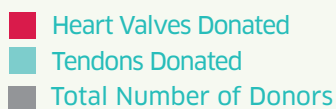
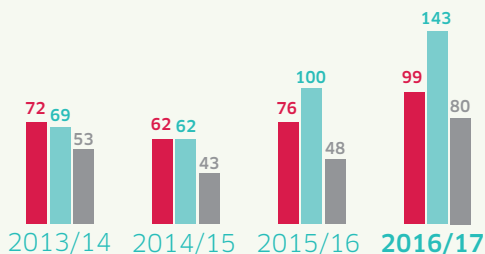


\*Based on residency

- Around **530** people in Scotland are currently waiting for a transplant. The majority of them are waiting for a kidney transplant;
- Just under **2.4 million** people in Scotland have joined the NHS Organ Donor Register giving hope to those who are waiting for a transplant;
- In 2016/17 **348** people in Scotland received a transplant:
  - **246** received a kidney transplant. This means they no longer have to attend hospital for dialysis three times per week or undertake another form of renal replacement therapy;
  - **116** - the highest ever number - received a liver transplant;
  - **18** received a kidney and pancreas transplant;
  - **16** received a heart transplant;
  - **16** received a lung transplant; and
  - **16** received islet cell transplants.
- Half of all kidney transplants now come from living kidney donors. This is great news because living donor transplants lead to better results for patients.



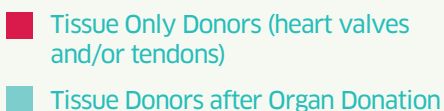
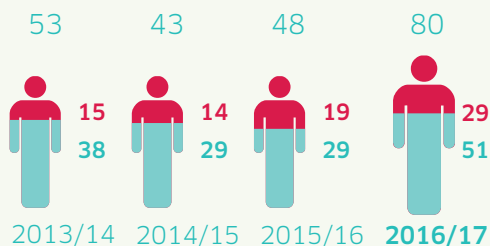
## NUMBERS OF TISSUE DONATIONS



- Tissue donation after death includes the potential of donating life-saving heart valves and skin, and life-enhancing tendons and corneas.
- The number of Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) tissue donors increased in 2016/17 to the best ever tissue donation rate in Scotland; a **43%** increase in tendon donations and a **30%** increase in heart valve donations compared to 2015/16.
- There is always a Tissue Donor Co-ordinator on call in Scotland; they are happy to provide donation advice to **Healthcare Professionals**. They can be contacted **24/7** on **07659 107029**.



## DECEASED TISSUE DONORS



- Tissue donors may be tissue-only donors, or they may have also donated organs. As tissue donation can take place **up to 48 hours after death**, tissue donation may be possible in some patients where organ donation is not.
- Following a previous year on year drop in tissue donor numbers, the number of tissue donors has increased in the last two financial years, with a **67% increase** in tissue donor numbers in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16.
- **64%** of SNBTS tissue donors were **also organ donors** in **2016/17**.
- Despite this very significant increase in tissue donation, there is still an unmet clinical demand for **heart valves** and occasionally **tendons**.
- In addition, in 2016/17 **141** people in Scotland donated their eyes, some of whom also donated organs or other tissue.