



The foundation of kidney care.

Facing the Facts

2018

Includes Highlights from the Canadian Organ Replacement Registerⁱ

Kidney Disease

- 1 in 10 Canadians has kidney disease, and millions more are at risk.
- The leading cause of kidney failure is diabetes at 38%.
- The number of people living with kidney disease has grown 36% since 2007.*
- 47% of new renal failure patients are under the age of 65.
- Nearly 48,000 Canadians are being treated for kidney failure.ⁱⁱ
- Treatment for those with end-stage kidney disease:
 - 58.4% are on dialysis
 - 41.6% have a functioning transplant
- Of those patients on dialysis, more than three-quarters were receiving institutional hemodialysis, the most expensive treatment option.
- A person can lose more than 50% of their kidney function before symptoms appear. Symptoms are silent in the early stages.
- There is no cure for kidney disease.
- In 2014, kidney disease was the 11th leading cause of death in Canada.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Nearly 27% of patients in Canada* are late-referral, which means they started dialysis only 90 days after first seeing a nephrologist.

You can make a difference:

1. Register your intention to donate your organs: either on your healthcare card, driver's license or through your provincial donor registry.
2. Speak to your family and loved ones to make sure they know and honour your wishes.
3. Consider living organ donation.
4. To join the Kidney Paired Donation Program Registry, visit www.blood.ca/en/organs-tissues/becoming-live-kidney-donor
5. Know your risk for kidney disease and learn what you can do to treat kidney failure. www.kidney.ca/risk

Organ Donation

- Nearly 77% of the 4,500 Canadians on the waiting list for an organ transplant are waiting for a kidney.
- Of the people on dialysis, only 16% are on the waiting list for a transplant.*
- The five-year survival rate for adults with transplanted kidneys is 90% from living donors and 82% from deceased donors.
- There were 1,731 kidney transplants performed in 2016.
- Median wait time for a deceased-donor kidney transplant is 4 years.
- Median wait times for 2016 were:
 - longest in Manitoba (5.7 years)
 - shortest in Nova Scotia (3 years)
- 42% of kidney transplants are made possible by living donors.
- 54% of living donors are unrelated to the recipient.
- Per million population, there are only 21 people who will become organ donors and 15 people will be living donors.
- Rates per million population for organ donation:
 - Highest deceased rate Ontario 25.2%; lowest Manitoba/Saskatchewan 11.7%
 - Living donor rates: Highest British Columbia/Yukon, Alberta/Northwest Territories/Nunavut 19.8%; lowest Quebec 6.7%
- Since 2008, the Kidney Paired Donation program has completed 505 transplants.^{iv}

i) CORR Annual Statistics 2017 and Statistics on Organ Replacement in Canada: Dialysis, Transplantation and Donation, 2007 to 2016, <https://www.cihi.ca/en/corr-annual-statistics-2007-to-2016>.

ii) CORR Annual Statistics 2017 and Statistics on Organ Replacement in Canada: Dialysis, Transplantation and Donation, 2007 to 2016, <https://www.cihi.ca/en/corr-annual-statistics-2007-to-2016>, supplemented with data collected by the Quebec Branch of The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

iii) Statistics Canada, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/101/cst01/hlth36a-eng.htm> (updated Dec. 10, 2015).

iv) Canadian Blood Services, Donation & Transplantation: Interprovincial Programs Report 2009-2016, <https://professionaleducation.blood.ca/sites/mtsi/files/cbs-2017-ipr-eng-web.pdf>.

v) Prevalence of Severe Kidney Disease and Use of Dialysis and Transplantation Across Alberta from 2004-2013, <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/scn/ahs-scen-kh-annual-kidney-care-2015.pdf>.

vi) Can-SOLVE CKD, 2018 WKD Fact Sheet. www.cansolveckd.ca (retrieved Feb 27, 2018).

* Excludes Québec.



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Burden and Cost of Care

Kidney disease and its treatment can take a great physical and psychological toll.

People living with kidney failure frequently face significant financial challenges related to loss of income, coupled with increased transportation and medication costs.

Dialysis is the most common treatment for kidney failure and costs the health care system between \$56,000 and \$107,000 per patient per year.^v

The cost to the health care system for chronic kidney disease is approximately \$50 billion per year.^{vi}

Each hemodialysis treatment normally takes four to five hours, three times per week, so transportation to and from dialysis can be a significant, and costly, challenge.

Research Investment

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is committed to supporting research excellence through its grant programs, having contributed well over \$119 million to research since 1964.

