

## *Kidney Health Information*

# *Kidney Disease in the UK Today*

- Kidney diseases can affect people of any age
- There are currently believed to be over 37,800 adult patients receiving Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) in the UK <sup>1</sup>
- South Asian and African Caribbean people are three to five times more likely to suffer kidney failure requiring dialysis, than white Caucasians<sup>2</sup>
- South Asian patients with diabetes are ten times more likely to go on to have kidney failure<sup>3</sup>
- Of the 7,672 people on the national organ waiting list, 6,909 of them need a kidney <sup>4</sup>
- By contrast, only about 1,800 kidney transplants are carried out each year<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> RRT includes a working transplant or dialysis. Figure as of 31.12.07 from the UK Renal Registry Report 2005

<sup>2</sup> *Preventing Kidney Disease: the Ethnic Challenge* Dr Liz Lightstone 2001

<sup>3</sup> Prof. John Feehally

<sup>4</sup> Active and suspended lists as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005. UK Transplant *Transplant Activity in the UK 2004-2005*

<sup>5</sup> Figure for the period 01.04.05-31.03.06, from the website of UK Transplant ([www.uktransplant.org.uk](http://www.uktransplant.org.uk))

- Uncontrolled, or poorly controlled, high blood pressure can cause chronic kidney failure. Yet worryingly, large numbers of people with high blood pressure have not been identified
- Diabetes is the single largest cause of kidney failure. More than two million people in the UK have diagnosed diabetes. At least a million people are thought to have diabetes but are unaware of it<sup>6</sup>. Recent reports indicate that more children will develop diabetes due to obesity, which could add to this number
- There are over 6,500 new cases of kidney cancer diagnosed each year<sup>7</sup> and this figure seems to be rising. The disease causes around 3,600 deaths each year<sup>8</sup>

**All material on this fact sheet is held under copyright. Reproduction is only permitted for personal use.**

**THIS IS AN INFORMATION LEAFLET ONLY, AND AS WITH ALL MEDICAL CONDITIONS,  
YOU MUST CONSULT YOUR OWN DOCTOR**

Kidney Research UK, Kings Chambers, Priestgate, Peterborough PE1 1FG

Kidney Health Information telephone number: 0845 300 1499

Or text keyword KIDNEY with message to 0778 620 0505

Or email: [kidneyhealth@kidneyresearchuk.org](mailto:kidneyhealth@kidneyresearchuk.org)

**If you would like to make a donation please call free on 0800 783 2973**

---

<sup>6</sup> Diabetes UK ([www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk))

<sup>7</sup> 6,665 diagnosed in 2002. Figure from Cancer Research UK.

<sup>8</sup> 3,611 deaths in 2004. Figure from Cancer Research UK.