Kidney Disease

- 1 in 10 Canadians has kidney disease; that’s 4 million people. ii
- The leading cause of kidney failure is diabetes at 38%.”
- The number of people living with end-stage kidney disease has grown 35% since 2009.”
- 46% of new patients are under the age of 65.”
- More than 50,000 Canadians are being treated for kidney failure.

Treatment for those with end-stage kidney disease:
- 58% are on dialysis
- 42% have a functioning transplant iii

- Of those patients on dialysis, more than three-quarters are receiving institutional hemodialysis, the most expensive treatment option. iii
- 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 end-stage kidney disease.
- In 2018, kidney disease was the 10th leading cause of death in Canada.”
- More than 25% of new end-stage kidney disease patients were late-referrals, which means they started dialysis only 90 days after first seeing a nephrologist.”

Organ Donation

- 75% of the 4,300 Canadians on the waiting list for an organ transplant are waiting for a kidney.”
- Of the people on dialysis, only 11% are on the waiting list for a transplant. iii and v
- The five-year survival rate for adults with transplanted kidneys from living donors is 88% and 81% from deceased donors.”
- There were 1,709 kidney transplants performed in 2018.”
- Median wait time for a deceased-donor kidney transplant is 3 years, 10 months.”
- Median wait times for 2018 were:
  - longest in Manitoba (6 years, 3 months)
  - shortest in BC & Yukon Territory (3 years, 1 month)”
- 28% of kidney transplants were made possible by living donors. v
- More than 50% of all living donors were unrelated to the recipient.v
- Per million population, there were only 21 people who became organ donors and 15 people were living donors.
- Rates per million population for kidney transplants from deceased donors:
  - Highest rate BC & Yukon Territory: 24.2
  - Lowest rate Saskatchewan: 13.8
- Since 2008, the Kidney Paired Donation Program has completed 721 transplants.iv

Take Action:
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
Burden and Cost of Care

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

Patients with kidney failure must undergo hemodialysis treatments three times per week, each one taking four to five hours. Transportation to and from dialysis can be a significant and costly challenge.

Dialysis is the most common treatment for kidney failure and costs the health care system nearly $100,000 per patient per year.\(^i\)

The cost to the health care system for chronic kidney disease is approximately $40 billion per year.\(^ii\)

Research Investment

The Kidney Foundation is committed to supporting research excellence through its grant programs, having contributed over $127 million to research since 1964.

Total invested in research in 2019:

$4,027,818

- **Biomedical Research Grants**
  - $1,930,003 (48%)

- **Partnerships**
  - $976,700 (24%)

- **Krescent Program**
  - $829,083 (21%)

- **Allied Health Awards**
  - $297,032 (7%)

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\(^iv\) Statistics Canada. [https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?id=1310039401](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?id=1310039401)


* Excludes Quebec.

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