Kidney failure in Kentucky: 2023

Overview of kidney failure in Kentucky

- 9,241 Kentuckians are living with kidney failure
- 6,497 Kentuckians are on dialysis (70.3%)
- 2,744 Kentuckians are living with a kidney transplant (29.7%)

Leading causes of kidney failure:

- Percentage of kidney failure cases caused by diabetes: 47%
- Percentage of kidney failure cases caused by high blood pressure: 30%

1,729 New cases of kidney failure diagnosed in Kentucky in 2020 (most recent data available)

- Received a kidney transplant: 49
- Began dialysis: 1,680

The total number of Kentuckians living with kidney failure has increased by 28.4% since 2010.

Kidney transplants in Kentucky

- 823 Kentuckians are on the kidney transplant waiting list*
- 184 transplants performed in Kentucky in 2022, a 15% increase from 2012

Only about 1 in 4 Kentuckians on the kidney transplant waiting list received a transplant in 2022.

- 56 living donor transplants performed in Kentucky
- 128 deceased donor transplants performed in Kentucky

Compared to 2012, there was a 115.4% increase in living donor kidney transplants

*As of February 17, 2023
Sources: U.S. Renal Data System 2022 Annual Data Report, Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
Health disparities in kidney failure

Kidney failure has a disproportionate impact on people of color. Compared to White Americans, the likelihood of developing kidney failure is:

- 4.2x greater for Black Americans
- 2.3x greater for American Indians
- 1.5x greater for Asian Americans

- 1.5x greater for people of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity than people of non-Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

The American Kidney Fund (AKF) provides financial assistance to:

- 1 out of 19 White Americans with kidney failure
- 1 out of 11 Black Americans with kidney failure
- 1 out of 10 Hispanic/Latino Americans with kidney failure

Why people with kidney failure need financial assistance from AKF:

Kidney failure is a disability. Dialysis is life support. Treating kidney failure and its comorbidities is more consuming than a full-time job: more than 80% of people on dialysis cannot work.

1,064 Kentuckians on dialysis and living with transplants received grants from AKF in 2022 to pay for their insurance premiums and other health care-related costs not covered by insurance.

$3,518,912 in charitable assistance from AKF ensured that low-income Kentucky dialysis and transplant patients could afford their lifesaving health care in 2022.

Insurance breakdown of Americans who received charitable premium assistance from AKF in 2022:

- Medicare Part B: 40.9%
- Medicare Advantage: 1.3%
- Medigap: 27.2%
- Commercial Employer Group Plans (including COBRA): 17.7%