

Organ transplant rate in First Nations in Alberta

Organ transplant rate by First Nations status and age group, both sexes, Alberta, 2006 to 2017

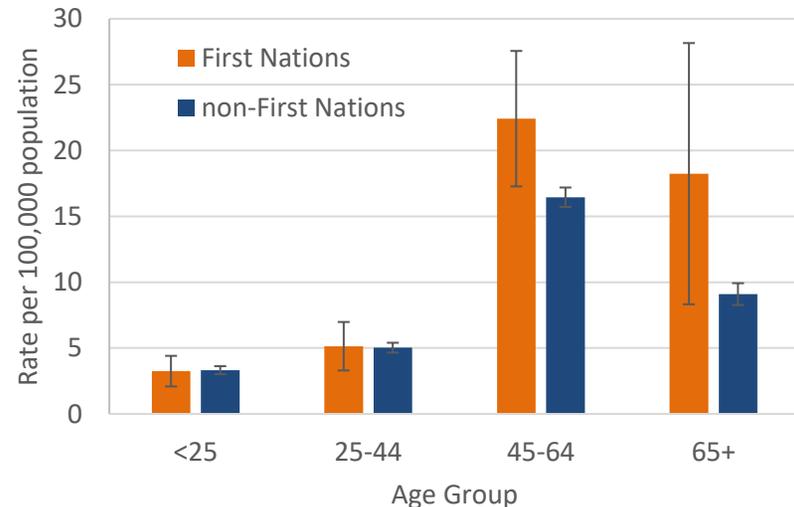
Organ transplantation is often the only treatment for end stage organ failure, such as kidney, liver, or heart failure.¹ It may also be the preferred treatment when other options may be available: for example, a kidney transplant may be optimal over dialysis therapy for patients with end stage kidney disease, potentially leading to longer survival and better quality of life.² In today's *First Nations – Health Trends Alberta*,³ we present organ transplant procedure rates during 2006 to 2017 combined in First Nations and non-First Nations separately. Organ transplants were identified by medical procedure codes and include individuals who donated or received a full or partial transplant of the lung, heart, liver, pancreas, or kidney at least once.⁴ Rates are presented for both sexes combined and by age group.

In older age groups, organ transplant procedure rates are higher for First Nations compared to non-First Nations

During 2006 to 2017, the average annual number of at least one transplant procedure was approximately 307 (12 for First Nations). For First Nations people, kidney transplants made up the majority (60 percent) of total transplant procedures (for non-First Nations, 45 percent of total transplant procedures).

The overall rate of at least one organ transplant for First Nations over this time period was comparable to the rate for non-First Nations (rates 7.7 and 7.9 per 100,000 population, respectively). For both populations, the transplant rates were lowest among those under 25 years of age and highest in the 45 to 64 age group.

However, there were differences across age categories: while organ transplant rates were comparable for First Nations and non-First Nations under the age of 45, rates were higher for First Nations in older age groups. In particular, the organ transplant rate for First Nations over 65 was double the rate for non-First Nations (18.2 and 9.1 per 100,000, respectively): note, however, that this was based on a small number of events. For ages 45 to 64, rates were 22.4 and 16.5 per 100,000 for First Nations and non-First Nations, respectively.



1 World Health Organization (2014) <http://www.who.int/transplantation/organ/en/>

2 Karen E. Yeates et al (2009) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0085253815540295>

3 This is the 31st in a series of First Nations-specific Health Trends compiled in collaboration by Alberta Health and the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre (AFNIGC). To suggest future topics, please contact the AFNIGC (communications@afnigc.ca; 403-539-5775).

4 A transplant procedure was identified using Canadian Classification of Health Intervention codes 1GR85, 1GT85, 1HY85, 1HZ85, 1OA85, 1OJ85, or 1PC85 within the Alberta Discharge Abstract Database. An individual was included only once during the 12 year time period regardless of whether they had received multiple transplants of the same or different organs.