

Chapter XI

Facility Survey of Providers of ESRD Therapy

The Annual Facility Survey conducted by HCFA is the source of all the results presented in this chapter. Note that the data for 1993 are preliminary and may be subject to minor revisions. The facility survey contains summary data on facility characteristics for almost all Medicare approved dialysis and transplant units. Although reporting methods may differ from unit to unit, the Annual Facility Survey data include most non-Medicare patients while the USRDS patient database does not¹.

ESRD Units: Number and Location

Since Medicare extended coverage to patients with ESRD in 1973, there has been sustained growth in the number of institutions providing ESRD services for patients covered by Medicare. For example, Figure XI-1 shows that there were 1,593 dialysis units in 1988. By 1993 the number had grown to 2,227, representing a 7.4 percent annual compound growth. During the same interval, the number of transplant centers grew from 208 to 226, a smaller growth of 1.7 percent per year.

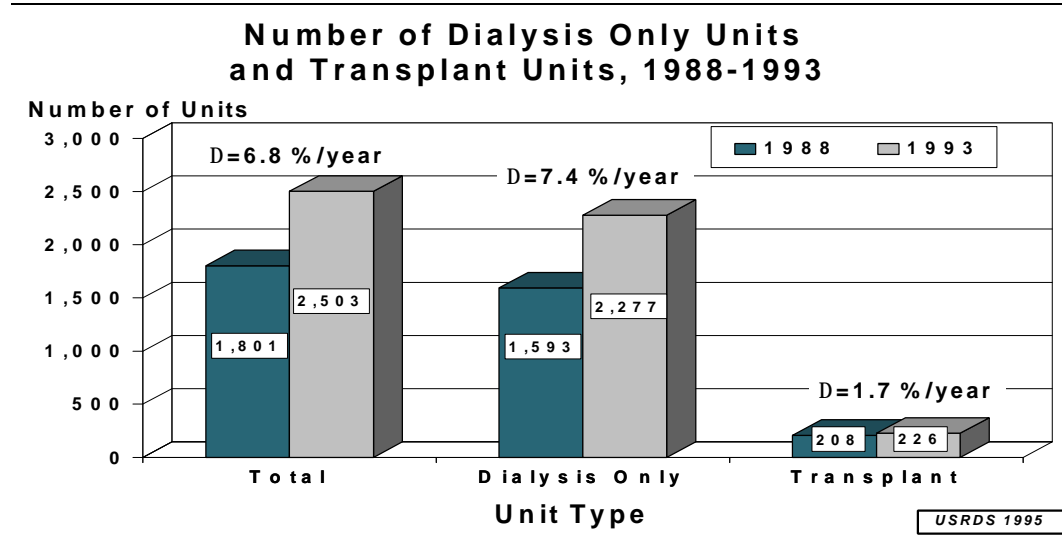


Figure XI-1

Number of "dialysis only" units and transplant units in the U.S. for 1988 and 1993, with annual compound rate of change (delta percent). The "Transplant" category includes both transplant centers and units which provide dialysis services in addition to transplants. Source: Reference Table I.1.

Distribution of Dialysis Patients by Type of ESRD Unit, 1988 and 1993

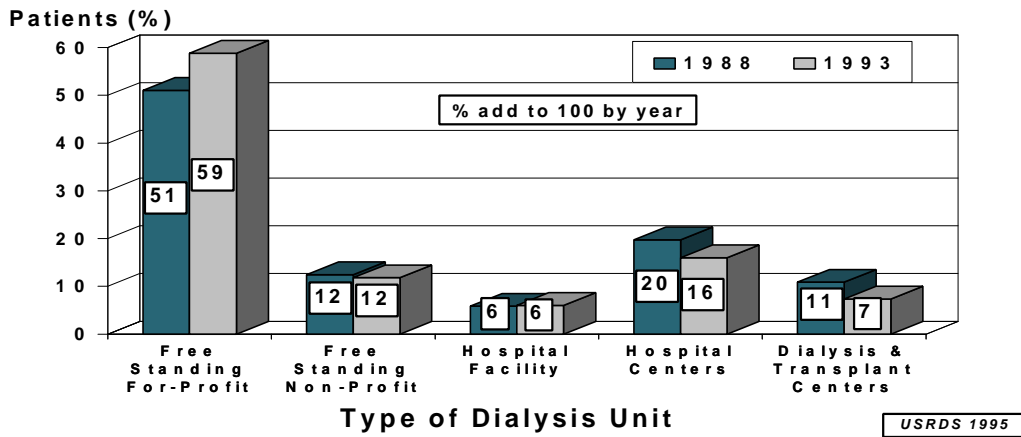


Figure XI-2

Distribution (percent) of dialysis patients by type of dialysis unit for end of the year point prevalent patients, 1988 and 1993. Source: Reference Table I.12.

ESRD Patients: Treatment Locale and Number

HCFA has defined a number of different types of ESRD units² for reporting purposes:

- Hospital facilities are dialysis units attached to or located in a hospital which are approved

to furnish outpatient dialysis service(s) directly to ESRD patients.

- Hospital centers are dialysis units attached to or located in hospitals which are approved to furnish the full spectrum of diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services required for the care of ESRD dialysis patients (including inpatient and outpatient dialysis furnished directly or under

Number of In-Center Hemodialysis Patients per Station, by Network Office, 1993

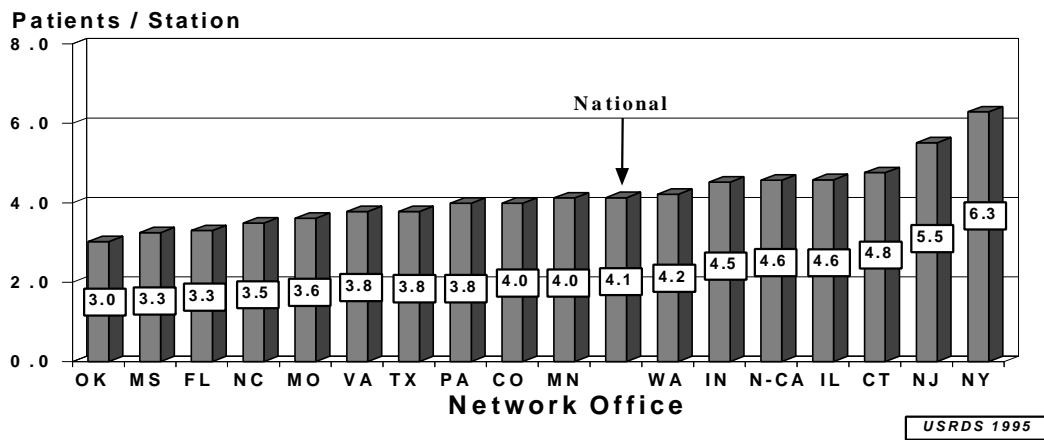


Figure XI-3

Average number of center hemodialysis patients per station, by Network, for 1993. See Figure III-7 for a network key. National is the national average. Source: Reference Table I.13.

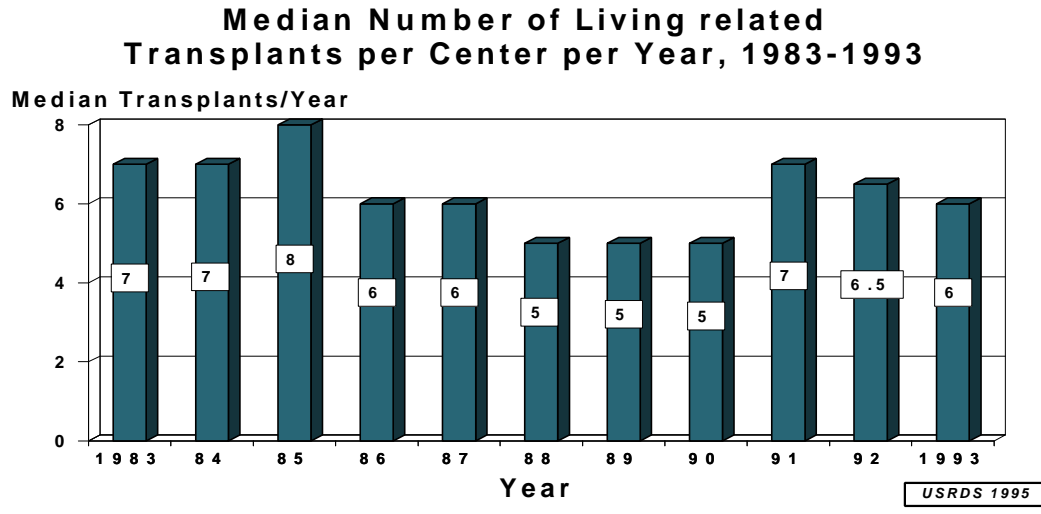


Figure XI-4

Median (number of patients) transplants per center size by of dialysis unit for 1983 and 1993. Reference Table 12, 1983-1993. Source: Special analysis.

arrangement).

- Freestanding units, sometimes called independent units, provide outpatient and home maintenance dialysis only.
- Transplant centers are hospital units which are approved to furnish transplantation and other medical and surgical specialty services for the care of ESRD transplant patients, including inpatient dialysis furnished directly or under arrangement.
- Dialysis and transplant centers combine the functions of a dialysis center and a transplant center.

In general, for the analyses presented in this chapter, the categories of “transplant center” and “dialysis and transplant center” are combined and are referred to as “transplant” units. The remaining units are combined and referred to as “dialysis only” units. The distribution of dialysis patients by type of dialysis unit (plus profit status for the freestanding units) is presented in Figure XI-2 for 1988 and 1993. In 1988, freestanding, for-profit units treated 51 percent of outpatient dialysis patients. By 1993, this percentage had grown to 59 percent. Hospital dialysis centers treated 26 percent of the patients in 1988, but by 1993 this had fallen to 22 percent.

The number of center hemodialysis patients per station by ESRD Network in 1993 is shown

in Figure XI-3. Nationally, on average there were 4.1 patients per station. At the lower end of the scale, ESRD Network 13 (AR, LA, OK) averaged 3.0 patients per station, while ESRD Network 2 (NY), with the largest number of patients per station (6.3), had more than twice that number. With the exception of New York, the number of patients per station per network ranges from 24 percent lower than the national average to 32 percent higher. A comparison of the results for 1993 with the previous 2 years reveals constant national averages.

Facility

The size of the various types of Size and Treatment Patterns dialysis units, measured by the median number of dialysis patients in 1988 and 1993, is indicated in Figure XI-4. Freestanding, not-for-profit units were the largest in both years.

Reference Tables on pages I.12 and I.13 present data on dialysis units and the two major dialytic modalities. In 1993, a total of 2,410 units treated dialysis patients. Peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients were treated in 53 percent and hemodialysis (HD) patients were treated in 98 percent of these units. Forty-seven units treated only PD patients.

Dialysis and transplant centers vary considerably in size, with more than a few centers performing no transplants in a given year. The largest centers perform approximately 200 renal transplants per year. As shown in Figure XI-5, between 1983 and 1993 the median number of living related transplants has remained fairly consistent over a range between 5 and 8. A continuous annual increase in the number of

cadaveric transplants per center from 1983 to 1986 is shown in Figure XI-6. The median drops to 23 in 1988 and has remained relatively constant through 1993.

DVA Reporting

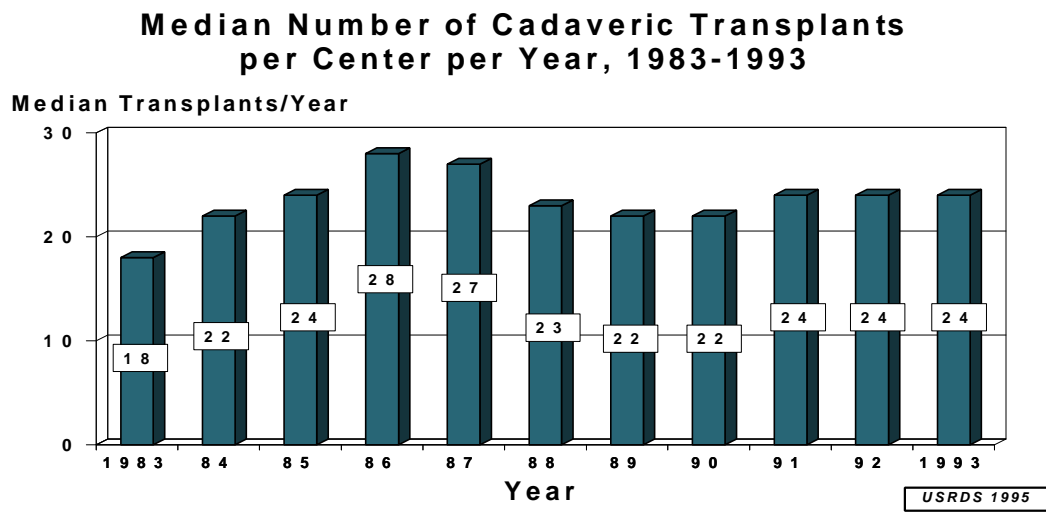


Figure XI-6

Median cadaveric kidney transplant center size by year (total number of cadaveric kidneys transplanted per year), 1982-1992. Source: Special analysis.

Number of DVA Facilities Completing Annual Facility Survey, by Medicare Certification Category

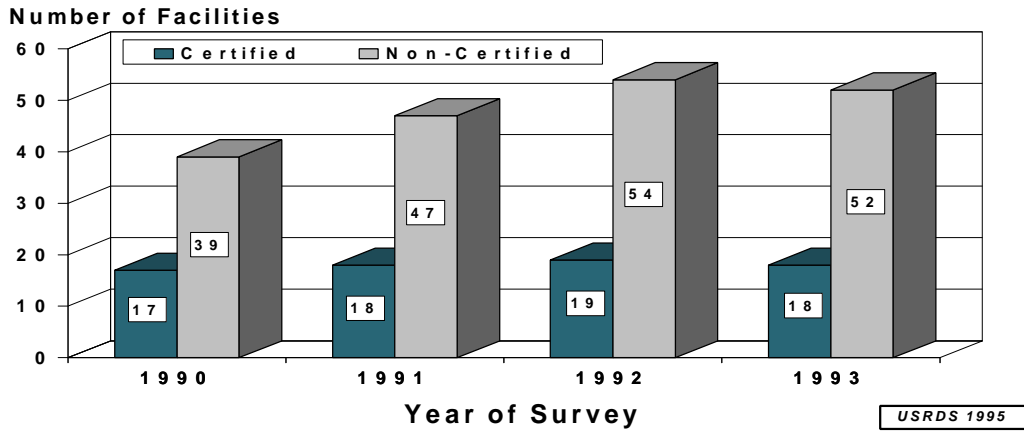


Figure XI-7

Number of Department of Veterans Affairs facilities completing HCFA's Annual Facility Survey, by Medicare certification status by year. Source: Reference Table I.1.

Before 1982, Department of Veterans Affairs³ (DVA) dialysis units did not complete the facility survey. Since 1982, between 13 and 19 Medicare certified DVA units have completed the facility survey each year. Beginning in 1990, there are survey data for some DVA units that are not certified by Medicare. In 1991 and 1992, 47 out of 60 and 54 out of 59 non certified DVA units completed the facility survey. While in 1993, 52 out of 61 completed the survey (See Figure XI-7.) Thus, the undercount of patients from DVA facilities in the USRDS database and HCFA databases has been reduced substantially beginning with 1990.

3. For more information about the DVA dialysis population please contact the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Washington D.C.

End Notes

1. See Chapter I for more detail on this issue. See Reference Tables, Section I for more detail on the information presented in this chapter.
2. For more information on the classification of dialysis unit type please refer to either The Health Care and Financing Administration's *Instruction Manual for Renal Providers* or *National Listing of Medicare Providers Furnishing Dialysis and Transplant Services*, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office.

