

State of the registry 2025–2026

UK Aligned Stem Cell Registry annual data

About this report

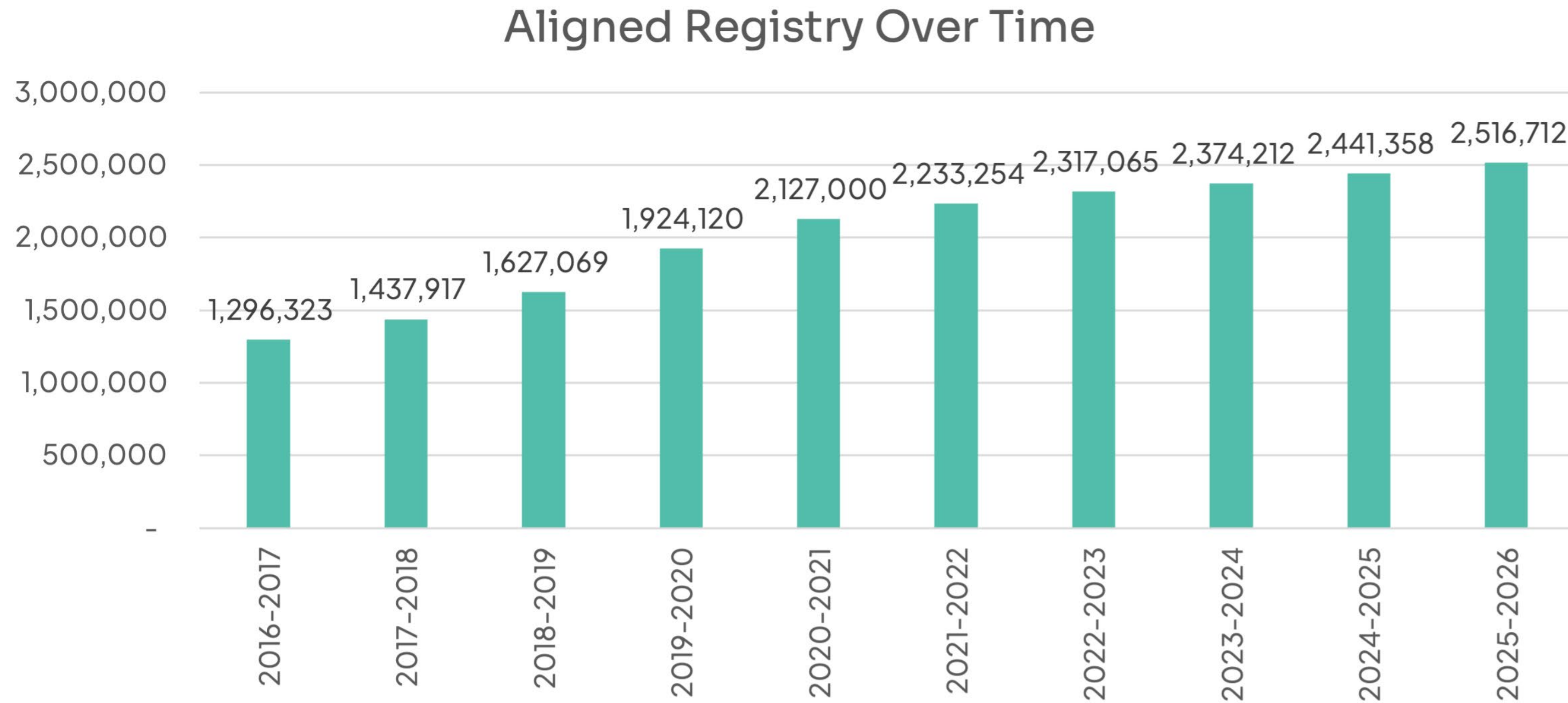
The State of the Registry data is compiled by the members of the UK Aligned Stem Cell Registry. This data covers the period from April 2025 to March 2026. It outlines the collective work of the UK Aligned Registry to recruit stem cell donors; bank umbilical cord blood donations; and provide donor cells for UK stem cell transplant patients over this period. The Aligned Registry is formed of Anthony Nolan, DKMS UK, NHS Stem Cell Donor Registry (NHS SCDR), and the Welsh Bone Marrow Donor Registry (WBMDR).



Aligned Registry demographics over time

2025-2026

The number of stem cell donors on the **Aligned Registry** has grown by **75,354** over the last year, bringing the total registry size to just over 2.51 million. 119,377 new donors have been made active, while 44,023 people have aged off or chosen to leave the Aligned Registry.

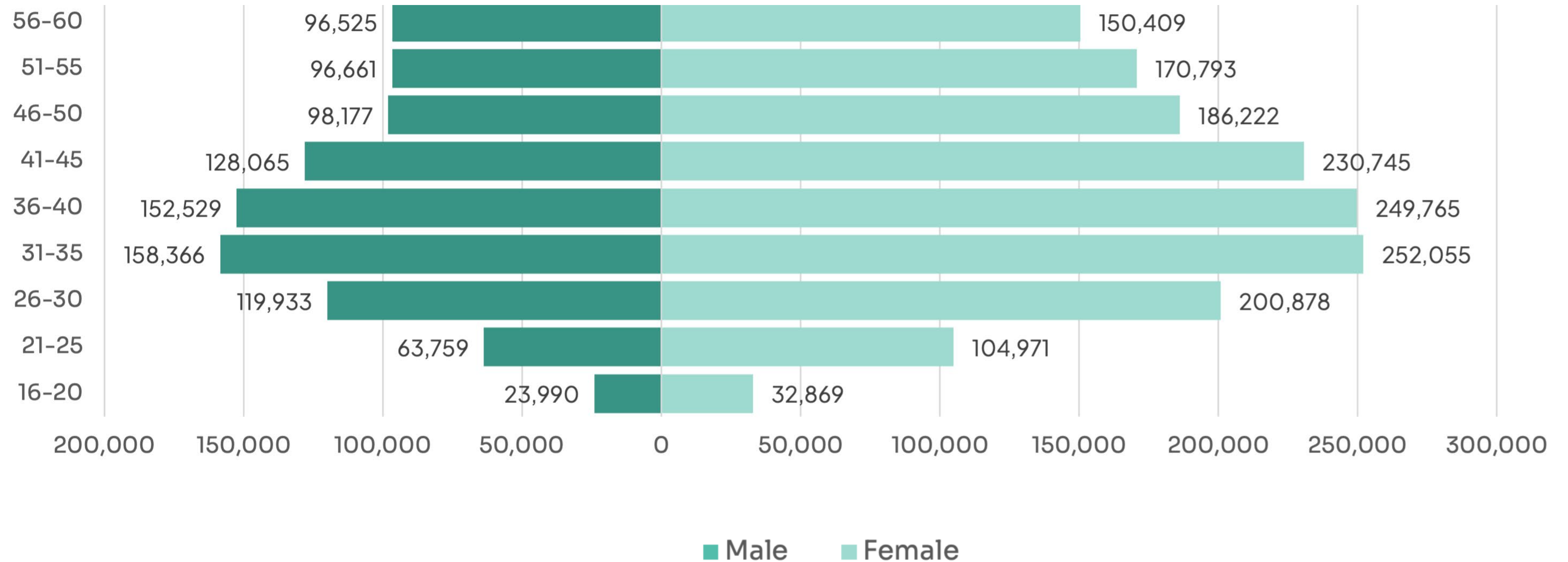


Aligned Registry demographics

2025-2026

Last year: 2,441,358

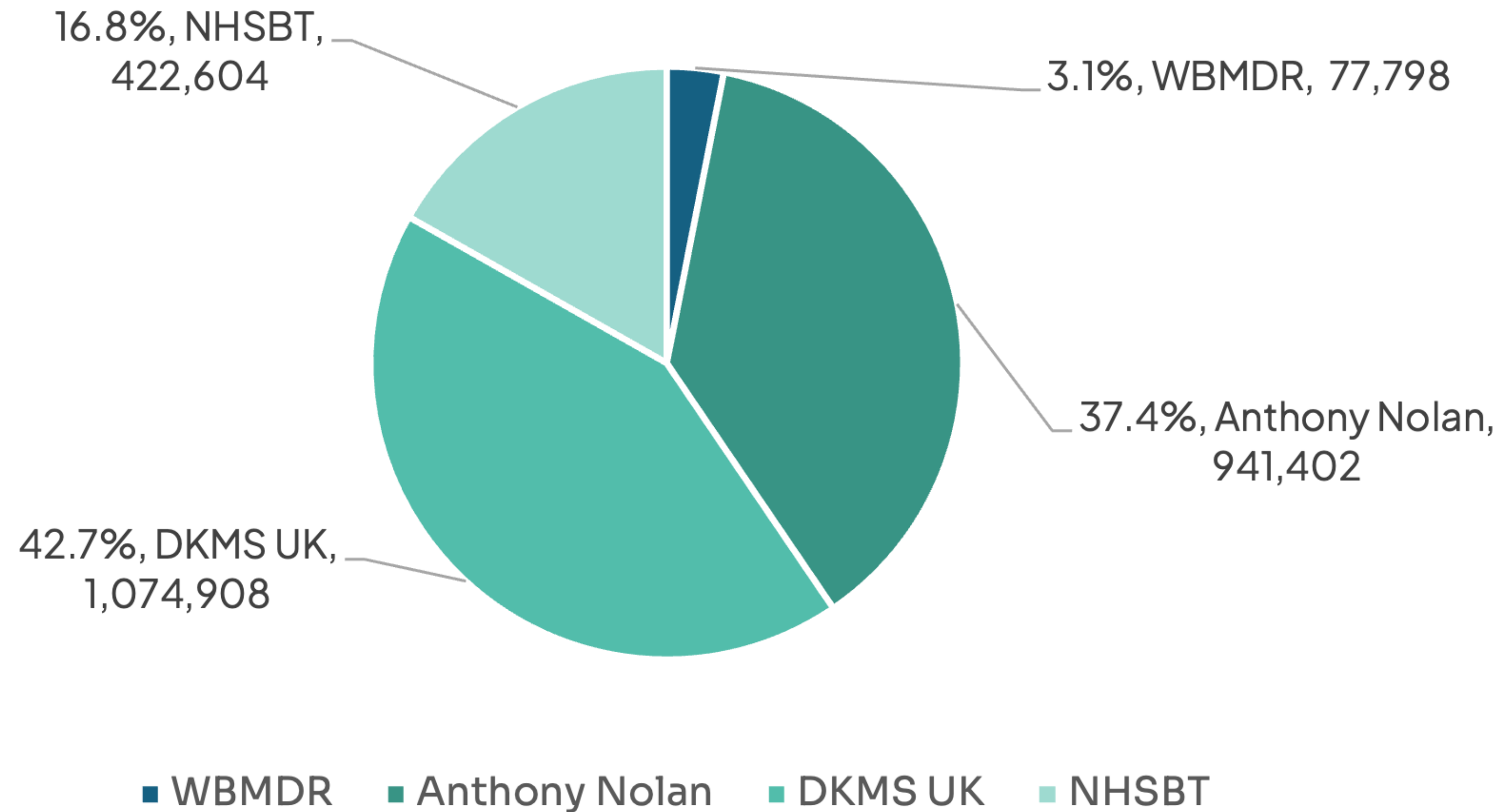
This year: 2,516,712



Aligned Registry demographics

2025-2026

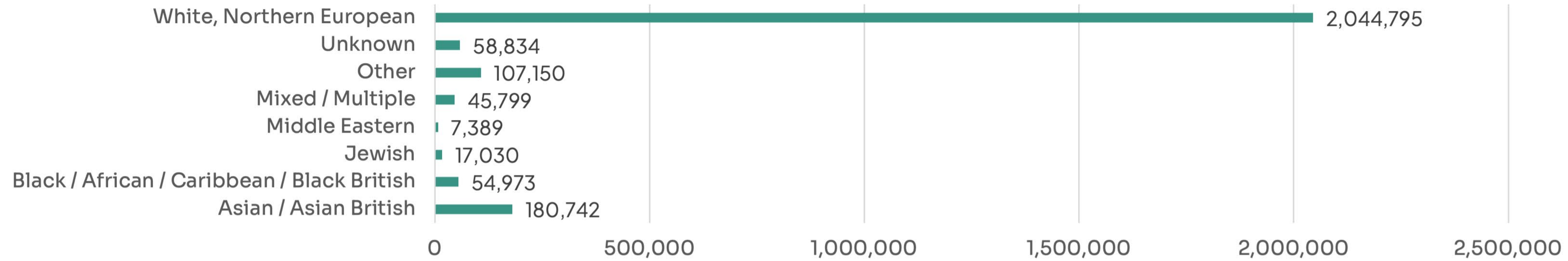
Aligned Registry by Register



Aligned Registry demographics

2025-2026

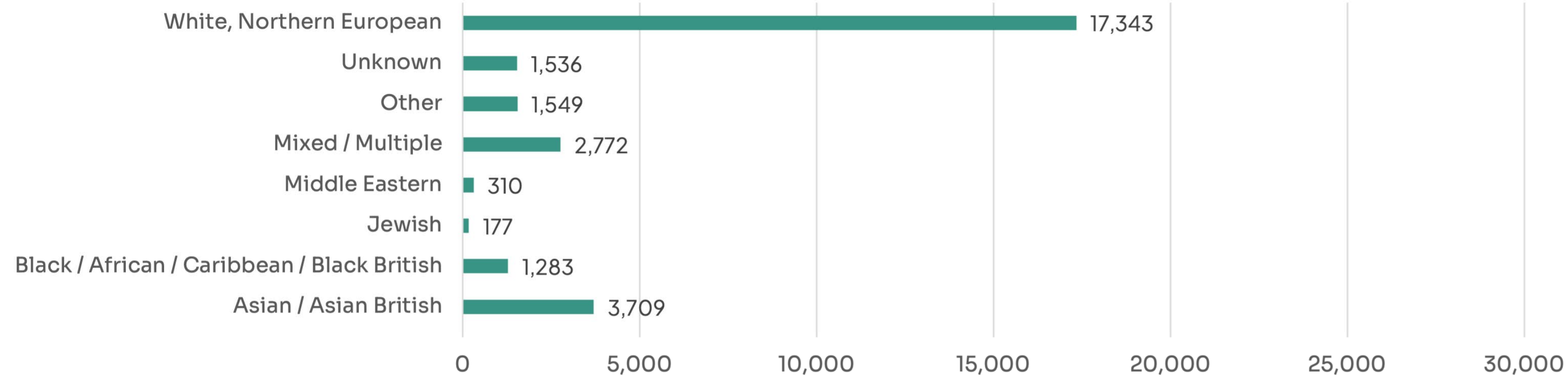
Aligned Registry by Ethnicity



Last year: 16%

Minority Ethnicity: 16%

Cord Bank by Ethnicity



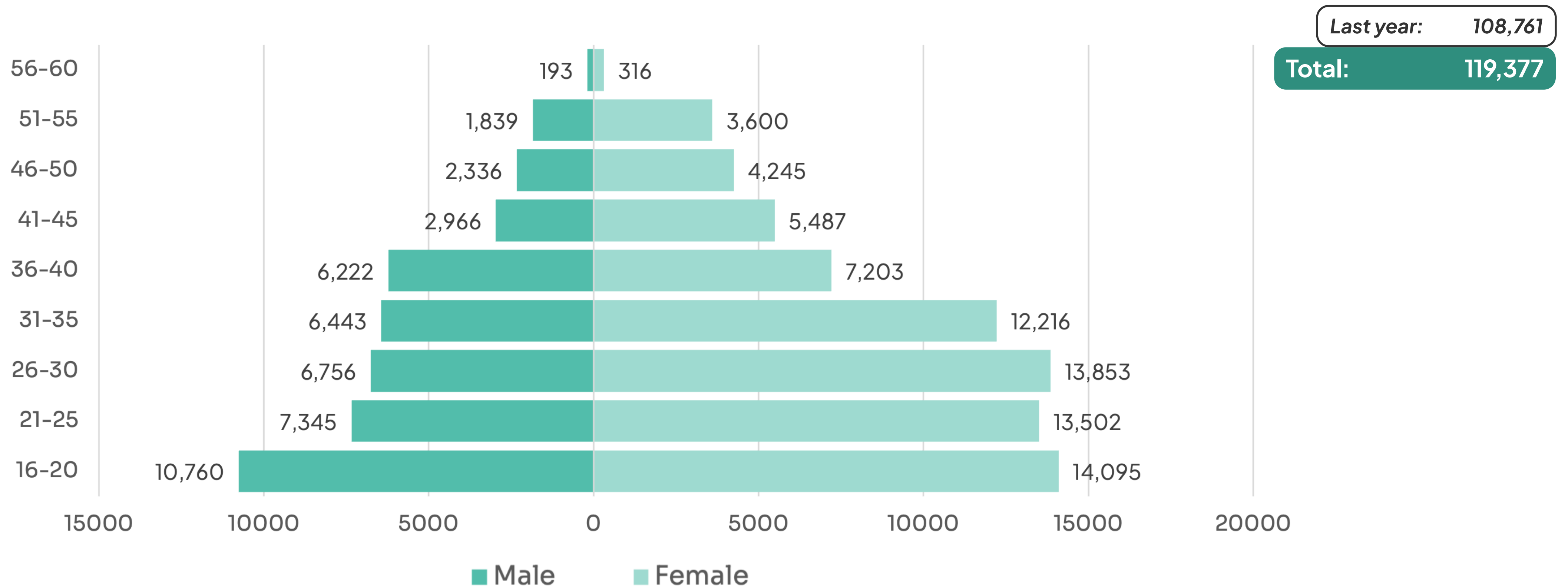
Last year: 34%

Minority Ethnicity: 34%

New donors made active

2025-2026

In 2025-26, 119,377 new donors were added to the register, representing an increase of 10% compared with the previous year. There has been a shift towards younger donors, who provide better outcomes for patients, with 21% of new donors being 20 or under. Recruitment among individuals from minority ethnic backgrounds has increased as an absolute number from 22,197 to 23,170. Our percentage of minority ethnic background recruits remained relatively stable with a small decrease from 20% to 19%.



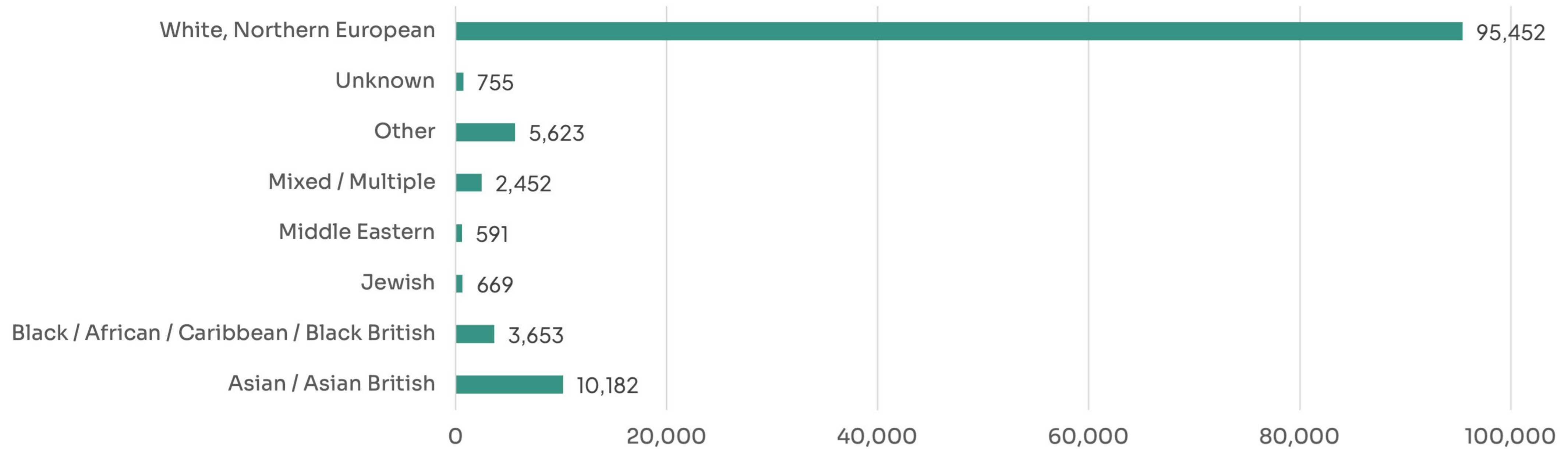
New donors made active

2025-2026

Last year: 20%

Minority Ethnicity: 19%

New Donors Made Active by Ethnicity

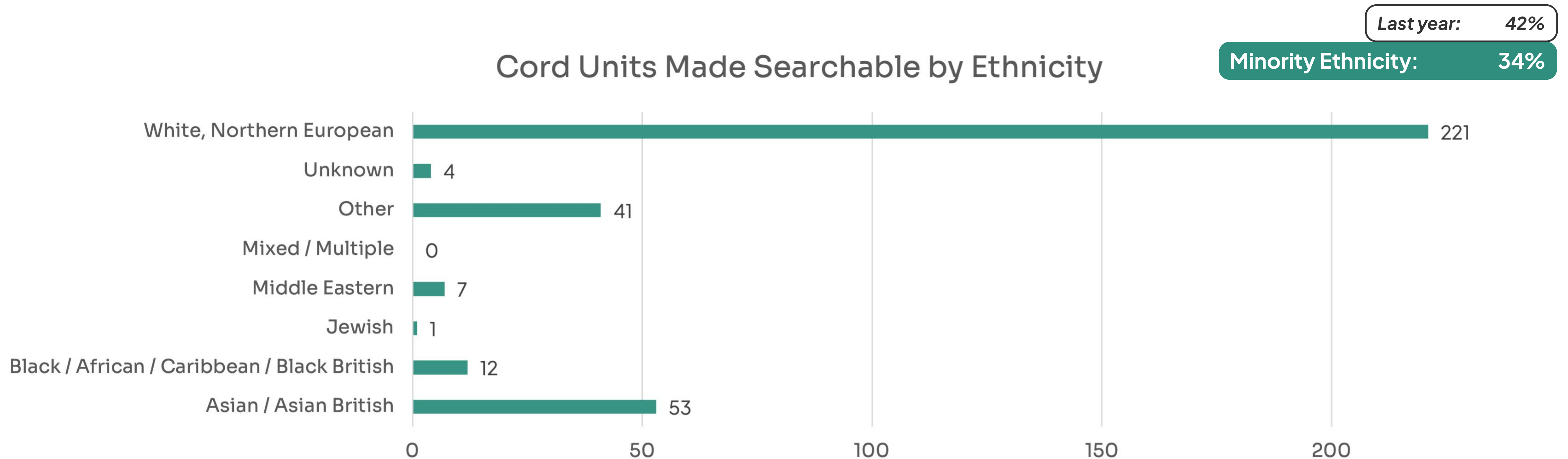


Cord

2025-2026

The number of cords made searchable has more than doubled compared to the previous year, increasing to 339 cords made searchable including 118 from minority ethnic backgrounds. This compares to 164 made searchable in 2024-25, of which 70 were from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Cord Units Made Searchable by Ethnicity



Donor provisions

2025-2026

There was a 3% increase in individual donor searches for UK patients in FY25–26. There was a 13% increase in verification typing samples requested from UK donors versus the previous year, but just a 3.5% increase in samples received, highlighting the increasing challenge of donor availability. This is a trend that has been experienced with both UK and international donors.

There were 1,342 unrelated donor stem cell provisions for UK patients in FY25–26 – the highest number ever, and a 9% increase on FY24–25. These provisions supported 1,287 individual patients in the year (106 more patients than the previous year).

Provisions from UK stem cell sources (adult donors and cord blood) for UK patients held steady against FY24–25 at 23%. Of those provisions, 86% (269) were from adult unrelated donors (an increase of 35 on the previous year) and 14% (45) were cord blood units (a decrease of nine from the previous year). Cell products imported from overseas came from 31 different countries, with the largest proportion coming from Germany and the US (40% and 12.5% respectively of provisions for UK patients).

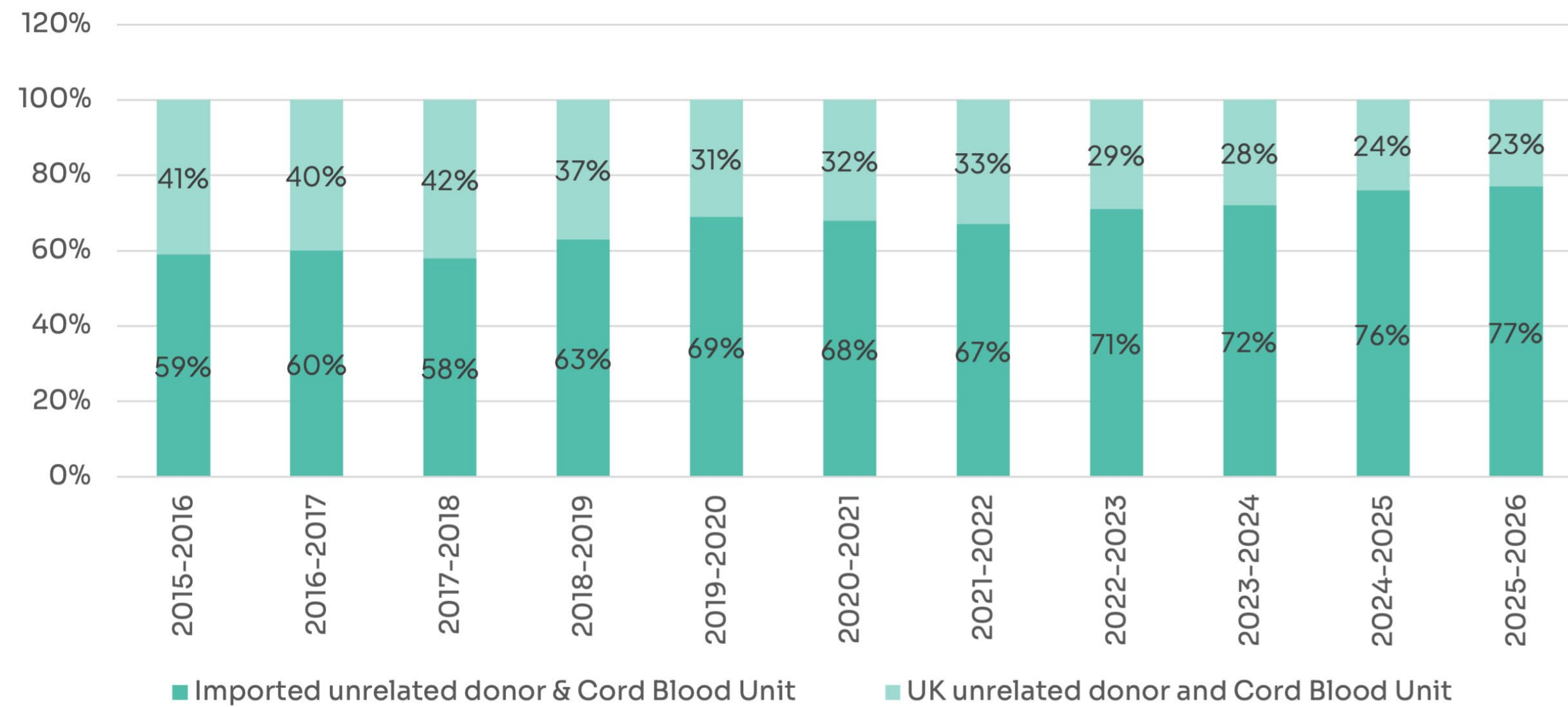
Donor provisions

2025-2026

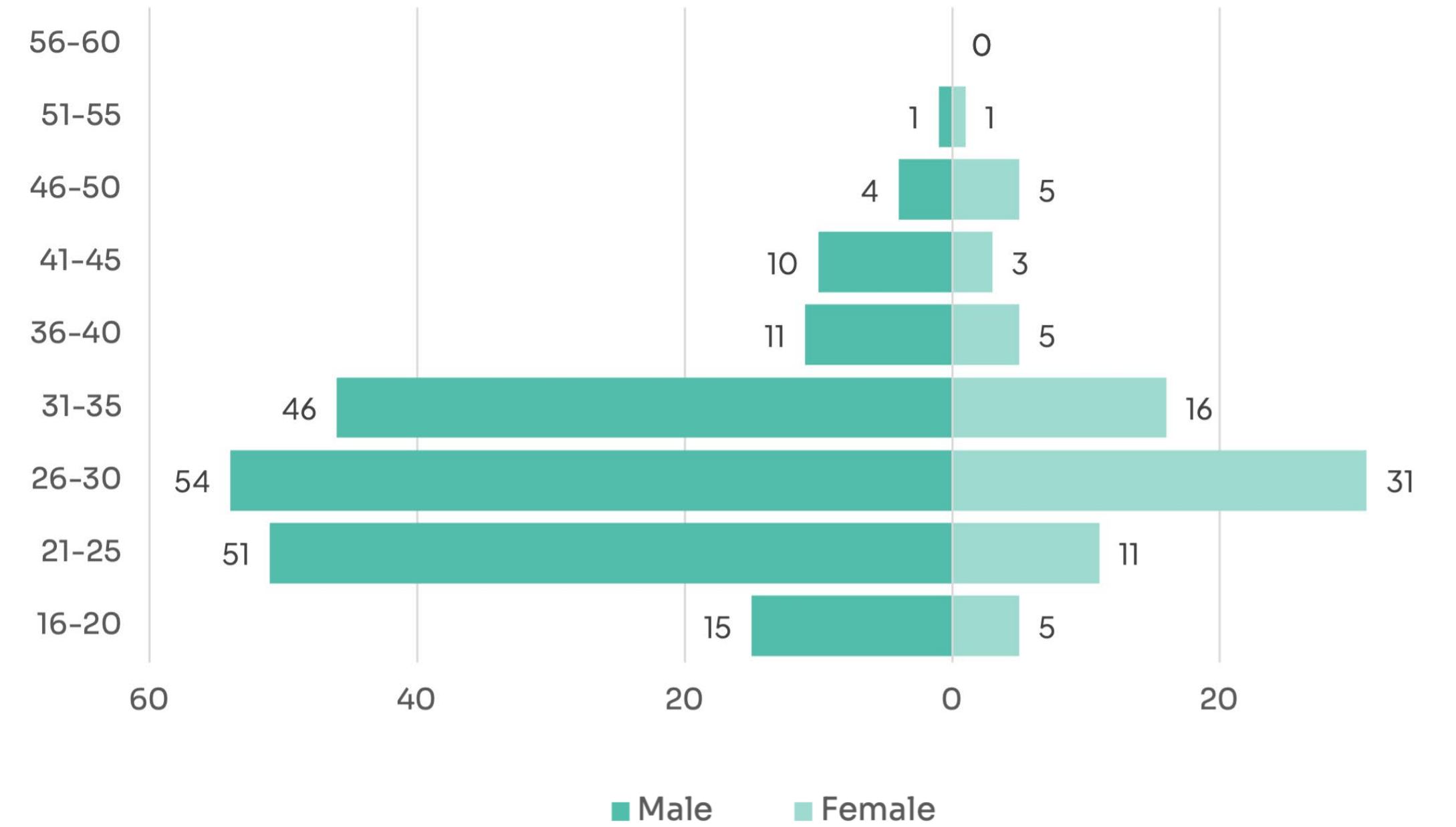
Last year: 1,231
Total: 1,342

Last year: 234
Total: 269

Provisions for UK Patients Over Time (Import vs UK)



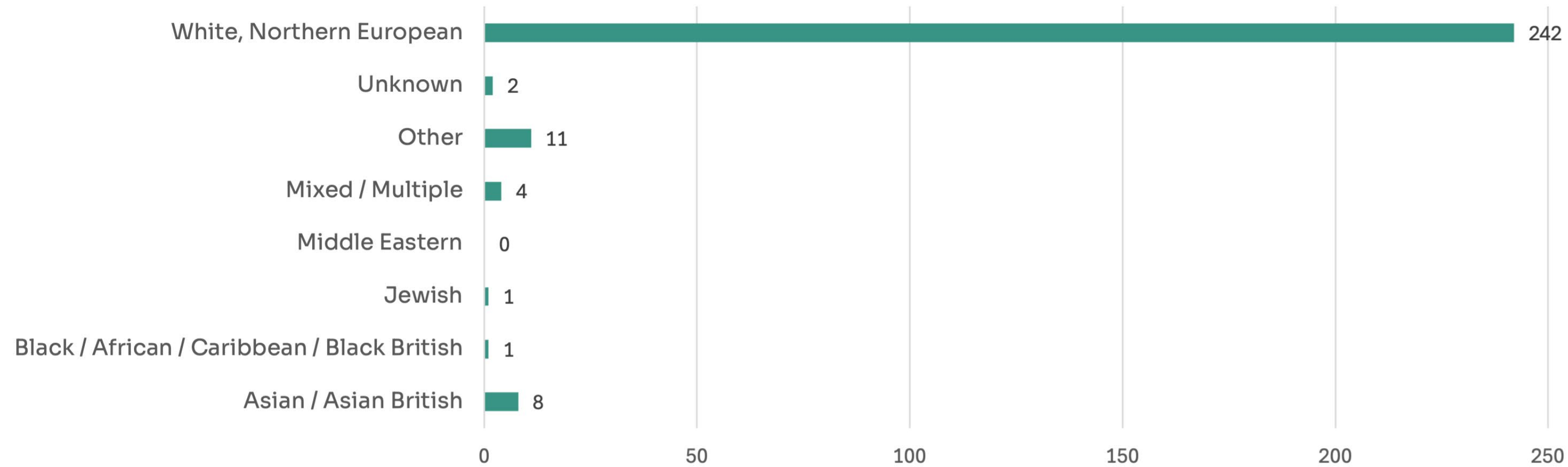
UK Donors for UK Patients



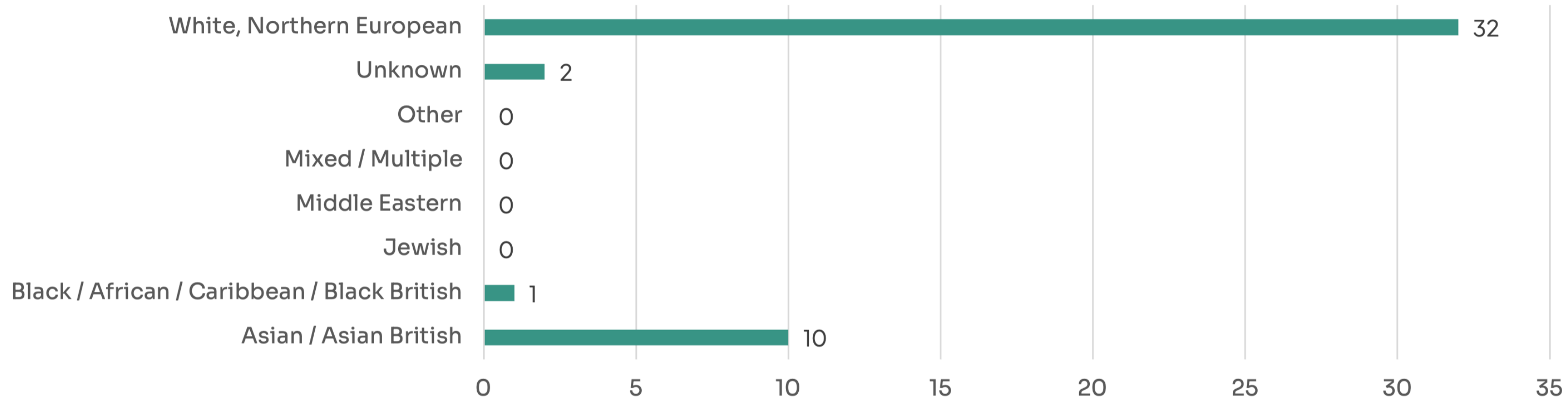
Donor provisions

2025-2026

UK Donors for UK Patients by Ethnicity



UK Cord for UK Patients by Ethnicity



Last year: 9%

Minority Ethnicity: 9%

Last year: 16%

Minority Ethnicity: 24%

Stem cell provisions

2025-2026

UK patients helped **1,287**

This is the number of unique UK patients helped within this year. This includes patients who received cells for a second transplant within the same year and patients who received more than one cord blood unit.

Provisions for UK patients **1,342**

This is the number of individual stem cell provisions for UK patients within this year. This data includes peripheral blood stem cell, bone marrow and cord blood unit provisions.

UK provisions **314 (269 donor, 45 cord)**

This is the number of provisions within the year of stem cells from UK donor sources (donors and cord blood units) for UK patients.

Imported provisions **1,028**

This is the number of provisions within the year of stem cells from international donor sources (donors and cord blood units) for UK patients.

Pre-donation searches for UK patients **2,718**

This is the number of new searches initiated for UK patients within the year. This does not include repeat searches initiated within the year.

Blood samples requested **2,914**

This is the number of verification typing blood samples requested from UK donors for UK patients within the year.

Blood samples received **1,307**

This is the number of verification typing blood samples returned by UK donors for UK patients with the year. Some of these samples will have been requested in the previous financial year.