

# **Orgadon Annual Report: data of 2023**

## Donation of human body material

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## **1. Introduction**

This annual report is published to provide quantitative information on the donation of human body material (HBM) in Belgium, using data obtained through Orgadon's database, the annual reports of Belgian HBM establishments and the website for Belgian statistics, 'Statbel'. It contains data on the profile of HBM donors (living and deceased), the population of actual deceased donors and data on the expression of will, consent or opposition for HBM.

This annual report is drawn up for the period from 1 January to 31 December of the year ended (last year). It also includes data from the previous years in order to assess the evolution of said data. From this year on (and unlike previous editions), the title of the report will include the year in which the data was collected.

The data presented is a minimum which may be expanded or supplemented with any information deemed relevant as required.

### **1.1. Orgadon**

Orgadon is a web application linked to a database shared with the Federal Public Service of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, and the Federal Agency of Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP). It contains declarations of will, explicit consent or opposition, to the donation of organs or HBM. This application enables health professionals to find out their patients' declarations of will after their death.

There are four types of will relating to post-mortem donation.

- Organ donation for transplantation.
- HBM donation (skin, cartilage, tendons, heart valve, etc.) for:
  - o a human medical application (transplantation);
  - o the manufacture of medicines (advanced therapies);
  - o scientific research.

### **1.2. HBM establishments**

In application of [the Royal Decree of 28 September 2009](#) determining the general conditions that human body material establishments must meet in order to be accredited, the FAMHP received reports of the activities of HBM establishments annually with the aim of remaining transparent and collecting meaningful, usable statistics.

### **1.3. Statbel**

Statbel is the Belgian office of statistics that collects, produces and disseminates, with the help of administrative data sources and surveys, reliable and relevant figures on the Belgian economy, society and territory, while ensuring the protection of privacy and confidential data.

The statistical data from the 'Population' category, main theme 'Mortality, life expectancy and causes of death', sub-theme 'Mortality' has been used to provide input for the 'Population' section of this report.

All data from Orgadon, HBM establishments and Statbel is analysed and put into perspective to get a better picture of the situation of HBM donation in Belgium.



## 2. Statistics

### 2.1. Donor profile

Evolution in the number of actual living and deceased HBM donors

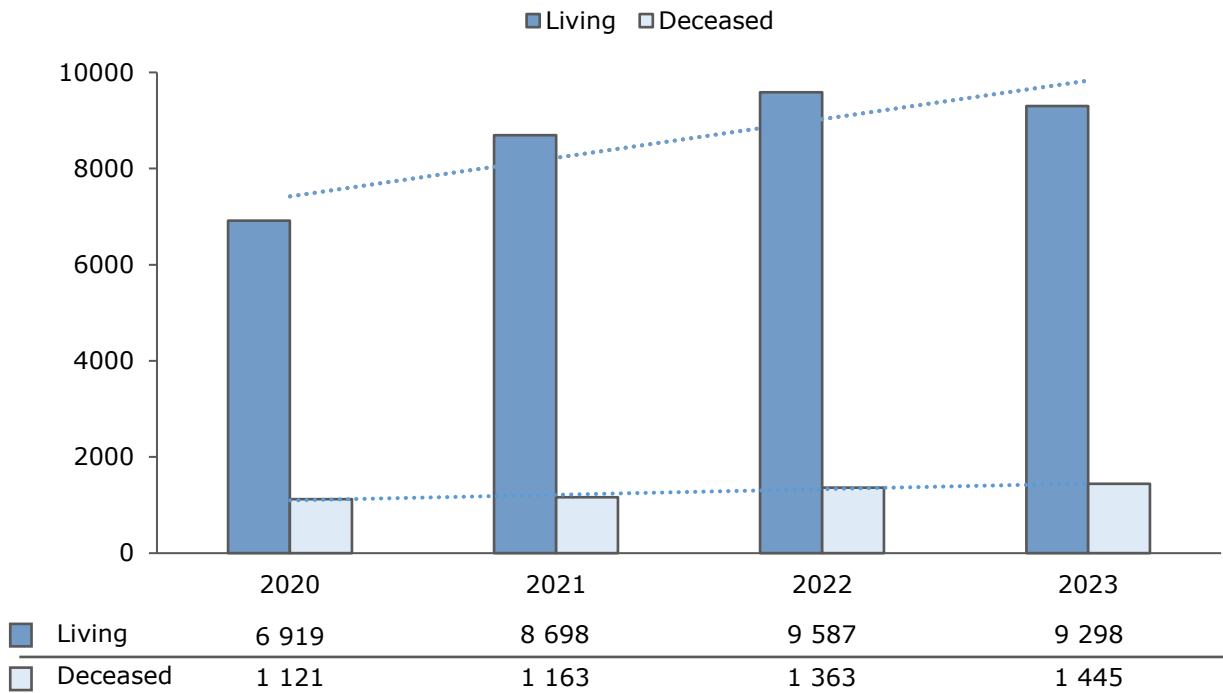


Figure 1: Evolution in the number of actual living and deceased HBM donors between 2020 and 2023.

Proportion of actual living and deceased HBM donors between 2020 and 2023

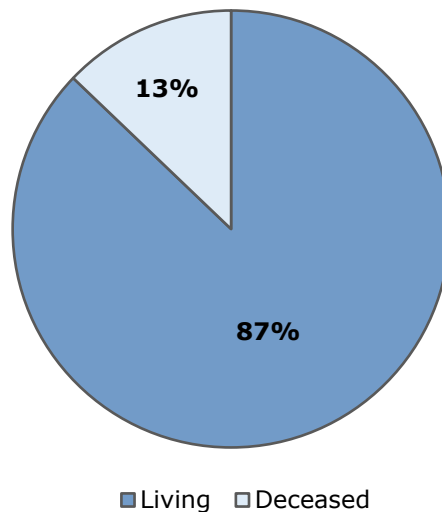


Figure 2: 2020–2023: living donors (n = 34,502; a = 8,626) and deceased donors (n = 5,092; a = 1,273).

Age of actual deceased HBM donors for human medical application

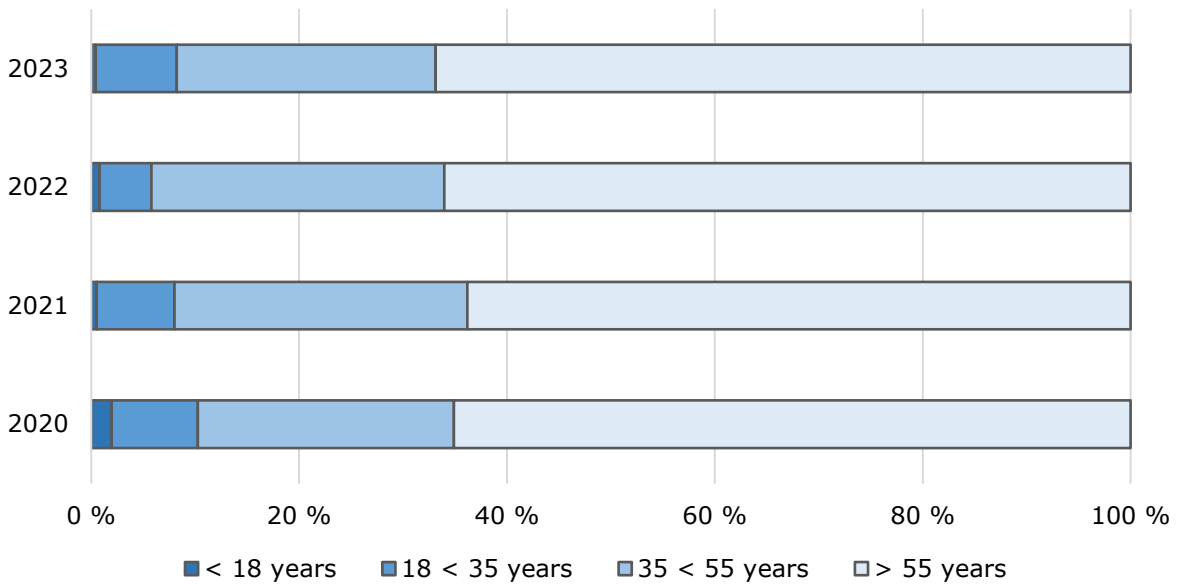


Figure 3: Age of actual deceased HBM donors for a human medical application between 2020 and 2023.

## 2.2. Population

Evolution in the number of deaths in Belgium by region between 2020 and 2023

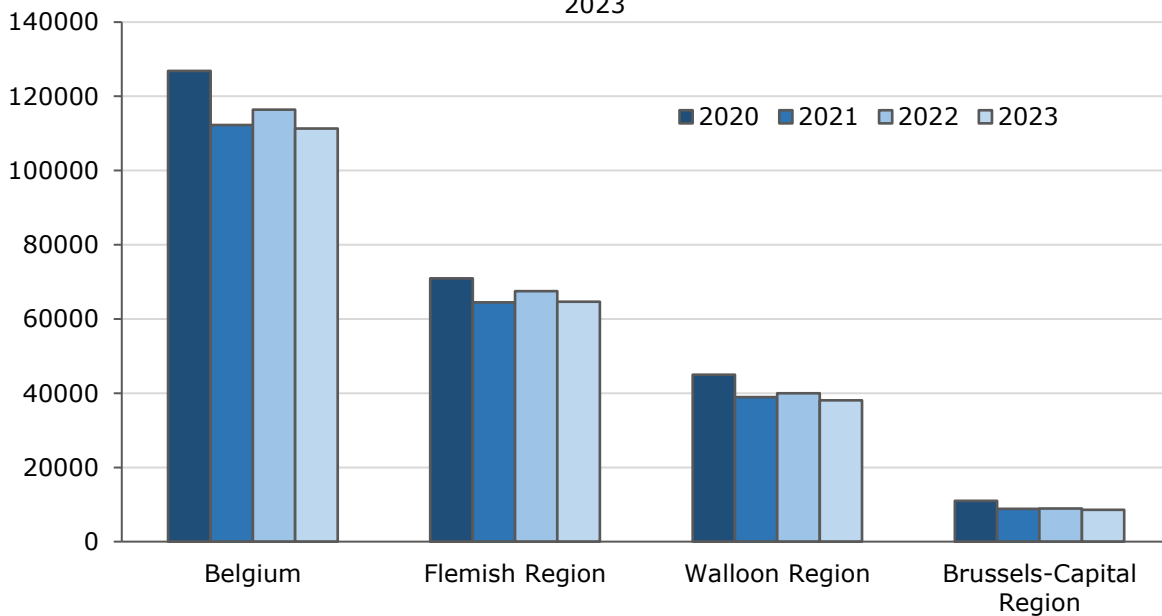


Figure 4: Evolution in the number of deaths in Belgium by region between 2020 and 2023.



Number of actual deceased HBM donors as a percentage of the total number of deceased persons in Belgium

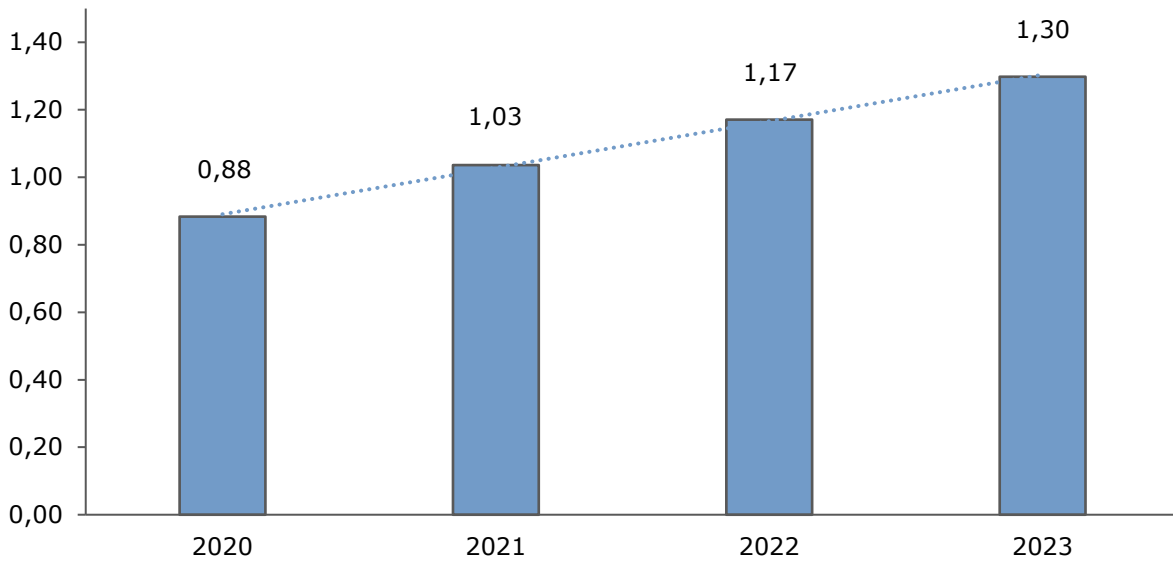


Figure 5: Number of actual deceased HBM donors as a percentage of the total number of deceased persons in Belgium between 2020 and 2023.

### 2.3. Donation for human medical application (transplantation)

HBM donation can be used for transplantation to another person whose state of health requires it. This can include a skin transplant for a person with severe burns, a cornea transplant for a person with visual impairment, a heart valve transplant for a person with heart problems, etc.

Evolution in the number of declarations of will for transplantation (HBM)

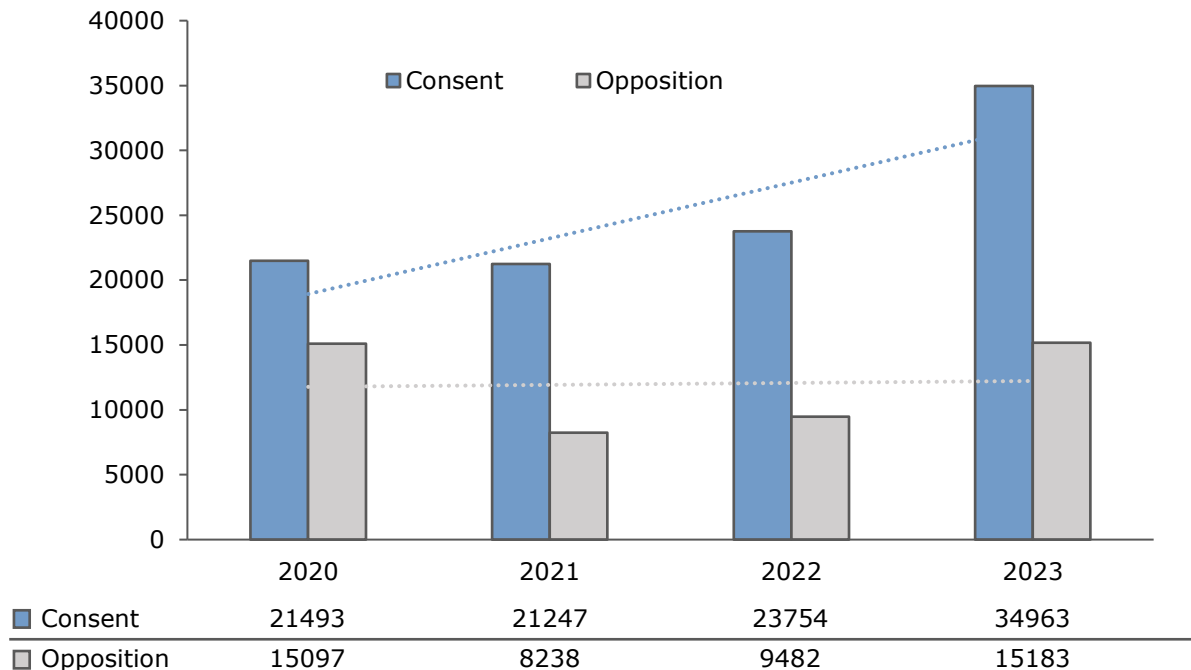


Figure 6: Evolution in the number of declarations of will for transplantation (HBM) between 2020 and 2023.

## 2.4. Donation for the manufacture of medicines (advanced therapies)

HBM donation can be used to manufacture new treatments or medicinal products to treat certain diseases such as Alzheimer's disease or certain cancers; this is what is called 'advanced therapies'.

Evolution in the number of declarations of will for developing advanced therapies (HBM)

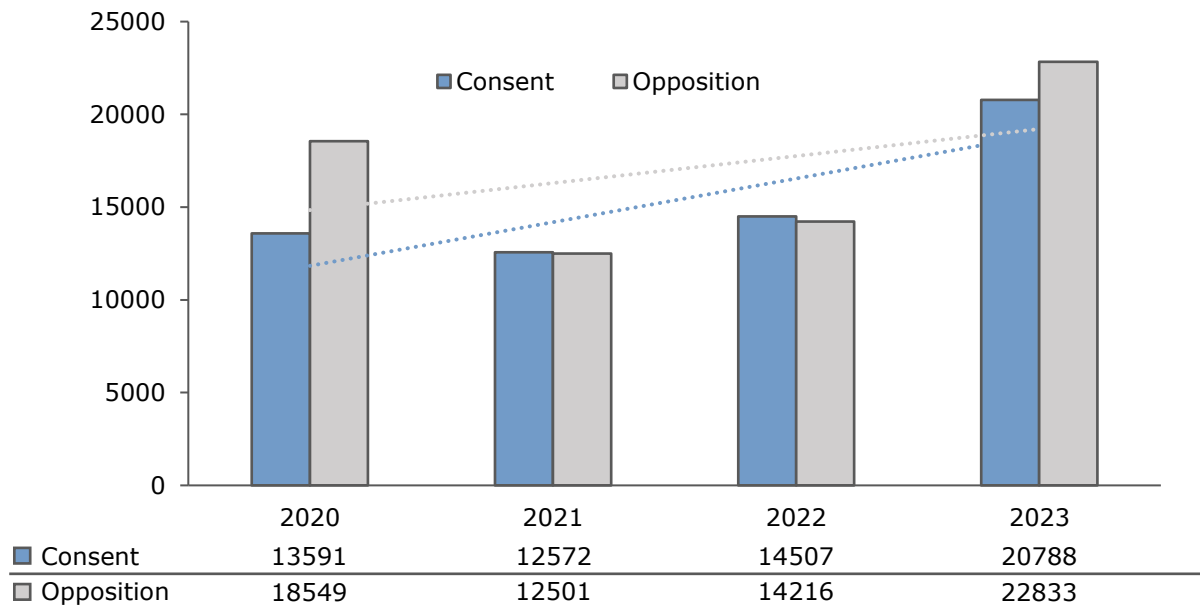


Figure 7: Evolution in the number of declarations of will for developing advanced therapies (HBM) between 2020 and 2023.

## 2.5. Donation for scientific research

HBM donation can be used to help advance research in the field of medicine. This will involve procuring a tumour, lymphatic ganglion or lobe of a diseased liver, for instance, that will be analysed by researchers to better identify the causes of a disease and look for new treatments.

Evolution in the number of declarations of will for scientific research (HBM)

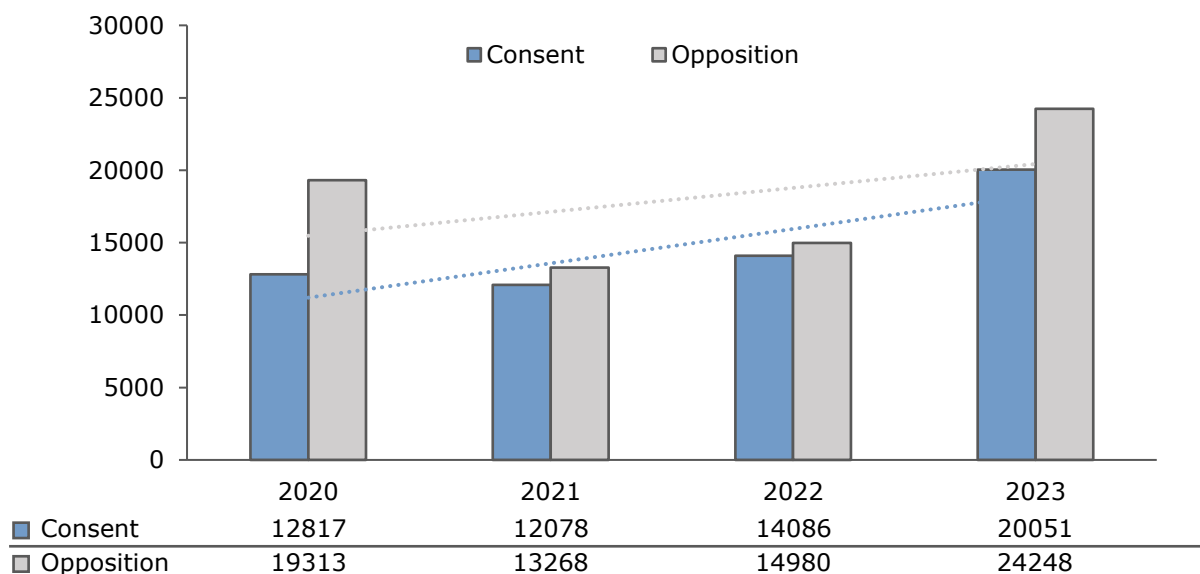


Figure 8: Evolution in the number of declarations of will for scientific research (HBM) between 2020 and 2023.



### 3. Conclusions

#### 3.1. Profile of HBM donors

For 2023:



- although the trends continue, there is a slight decrease in the number of living donors combined with stability or even a very slight increase in the number of deceased donors;
- over 8 out of 10 donors are living donors;
- over 6 out of 10 actual deceased donors are over 55;
- there has been a slight upwards trend in the number of actual deceased donors as a percentage of the number of deceased persons in Belgium.

#### 3.2. Orgadon

For 2023:



- major increase (> 40 % compared to 2022) in the number of declarations of explicit consent for transplantation, the manufacture of medicines and research. Transplantation is the type of donation where the increase is the highest, with over 60 % more consents than in 2020;
- in 2023 there is an increase in the number of declarations of opposition for transplantation, the manufacture of medicines and research compared to 2020.

#### 3.3. Useful links



- [Orgadon's official campaign 'En un clic, tout peut changer' \(In one click, everything can change\)](#)
- [Information from the FAMHP on HBM donation](#)
- [Information from the FPS Health on organ donation](#)
- [Declaration of will](#)
- [Statbel statistics on deaths in Belgium](#)

#### 3.4. Questions



- [mch-mlm@fagg-afmps.be](mailto:mch-mlm@fagg-afmps.be)

