

UAMS Transplant Annual Report

2024



UAMS Health



Small Town Feel, **Big Time Care**



The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is the home of Arkansas' only adult kidney, liver and pancreas transplant center, with transplants beginning in 1964 with the state's first kidney transplant. UAMS began its liver transplant program in 2005 and opened a simultaneous kidney pancreas program in 2023 to better serve Arkansans. The UAMS Organ Transplant team has performed more than 3,100 kidney transplants and more than 650 liver transplants. UAMS' wait times are among the shortest in the nation, ranking eighth (based on SRTR data released January 7, 2025), and patient outcomes consistently exceed national benchmarks.

UAMS' extensive expertise in organ transplantation means that Arkansans and

those from the surrounding region can stay close to home and receive the world-class care they need before, during and after an organ transplant. UAMS provides the best in patient education so that patients and their families can actively collaborate with the team in all stages of their care. Patients and families receive in-person education to learn about transplantation requirements, information about the surgery, transplant-specific medications and post-transplant lifestyle considerations.

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) has again ranked UAMS' kidney transplant programs among the Top 5 centers in the nation. Nationwide, there are 256 kidney transplant programs.

Multidisciplinary Organ Transplant Team

To ensure the most thorough and collaborative approach to care, UAMS uses a team of caring and compassionate staff that includes dedicated transplant surgeons, nephrologists (kidney specialists), hepatologists (liver specialists), nurse practitioners, and specially-trained support staff, including nurse coordinators, pharmacists, dieticians, financial coordinators and social workers.

Providers:

- Sushma Bhusal, M.D.
- Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D.
- Matthew Deneke, M.D.
- Michelle Estrada, M.D.
- Mauricio S. Garcia, M.D.
- Sumant Inamdar, M.D.
- Nasir Khan, M.D.
- Venkata Manchala, M.D.
- James Meek, D.O.
- John Montgomery, M.D.
- Tsukasa Nakamura, M.D., Ph.D.
- Raj Patel, M.D.
- Katie Rude, M.D.
- Ragesh Thandassery, M.D.



"Patients requiring transplant services, or those who are potential candidates, often face complex health challenges that standard hospitals are not equipped to manage effectively. At UAMS, from the moment these patients engage with our emergency department, wards, operating rooms or intensive care units, they benefit from the expertise of highly skilled care teams. These professionals are adept at managing the multifaceted health issues that transplant patients frequently encounter, ensuring comprehensive and superior care at every stage."

– Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D., Director of Solid Organ Transplants



Kidney Transplant Outcomes | 2024

Total Volume

Overall total number of Kidney Transplants (Through December 2024)	3,120
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Count of Count



Waitlist - Median Time to Transplant¹

UAMS



4.6 Months

REGION



25 Months

NATIONAL



29.3 Months

Median Length of Stay (Days)¹

UAMS



3 Days

REGION



4 Days

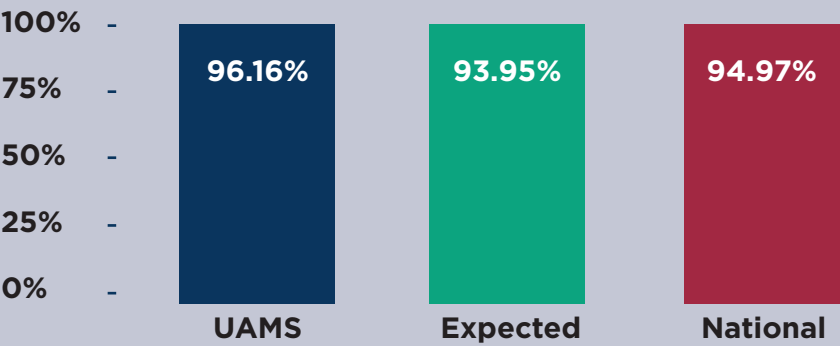
NATIONAL



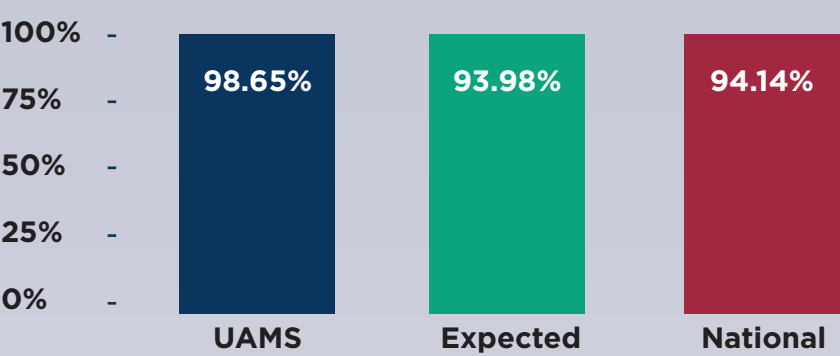
4 Days

Overview of Programs

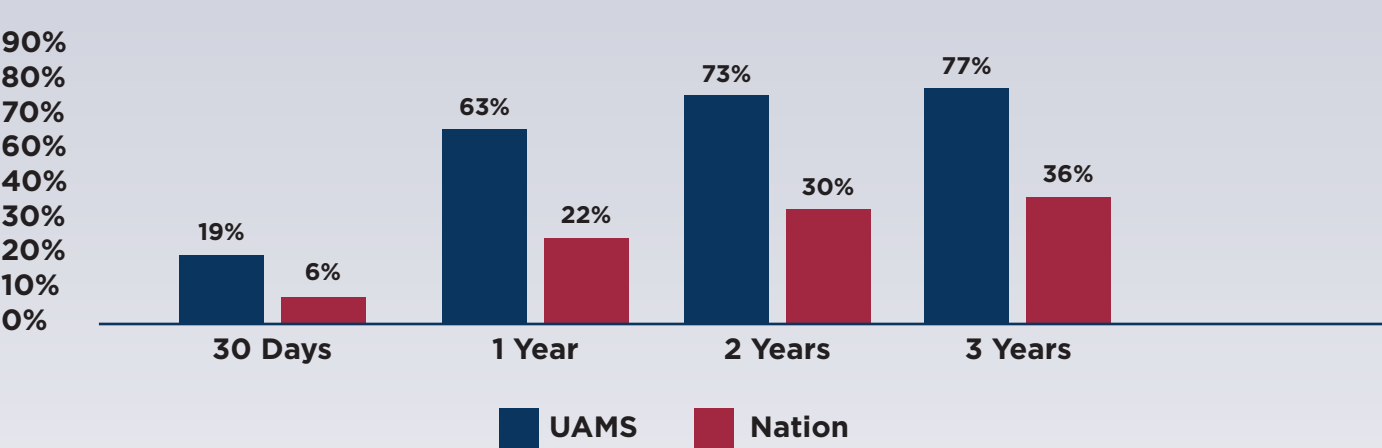
One-Year Graft Survival²



One-Year Patient Survival²



Percentage of Patients Transplanted at Intervals²



Footnotes

- 1. Transplants performed between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Based on UNOS benchmark report released January 2025.
- 2. Transplants performed between July 1, 2021, and December 31, 2023. Based on SRTTR data released on January 7, 2025.

Kidney-Paired Donation (KPD)



The UAMS Organ Transplant team is joining with the Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation to offer a Kidney-Paired Donation program.

The purpose of a kidney-paired donation program is to provide options to patients on the kidney transplant waiting list.

A kidney-paired donation is a transplant option for patients who have a willing living donor who is incompatible with them.

Reasons for incompatibility could be an incompatible blood type or tissue type.

A kidney-paired donation results when one donor (Donor #1) is willing to donate to a spouse, friend or relative (Recipient #1), but cannot. Kidney-paired donation programs seek to find another incompatible pair (Donor #2 and Recipient #2) who might wish to exchange donors.



**Raj B. Patel, M.D.,
Transplant Surgeon**

“

“The nurses and staff at UAMS transplant clinic are more like family than medical workers. They all know you by first and last name before you check in, they remember your situation with your family and personal events, they ask about them and they follow up! A lovely group of people.”

- Unidentified patient feedback

Program Innovation

UAMS Performs First Kidney-Pancreas Transplant in Arkansas Since 1990s

UAMS, which is the only hospital in the state performing adult liver and kidney transplants, now offers pancreas transplants. Raj Patel, M.D., surgical director of pancreas transplantation at UAMS, successfully completed the first combined kidney-pancreas transplant in Arkansas since the 1990s on Sept. 1, 2023.

Arkansans in need of pancreas transplants previously had to leave Arkansas to have the procedure and to receive follow-up care, with the closest transplant centers located in Memphis, Dallas or St. Louis. Now, UAMS surgeons perform the transplant on the main Little Rock campus and provide preliminary and follow-up care in Little Rock and at a growing network of satellite clinics in Fayetteville, Jonesboro, Texarkana, Pine Bluff, Fort Smith, El Dorado and Helena-West Helena.

“UAMS is dedicated to meeting the needs of our patients and communities,” said Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D., director of solid organ transplants. “Whenever patients have to leave the state for treatment, it creates a hardship for them and their families. We are grateful to be able to expand our services to include pancreas transplants.”



B-FIT Program Bariatric-Focused Intervention for Transplant

Too many patients in need of an organ transplant are told they don't qualify because of their weight. The UAMS Organ Transplant team is providing multidisciplinary and comprehensive care to overcome obesity as a barrier to transplant.

- Now accepting eligible patients with BMI 40-50.
- Must have a transplant referral and pass initial financial and medical screening for transplant.

Bariatric surgery makes transplants possible.

**Martha Estrada, M.D.,
Transplant Surgeon**

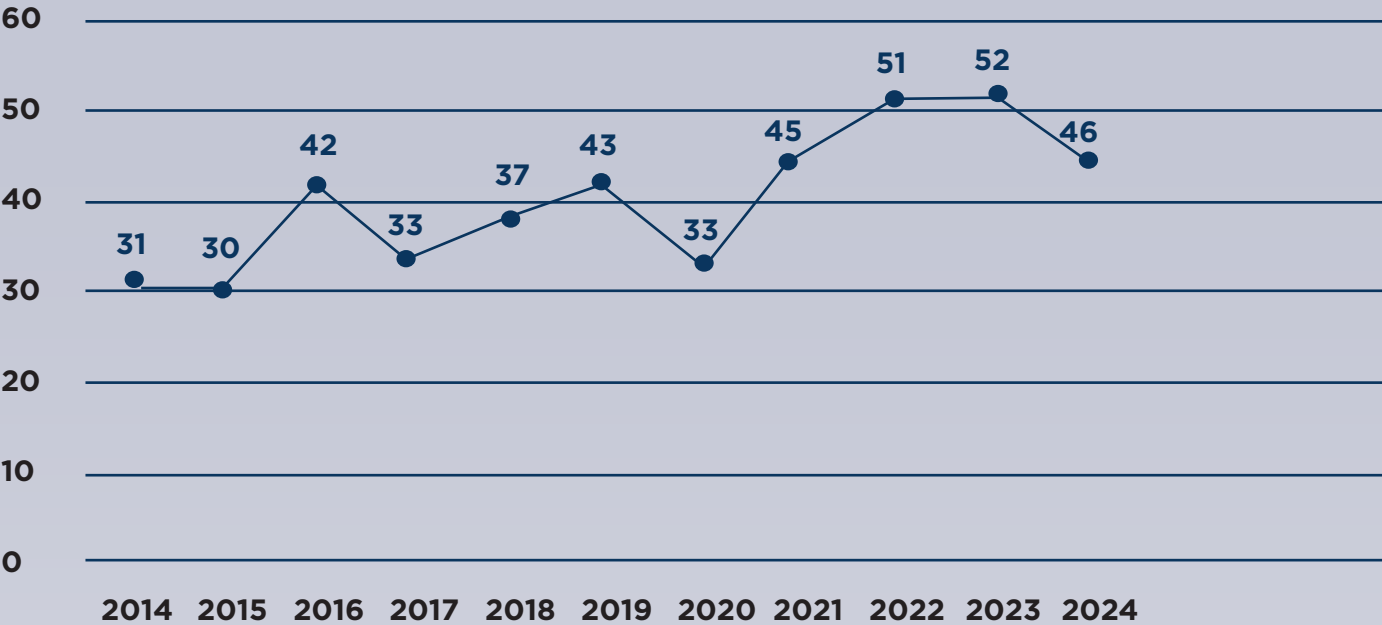


Liver Transplant Outcomes | 2024




Total Volume

Overall total number of Liver Transplants (Through December 2024)	666
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Volume over the Years

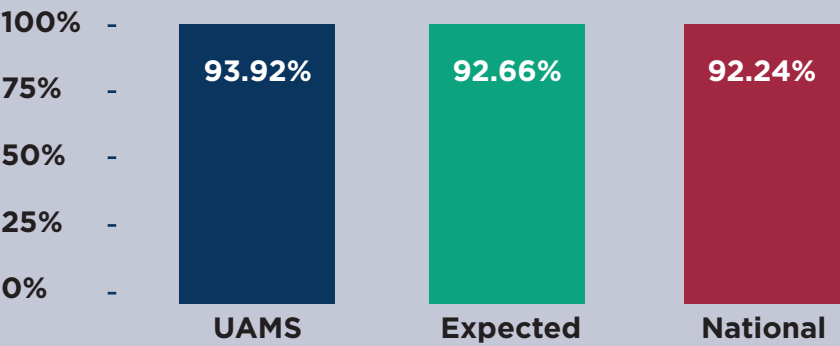


Median Length of Stay (Days)¹

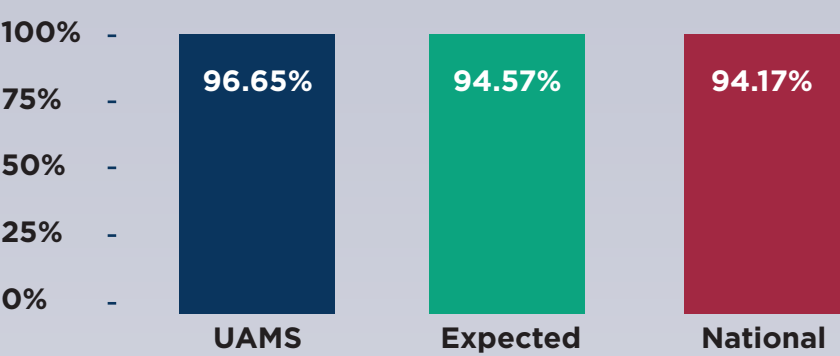
UAMS		8 Days
REGION		9 Days
NATIONAL		10 Days

Overview of Programs

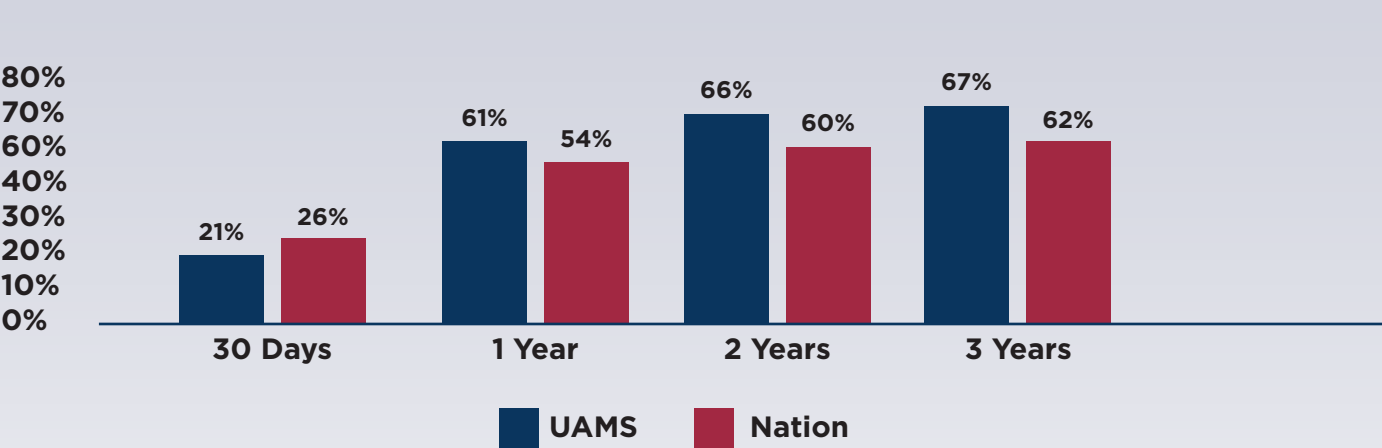
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UAMS Kidney/Pancreas Transplant Program

4301 W. Markham St.
Little Rock, AR, 72205

For all your patient's needs, please call:
Kidney/Pancreas: **501-686-6640**
Liver: **501-686-8962**

Scan Here



**For more information or to refer a patient,
call 501-686-8962 or visit UAMS.Health/LiverKidney**

Satellite Clinics

Fayetteville
1125 N. College Ave.

Helena-West Helena
1393 Highway 242 South

Fort Smith
1301 S. East St.

El Dorado
620 W. Grove St.

Jonesboro
311 E. Matthews Ave.

Texarkana
3417 U of A Way

Pine Bluff
1601 W. 40th Ave.



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“We want to have the whole state covered, to make it easy for our transplant patients to obtain necessary care without having to travel long distances.”

*-Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D.,
a board-certified transplant
surgeon and director of solid
organ transplants at UAMS*

Lifesaving Liver Transplant Surgery

Tim Yawn, M.D., a family physician in Rogers, was in good health until he became acutely ill in April 2022. He was diagnosed with liver failure later that month. On May 1, 2022, a team at UAMS, including surgeon Raj Patel, M.D., performed a lifesaving liver transplant. Yawn experienced the exceptional care of the UAMS physicians, nurses, medical personnel, hospital housekeeping and transplant clinic staff. He has now returned to working full-time in his practice, running more than 20 miles a week, and spending time with his family, including his four grandchildren.



“As a physician, I know the Great Physician is the one who ultimately heals all. He does so, in part, through the care and compassion of such outstanding medical teams as those at UAMS.”

– Dr. Tim Yawn, Rogers



4301 W. Markham St., #520-4
Little Rock, AR 72205

Save the Date

Inaugural UAMS Transplant Symposium

May 1 & 2, 2026

Little Rock, AR

