



National Donate Life Month – April 2023

Donation and Transplantation Statistics

- In 2022, more than **42,000** transplants from 21,300 donors brought renewed life to patients and their families and communities.
 - More than **100,000** people are waiting on the national transplant waiting list for lifesaving organ transplants.
 - **60%** of patients awaiting lifesaving transplants are minorities.
 - Another person is added to the national organ transplant waiting list **every 9 minutes**.
 - **17** people each day while waiting for a transplant. 6,388 transplant candidates died in 2021 while on the national transplant waiting list.
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- **85%** of patients on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is **3 to 5 years**. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list (the living donor's remaining kidney will increase in size, doing the work of two healthy kidneys).
 - **11%** of patients waiting are in need of a liver. **Living donation of part of the liver** can help these patients (the remaining portion of the donor liver will regenerate and regain full function).
 - More than **one-third** of all deceased donors are age **50 or older**; **7%** are age **65 or older**.
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- More than **2.5 million** lifesaving and healing tissue transplants are performed each year, offering patients a new chance at healthy, productive, and normal lives.
 - A single tissue donor can help more than **75** people.
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- More than **85,600** corneal transplants help to restore sight each year.
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- More than **170 million** people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.*

* *Living donation is not included in your deceased donor registration.*

Go to [SayYesGiveLife.org](https://www.sayyesgivelife.org) to register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. Learn more about organ, eye, and tissue donation at [MidAmericaTransplant.org](https://www.midamericatransplant.org).

Data sources:

Based on OPTN data as of March 17, 2023.

2021 Annual Data Report. Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients;

https://srr.transplant.hrsa.gov/annual_reports/Default.aspx Accessed March 2023.

Donate Life America 2022 Registry Overview Report as of March 17, 2023.

National Tissue Recovery through Utilization Survey (NTRUS), <https://www.aatb.org/news/ntrus-results-reveal-trends-tissue>; AATB.org.

2021 Eye Banking Statistical Report. Washington, DC: Eye Bank Association of America; 2022.



Donation & Transplantation FAQs

Who can be a donor?

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential organ, eye and tissue donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissues can be donated. Learn more about the lifesaving and healing organs and tissues that can be donated at [DonateLife.net/faqs](https://donatelife.net/faqs).

Does registering as a donor change my patient care?

Your life always comes first. Doctors work hard to save every patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity. Learn more about different religious views on organ donation at [DonateLife.net/organ-donation-and-religion](https://donatelife.net/organ-donation-and-religion).

Is there a cost to be an organ, eye and tissue donor?

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

Can someone who identifies as LGBTQ+ become an organ, eye or tissue donor?

Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression does not prevent someone from registering as an organ donor. Certain regulations mandated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may affect a person's eligibility for cornea and tissue donation.

Can someone who is living with HIV be an organ donor?

Passed in 2015, the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (HOPE) Act provides donation and transplantation opportunities for people living with HIV. As of November 2022, more than 350 lifesaving transplants have been made possible because of the HOPE Act and the generosity of donors and donor families.

Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether I will receive an organ if I ever need one?

No. A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the waiting list. Race, income, gender, orientation, celebrity and social status are never considered.

Why should I register my decision to be a donor?

The vast majority of Americans support donation as an opportunity to give life and health to others. Unfortunately, many people overlook the important step of registering their decision to be a donor. Donors often die suddenly and unexpectedly. Donation can provide solace to a family and relieve the burden of making the donation decision in a time of grief and shock.

You can save up to 8 lives through organ donation, restore sight to 2 people through cornea donation, and heal more than 75 people through tissue donation.* Your registration serves as a symbol of hope to patients waiting and sharing it with your family lets them know your decision.

**Living donation and VCA are not included in your deceased donor registration.*

I want to learn more about living donation. Where should I look?

Living organ donation offers another choice for some transplant candidates, reducing their time on the waiting list and leading to better long-term outcomes for the recipient. Living tissue donation – birth tissue – is used to promote healing and to treat burns and painful wounds. Learn more at [DonateLife.net/livingdonation](https://donatelife.net/livingdonation).

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