



Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation Facts

- One donor can help save the lives of nine patients through organ donation, provide sight for two people through cornea donation, restore the health of more than 150 through tissue donation, and help countless others through medical breakthroughs related to research donation.
- More than 106,000 men, women, and children are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants, according to the Organ Procurement Transplantation Network.
- An estimated 90% of Americans support organ donation, but only about half are registered to donate, according to the National Survey of Organ Donation Attitudes and Practices, a nationally funded representative survey.
- Another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list every 10 minutes, according to Donate Life America.
- In the United States, we saved more lives than ever in 2021 by topping 40,000 organ transplants – a first in our nation's history, according to the Organ Procurement Transplantation Network.
- There is a critical need for Black organ donors. Nationwide, almost 30% of those on the transplant waiting list are Black — but only about 13% of all donors are Black, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health. At least three Black patients die each day because they did not receive a transplant in time. While shared ethnicity is not a requirement for matching an organ, more diversity on the donor side helps. People with rare immune system markers are more likely to match someone from a similar ethnic background.
- HIV-positive men and women can donate organs to recipients with HIV, thanks to the 2012 HOPE Act.
- 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, geographic distance, tissue type, and time on the list. Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, race, income, celebrity, and social status are never considered.
- An estimated one in 20 Americans will need a tissue transplant during his or her lifetime.
- There is no age restriction on donation.
- All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.