NATIONAL MULTIETHNIC DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

Multicultural Communities in Donation and Transplantation

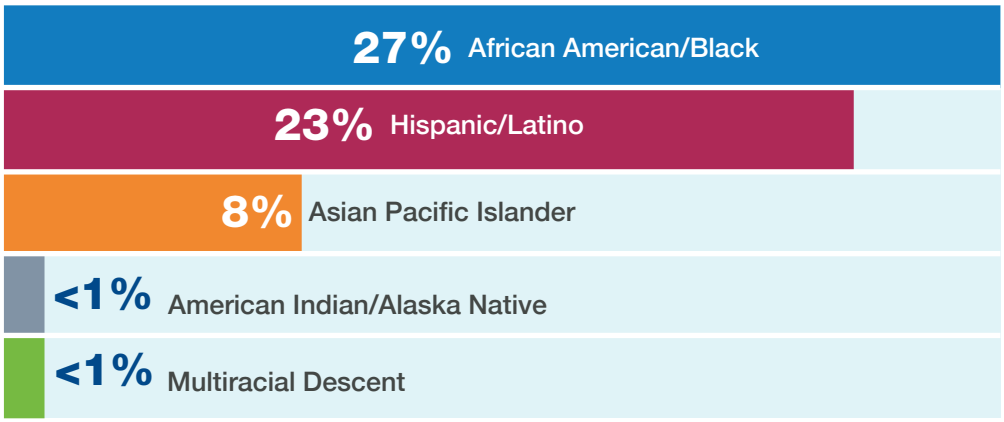
National Multiethnic Donor Awareness Month is a collaborative effort by national organizations to save and improve the quality of life of diverse communities by creating a positive culture for organ, eye and tissue donation.

100,000+

people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants.

60%

of people on the national transplant waiting list are from communities of color.



Did You Know?

Transplants can be successful regardless of the ethnicity of the donor and recipient. However, the chance of longer-term survival may be greater if the donor and recipient are closely matched in terms of their shared genetic background.

Top Frequently Asked Questions

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 permanent loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

It is important to know that the hospital care team does not know the patient's donor status. The hospital contacts the local organ procurement organization (OPO), which evaluates the individual's medical history and checks the donor registry. If the person is registered, the OPO will inform and support the family. If not, the family will be asked if they would like to authorize donation. For all organ, eye and tissue donation, the donor is treated with care and respect, and the donor family is supported throughout the donation process.

Does donation affect funeral plans?

Funeral arrangements of your choice are possible, including a viewing. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care and respect. Following donation, funeral arrangements can continue as planned.

Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

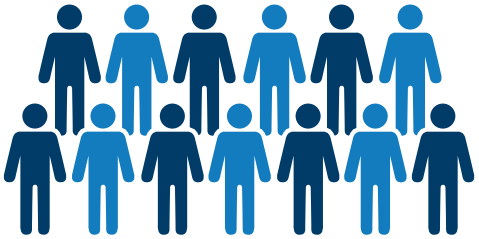
Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ if I ever need one?

No. A national system matches 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 list. Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

The Need is Great

Every **8** minutes another person is added to the waiting list.

13 people die each day while waiting for a transplant.



Deceased Donation

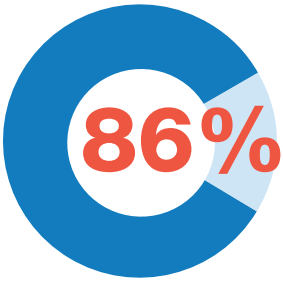
1 Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor

Saves up to **8** lives

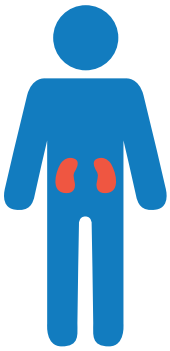
Restores sight to **2** people

Heals the lives of more than **75** people

Living Donation



of patients waiting are in need of a kidney.



Living donors can provide a kidney or a portion of their liver to a waiting patient.*

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

Did You Know?

The liver is the only organ that grows back! The donated part of the liver regrows in 4 months.

Learn more at DonateLife.net

Donate Life Living Donor Pathway

The goal of the new Donate Life Living Donor Pathway pilot is to establish a trusted national pathway for people who are interested in being a living kidney donor. The pathway offers an easy and secure route to information, connection to transplant programs, and mentor support along the way.

The Donate Life Living Donor Pathway will allow people aged 18-80 who register their decision to be a deceased donor through the National Donate Life Registry, to also have the opportunity to sign up as a potential living kidney donor. This pilot marks an important next step in growing a national donation community where everyone who wants to give the gift of life has the information and support they need.

What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in my community?

Register your decision to be a donor at RegisterMe.org.

Tell your family and friends about your decision to *Donate Life*SM.

Ask others to visit DonateLife.net to learn more and register.

Data from Donate Life America EOY 2025 Registry Overview Report, and Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN), as of January 2026. 2024 Eye Banking Statistical Report. Washington, DC: Eye Bank Association of America; 2024. OPTN/SRTR 2025 Annual Data Report. Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients. Donate Life℠ is a registered service mark of Donate Life America. © 2026 Donate Life America