



Organ and Tissue Donation Facts

- **Critical public health issue**
 - Nationally, there are more than **100,000** people waiting for an organ transplant.
 - **17** people die each day waiting for an organ transplant.
 - Every **10** minutes, another person's name is added to the list.
 - There are about **5,000** men, women and children in our region awaiting a life-saving organ transplant.
- **Power of Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation**
 - Just 1 organ donor can save up to **8** lives and a tissue donor can improve the lives of more than 100 others.
 - One organ donor can donate their kidneys, pancreas, liver, lungs, heart and intestines.
 - Tissue donation includes bone donations to repair fractures and prevent amputations, skin donations to heal burn patients, and heart valve donations to repair life-threatening defects. Tissue donors can also donate their corneas, which can give the gift of sight to two recipients.
- **Gift of Life Donor Program**
 - Gift of Life Donor Program serves **11.3** million people across the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.
 - Since 1974, Gift of Life has coordinated more than **58,000** organ transplants and more than two million tissue transplants.
 - Its annual donate rate, most recently 61 organ donors-per-million population, ranks among the highest in the world.
 - Working in partnership with the **126** acute care hospitals and **12** transplant centers.
 - For the 15th consecutive year, Gift of Life led the nation in the most organ donors among all U.S. OPOs in 2022.
 - **Most organ donors** – coordinated life-saving gifts from 690 organ donors in 2022, and the most in the U.S. every year since 2008.
 - **Most organs transplanted** – those donations resulted in 1,744 transplants, the most in the U.S. in 2022.
 - **Most kidneys transplanted in U.S. history** – coordinated 1,017 kidneys for transplant aligning with CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) initiatives to improve kidney utilization and access. Kidneys are the organ needed by the majority of patients on the national waitlist.
 - **Largest contributor to U.S. one millionth transplant milestone**: Gift of Life's community contributed the most organs for transplant of any region in the nation to this historic milestone.
- **Organ Donation**
 - Registering as an organ and tissue donor is a heroic and selfless decision. It saves and transforms lives, impacting not only the individual in need of a transplant, but their loved ones as well.
 - More than half of Americans on the waitlist are people of color.

- All major religions support organ donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.
 - More than 400,000 Americans in every corner of our country are alive today thanks to the tremendous generosity and courage of organ donors. *(Source: White House NDLM Proclamation 03/31/2023)*
 - With ongoing advancements in transplantation, the overall need for organ donation grows, as does the need for more registrants.
 - Typically, organ donors are hospital patients who have been declared dead after they have suffered complete and irreversible loss of all brain function. Mechanical ventilation and medications are utilized to continue blood flow to the organs, so they are able to be transplanted. In the United States, less than two percent of all deaths occur in a way that allow organ donation to be possible. That is why it is critical that everyone who can register does, regardless of age or health. At the time of death, medical tests are conducted to determine suitability for transplant.
 - Although most organ donations take place after a donor has died, some organs can be donated from living donors. With the transplant waiting list increasing, living organ donation is another way to save lives. Living donors may be able to donate a kidney, a segment of their liver, a lobe of their lung, and portions of their intestine and pancreas.
- **Register to be an Organ and Tissue Donor**
 - **95%** of people surveyed in the U.S. support organ donation, yet in many states, including PA, the organ donor registration rate is below **50%**.
 - It takes less than a minute to register.
 - Gift of Life encourages everyone to discuss organ donation with loved ones to make their personal preferences known.