



The Facts on Organ and Tissue Donation Among African Americans in Pennsylvania

While it is important for everyone to sign up to become an organ and tissue donor, Black History Month and National Donor Day on February 14th represent key opportunities to educate the African-American community about the importance of becoming designated as organ and tissue donors

The course of history can be changed by increasing the number of people who register as donors each year. In fact, one organ and tissue donor can give more than 50 people a second chance at life!

(Key facts from <http://www.optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/latest> data)

- African Americans make up 11 percent of Pennsylvania's overall population, but represent nearly 32 percent of Pennsylvanians waiting for organ donor transplants.
- Of the more than 2,690 African Americans waiting for transplants in Pennsylvania, nearly 90.6 percent are waiting for kidney transplants.
- African Americans represent 17 percent of transplants performed in Pennsylvania from Jan. 1, 1988 through Sept. 30, 2010.
- Out of the 2,696 African Americans waiting for transplants, 44.6 percent are between the ages of 50 and 64, and 28.4 percent are between the ages of 35 and 49.

How long is the wait for African Americans?

- Sixty-six percent of African Americans in Pennsylvania waiting for an organ transplant have been on the waiting list for more than one year; Nearly eight percent have been waiting for five years or more years.
- African Americans represent 52.7 percent of all Pennsylvanians waiting more than five years for a kidney transplant.

Who's donating?

In Pennsylvania, African Americans represent 11.9 percent of deceased donors and 11.6 percent of living donors from Jan. 1, 1988 through Sept. 30, 2010.

Pennsylvania State Transplant Waiting List Report

	All Ethnicities	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Pacific Islander	Multi-racial
All Time	8,173	4,631	2,696	500	299	15	4	34
< 30 Days	318	192	95	17	13	0	0	1
30 to < 90 Days	614	356	176	50	30	2	0	1
90 Days to < 6 Months	816	492	227	50	44	2	0	2
6 Months to < 1 Year	1,339	747	451	100	36	2	1	2
1 Year to < 2 Years	2,006	1,176	632	117	71	4	2	6
2 Years to < 3 Years	1,349	744	467	74	54	2	1	8
3 Years to < 5 Years	1,214	614	474	72	41	3	0	10
5 or More Years	615	367	207	25	12	0	0	4

Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction.
According to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) as of 12/10/10.
For updated information, go to <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>

In Pennsylvania

- Between September 2009 and September 2010, 1,301,811 Pennsylvanians said “yes” to organ and tissue donation and added the designation to their driver’s license.
- The organ transplant waiting list in Pennsylvania includes more than 8,170 people. Still thousands of others wait for a tissue transplant that will greatly enhance the quality of their lives.
 - More than 6,500 people await transplants in the Gift of Life Donor Program service region, which includes the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.
 - At the five CORE-affiliated organ transplant hospitals, serving counties in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and a portion of New York, approximately 2,000 people are awaiting organ transplantation.
- Pennsylvanians can register as organ donors online anytime at www.donatelife-pa.org or they can sign up as an organ donor when receiving or renewing their driver’s license at any one of Pennsylvania’s driver license and photo centers.

One Donor...

- Can donate kidneys to free two people from the dialysis treatments needed to sustain life.
- Can save the lives of patients awaiting heart, liver, lung or pancreas transplants.

- Can give sight to two people through the donation of corneas.
- Can donate bone to help repair injured joints or to help save an arm or leg threatened by cancer or other illness.
- Can help burn victims heal more quickly through the donation of skin, and provide healthy heart valves for someone whose life is threatened by malfunctioning or diseased valves.
- Can give more than 50 people a second chance at life!