



2009 Living Donation Fact Sheet

The American Transplant Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that works to increase the donation of organs and tissue to reduce the growing list of men, women and children who are awaiting a lifesaving transplant.

Living Donation

Individuals can donate one kidney or part of their liver to someone in need of a lifesaving transplant. Those interested in donating an organ will be required to undergo a series of medical and psychological tests in order to be deemed eligible. Though living donation rates had steadily increased since 1988, they have decreased slightly in recent years after peaking at 7,004 in 2004. Deceased donation rates have remained relatively steady at approximately 8,000 donors per year, comprising an average of 2.75 organs recovered per donor.

Living Donation Facts by Ethnicity

Since data collection began 21 years ago, there have been 100,247 recorded living donors (January 1, 1988 to June 30, 2009). Of those, 71.1 percent were white, 12.6 percent were black, 12 percent were Hispanic, 2.5 percent were Asian and 0.6 percent Native American. All kidney donations, whether living or deceased, are statistically more successful when matched with someone from the same ethnic background. However, many minority populations experience a high rate of diabetes and hypertension, resulting in an even greater shortage of available organs within those communities.

Of those individuals waiting for a transplant nationally, 46.1 percent are White, 29 percent are Black, 16.9 percent are Hispanic, 6.1 percent Asian, and 0.9 percent are Native American. These candidates are waiting for either a living or a deceased donation. By comparison to US Census Data, the total general U.S. population is represented as 77 percent White, 13.2 percent Black, 15.4 percent Hispanic, 5.0 percent Asian, and 1.6 percent Native American.

	U.S. Population	National Transplant Waiting List	National Living Donations	National Deceased Donations
White	77.0%	46.1%	71.1%	73.8%
Black	13.2%	29.0%	12.6%	12.6%
Hispanic	15.4%	16.9%	12.0%	10.8%
Asian	5.0%	6.1%	2.5%	1.8%
Native American	1.6%	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%

Statistics provided by the United Network for Organ Sharing, the US Census Bureau 2008 ACS, and the Eye Bank Association of America.

Fast Facts about Organ Donation

- Approximately 104,000 people are currently waiting for lifesaving organ transplants nationally.
- One person can save up to eight lives through organ donation and can save or enhance more than 100 lives through the lifesaving and healing gift of tissue donation.
- One person is added to the national transplant waiting list every 12 minutes.
- On average, 18 people die each day from the lack of available organs for transplant (~6,500 annually).

To learn more about living donation, please visit www.AmericanTransplantFoundation.org.

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