

LEARNING CAN BE LIFE SAVING

A lesson in organ, eye and tissue donation



SEE WHAT'S INSIDE

Created to assist Ohio educators, this resource makes it easy to teach teens about organ, eye and tissue donation. Covering everything from decision making to donation details, this guide and accompanying presentation are meant to enhance classroom learning and help students feel prepared to make an informed decision.

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- Discussion topics about organ, eye and tissue donation
- Facts, statistics and frequently asked questions
- In-class activities, handouts and quiz
- Donate Life Ohio classroom poster
- PowerPoint presentation to accompany the lesson
- DVD lesson substitute about donation

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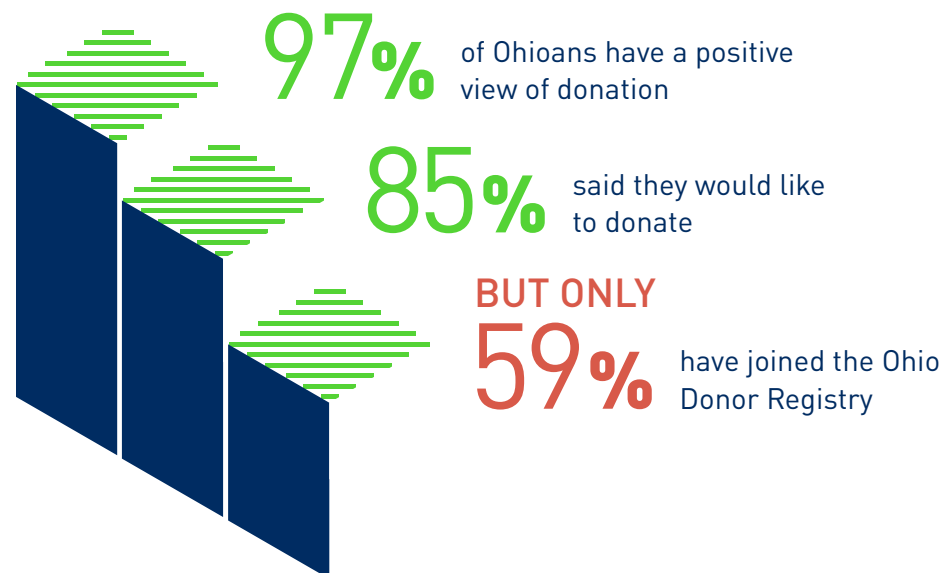


INTRODUCING DONATE LIFE OHIO

Donate Life Ohio consists of organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies around the state, dedicated to educating Ohioans on the importance of donation and encouraging them to become registered donors. The Second Chance Trust Fund, which raises awareness about donation, helped establish the Ohio Donor Registry to encourage the effort.

The Second Chance Trust Fund was founded in 1997 and is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Health. Rather than using tax dollars for the fund, optional \$1 contributions collected at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles support statewide education materials and media, and offer hope to the thousands of Ohioans awaiting donation.

DID YOU KNOW:



✓ **TO DISCUSS:** Ask students why they think there's such a large gap in registration.



REQUIRED READING

ORC Section 3313.60(A)(5)(g) requires public school districts to include in their health curricula: The process of making an anatomical gift under Chapter 2108 of the Revised Code, with an emphasis on the life-saving and life-enhancing effects of organ, eye and tissue donation.

THE LESSON PLAN

Developed by educators, for educators, this guide is intended to help instructors talk to their students about organ, eye and tissue donation.

Experts from Donate Life Ohio are also available to instruct classes statewide.

SUBJECT AREAS

To educate students on the importance of donation, this lesson is fit for health and wellness, science, health careers and other courses. It also applies to driver's education to prepare teens to make an informed decision about registering at the BMV.

GRADE LEVEL

Grades 8-12, ages 13-18

TIME

One full class period of 45-90 minutes

OVERVIEW

Using a multimedia presentation provided by Donate Life Ohio, instructors will introduce students to the concept of organ, eye and tissue donation and generate inquiries. Education will demonstrate facts and statistics, as well as explain decision-making, registration and donation.

OBJECTIVE

Students will understand the importance of becoming a registered donor, prepare to make an informed decision and share their decision with their families. During the lesson, students will demonstrate active listening, note taking and questioning skills.

PREPARATION

1. Download the appropriate PowerPoint presentation from DonateLifeOhio.org
2. Print and review the associated presentation script and materials
3. Photocopy student handouts, worksheets and activities from the lesson booklet
4. (Optional) One week prior to the lesson, request free educational brochures from DonateLifeOhio.org

TERMINOLOGY

Certain terms can be confusing or insensitive and carry negative connotations. When talking to students about organ, eye and tissue donation, consider your word choices carefully.

Always Say:

Recover or procure
Deceased donor
Ventilator

Avoid Saying:

Harvest
Cadaver
Life support

Example: "A deceased donor remains on a ventilator to maintain organ function until recovery can take place."



LESSON

1. Read through the lesson and class discussions.
2. Open the PowerPoint—the presentation contains references to information in this guide, making it easy to follow along.
3. Walk through the lesson, noting what is recommended “TO DO” and “TO DISCUSS” in each section. Encourage students to ask questions as they arise.
4. Distribute handouts for in-class participation or for students to take home and discuss with their families. (Consider extra credit for having parents/guardians sign the assignment as evidence that students discussed donation with them.)
5. Choose from the suggested class activities or create your own to demonstrate the facts and statistics from the lesson and get students to visualize the impact of donation.

ADAPTATION

If the lesson generates challenging or time-consuming questions, encourage students to explore online resources independently and share what they learn with the class.

ASSESSMENT

Students’ understanding of the lesson can be evaluated by questions generated, discussions and responses throughout the lesson, as well as the completion of worksheets and activities.



The provided DVD could be played as a substitute for the lesson. Even if you opt to show the video, consider pulling discussion topics, handouts and activities from this guide to get students thinking about donation.





A DONATION LESSON

Organ, eye and tissue donors offer recipients a second chance at life, but the need for donations is much greater than the number available—and every day more people are added to the waiting list.

THE NEED FOR ORGAN DONORS



20 PEOPLE

nationwide die every day waiting for an organ



118,000 PEOPLE

nationwide are waiting for a transplant



1 OHIOAN DIES

every 48 hours in need of a transplant



MORE THAN 3,000

Ohioans need a life-saving transplant

THE BENEFITS OF DONATION

- There were more than 33,000 organ transplants in 2016
- One organ donor can save up to eight lives
- One tissue donor can heal more than 50 lives
- Every year over 2,000 Ohioans have eyesight restored through cornea transplant

✓ **TO DO:** Talk about the importance of organ donation, asking students to identify various organs and talk about why someone would need a transplant.

✓ **TO DISCUSS:** Ask students what they think about donation. Ask again at the end of the lesson to see if facts change impressions.

DID YOU KNOW:

All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation.

One of the biggest myths is that donation is against some religions. In fact, most religions even regard it as a final act of love and generosity.

Wealthy and famous people have to wait, just like everyone else.

The misperception that celebrities receive transplants more often is just a result of how much more attention is paid to their lives, as opposed to the public.

Anyone, at any age, can be considered for organ donation.

There are no age limits. Parents or guardians must authorize donation for those under 18, but the oldest donor to date was 92 when her liver was donated.

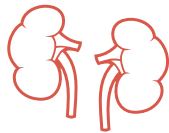
ORGAN DONATION

There are various organs on the list, for a variety of transplant needs. Today, more than 118,000 Americans and 3,000 Ohioans are awaiting one of these life-saving organs.



HEART

As the hardest working muscle, the heart is responsible for pumping blood throughout the body. Leading causes for transplant: Heart failure, heart disease and cardiomyopathy.



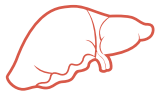
KIDNEY

Kidneys filter waste and excess water from the blood to balance the overall fluid in the body. Leading causes for transplant: Cystic kidney disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.



LUNGS

Air is carried to the lungs where small air sacs extract oxygen and exchange it for carbon dioxide. Leading causes for transplant: Cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension and emphysema.



LIVER

The liver breaks down harmful substances in the blood, aids in digestion and stores vitamins, sugars and fats. Leading causes for transplant: Liver disease, cirrhosis and hepatitis.



PANCREAS

The pancreas makes insulin, which helps the body use sugar for energy and produces enzymes that break down fat, protein and carbohydrates. Leading causes for transplant: Type 1 diabetes and pancreas failure.



SMALL INTESTINE

The small intestine digests food and absorbs nutrients back into the bloodstream. Leading causes for transplant: Twisted or blocked intestines, most commonly in babies.



TO DISCUSS: Diffuse the myth that “alcoholism” is the reason for liver transplants.

- Leading causes for needing a liver transplant are non-fatty liver disease (cirrhosis, which develops due to poor diet and lack of exercise) and hepatitis.
- Just because someone needs a transplant doesn't mean they're automatically placed on the waiting list. Alcoholics in need of a new liver must demonstrate sobriety for at least six months before they can even be considered.

CORNEA DONATION

Cornea transplant is the most common of all transplants performed, exceeding 46,000 per year in the United States. Thanks to advances in pharmacology, medical instruments and surgical techniques, cornea transplants exceed a 95% success rate.



CORNEA

The cornea protects the eye from dust and germs, and is responsible for focusing. Leading causes for transplant: Hereditary, glaucoma, injury including burns and abrasions, disease and infection.



ONE OHIOAN'S STORY

DEANNA HARTMAN

When she was only 16, Deanna was left legally blind in one eye because a shingles condition spread to her cornea. A transplant restored her eyesight, giving her hope and making her forever grateful to her heroic donor.



A CLOSER LOOK

Did you know cornea transplant has nothing to do with eye color? The cornea is clear, and made up of five microscopically thin layers at the front of the eye. Eye color comes from your iris.

TISSUE DONATION

Bone, cartilage, fascia, heart valves, ligaments, pericardium, skin, tendons and veins are all included with tissue donation. These donations are used for many reasons to save and enrich recipients' lives.

- Burn victims: Paper-thin skin is unobtrusively taken from a donor's back and used as a biological bandage, preventing infection and allowing the recipient to heal until their own skin can grow back.
- Cancer patients: Bone tumors, which would have required amputation in the past, are now replaceable due to donated bone. Bone can also be used in spinal surgeries, hip replacements and dental surgery.
- Babies: Donated heart valves are often used to save the lives of babies born with defects and heart conditions.
- Athletes: Donated ligaments and tendons often help restore mobility for athletes with irreversible injury.



ONE OHIOAN'S STORY

CHAMODA KENNEDY-PALMORE

Chamoda was a University of Cincinnati football player who was killed in a motorcycle accident on his way to practice. He was a registered donor who had talked to his parents about his decision, and his tragic death fulfilled his final wish to heal lives through tissue donation.

LIVING DONATION

Living donors can provide many types of organs, including the kidney and segments of the liver, lung and pancreas without reduced function to their own bodies.

Separate from the Ohio Donor Registry, living donation is not included when you register to become an organ, eye and tissue donor online or at the BMV. Once an individual decides to be a living donor, he or she must qualify through Ohio's transplant programs to be considered.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Anyone could be a potential donor and everyone should consider registering, at any age. It's important because less than 1% of the population ends up being eligible to donate based on the circumstances that must be met.

✓ **TO DO:** Talk to students about the process of becoming a donor and donating organs.

✓ **TO DISCUSS:** Before revealing the number of people eligible to donate, ask students what percent of people they think end up being organ donors.

WHEN CAN ORGANS BE DONATED?

To be eligible for organ donation, a person must be declared brain dead with no brain activity, and kept on a ventilator. Patients with partial brain injury and coma patients are still alive and receiving blood to the brain, meaning they are not candidates for donation.

UNDERSTANDING BRAIN DEATH

Brain death is permanent. It's the irreversible loss of the brain and brain stem, where all brain tissue is dead and no blood flow or electrical activity is present.

CAUSES INCLUDE:

- Severe trauma: For example, a serious head injury caused by a motor vehicle accident.
- Cerebrovascular injury: Massive bleeding caused by a stroke or ruptured aneurysm.
- Anoxia: Loss of oxygen to the brain caused by drowning, heart attack or drug overdose.
- Brain tumor: Uncontrollable growth resulting in permanent loss of blood flow and oxygen to the brain.

HOW DONATION WORKS

Organ procurement takes place like any other surgery—in a sterile operating room with careful, experienced surgeons. After the surgery, recovery professionals perform routine reconstruction and preservation so donation is undetectable for funeral proceedings.

BY DONATION ONLY

Buying and selling organs is a federal crime. Among practical and ethical reasons, buying and selling organs would lead to inequitable access and some would have an unfair advantage based on wealth.

FACT OR FICTION

DONOR FAMILIES DON'T PAY HOSPITALS FOR ORGAN DONATION SURGERY.



FACT

Organ and tissue recovery agencies assume expenses—donor families are never responsible for medical costs associated with donation.

ORGAN DONATION DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH THE DONOR'S FUNERAL.



FACT

Donation does not prohibit any part of the standard funeral process, including the ability to have an open-casket funeral.

DOCTORS WON'T TRY AS HARD TO SAVE PATIENTS WHO ARE REGISTERED DONORS.



FICTION

Doctors have no influence on donation, and would lose their medical license if they didn't make every attempt to save a patient's life.



DID YOU KNOW?

Your attending doctors are not involved in the donation process—they don't know (or care) if you're a registered donor while they're trying to save your life.

V

WAITING FOR A LIFE-SAVING DONATION

Being placed on the transplant waiting list doesn't mean an automatic transplant. Thousands of patients in need of transplants are often forced to wait for days, months, even years without knowing if and when they'll receive what they need.

- ✓ **TO DO:** Talk about the wait for transplants based on the demand and need for donors.
- ✓ **TO DISCUSS:** Ask students to write a single word on the board that describes how they would feel waiting, wondering, and hoping for a transplant (scared, anxious, etc.).



EVERY 10 MINUTES

ANOTHER NAME IS ADDED TO THE NATIONAL TRANSPLANT LIST.

WORTH THE WAIT

With so few organs available, before someone is added to the list, professionals have to determine if that patient is emotionally, physically and financially stable enough to take care of the new organ for the rest of his or her life.

WAIT LIST FACTORS

- Patient's health/ medical urgency
- Medical and social history
- Blood type and size of the organ needed
- Distance between donor and recipient
- Immune system matching United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) details

FACTORS NOT CONSIDERED

- Income or wealth
- Fame and status
- Age
- Race
- Sex
- Religion

FINDING A MATCH

People waiting for transplants are on the national list for potential transplants and listed at their transplant center. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) maintains the list and aids in finding compatible matches 24-hours a day, every day.



ONE OHIOAN'S STORY

RYAN ZINN

At the age of 14, Ryan's heart started to fail and his life changed forever. He was only a sophomore in high school when he was told he had six months to live. Because of his donor, Ryan was only on the transplant list for 17 days before he received the generous gift of life.



DO MOVIES AND TV SHOW ORGAN DONATION ACCURATELY?

The entertainment industry creates false situations, dramatizes scenarios and oversimplifies the process, which leads to more misconceptions about waiting and donating.

MAKING THE DECISION

Become a donor by joining the Ohio Donor Registry and confirming that you wish to donate your organs, eyes and tissue to save lives and restore vision and mobility for someone in need. Register at the BMV or fill out the online form at DonateLifeOhio.org.

✓ **TO DO:** Set expectations of being asked about organ donation, talking to loved ones about donation and understanding your rights.

✓ **TO DISCUSS:** Ask how many students already have a driver's permit, license, or ID—and how many registered, if they wish to share.



DO YOU WISH TO REGISTER AS AN ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONOR?

The BMV asks everyone getting a permit, license or ID. Ohio owns the registry, and poses this question through the BMV because every Ohioan visits every four years.

NEW STATE, NEW REGISTRY

You should register in the state you live in because every state has its own registry. If the worst ever happened and you were registered in a different state, a Recovery Coordinator would have to try to contact that state about your donation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Being a registered donor informs your loved ones that you would have wanted to save lives through donation. But teens should discuss their decision with their parents—who can legally overturn the decision if they are 15 ½ - 17 years of age.



- Ask your parents why they are or aren't registered
- Share some of the myths about organ donation
- Talk about your life saving someone else's life

CLASS WORKSHEETS

Photocopy and complete in class.

QUICK QUIZ

Test your knowledge of organ, eye and tissue donation.

1. What is the difference between brain *death* and brain *damage*?
2. What are the *eight* organs that could come from *one* donor?
3. When someone receives a cornea transplant, he or she inherits the eye color of the cornea donor.
☐ True ☐ False
4. What are the minimum and maximum ages for organ donation?
5. If the president of the United States needed an organ transplant, he or she would move to the top of the transplant list.
☐ True ☐ False
6. When someone's organs are donated, approximately how much will the surgery cost the family?
7. Undergoing organ donation surgery means the donor could no longer have an open-casket funeral.
☐ True ☐ False



QUICK QUIZ

Test your knowledge of organ, eye and tissue donation.

1. What is the difference between brain *death* and brain *damage*?

Brain death means no brain activity or blood flowing to the brain—the person is dead, and can be a donor. Brain damage means a portion of the brain is injured, but activity and blood flow are still present and the person is not considered a donor.

2. What are the *eight* organs that could come from *one* donor?

The heart, liver, lungs (2), kidneys (2), pancreas and small intestine.

3. When someone receives a cornea transplant, he or she inherits the eye color of the cornea donor.

☐ True ☒ False

The cornea is the clear outer layer of the eye.

4. What are the minimum and maximum ages for organ donation?

There are no age limits for donation.

5. If the president of the United States needed an organ transplant, he or she would move to the top of the transplant list.

☐ True ☒ False

Transplants are matched based on medical criteria and have nothing to do with fame or wealth.

6. When someone's organs are donated, approximately how much will the surgery cost the family?

Zero. The family is never responsible for medical costs associated with organ, eye and tissue donation.

7. Undergoing organ donation surgery means the donor could no longer have an open-casket funeral.

☐ True ☒ False

Organ recovery does not disfigure the body and does not disrupt standard funeral proceedings.



A LETTER TO LOVED ONES

Collect your thoughts to take home and share with your family.

MY BELIEFS ABOUT ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION ARE...

CLASS ACTIVITIES

TIME'S UP

TIME: 1 minute for instruction

INSTRUCTIONS: Set a phone timer for 10 minutes. Every time the timer goes off, either have a student move to the front of the classroom or write their name on the chalkboard. At the end of the class, ask all the students who moved or wrote their names to stand up. Explain that a real person's name is added to the national transplant waiting list every 10 minutes and the number of students standing represents the number added to the list during the class.

DAILY REMINDER

TIME: 5 minutes for prep and instruction

INSTRUCTIONS: (For a class of 22 students or more.) Mark an X on 22 sticky notes, note cards or pieces of scrap paper. If there are more than 22 students in the class, mark the remainder with an O. Set the cards face down on students' desks at the beginning of the class. During the lesson, ask students how many people they think die every day waiting for an organ transplant. After a few guesses, instruct students with an X card to stand up—demonstrating that 22 people in the United States die every day waiting.

STAND FOR TRUTH

TIME: 10-15 minutes for instruction and discussion

INSTRUCTIONS: To debunk myths about organ donation, share facts with your class, asking students to stand up when they think something is true and stay seated when they feel the fact is false. Talk about the myths that might keep someone from registering.

- All major religions support organ donation as a selfless gift of charity. (True)
- As an organ donor, hospitals and doctors won't try as hard to save your life because so many organ donations are needed. (False)
- People can donate a kidney while they're still alive. (True)
- Organs can be transplanted between people of a different race/sex. (True)
- Once someone is in a coma, he or she can be considered an organ donor. (False)

A FRIEND IN NEED

TIME: 10-15 minutes for instruction and discussion

INSTRUCTIONS: Divide your class into groups of eight, reserving the same number of students as groups. For example: Form three groups of eight and set three individual students aside. Any remaining students can be divided among the groups. Explain that in every group, each student is in desperate need of a life-saving transplant—a heart, liver, two lungs, two kidneys, a small intestine and a pancreas—and extra students need tissue, bone or cornea transplants. Talk about how difficult it might be to find enough donors to help all of them. Have one of the individual students join each group, and explain that one organ donor can save up to eight lives, and one eye and tissue donor can heal more than 50. Discuss the value of becoming a donor knowing how many lives one person can save.

KNOW THE FAQs

Can celebrities or wealthy people use their money and influence to buy an organ or be placed at the top of the waiting list?

No. Income and celebrity status are not considered when determining who receives an organ. Also, it is a federal crime to buy or sell organs and tissues in the United States. Donor organs are matched to potential recipients by blood type, tissue type, size, medical urgency, time on waiting list and geographic location through a national computerized waiting list operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

Is information about organ, eye and tissue donation portrayed accurately in movies/on TV?

No. While organ, eye and tissue donation involves saving lives in the real world, the entertainment industry often invents false situations and perpetuates misconceptions about donation by using dramatization and sensationalism.

How do I sign up to be an organ, eye and tissue donor in Ohio?

Register your decision in the Ohio Donor Registry by:

1. Saying “yes” to organ donation when you obtain or renew your driver’s license, driving permit or state identification card at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).
2. Going to [DonateLifeOhio.org](https://donatelifeohio.org) and following the link to the BMV’s confidential online registration.
3. Completing a mail-in donor registry enrollment form available at the BMV or from your local Organ Procurement Organization.

Once you have registered your decision, it is important to discuss your wishes about donation with your family so that they are aware of the choice you have made.

Is it necessary to enter my decision to donate in the Ohio Donor Registry?

Yes, the Ohio Donor Registry ensures that a person’s desire to be a donor is honored after death. All recovery organizations are directed by law to inform the next of kin of the decision to donate and to work with the donor’s family to honor this wish. This eliminates the need for a family to make a major decision about donation during their time of grief when they may not know, or be able to recall clearly, what their loved one had wanted.

What if I change my mind about donating?

At any point in time, you can remove yourself from the Ohio Donor Registry using the same steps available for adding yourself to it.

Is it possible to deny donation and not allow my family to revoke the decision?

For an individual to ensure that he/she is not considered a possible donor at the time of death, he/she should put this decision in writing and make sure the person(s) responsible for medical decisions and care for the body after death is aware of the location of the document.

Can I still choose to donate if I am younger than 18 years of age?

Yes, you may join the Ohio Donor Registry as long as you have a state identification card, driver's license or permit—although parental authorization is not needed for individuals 15 ½ - 17, a parent may revoke the decision upon a minor's death.

What if members of my family are opposed to donation?

Once a person turns 18, the decision to say "yes" is considered a legal, advanced directive. You should still inform your family of your decision. Upon your death, the recovery organization will inform them of your decision to be a donor and will involve them in the donation process, but will not ask them for authorization.

What is brain death, and can you recover from it?

All deaths occur from cessation of cardiopulmonary (heart-lung) function or from the cessation of brain function. Brain death occurs when a person has an irreversible, catastrophic brain injury, which causes all brain activity to permanently stop. You can never recover from brain death, which the public often confuses with brain damage. Brain damage means there are some portions of the brain still functioning.

In brain death cases, the heart and lungs can continue to function if artificial-support machines are used. However, these functions will cease when the machines are discontinued. The standards for determining that someone is brain dead are strict. After cardiac death, an individual has the potential to be an eye and tissue donor and on occasion, an organ donor.

What can be donated and how many lives can be changed?

Organs that can be donated include: kidneys, heart, liver, lungs, pancreas and small intestine. Tissue that can be donated includes: heart valves, corneas, skin, bone, ligaments, tendons, fascia, veins and nerves.

One organ donor can save up to 8 lives. One tissue donor can heal more than 50 lives.

How are recipients matched to donor organs?

Persons waiting for transplants are listed at the transplant center where they plan to have surgery, and on a national, computerized waiting list. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) maintains the national waiting list under contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. UNOS operates the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, maintains a 24-hour telephone service to aid in matching donor organs with patients on the national waiting list, and works with transplant centers.

When donor organs become available, several factors are taken into consideration in identifying the best-matched recipient(s). These include medical compatibility of the donor and potential recipient(s) on characteristics such as blood type, tissue type, size, medical urgency, time on waiting list and geographical location. Preference is given to recipients in the same geographic area as the donor because timing is a critical element in the organ procurement process.

How do organs get from the donor to the recipient?

The type of organ and the distance it has to travel determines how the organ is transported. The recovery organizations use private and commercial aircrafts, helicopters, ambulances and other vehicles.

How long will people have to wait for a transplant?

The wait for a transplant is determined by many factors and varies widely among patients. Among those waiting, some may receive an organ in days, others in months or years. Unfortunately, 20 people die every day who hoped to get a second chance through transplant.

Can transplant recipients be organ, eye and tissue donors?

Yes, transplant recipients can, and have been, organ, eye and tissue donors. The recipient would be screened at the time of death like any potential donor. If a person is medically suitable, he or she can donate. In fact, in a small number of cases their transplanted organs have been transplanted again.

Can organs from animals be used in humans?

No, not at this time. Currently, much research is taking place to see if this is possible. However, valves from pig and cow hearts have been used for human heart valve replacements for years. Tissue, like that of a heart valve, doesn't present the same problems with rejection as organs do.

Can a brain be transplanted?

No. This technology doesn't exist. Transplanting a brain from one body to another can't be done without all the brain cells dying. Nor would that brain be able to work in the new body because it cannot be successfully attached to the spinal cord.

What else can be donated?

There are many other things that can be transplanted and medical science continues to improve lives every day. Today, it is possible to donate a face, arms, legs, reproductive organs and hands but these are not part of the Ohio Donor Registry and a family of the deceased would have a separate authorization conversation.

Can you donate an organ while you are still alive?

Certain kinds of transplants can be done through the generosity of living donors. For example, people can live normal lives with just one healthy kidney. There are also new methods for transplanting a part of a living adult's liver to a child or even another adult who needs a liver transplant. Parts of a lung from two living donors can also be transplanted into one person.

Can people specify who they want an organ to go to?

Yes, the process is called directed donation. If a donor's family knows an individual who is on the waiting list, and the candidate is compatible with the donor's organ(s), they can direct their loved one's organ(s) to that person.

Will the quality of medical treatments and the efforts to save my life be lessened if emergency or medical personnel know I am willing to be a donor?

No. Donation professionals are not brought in until the independent physicians involved in the patient's care have determined that all possible efforts to save the patient's life have failed.

Can smokers be donors?

Yes. Organ function, including lung function, is assessed at the time of death. If the organs are healthy, they can be used.

What is the maximum age for donation?

There are no age limits for donation. Organs, eyes and tissue may be donated by a senior citizen or someone as young as a newborn baby. For donors under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must give authorization.

I've been sick lately or in the past. Can I be a donor?

Yes. At the time of death, trained recovery coordinators will review your medical history to determine what can be donated. Recent advances in transplantation have allowed more people to become eligible donors. Every person who supports donation is encouraged to join the Ohio Donor Registry regardless of medical history.

Does donation prevent an open casket?

No. If an open-casket viewing was possible before donation, it should be possible after donation.

Why are people who jeopardized their health with alcohol and drugs still eligible for a transplant?

Chemical dependency is a disease. People who are chemically dependent and need liver transplants must undergo rehabilitation and be clean of all drugs and alcohol for 6 months. In addition, preventing an individual's right to a transplant would be a violation of the individual's personal freedom.

Does the family have to pay for the cost of organ, eye and tissue donation?

No. There is no cost to a donor's family for donation. Hospital expenses incurred prior to donation, as well as funeral expenses, remain the responsibility of the donor's family. All costs related to donation are paid by the organ, eye and tissue recovery organization.

Would presumed authorization or financial reimbursement to donor families decrease the shortage of organs for transplant?

Donate Life Ohio believes there are valid concerns regarding presumed authorization, including the possibility of alienating the community as a whole and negatively impacting donation. Financial reimbursement for donation has been proposed in some areas of the country, but federal law has prevented its implementation. Donate Life Ohio believes that educating the public about donation is the most important step we can take toward increasing donation.

Is it permissible to sell organs?

No. The National Organ Transplant Act (Public Law 98-507) prohibits the sale of human organs. Violators are subject to fines and imprisonment. Among the many reasons for this rule is Congress' concern that buying and selling organs might lead to inequitable access to donor organs with the wealthy having an unfair advantage.

Is donation against my religion?

Probably not. Every major religion in the U.S. supports donation as a life-saving, charitable act. Many consider donation the ultimate act of generosity. If you have questions, consult your church, synagogue or religious organization, or visit DonateLifeOhio.org.

Why should I consider becoming a donor?

Advances in medical science have made transplant surgery extremely successful. Transplantation is no longer considered experimental. It is a desirable treatment option. The major problem is the shortage of organ, eye and tissue donations. There are thousands of Americans waiting for donations to become available so that they can have a second chance at life. Sadly, there are not enough donors to meet the growing need, resulting in deaths of 20 men, women and children each day. By signing up to be an organ, eye and tissue donor, individuals can donate life to those in need.

Why wouldn't someone donate?

Some of the reluctance can be attributed to prevailing misconceptions about donation. Many people also may not know how to register and should be directed to the Ohio Donor Registry at DonateLifeOhio.org.

What if a student asks you if you are an organ, eye and tissue donor?

Students may want to know if you are a registered donor, or if you have decided to be a donor. This question should be answered honestly.

Can recipients and donor families send letters or meet?

Yes. However, the anonymity of the donor family and recipient(s) is guaranteed by the organ recovery organizations and transplant centers until each individual has signed a waiver allowing personal information to be exchanged. Initially, recipients and donor families are encouraged to write letters anonymously using the Organ Procurement Organization or transplant center as a go-between. After a period of exchanging letters, if both parties are willing to meet, then waivers of confidentiality are signed and personal information is exchanged. After this, meetings can take place and are often coordinated by the organ recovery organization that facilitated the donation.

Why wouldn't someone register?

Typically people don't want to register because of a **common myth** about organ donation, including:

- Donation being against religious beliefs
- Interruption of funeral arrangements
- Doctor's lack of effort to save known donors
- The cost associated with donation procedures
- Being too old or too young to donate



MORE QUESTIONS COMING UP?

CONTACT US. The difficult questions will help us understand what students are wondering—and what they're most interested in learning.

X

**THANK YOU,
FROM THE
HEART**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Community Tissue Services

Malia Devilliers

Erin Lambert

Donate Life Northwest

Valerie Egan, Education Outreach Coordinator

Legacy Health Transplant Services

Viken Douzdzian, M.D.; Daniel Porter John Fallgreen, R.N.

Lions VisionGift

Rod Carew

Oregon Health Sciences University Transplant Program

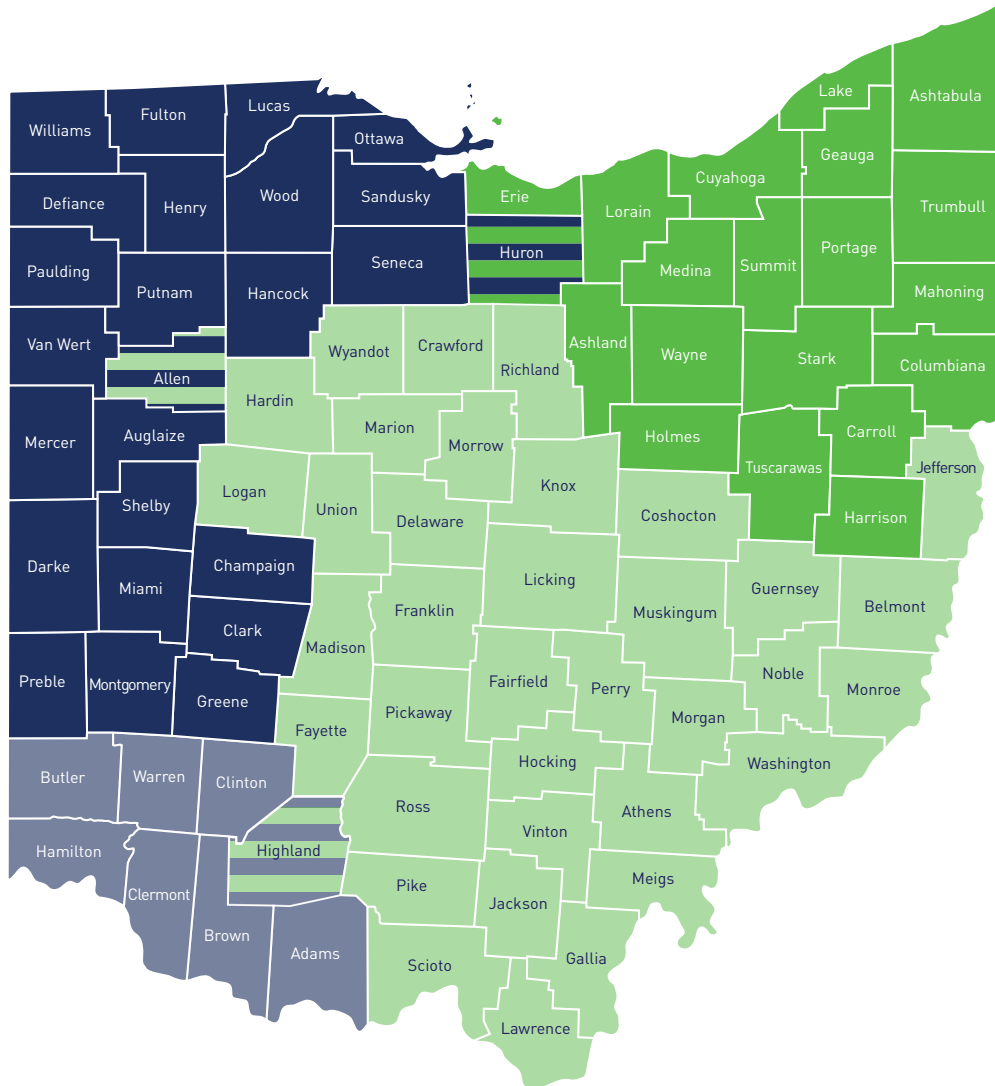
Regina Klein, R.N.

Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank

Lisa Miller; Christine Shaw, R.N.

OHIO RESOURCES BY REGION

Contact your local Ohio Organ Procurement Organization for more information, resources or questions about organ, eye and tissue donation. Learn more about Donate Life Ohio at [DonateLifeOhio.org](https://www.DonateLifeOhio.org).



NORTHWEST & WEST CENTRAL

Toledo Regional Offices

Life Connection of Ohio (Organ)
800-262-5443

NORTHEAST

Lifebanc (Organ, Eye and Tissue)

888-558-5433

SOUTHWEST

LifeCenter (Organ and Tissue)

800-981-5433

CENTRAL & SOUTHEAST

Lifeline of Ohio

(Organ, Eye and Tissue)
800-525-5667

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■ Denotes counties shared by organ procurement organizations.

