



**ASSOCIATION OF ORGAN  
PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

**Saving and improving lives  
through organ, eye, and tissue donation**

**MEDIA KIT**

**Register your decision @ [RegisterMe.org/AOPO50K](https://RegisterMe.org/AOPO50K) | [www.aopo.org](http://www.aopo.org)**



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## Who We Are

AOPO is saving and improving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation, by leading the nation's organ donation process through innovation, advocacy, and education. AOPO advances organ donation and transplantation by driving continual improvement of the donation process, collaborating with stakeholders and sharing best practices with their OPO members.

## Who We Serve

Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) represent a unique component of health care. By federal law, not-for-profit OPOs are the only organizations that can perform the life-saving mission and serve as the vital link between donors and patients waiting for life-saving organ transplants. OPOs work with donor families, hospitals and transplant programs to facilitate a successful donation and transplant matching process.



### Mission

Lead the nation's organ donation community to save more lives.



### Vision

Pursuing the day when every donation opportunity results in lives saved.

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## The Donation Process

A person is evaluated for organ donation only after all life-saving measures have been attempted. The hospital staff working to save a patient's life is completely separate from the donation team or Organ Procurement Organization (OPO).



The donation process begins when a patient dies on a ventilator at the hospital. The hospital then notifies their local Organ Procurement Organization (OPO).



The OPO arrives at the hospital to perform initial screening and additional testing to determine the patient's medical suitability for organ, eye, and tissue donation



Authorization for donation is granted by either the patient's decision as a registered donor or through family consent.



The donor's information is entered into the national registry where it is matched with the most suitable recipients.



Once the transplant surgeon accepts the donation opportunity, the surgical team and OPO staff work together to recover the organs and tissue for donation and transport them to the hospital where the transplant will take place.



Donation occurs and the organs are transplanted into the recipients, giving them a second chance at life.

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## Quick Stats and Facts



Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) in the United States



Every another person is added to the organ transplant waiting list



people die every day waiting for an organ transplant



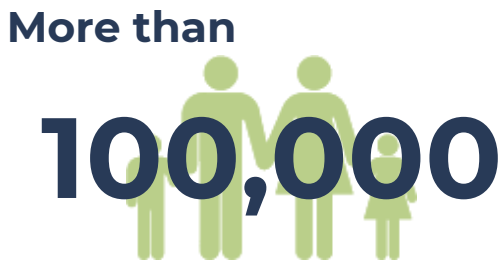
Up to lives can be saved from one organ donor



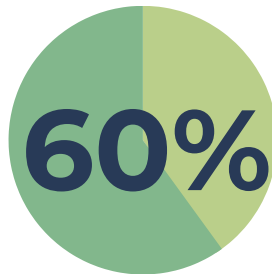
of Americans are in favor of organ donation but only 60% are registered



Up to lives can be healed from one tissue donor



More than people are on the waiting list for an organ transplant



of those waiting for an organ transplant are minorities



Less than of deaths in the United States result in organ donation

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## What Can Be Donated?

### **Organ Donation:**

Deceased organ donors can donate the kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas, and intestines

### **Living Donation:**

Living organ donors can donate one kidney, lung, and portion of the liver

### **Tissue Donation:**

A tissue donor can donate corneas, skin, heart valves, bones, veins, tendons, and ligaments



## How To Register?

Because so few people who sign up can actually become donors, the more people who register, the more lives saved. Here are guidelines about registration.

### **Over 18:**

All people age 18 and older can register to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor. You can choose what you wish to donate and you can change your status at any time.

### **Under 18:**

In many states, people younger than 18 can also register, although their families will have the final say if the occasion arises for donation before they turn 18.

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## Guide to Sensitive Language

To show respect for donors, their families and the life-saving and life-enhancing gifts they have shared with others through donation, compassionate language should be used when discussing organ, eye, and tissue donation. Below is a list of the language that AOPO encourages media to use when sharing stories about donation and transplantation.



### Say This

Donor/deceased donor

Deceased donation

Recover

Ventilator/Mechanical Support

Determine brain death

Donated organs and tissues

Donation/gifts



### Not This

Cadaver/cadaveric donor

Cadaver donation

Harvest

Life support

Declare brain death

Body parts

Parts

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## Myths About Organ Donation

There are few limits on who can be an organ donor. Age, health, race and ethnicity do not play a role in organ donation. No one is too old or too young to be a deceased donor and most major religions support donation.

### **Will registering to be a donor affect my medical treatment?**

Registering to be a donor will not affect your medical treatment if you become ill or injured. Organ and/or tissue recovery takes place only after all life-saving efforts have been exhausted and death has been legally declared. A transplant team is not contacted and no organs are removed before a person is pronounced dead – this includes brain death. The first priority is always to save a life.

### **What if I have a health condition?**

Most illnesses and health conditions do not preclude you from donating your organs or tissues upon your death. At the time of death, doctors will examine your organs and determine whether they are suitable for donation. Only few conditions would absolutely prevent a person from becoming a donor—such as active cancer or a systemic infection.

### **At what age can someone become a donor?**

Newborns and senior citizens into their 90s have been organ donors. The health of your organs, rather than your age, is most important.

### **Does my religion support donation?**

The act of organ donation enjoys broad support among many religions in the United States. Some major religions have released official statements or policies about donation.

### **Can I be a living donor?**

Most donations come from deceased donors. There are a few organs (a kidney, part of a liver, and lung) that can be donated by living donors. Living donors most frequently donate a kidney.

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