



# ONE VOICE, ONE VISION... TO *Save* AND *Heal* LIVES



Join Secretary of State Jesse White for a virtual public awareness campaign to inform Illinoisans about the need for more minority organ/tissue donors.



# AUGUST IS NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of August, we encourage minorities to register as organ/tissue donors in Illinois. Minorities wait in large numbers for transplants, but hesitate to register as donors.

To help answer your questions about donation and encourage you to register your donor decision, we have designed the following presentation as an educational tool to help you learn about the lifesaving benefits of organ/tissue donation.

**JOIN THE ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY TODAY**

[LifeGoesOn.com](http://LifeGoesOn.com)



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# The need for transplantation is great

Nationally, **more than 100,000** people are waiting for lifesaving transplants, and about **4,000** live in Illinois.

An average of **17** people die every day waiting.

Every **10** minutes a new person is added to the national transplant waiting list.

One organ/tissue donor can save or enhance **25** or more lives.

Source: Donate Life America



# Waiting list by the numbers

Approximately 4,000 people are waiting for transplants in Illinois. Of the nearly 3,500 people in Illinois awaiting lifesaving kidney donations:

- ▶ Black patients make up the largest percentage of those waiting at 39%.
- ▶ White, non-Hispanic patients make up 32% of those waiting.
- ▶ Hispanic/Latino patients make up 22% of those waiting.
- ▶ Asian patients make up 6% of those waiting.
- ▶ American Indians/Alaska natives, Pacific Islander and multiracial patients make up the remaining 1% of those waiting.

In summary, minorities make up the majority of those awaiting kidney donations – nearly 70%.



**Source:** Health Resources and Services Administration's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)

# What Can Be Donated?

## Organs

Heart  
Lungs (2)  
Kidneys (2)  
Liver (it can be divided)  
Small Intestines  
Pancreas  
Stomach

A single donor can save the lives of eight or more individuals.

## Tissues

Corneas  
Bones  
Veins  
Skin  
Ligaments/Tendons  
Heart Valves

A tissue donor can improve the quality of life for many individuals.

Source: Donate Life America



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# Organ Donation and African Americans

Did you know according to national statistics...

- ✓ African Americans are the largest minority in need of organ transplants in the U.S., but make up just **13%** of the general population.
- ✓ Diseases and conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and sickle cell anemia can put African Americans at risk for organ – especially kidney – failure.
- ✓ While about **28%** of total candidates waiting are African American, they made up only about **22%** of donors in 2021.

**Sources:** Health Resources and Services Administration's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)



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# Organ Donation and Hispanic Americans

Did you know according to national statistics...

- ✓ Hispanic Americans make up about **19%** of the general population.
- ✓ Conditions such as heart disease, chronic liver disease, high blood pressure and diabetes can put Hispanic Americans at risk of needing an organ transplant.
- ✓ Hispanics make up about **21%** of total candidates waiting for transplants and made up about **13%** of all donors in 2021.

**Source:** Health Resources and Services Administration's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)



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# Organ Donation and Native Americans/Alaska Natives

Did you know according to national statistics...

- ✓ Native Americans/Alaska Natives make up **less than 1%** of the general population.
- ✓ Many times, Native Americans and Alaska Natives suffer from high rates of diabetes as well as heart and liver-related diseases, which can lead to the need for a transplant.
- ✓ They comprise **less than 1%** of all donors and made up about **1%** of those waiting in 2021.

**Source:** Health Resources and Services Administration's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)



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# Organ Donation and Asian Americans

Did you know according to national statistics...

- ✓ Asian Americans comprise about **6%** of the general population.
- ✓ Many Asian Americans suffer more from liver-related diseases than other minority populations.
- ✓ They comprise roughly **9%** of the waiting list and made up about **2%** of all donors in 2021.

**Source:** Health Resources and Services Administration's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)



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# What the Designation Means



‘DONOR’ on the front of a valid Illinois driver’s license or state ID card means consent for organ/tissue donation, if possible.

Family consent is required *only* for individuals under age 18 and for those *not* on the Illinois Donor Registry.

You can register to be a donor at age 16 or 17 in Illinois, but *family consent is required* for donation to occur.



**Life** www.LifeGoesOn.com  
**Goes On**  
Be an organ/tissue donor

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# Why is it important to join the Illinois Donor Registry?

The donor registry gives families a way to know – and therefore honor – their loved one’s decision.

By registering your donor decision, *your family is relieved from making this decision themselves at a difficult time.*

The vast majority of Americans believe donation is the right thing to do; however, less than 60% are registered.

Source: Donate Life America



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# Don't believe the myths...

## MYTH

The hospital will let me die if they know I am on the organ/tissue donor registry.

## FACT

Donation only becomes an option AFTER brain death is declared. The doctors in the ER are different from the doctors who recover organs or do transplants.

## MYTH

I am too old or sick to be a donor.

## FACT

Anyone, regardless of age or medical history, can be a potential donor. The transplant team will determine at time of death whether donation is possible. Never rule yourself out.

## MYTH

I don't want my family to have to pay for donation.

## FACT

A donor's family is never charged for the removal of organs, nor do they receive compensation. All costs associated with donation are covered by the organ procurement organization (OPO).

## MYTH

I can't have a viewing at my funeral. I must choose cremation.

## FACT

Organs are removed in a respectful surgical procedure and the body is carefully restored. There are no visible signs of donation.

## MYTH

Rich and famous people are moved to the top of the waiting list, and regular people have to wait even longer.

## FACT

When matching donor organs to recipients, the computerized matching system uses criteria such as severity of illness, blood type, time spent waiting, medical information and geographical location. Financial, celebrity status and race are not considered.

## MYTH

My religion does not support donation.

## FACT

Most major eastern and western religions support donation.



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# Life After Transplant



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**TO *Save* AND *Heal* LIVES**



## Illinois Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Program

For more information on how YOU  
can make a difference, visit or call:

LifeGoesOn.com  
800-210-2106



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