

Our media kit provides basic and updated information for media interested in donation and transplantation and learning more about the Center for Donation and Transplant.

For questions or to request additional information, please contact the Center for Donation and Transplant at 518-262-5606.

ABOUT the Center for Donation and Transplant:

Donate Life Vermont is a combined social initiative devised of passionate volunteers, advocates and the two federally designated organ procurement organizations – the Center for Donation and Transplant and the New England Organ Bank – that cover the state of Vermont. The mission of Donate Life Vermont is to raise awareness of organ, eye and tissue donation and increase the number of people registered to be an organ donor in the state of Vermont.

ABOUT DONATION:

Organ and tissue transplants offer those in need a second chance at a healthy life and returns loved ones to their family, friends, and communities. State organ and tissue donor registries allow people to document their decision to donate organs and tissues at the time of their passing.

More than 113,000 people in the United States are on the waiting list for a life-saving organ transplant. Every ten minutes, someone new is added to the list.

In New York State alone, over 9,500 community members are waiting for their call – the call stating that a matching, transplantable organ has become available and it is their turn on the list. Unfortunately, New York State also ranks 50 out of 52 states and territories in terms of the number of eligible people who are registered on the state's organ and tissue registry. At 35% of eligible residents registered, the state is far below the national average of 56%. Each year, more than 400 New Yorkers die because an organ does not become available in time to save their lives.

In Vermont, hundreds of community members are waiting on the national transplant waiting list as part of the more than 5,000 New Englanders who currently await a lifesaving organ transplant. Out of all eligible residents, 61% percent of Vermonters have registered on the state's organ and tissue registry.

When just one person signs up to be an organ and tissue donor, he or she can save up to 8 lives through organ donation and enhance the lives of 75 others through tissue donation. While the number of registrants on the organ and tissue registry in New York State and Western Vermont has grown over the last few years, the need for donated organs still far outweighs the number of organs available for transplant. Sadly, an average of 20 people dies each day because the healthy organ they need is not made available (through donation) in time.

A growing gap between those who need transplants and those who actually receive them persists, making it more important than ever that community members are aware

that they can save lives and offer hope to families by registering to be an organ, eye and tissue donor in their state. When a person signs up on his or her state's registry, the person is giving legal, first-person consent to give the gift of life if donation is a medically viable option at the time of his or her passing.

Deceased Donation

After all efforts to save the patient's life have been exhausted, tests may be performed to confirm the absence of brain or brain stem activity, and the progression or potential progression to brain death. A person who has progressed to brain death or has the potential to do so may be a candidate for organ donation. With compassion, care and support for the donor's family, each candidate is clinically evaluated for donor suitability. Deceased donors can give kidneys, pancreas, liver, lungs, heart, and intestinal organs. Deceased donors also can provide tissues (such as bones, skin, heart valves and veins) and corneas.

Living Donation

While the majority of solid organ and tissue donations occur after the donor has died, some organs and tissues can be donated while the donor is alive. Depending on the organ in need, living donation has become an option for discussion amongst transplant candidates. Most living donations happen among family members or between close friends. Some living donations take place altruistically between two strangers. A living donor can donate a kidney, potentially a lobe of their liver, and in rare cases, a portion of the lung, pancreas, or intestines.

Statistics (as of April 2020):

1. More than 113,000 Americans are currently waiting for an organ transplant
2. Of the 113,000+ people waiting for a life-saving transplant, 83 percent are waiting for a kidney transplant
3. Every 10 minutes, another name is added to the national transplant waiting list.
4. An average of 20 people die each day due to the shortage of viable, transplantable organs
5. 56 percent of Americans have now registered as organ donors on their state's respective donor registries
6. 35 percent of New Yorkers have registered to be donors on the New York State Donate Life Organ and Tissue Registry
7. 61 percent of Vermonters have registered to be donors.
8. More than 39,719 transplants were performed in America in 2019
9. More than 1 million tissue transplants are done each year and the surgical need for tissue has been steadily rising.
10. Organs that may be donated (in order of frequency transplanted) include: the kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, pancreas and small intestine.
11. Tissues that may be donated include corneas/eyes, heart valves, skin, bone, tendons, cartilage and veins

LANGUAGE

To show respect for donors, their families and the life-saving and life-healing gifts they have shared with others, Donate Life of New York and Vermont recommends the use of specific language when discussing organ, eye and tissue donation.

Below is a list of the sensitive language that Donate Life of New York and Vermont encourages media to use when sharing stories about donation:

Yes

Donor
Deceased donation
Recover
Restoration
Ventilator
Donation/gifts

No

Cadaver
Cadaveric donation
Harvest
Reconstruction
Life support
Parts