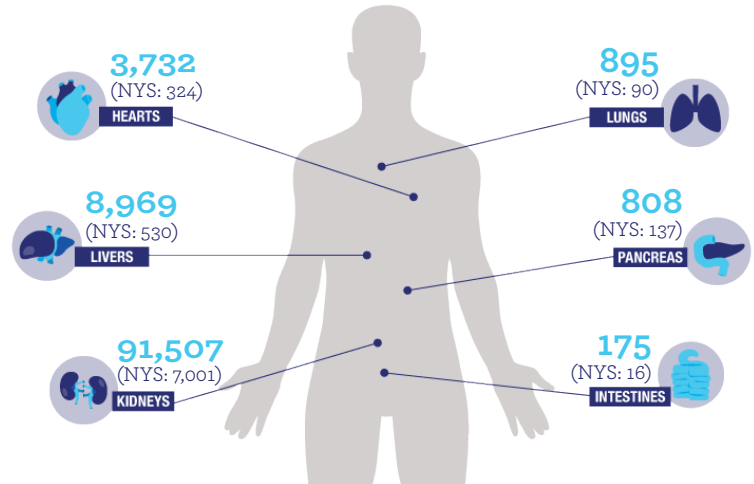


The Basics

- > One organ donor can save up to **eight lives**. One tissue donor can improve the lives of 50 - 75 people.
- > There are two types of consent for deceased donation: **first person consent**, which is authorization via registration, living will or last will & testament by the individual who wishes to become a donor, and **third person consent**, which is authorization for donation by a legally authorized party for an individual who is not registered or who has not otherwise legally declared consent.

The Wait

- > **105,559**
people on the national waiting list for organs
- > **7,979**
people waiting in NYS
- > **6,596**
people waiting in the NY metropolitan area



Organ Transplant Waiting List Candidates (U.S., 2025)

The Truths

Doctors will do everything in their power to save you

Organ donation only occurs after the death of a patient is declared by a physician who, legally, must not be affiliated with donation.

It is supported by most religions

Most major religions support organ donation including Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and more (see page 2).

Don't rule yourself out

There is no age limit for donation, the oldest donor on record was 96. Regarding medical conditions, doctors will make a determination regarding the viability of organs at the time of death.

Traditional funeral services are possible

Organ donation does not disfigure the body or delay funeral arrangements. Open-casket viewings are possible. Families of donors are not responsible for medical costs related to donation.

over
8 million
NYS residents
are registered
organ donors.

Source: Donate Life New York State



1 organ donor can save up to 8 lives and heal up to 50-75 lives through tissue donation

Based on OPTN data. *The data reported here have been supplied by the United Network for Organ Sharing as the contractor for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. The interpretation and reporting of these data are the responsibility of the author(s) and in no way should be seen as an official policy or interpretation by the OPTN or the U.S. Government. Data as of July 1, 2025

Information provided by **LiveOnNY**. Visit LiveOnNY.org to get more information.

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Types of Donation

- > There are two types of donation: **living donation** and **deceased donation**. Living donation provides an opportunity for an individual to save a life while still living. Deceased donation occurs after the prospective donor is declared deceased by a physician. This fact sheet provides information on deceased donation, however living donation is also an option for those who wish to save lives through organ donation. Living donors may donate a kidney, a third of the liver, and in some rare cases, a portion of the pancreas or intestine and a lung (see page 1).

> **2,098** 

number of transplants performed from deceased donors in NYS in 2024

> **45,216** 

number of transplants performed from deceased donors in the U.S. in 2024

Signing Up

- > In NYS, you can register to become an organ donor when you visit the DMV, register to vote, apply for an idNYC card, register for health insurance through the health benefits exchange, or at LiveOnNY.org.
- > Those aged 16 and 17 can register their consent to become an organ donor. Parents/guardians will be notified at the time of the potential donation and, if they wish, can revoke the option. Once the registered minor turns 18 the parent/guardian option to revoke consent is no longer available.

The History

- **1906:** First corneal transplant
- **1954:** First successful kidney transplant
- **1967:** First successful heart transplant
- **1977:** First computer-based organ matching system implemented
- **1983:** Cyclosporine is introduced (immune suppressant)
- **1998:** First successful hand transplant
- **2001:** First time the number of living donors (6,528) exceeded the number of deceased donors (6,081)
- **2010:** First successful full face transplant
- **2013:** The HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act was passed allowing for research into transplanting organs from HIV+ donors to HIV+ patients
- **2022:** First successful xenotransplant performed

Religious Perspectives

- > Generally, all major religions support organ donation as a final act of compassion and generosity. For instance, Judaism believes that if it is possible to donate an organ to save a life, it is obligatory to do so. Similarly, Catholicism views organ donation as an act of charity, fraternal love and self-sacrifice; while, the Islamic faith believes in the principle of saving human lives and permits donation as a means of achieving that noble end. Prospective donors may wish to continue the conversation regarding organ donation with their respective religious leaders.

Catholicism



"Organ donation is a testimony of love for our neighbor."
- Pope Francis, October 2014

Judaism



"...Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world."
- Jerusalem Talmud, Sanhedrin 4:1 (22A)

Islam



"Whoever saves the life of one person it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind".
- Holy Qur'an, Chapter 5 vs. 32