



Report Card:
The State of Organ, Eye & Tissue Donation in Ohio –
April 2010

the need

Organ, eye and tissue donation saves and heals thousands every year. This is easy to understand on a fundamental level, yet, the impact of donation is a wonderful and unique experience for more than just the transplant recipient. Being a registered organ, eye and tissue donor allows a person to see that something positive could come from his or her own death. Donation provides grieving family members with a ray of hope, knowing their loved one will leave a legacy by giving the Gift of Life.

More than 106,000 Americans – including 3,000 Ohioans – are awaiting a life-saving organ transplant right now. These are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, friends and coworkers – loved ones waiting for a second chance at life. Thousands more wait for the healing gift of tissue, which would alleviate pain, give sight or restore mobility.

The need for donors continues to grow each day, with a new name added to the national transplant waiting list every 10 minutes. Statistically, 18 men, women and children die each day in the United States awaiting a life-saving transplant. Once every 48 hours, an Ohioan dies waiting for a transplant. In the past 10 years, more than 2,000 Ohioans have died waiting for an organ that didn't come in time.

Ohioans are generous by nature, responding to national and international crises every day. So why aren't Ohio residents responding to the critical need for organ, eye and tissue donors? Just one person choosing to be an organ, eye and tissue donor can potentially save and improve the lives of 50 people.

about the survey

Lifeline of Ohio, on behalf of Donate Life Ohio, partnered with the University of Cincinnati Institute for Policy Research to conduct the 2010 Anatomical Gift Family Survey (AGFS) assessing the current status of Ohioans' attitudes and beliefs about organ, eye and tissue donation. Donate Life Ohio is a coalition of the state's organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies dedicated to educating Ohioans about the need for donation. Donate Life Ohio aims to reach Ohioans who are interested in becoming donors and encourage them to sign up in the Ohio Donor Registry, working toward the nationwide goal of 100 million registered donors in the United States by April 2012.

This report card provides data and analysis of the AGFS. The survey was conducted January 6-29, 2010, and interviewed a random sample of 2,012 adults from throughout Ohio by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to +/-2.2 percent.

Donate Life Ohio conducted a similar survey in 2001. It was replicated in 2005 through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration Grant. In the past 10 years, organ, eye and tissue donation knowledge has increased and become more positive overall. More Ohioans are discussing their donation wishes with family members, and awareness about the Ohio Donor Registry has improved. This report card provides additional insight into where and how donation perceptions are formed, and addresses many of the common barriers to donation.

survey findings: report card summary

| Indicators | 2001 | 2010 | % Change | | Trend | Comments |
|---|------|------|----------|--|---|---|
| Donation Registration | | | | | | |
| Perception of registration behavior for donation on driver license | 57% | 66% | +9% | |  | This represents the percentage of people who believe they have registered to be a donor. The actual percentage of people in the Ohio Donor Registry is 52%. |
| Have not registered for donation | 39% | 31% | -7% | |  | This is a small improvement in a positive direction. |
| Donation Awareness | | | | | | |
| Have discussed donation with family member | 54% | 63% | +9% | |  | It is important to discuss donation wishes with family members, so they are prepared at the time of death. |
| Agree that most people who receive transplanted organs have an improved quality of life | 86% | 92% | +6% | |  | This indicates a positive change in the attitude about the value of transplants. |
| Awareness of the Ohio Donor Registry | 34%* | 44% | +10% | |  | *This question was not asked in 2001, because the Ohio Donor Registry was not established until 2002. This percentage represents the 2005 survey. |
| Donation Perception | | | | | | |
| Positive donation sentiment | 91% | 94% | +3% | | no change | The percentage of people with a positive image of organ donation is already extremely high. |
| Would donate for a patient in need | 75% | 80% | +5% | |  | The percentage of people who would donate for someone in need has gone up which increases the chance that they would become an organ donor. |
| Believe something positive comes from donation | 93% | 95% | +2% | | no change | The percentage of people who believe something positive comes from donation is already extremely high. |
| Heard about donation | 76% | 78% | +2% | | no change | This perception changed very little but is still relatively high. |

the state of organ, eye & tissue donation in ohio

In order to increase the number of donor designations in Ohio, it is critical to inform and educate the public about organ, tissue and eye donation. Survey findings that show progress on this front:

- In January 2010, 78 percent of survey participants were made aware of organ, eye and tissue donation through some form of media.
- An overwhelming majority – 90 percent – reported having a positive view of organ, eye and tissue donation.
- Finally, more than 80 percent of survey participants stated that, if they were about to die, they would want to donate one or more of their organs for a patient in need of a transplant.

The Myths: Barriers to Organ, Eye & Tissue Donation

If public perception about donation is so positive, then why is the number of registered organ and tissue donors in Ohio a relatively low 52 percent? There are a number of likely reasons for this. Some people may be unaware of how to register as a donor. Others may see the benefits of donation to the recipients, but are unsure how being a donor will affect themselves, or their families. The Anatomical Gift Family Survey shows that much of this apprehension is due to misinformation about organ donation.

- 28 percent of those polled believe that doctors are more interested in obtaining organs than saving lives of organ donors. This is the most common myth that prevents individuals from registering as donors. Doctors are only concerned with the lives in front of them. An individual's status as a donor is only considered after everything has been done to save his /her life and death has been declared.
- 9 percent of those surveyed do not believe that an open casket funeral is possible after donation. In fact, if an open casket was possible before donation, it will still be possible after donation.
- 6 percent of respondents believe that donation is against their religion, however all major religions in the U.S. support donation.
- 31 percent of Ohioans who said they did not want to be a donor think they are too old or unhealthy to donate. This could not be further from the truth. In fact, age and health are not prohibiting factors to donation. The oldest donor to date was 92 and saved a life by donating a liver. Even individuals that have lived with serious illness and disease, like cancer, have still given the "Gift of Life" after death.



the ohio bureau of motor vehicles (BMV) role in donation process

The Ohio BMV continues to be the most widely known method for people to register as an organ, tissue and eye donor. Nearly 8 in 10 Ohio residents who had read, seen or heard information about organ donation, heard about the Ohio Donor Registry at the BMV. Additionally, 95 percent of Ohioans who have granted permission for organ donation have done so by saying “yes” at the BMV.

The Ohio Donor Registry is an individual’s legal decision to donate the Gift of Life at the time of their death, if possible, through organ, eye and tissue donation. The State of Ohio established the Ohio Donor Registry on July 1, 2002. In addition to saying “yes” at the BMV, Ohioans may also register online at www.ohiobmv.com or by mailing in a Donor Registry enrollment form available online through the Donate Life Ohio Web site, www.donatelifehio.org.

moving forward

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Donate Life Ohio, its members, and the more than 4.5 million registered donors, Ohio has made great strides toward fostering a positive perception about organ, eye and tissue donation. In 2009, 284 Ohioans shared the Gift of Life through organ donation at the time of their death. Through their unselfish generosity, 945 individuals received a second chance at life through transplantation.

However, there is still work to be done:

- 2 out of 10 Ohioans still have not heard anything about organ, tissue or eye donation.
- 13 percent of those Ohioans are not registered and have not even thought about doing so.
- 4 out of 10 Ohioans have not discussed their personal donation wishes with their family.
- More than 80 percent of Ohioans expressed a desire to donate organs after death, as indicated in this survey, yet only 52 percent have taken action to register their donation wish in the Ohio Donor Registry.
- Myths and misconceptions about donation are still barriers to registrations.

While 66 percent of Ohio residents believe they are registered organ, eye and tissue donors, the Ohio Donor Registry reports that only 52 percent are actually registered. Donate Life Ohio encourages all Ohioans to check their donation status by looking for the red heart symbol in the lower righthand corner of their driver license, or by visiting www.donatelifehio.org to confirm they have registered online or via a paper registration form. If an individual is not able to verify their donation status, they should register in the Ohio Donor Registry today!

One reason for the discrepancy in the number of Ohioans who believe they are registered donors and the number actually in the registry may be people who had previously signed and carry a donor card – a common practice prior to establishment of the Ohio Donor Registry. While valid, the donor card or living will statement may not be known or accessible at the time of death. These individuals are also encouraged to declare their wishes for donation in the Registry.

resource information

About the Survey

The 2010 Anatomical Gift Family Survey (AGFS) assesses the status of Ohioans' attitudes, knowledge and behavior about organ, eye and tissue donation. The data obtained in this random digit-dial telephone survey is helpful to the strategic statewide communication and education planning efforts of Donate Life Ohio, as well the Second Chance Trust Fund Advisory Committee and individual recovery agencies in the state. The survey was sponsored by a grant from The Ohio Department of Health's Second Chance Trust Fund.

The survey was first conducted in 2001 by the University of Cincinnati, Institute for Policy Research (UCIPR) for the Second Chance Trust Fund (SCTF) and Ohio Department of Health. It was replicated in 2005 through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration Grant.

About Donate Life Ohio

Donate Life Ohio is a coalition of the state's organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies dedicated to educating Ohioans about the need for organ, eye and tissue donation. In this effort to increase donor registrations they are joined by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

About the Second Chance Trust Fund

Through voluntary contributions made by individuals at Ohio's BMVs while renewing their Ohio driver license, the Second Chance Trust Fund finances educational and action-oriented campaigns and grants. A \$1 contribution supports donation education in Ohio and gives hope to thousands of Ohioans waiting for a second chance through organ, eye and tissue donation.

Local contact information for media

Lifeline of Ohio
Rachel Lewis, 614.384.7329
www.lifelineofohio.org

LifeBanc
Hadie Bartholomew, 216.820.4908
www.lifebanc.org

LifeCenter
Andi Johnson, 513.961.5200, ext. 16
www.lifepassiton.org

Life Connection of Ohio – Dayton
Cathi Arends, 937.223.8223
www.lifeconnectionofohio.org

Life Connection of Ohio – Toledo
Kara Steele, 419.893.1618
www.lifeconnectionofohio.org

the impact of donation: lives touched

Cathy Eyen, lung recipient

Cathy Eyen's lung disease came out of nowhere. She was feeling sick, learned she had a rare autoimmune disease that was affecting her lungs and was listed for a double-lung transplant less than six months later.

The Columbus, Ohio resident's health went downhill quickly, as she struggled to complete basic tasks like walking across the room or showering. She knew that her disease was practically a death sentence, and that she wasn't expected to live more than two years without a transplant.

On March 23, 2005, Cathy got the call that would save her life - lungs were available for her. She received two lungs and, thanks to the generosity of her donor, Cathy was able to return to her life. She says she felt like she was finally enjoying life, not just existing.

Cathy was able to see both of her sons graduate from college, threw her mother an 80th birthday party and has enjoyed every day because of her donor. After corresponding with her donor's family for nearly two years, Cathy had the opportunity to meet them.

When the families met in Cincinnati, the donor's daughter said she was so surprised to know her mother could donate her lungs since she was a heavy smoker – Cathy's jaw hit the floor! After her transplant her doctor told her she had a really good set of lungs- something Cathy never would have imagined could have come from a smoker!

Like many people, Cathy, and even her donor's family, figured a smoker couldn't donate lungs. However, unhealthy habits or past illnesses are not barriers to being an organ and tissue donor. Anyone of any age, with any medical condition, may still be evaluated for donation. Cathy now shares her story with friends and family to encourage them to register their donation decision in the Ohio Donor Registry, and let the organ procurement staff worry about whether donation is possible upon their death.

Because a generous donor said 'yes' to donation, Cathy has a second chance at life and celebrated her 5th transplant anniversary in March.

Paul Dandurand, tissue donor

Paul "Buzz" Dandurand never thought he could be a donor. He had numerous health issues, including a heart condition and diabetes and was reluctant to sign up to be a donor because of his situation.

Paul's wife, Camille, coordinated activities at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and saw the impact of donation first-hand, working with children who had received a second chance at life through transplantation.

When Paul died of cardiac arrest at the age of 69 on October 21, 2008, Camille was pleased to hear that he could give the healing gift of tissue. She said that although he didn't think he could be a donor, he was a warm, giving person and would have been happy to know he could give back to others after death.



As a tissue donor, Paul had the potential to touch up to 50 lives and leave a lasting legacy. Camille and her family are comforted to know that Paul not only touched others during his life, but continues to impact others after his death with the gift he gave.

Camille says that Paul's ability to be a donor despite his health concerns has made her aware of the importance of registering as an organ and tissue donor and encourages other to sign up in the Ohio Donor Registry.

Reverend Dr. Daryl Ward

Reverend Dr. Daryl Ward discusses organ and tissue donation from the pulpit at Omega Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio, encouraging members of his church to sign up as donors.

"People don't think about donation much until it touches their lives," said Ward. "They need to think about it earlier."

Ward notes that many people, who cite religious beliefs as preventing them from registering as donors, are concerned with the afterlife.

"Some people tend to think they need to be buried whole and that if they donate their organs they won't go to heaven," he said. "I ask them, 'what happens if you're in a fire, or an accident, if you go to war or are caught in an explosion and cannot be buried whole – do you not get into heaven?' Of course, people don't believe that, so organ and tissue donation is no different."

Ward also tells parishioners that if they would be willing to accept an organ if they needed one then they should be willing to be donors too. He encourages everyone to think seriously about the issue of organ and tissue donation and discuss it with their religious leaders.

