



**Volunteer
Information
Program**



Louisiana

Training Manual



Volunteers Save Lives!

The Louisiana Organ & Tissue Donor Registry serves as the essential connection between donors and recipients.

YOU are a vital link to the organ and tissue donor registry. Thousands of Americans are in critical need of an organ, tissue or cornea transplant in order to have a second chance of living a full life.

With your help educating the community about the critical need for organ donors, we can ensure that lives are saved.

***Organ donation is not a search for
a cure- it is the cure!***



Louisiana

WHO ARE WE?

Donate Life Louisiana (DLL) is a collaboration of agencies that support organ and tissue donation including the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency, Legacy Donor Foundation, Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles and Louisiana Hospital Association.

The mission of Donate Life Louisiana is to educate the citizens of Louisiana about organ and tissue donation, encourage them to register as organ and tissue donors, and foster family acceptance of the process.



Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA) is the federally designated non-profit recovery agency for the state of Louisiana. LOPA's mission is to **enhance lives through organ and tissue donation.**

What services does LOPA provide?

- Recovery of organs and tissues for the purpose of transplantation.
- Professional education as well as other assistance to all Louisiana hospitals to support them in meeting federal regulations.
- Comprehensive educational programs to increase donor awareness in the public sector.
- Maintains the Louisiana Organ and Tissue Donor Registry (the computer database that allows individuals the opportunity to register their donation wishes).

LOPA's Staff

The Hospital Development Department is composed of a Director of Development and various Hospital Resource Coordinators. The Hospital Development Department's goal is to maximize organ and tissue recovery through hospital and physician participation in the organ and tissue donor programs and to develop consistent, uniform interaction between these communities and LOPA.

The Hospital Resource Coordinators are available to hospitals throughout Louisiana to provide education on organ and tissue donation. The coordinators assist the hospitals in establishing donation procedures and internal protocol.

LOPA's Family Advocate Staff (First Responders) are present in hospitals when there is a potential donor to support the family and talk with them about their donation opportunities.



Following the family's decision to donate, the Recovery Coordinator assists in all phases of the donation process: from identification through the surgical recovery of organs and tissues. A Recovery Coordinator is available for consultation and screening 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



LEGACY
DONOR FOUNDATION

Legacy Donor Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. The Foundation's mission is to **prevent the loss of human life due to the lack of available organs** for transplantation by educating the citizens of Louisiana about the critical need for organ and tissue donation.

The Foundation raises funds to support educational and awareness programs throughout Louisiana.

Some of the programs include:

●**Physician Education Program-** This initiative helps physicians understand their crucial role in educating patients about organ and tissue donation during office visits, while dispelling myths and misconceptions.

●**Workplace Partnerships-** In collaboration with Donate Life Louisiana, the Foundation participates in workplace partnerships and health fairs. Primary messages the Foundation seeks to deliver are encouraging all Louisianans to register as organ donors and sharing this important message with their loved ones.

●**General Social Awareness and Media Campaign-** The Foundation coordinates an overarching media campaign throughout the state through billboards and additional media placement.

●**Faith Based and Minority Awareness-** The Foundation has compiled a Resource Guide for clergy members educating them on donation and encouraging them to urge their congregations to register as donors.

●**Office of Motor Vehicles-** A comprehensive training manual was created to educate all OMV field office staff throughout the state. Other educational programs and awareness activities are conducted throughout the year.

●**Youth Education-** The Foundation has educated thousands of high school students about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

THE CRITICAL NEED



Why do we transplant?

To extend life, prevent complications of diseases (such as heart attacks, strokes, cancer, retinopathy, and neuropathy), and improve quality of life.

Every day **18** people die waiting for an organ.

Every **13** minutes another name is added to the national waiting list.

Today, there are over **102,000** people on the national waiting list.

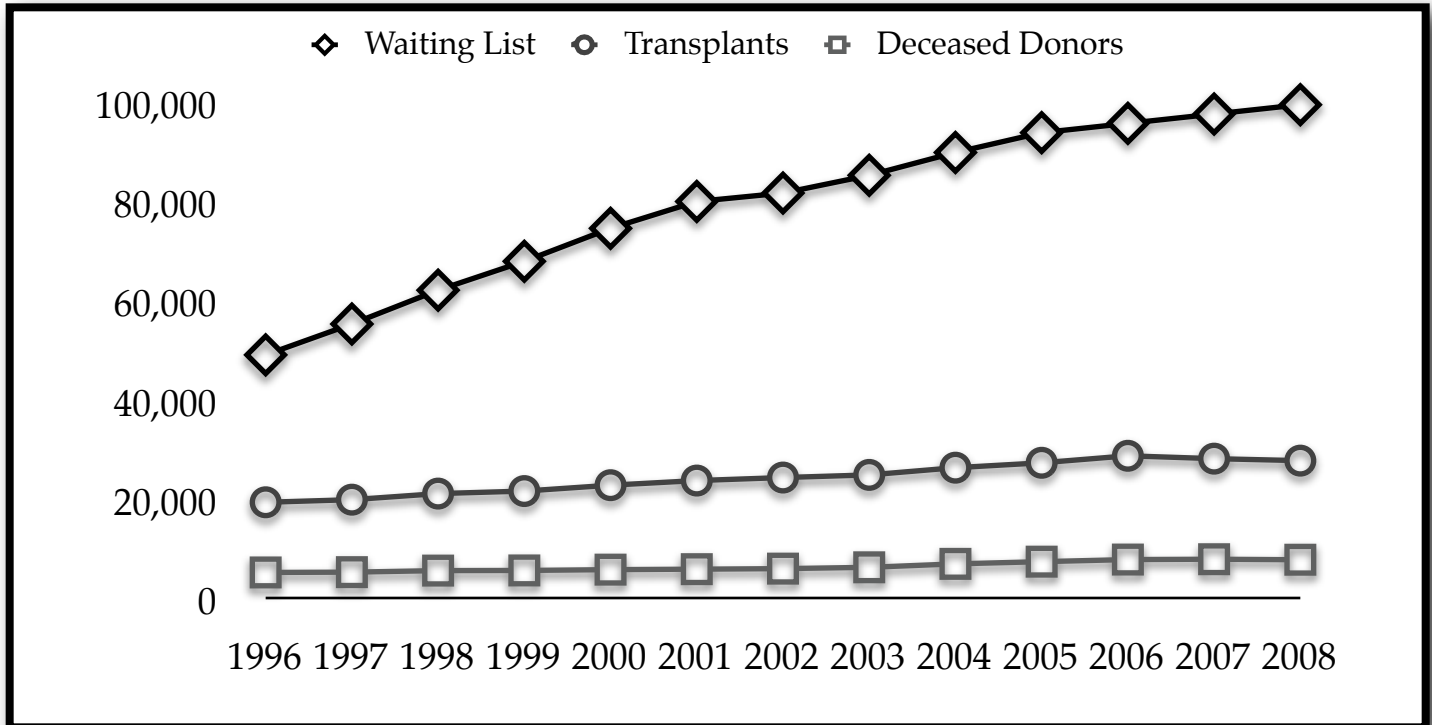
WAITING LIST

	Louisiana	National
Kidney	1,664	79,784
Liver	138	15,839
Pancreas	18	1,502
Kidney/Pancreas	33	2,236
Heart	32	2,800
Lung	-	1,948
Heart/Lung	-	83
Intestine	-	205
All Organs	1,857	102,017

as of May 2009

THE PROBLEM

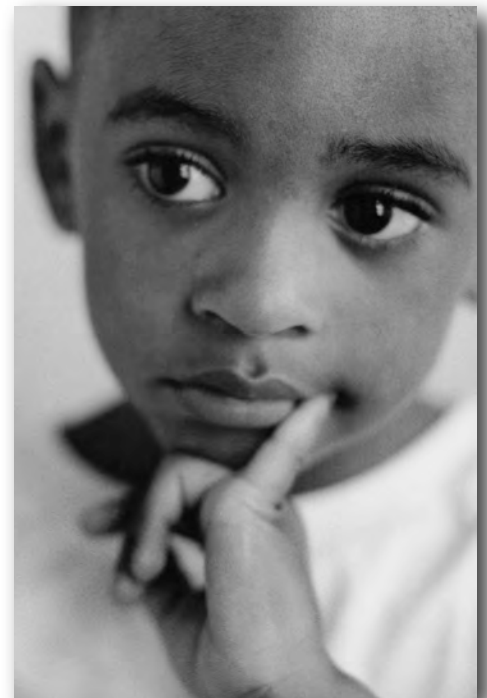
Only 2% of deaths can result in organ donation.



WAITING LIST REMOVALS

*Nearly **9,000** patients die or are too sick to receive a transplant each year- more than **18** people die each day waiting for a lifesaving transplant.*

*On average, in Louisiana each year more than **150** patients die or are too sick to receive a transplant because not enough organs are available.*



ORGANS AND TISSUES THAT CAN BE TRANSPLANTED



ORGANS

HEART- helps patients suffering from severe, life threatening heart failure

LUNGS- help patients suffering from emphysema, cystic fibrosis, or other life threatening lung disease

LIVER- helps patients suffering from severe hepatitis, cirrhosis or liver failure

KIDNEYS- help patients suffering from diabetes or high blood pressure (a transplant eliminates the need for dialysis)

PANCREAS- helps insulin dependent diabetic patients (a transplant eliminates the need for insulin injections and reduces the of losing sight)

INTESTINES- help patients suffering from Crohn's disease and Short Gut Syndrome

TISSUES

CORNEAS- help patients suffering from blindness due to corneal damage or disease (sight is restored)

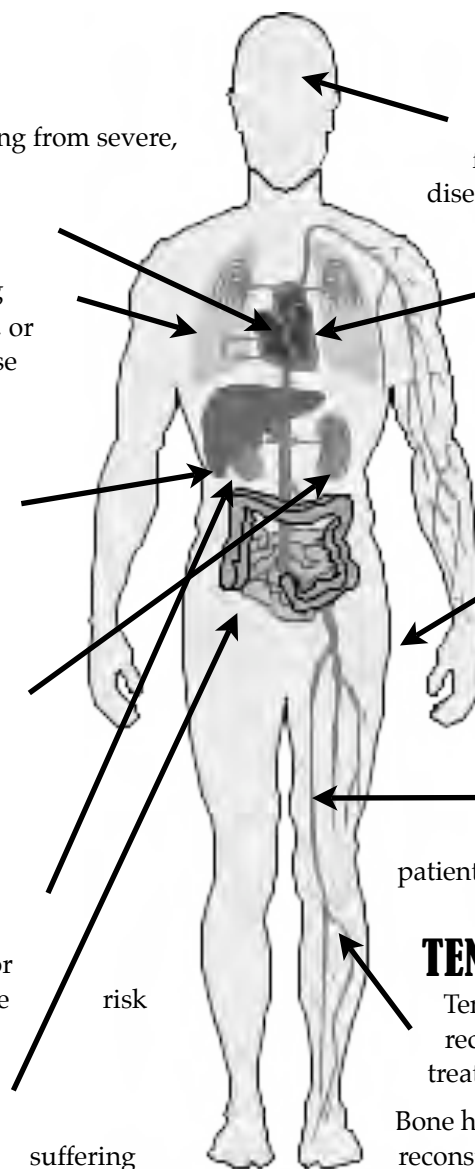
HEART VALVES- help patients requiring replacement of a malfunctioning heart valve (in most cases a donor valve is preferred over a mechanical valve)

SKIN- helps patients with severe burns (provides a temporary covering to decrease pain, infection, scarring, heat and fluid loss)

VEINS- help patients requiring coronary artery by-pass surgery (the donated veins are used to replace the patient's blocked arteries)

TENDONS, LIGAMENTS & BONES- Tendons help patients requiring reconstructive joint surgery (used in treatment of sports injuries).

Bone helps patients requiring facial reconstruction, limb salvage, correction of birth defects, cancer treatment, spinal surgery, or oral surgery.





HOW MANY LIVES CAN BE SAVED?

One organ donor can save the lives of up to **9** people, restore sight to **2** people, and enhance the lives of up to **50** more through tissue donation.

HOW DO I REGISTER AS A DONOR?

As a registered donor, you are choosing to make a difference with your gift. Please talk to your family about your decision. Once you have made the decision to become an organ, eye and tissue donor, it is important that you add your name to the registry.

How do you record your wishes?

Say **YES!** to organ donation when you get or renew your drivers license.



Go to the Louisiana Organ & Tissue Donor Registry Website- **www.donatelifela.org**

Let your family and friends know about your wishes. Only then can they support your decision to give the Gift of Life.



WHO RECEIVES AN ORGAN?

After an extensive evaluation at a transplant center, patients are placed on the list for transplantation. When an organ becomes available, the organs are placed based on:

Urgency of need- the very sickest rank at the top of the list

Time waiting- higher priority based on time on the transplant waiting list

Blood type- must be compatible

Size- height and/or weight must be compatible

Transplant Results

Transplantation has more than an **80%** success rate and is **NOT** experimental.

Organ donation is not a search for a cure- it is the cure!

The Donation Process

Referrals to LOPA are made when the patient is ventilator dependent and approaching brain death.

Once a patient is determined to be a potential donor:

LOPA's Family Advocate Staff speaks to the family in a private, quiet and comfortable area of the hospital to help them through the grieving process.

LOPA Coordinators remain in the hospital to facilitate the recovery process and provide support to the family.

LOPA's Family Services Coordinators provide extensive



aftercare for donor families.

What is an Organ Procurement Organization (OPO)?

- ★ Coordinates activities relating to organ and tissue recovery in their area – including evaluating donors, informing the family of the opportunity to donate and arranging for the recovery of donated organs/tissues.
- ★ Safeguards the organs and makes arrangements to have them sent to

What is Brain Death?

- ★ A condition of death occurring when swelling of the brain and pressure in the skull are increased enough to stop blood flow, which causes cellular death. This results in complete and irreversible cessation of all brain activity.
- ★ Brain death is a legal determination of death, there is no chance of recovery.
- ★ Louisiana law requires **one** licensed physician to determine that a patient is brain dead. An additional independent physician must confirm brain death to proceed with donation.
- ★ The transplant team is not part of the declaration of

LOPA's Donor Family Services

- ★ Initial letter to donor family with general information about the recipient if known.
- ★ Phone call to the donor family and follow-up letter to ascertain the well-being of the family and provide emotional support and grief counseling.
- ★ Provide information about donor and recipient communication.

Milestones in Louisiana Transplant History

- 1959** First Louisiana kidney transplant
- 1970** First Louisiana heart transplant
- 1983** First Louisiana liver transplant
- 1986** Louisiana passes the Required Request Act, which requires that families of patients meeting the medical criteria are offered the opportunity to donate organs and tissues for transplantation
- 1986** The United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) begins managing the nation's only national transplant waiting list
- 1988** LOPA becomes the state wide Organ Procurement Organization (OPO).
- 1990** First Louisiana dual organ transplant – kidney/ pancreas
First Louisiana heart/lung transplant
- 1991** First Louisiana double lung transplant
First Louisiana pancreas transplant
- 1992** LOPA expands to include Tissue Banking
First pediatric liver transplant
- 1993** Youngest person in US to undergo a double lung transplant
- Louisiana Donor Registry began through the Office of Motor Vehicles
- 1997** First split liver donation in Louisiana
- 2000** First living related liver donation
- 2001** The oldest kidney recipient in US history (86 years old) transplanted





ONLY THE FACTS COUNT

People choose not to donate their organs and tissue because they have formed beliefs based on myths or what the media has presented as truth. There are a lot of myths about organ donation, but only the facts count.

Your decision to donate will not interfere with life-saving medical care. Organ and tissue donation is only an option after all attempts have been made to save your life and death has been declared.

Donation does not prevent open casket funerals. There is nothing that would prevent an open casket funeral or traditional viewing ceremony. Organ donation does not interfere with funeral service, but may delay the service.

Anyone can potentially be a donor regardless of age, race, or medical history. Cancer, heart disease, diabetes, poor eye sight or cataracts will not prevent you from being a donor.

There is NO cost to the donor or their family for organ, eye and tissue donation. Donation is a gift. The family of the donor pays for the regular hospital charges not involved with the donation, and the donor's funeral arrangements.

All major religions approve of organ, tissue and eye donation, and see it as an unselfish act of charity.

Joining the Donor Registry is not enough. Family discussion about donation is a critical part of the process. It is important to share your wishes about organ donation with your family members, only then can they support your decision about donation.

It is illegal to distribute organs based on wealth, citizenship or celebrity status.

It is illegal to buy or sell organs in the United States.

Confidentiality of both donor and recipient families is protected. The donor family is informed of the outcome of their gift in a letter providing general information about the recipient(s).



RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINTS

All major religions support donation. The decision is considered a matter of individual choice. In fact, many religions actively encourage donation as the ultimate gift to fellow human beings.

Baptist- The Southern Baptist Convention, adopted a resolution to '...encourage voluntarism regarding organ donations in the spirit of stewardship, compassion for the needs of others and alleviating suffering.'

Buddhism- Buddhists believe organ donation is a matter that should be left to an individual's conscience. Reverend Gyomay Masao Kubose, president and founder of The Buddhist Temple of Chicago says, "We honor those people who donate their bodies and organs to the advancement of medical science and to saving lives."

Catholicism- Catholics view organ donation as an act of charity, fraternal love and self sacrifice. Transplants are ethically and morally acceptable to the Vatican.

Episcopal- The Episcopal Church recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ, blood, and tissue donation. All Christians are encouraged to become organ, blood, and tissue donors.

Hinduism- Hindu mythology includes stories in which parts of the human body are used for the benefit of other humans and society. The act is an individual decision.

Islam- Muslims believe in the principle of saving human lives, and permit organ transplants as a means of achieving that noble end.

Jehovah's Witnesses- Jehovah's Witnesses believe donation is a matter best left to an individual's conscience. All organs and tissue, however, must be completely drained of blood before transplantation.

Judaism- All four branches of Judaism support and encourage donation. Said Orthodox Rabbi Tendier, "if one is in the position to donate an organ to save another's life, it's obligatory to do so, even if the donor never knows who the beneficiary will be."

Mormons- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints considers the decision to donate organs a selfless act that often results in great benefit and the decision to donate for medical purposes.

Pentecostal- Pentecostals leave the decision to donate up to the individual.

Presbyterian- Presbyterians encourage and endorse donation. It's an individual's right to make decisions regarding his or her own body.

Unitarian Universalist- Organ and tissue donation is widely supported by Unitarian Universalists. They view it as an act of love and selfless giving.

United Methodist- The United Methodist Church issued a policy statement regarding organ and tissue donation. In it, they state that, "The United Methodist Church recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ and tissue donation, and thereby encourages all Christians to become organ and tissue donors by signing and carrying cards or driver's licenses."

MINORITIES & ORGAN DONATION



The health problems that affect minorities have changed in recent years due to changing lifestyles. Today, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and alcohol and drug abuse threaten communities. Sometimes these health problems are serious enough to require organ and tissue transplantation.

- Nearly half of the people on the national waiting list for organs are minorities.
- Only about **25%** of donors are minorities.
- African-Americans, Asian-Pacific Islanders and Hispanics are **three times more likely to suffer from kidney disease** than Caucasians.
- Native Americans are **four times more likely to suffer from diabetes** than Caucasians.
- African-Americans **suffer from hypertension four times more frequently** than Caucasians.
- Successful kidney transplantation often is enhanced by the **matching of organs between members of the same ethnic and racial group.**
- A shortage of organs donated by minorities can contribute to **higher death rates and longer waits for transplants for minorities.**
- The five most common reasons minorities are reluctant to donate are lack of information about the issue, religious beliefs, distrust of the medical community, fear of premature death, and concern about racial disparity.

Louisiana Law



Louisiana has a first-person consent registry.

This allows citizens to make legally binding decisions to be organ donors. Family consent is required only for minors.

This makes it especially important for you to discuss your wishes regarding donation with your family.

There are three revised statutes that address Louisianans rights to first person consent:

LA RS 17:2352 states that any individual who is competent to execute a will may give all or any part of his body

LA RS 17:2354 states the manner of executing anatomical gifts, which includes registration through the OMV

LA RS 17:2356 explains that no one other than the donee has the right to revoke the gift



VISIT THESE SITES

Learn more about donation and transplantation.

www.donatelifela.org

www.donatelifelife.net

www.lopaa.org (LOPA)

www.organawareness.org (Legacy)

www.unos.org (United Network for Organ Sharing)



Louisiana

a collaboration between



4410 N. I-10 Service Road, Metairie, LA 70006 P. O. Box 15680, New Orleans, LA 70175

www.donatelifela.org

all statistics cited provided by unos.org