



April is National Donate Life Month

Instituted by Donate Life America, National Donate Life Month (NDLM) is observed each year in April, featuring an entire month of local, regional and national activities with one common goal – to encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to honor the heroes who have saved lives through the gift of donation. For the 2019 National Donate Life Month campaign, Donate Life America was inspired by bicycles and the phrase, “Life is a beautiful ride.” Like the donation and transplantation journey, a bicycle serves as a symbol of progress, renewal and the moving circle of life.

Learn the Facts

Donation and Transplantation by The Numbers (OPTN)

- Over **113,000 men, women and children** currently await lifesaving organ transplants.
- About **58 percent** of patients awaiting lifesaving transplants represent minority communities.
- A new name is added to the national transplant waiting list every **10 minutes**.
- Unfortunately, **8,000 people die each year** (an average of **22 people each day**) because they do not receive a transplant in time.
- **80 percent** of patients on the national transplant waiting list are waiting for a kidney. The average wait time for a kidney from a deceased donor is **3 to 5 years**. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list. (The living donor’s remaining kidney will enlarge, doing the work of two healthy kidneys.)
- **12 percent** of those waiting are in need of a liver. Living donation of a partial liver is an option that can help these patients. (The remaining portion of the donor liver will regenerate and regain full function.)
- Nearly one-third of all deceased donors are age **50 or older**. More than 7 percent are age **65 or older**.

Gear Up!

National Donate Life Blue & Green Day is April 12, 2019

Show your support by wearing blue and green to promote awareness of the lifesaving benefits of organ, eye and tissue donation, and the significant need for more registered donors. Visit www.donatelife.net/blue-green-day for graphics, resources and celebration ideas.

A National Call to Action

While 95 percent of the U.S. adult population supports organ, eye and tissue donation, only about 58 percent (or approximately 138 million people) have actually registered their decision. We each carry the potential to help make LIFE a beautiful ride for ourselves, and then for others, by registering as a donor, considering living donation, being a caregiver and championing the cause.

To register your decision to save and heal lives, visit RegisterMe.org.

To learn more about organ, eye, tissue and living donation, visit DonateLife.net.



Resources

For resources on National Donate Life Month, visit:

- <https://www.donatelife.net/ndlm/>
- <https://www.donatelife.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2018-NDLM-Donation-and-Transplantation-Statistics-FINAL-12.17-FINAL-public.pdf>
- <https://www.organdonor.gov/statistics-stories/statistics.html>

