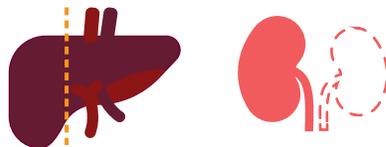


# Why Become an Organ or Tissue Donor?

There is a critical and urgent need for organ, blood, and tissue donors. By becoming a donor, you have the power to give the gift of life to someone in need.



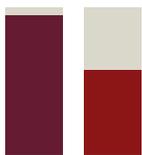
Every day, **20** Americans lose their lives because an organ is not available.<sup>4</sup>



A living donor can donate an organ such as kidney, a portion of a liver, and bone marrow.<sup>5</sup>



On average, **one in four** living donors is not related to the recipient.<sup>6</sup>



**95%** of Americans support organ donation, but only **58%** are registered as organ donors.<sup>7</sup>



**One** person can save **eight** lives and improve the lives of **75** others through organ, eye, and tissue donation.<sup>8</sup>

Learn more at [stanfordhealthcare.org/donatelife](https://stanfordhealthcare.org/donatelife)

1. "The Organ Transplant Waitlist," Donate Life California, accessed March 21, 2023, <https://donatelifecalifornia.org/education/how-donation-works/the-organ-transplant-waiting-list/>
2. "State data," Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network, accessed April 13, 2023, <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/data/view-data-reports/state-data/>
3. "Understand Donation," Donate Life America, accessed April 17, 2023, <https://donatelife.net/donation>
4. "Organ Donation Facts and Statistics," Donor Network West, accessed March 21, 2023, <https://www.donornetworkwest.org/organ-donation-facts-statistics/>
5. "Donate Organs While Alive," HRSA OrganDonor.gov, accessed March 21, 2023, <https://www.organdonor.gov/learn/process/living-donation>
6. "Living Donation," Donate Life America, accessed March 21, 2023, <https://www.donatelife.net/types-of-donation/living-donation/>
7. "Organ Donation Facts and Statistics," Donor Network West, accessed March 21, 2023, <https://www.donornetworkwest.org/organ-donation-facts-statistics/>
8. "Frequently Asked Questions," Donate Life America, accessed March 21, 2023, <https://www.donatelife.net/faq/>

# Why Become an Organ or Tissue Donor?

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can be a donor?

People of all ages can consider themselves potential organ donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissues can be donated. If you have a condition such as diabetes or cancer, you can still become an organ or tissue donor in many cases. Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression do not prevent you from registering as an organ donor.

### How does the deceased donation process work?

Deceased organ donation is the process of giving an organ or a part of an organ, at the time of the donor's death, for the purpose of transplantation to another person. Only after all efforts to save the patient's life have been exhausted, tests have been performed to confirm the absence of brain or brainstem activity, and brain death has been declared, is donation a possibility.

Learn more about deceased donation from Donate Life America: [donatelife.net/donation/types/deceased-donation](https://donatelife.net/donation/types/deceased-donation)

### What does it mean to be a living donor?

A living donor is when you donate an organ, part of an organ, organ tissue, blood, or bone marrow while you are still alive. You can serve as a living donor for relatives, loved ones, friends, or anonymously for people in need.

Find more information on Stanford Health Care's Living Donation Programs, visit [stanfordhealthcare.org/livingdonor](https://stanfordhealthcare.org/livingdonor) or to take the next step at:

- Kidney Living Donation: **650-498-8382** or [stanfordhealthcare.org/donatekidney](https://stanfordhealthcare.org/donatekidney)
- Liver Living Donation: **650-724-5672** or [stanfordhealthcare.org/donateliver](https://stanfordhealthcare.org/donateliver)

### Do my faith and traditions permit organ or tissue donation?

Many religions view organ donation as an act of kindness or a matter of individual conscience. If you have questions or concerns, consult your spiritual advisor.

### Does registering as a donor change my medical care?

It is important to know that when you are sick or injured, your medical care professionals do not know whether you have registered as an organ donor. They are committed to saving your life. Only in the event of death do they find out if you are an organ donor and notify the organ transplant medical team. After death, caring health professionals will determine whether your organs and tissues are viable for transplant. If they are, your body will be treated with respect.

### Why is it important for people of every community to donate?

A more diverse donor population can lead to increased access to transplants and success. The chance of longer-term survival may improve if a donor and recipient are closely matched by shared genetic background. Compatible blood types and tissue markers are important matching factors and more likely to be found among members of the same race or ethnicity. More than half the people waiting for life-saving transplants in California are Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American. We have a pressing need for organ and tissue donors from these communities.

### How can I learn more?

- To learn about the types of organ, blood, and tissue donors; important donation facts; and the communities where donor shortage is most urgent, visit [stanfordhealthcare.org/donatelife](https://stanfordhealthcare.org/donatelife)
  - To join the organ registry in California, visit [register.donatelifecalifornia.org/register](https://register.donatelifecalifornia.org/register)
- To learn more about living donation for kidney and liver; important living donation facts; and inspiring donor stories, visit [stanfordhealthcare.org/livingdonor](https://stanfordhealthcare.org/livingdonor).