

# **Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry Enrollment by County**

## **Overview**

### **General Description**

The New York State Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry is a secure computerized database of individuals who have recorded their consent to become an organ and/or tissue donor upon their death. Currently there are more than 10,000 individuals awaiting organ transplants in New York State. Unfortunately, the number of people waiting far exceeds the number of eligible organ donors. Only about 60% of individuals who are eligible to donate actually become donors because their wishes regarding donation are not known. The number one reason families refuse permission for donation is that they do not know their loved one's wishes. The registry allows individuals to record their donation wishes and ensures those wishes are acted upon.

The Registry is a joint effort of the NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the NYS Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV). Individuals can enroll when renewing their driver's license or non-drive ID, on-line via My DMV, when registering to vote or by mailing in an enrollment form. All enrollees' information is stored on a secure server and only available to federally regulated organ procurement organizations (OPO) and New York State licensed tissue banks at the time of a person's death to determine their donation status.

This data set contains information on the number of enrollments in the Donate Life Registry by county and percentage of the eligible New York State population. Enrollment in the registry is legal consent to organ/tissue donation at the time of a person's death. A person must be 18 years of age or older to be eligible for enrollment in the registry.

### **Data Collection Methodology**

Data contained in this data set was provided by the New York State Office of Motor Vehicles, the New York State Board of Elections, and New York State organ procurement organizations, eye and tissue banks.

### **Limitations of Data**

The Department depends on the enrolled individual to inform the Department of any change to their enrollment, such as, changes of address. Also, an individual may enroll multiple times through different portals of entry. Therefore, the data set may include persons who are deceased, have left the state or have multiple enrollments.