

Donate Life Organ and Tissue Registry Enrollment by County Overview

**Office of Primary Care and
Health Systems Management
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Health Data NY

General Description:

Currently there are more than 9,600 individuals awaiting organ transplants in New York State. Over 7,000 of those on the waiting list of New York transplant centers are waiting for a kidney transplant. Approximately 1,100 people are waiting for a liver transplant. Fewer people are waiting for heart, lung, pancreas, or intestine transplant.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of many people and organizations, the need for organs and organ donors in New York State and nationally far exceeds the number of organs donated and available for transplantation.

The New York State Donate Life (Organ and Tissue Donor) Registry is a secure computerized database of individuals who have registered their consent to become an organ and/or tissue donor after they die. The Registry allows individuals record their consent to become a donor and ensures that their wishes are carried out. Without documentation or knowledge of their loved ones wishes, family members may or may not give permission for donation if they do not know their loved one's wishes. Enrollment in the Registry removes that uncertainty for families and ensures that donation occurs whenever possible.

The Registry was developed to be versatile and capable of accepting enrollments from a variety of sources, both paper and electronic. Individuals can enroll while applying/renewing a driver's license or non-driver's identification card through NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), on-line via My DMV, while registering to vote through the New York State and County Boards of Elections (NYSBOE), while applying for a New York City municipal identification card (IDNYC), while applying for health insurance through the NY State of Health Insurance Marketplace (NYSoH), by completing and signing a paper enrollment form, and through direct online enrollment utilizing electronic signatures and identity verification.

A donor record is created for each individual who enrolls in the Registry. Registry information is kept strictly confidential and can only be accessed by authorized parties with permissions consistent with their need to access the data. Other than those who have access to the Registry for administrative, oversight and quality assurance purposes, the Registry can only be accessed by federally designated organ procurement organizations, eye and tissue banks for the purpose of identifying potential donors at or near their time of death.

This data set contains information on the number of enrollments in the Registry by county and the percentage of the eligible New York State population that is enrolled in the Registry per county. It is important to note that starting in 2017, though sixteen and seventeen-year-old teenagers were permitted to document their consent to donation by enrolling in the Registry, the percentage of eligible population contained in this table is that of those 18 years old and older.



Data Methodology:

The data contained in this data set is provided directly from the New York State Donate Life Registry and includes all enrollments from all enrollment sources.

Limitations of Use:

The Department depends on the enrolled individual to inform the Registry of any change to their donor record, 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 donor records.