

2024 Donor Alliance Fact Sheet:

Donor Alliance is the federally designated, non-profit organ procurement organization (OPO) and an American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) accredited tissue bank serving Colorado and most of Wyoming. As a recognized leader in facilitating the donation and recovery of transplantable organs and tissues, Donor Alliance’s mission is to save and heals lives through organ and tissue donation and transplantation. To achieve this mission, Donor Alliance collaborates with community partners and more than 100 hospitals and 4 local transplant centers, to support donors, their families and serve our communities. Donor Alliance also manages the donor registries in our donation service area, [Donate Life Colorado](#) and [Donate Life Wyoming](#), which are symbols of the cause. Through Donate Life, Donor Alliance educates Coloradans and Wyomingites on the lifesaving benefits of donation, inspiring them to register to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor.

Local Colorado and Wyoming stats:

- A record **307** organ donors and **918** organ transplants in 2023; that’s a **10.4%** increase in organ donors and **10.6%** increase in lifesaving transplants compared to 2022.
- Additionally, Donor Alliance assisted in **45** of the region’s **176** transplants from living donors in 2023.
- Donor Alliance recovered **3.9%** more tissue for transplant from **1,703** donors.
- There has been a 21.8% decrease in deaths on the organ transplant waitlist in Colorado and Wyoming from 2022.
- There are **1,260** people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant in our service area. (a/o 01/09/2023)
- Of those waiting, **1,059** are waiting for a kidney—the organ most in need (84.05%)—and **131** are waiting for a liver (10.35%).
- Of those waiting for an organ transplant, **34%** are under 50 years of age; another **41%** are between 50 and 64.
- In 2022, Colorado and Wyoming were amongst the top five nationally for Donor Registration Rate (DDR). In 2023, Colorado’s DDR is **66.2%** of driver license/ID card applicants signing up to be organ and tissue donors. Wyoming’s DDR at year end **58.41%**.
- Of the **307** organ donors, **74.6%** were signed up on the Donate Life Colorado or Wyoming Donor Registry.
- Of the **1,703** tissue donors, **76.05%** were signed up on the Donate Life Colorado or Wyoming Donor Registry.
- Donor Alliance’s Donor Service Area serves **6.3** million residents and covers **184,151** square miles – this includes all of Colorado and most of Wyoming.

National stats & facts:

- The national average for Donor Designation rate for 2022 is **48.9%**
- **16,335** people provided the lifesaving gift of organ donation upon their death last year, his represents a **9.6%** increase over 2022 and the first year with more than 15,000 deceased donors.
- Because of those generous **16,335** organ donors, 46,632 there were 46,632 organ transplants performed from both living and deceased donors in 2023. This represents an **8.7 %** increase over 2022 and a **12.7 %** increase over 2021, which was the first year with more than 40,000 organ transplants.
- There were **39,679** organ transplants from deceased donors. This represents an **8.9 %** increase over 2022 and marks the eleventh consecutive record-setting year.
- Additionally, **6,953** living donor transplants were performed in 2023.
- Today, **113,482** people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants nationally. (a/o 01/22/2024)
- Of the patients waiting, **95,949** (84.6%) are in need of a kidney and **10,041** (8.8%) are in need of a liver transplant.
- Transplantable organs include the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine.
- Recoverable tissues include bone, tendons, corneas, veins, valves and skin.
- One donor can save up to **8 lives** through organ donation and save and heal more than **75 lives** through tissue donation.
- On average, **17** people die each day while waiting for a lifesaving transplant.
- On average, about **109** transplants take place each day in the United States.
- Every **9** minutes another name is added to the national transplant waiting list.
- More than **2.5 million** tissue transplants are performed annually in the United States.



Learn more about organ and tissue donation, at www.DonorAlliance.org or call 303-329-4747.

Residents can join the *Donate Life* Colorado or Wyoming Registries by visiting:

www.DonateLifeColorado.org or www.DonateLifeWyoming.org

Statistics provided by the United Network for Organ Sharing, www.unos.org & Eye Bank Association of America

Last updated: January 12, 2021 [Based on OPTN data as of January 12, 2021]



Frequently Asked Questions about Organ and Tissue Donation:

- **What is organ and tissue donation?**

Organ and tissue donation is the process of recovering organs and tissues from a deceased person and transplanting them into others in need to save and heal lives. One person can save up to eight lives through organ donation and save and heal up to 75 lives through tissue donation.

- **How does organ and tissue donation work?**

1. There are nearly 1,300 people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant in Colorado and Wyoming.
2. During a difficult time, when a person has a life ending injury and is connected to ventilated support, the hospital contacts Donor Alliance who evaluates if donation is possible.
3. Donor Alliance talks with the family about donation, giving the gift of life, and honoring their loved one's decision.
4. A nationwide database quickly identifies the best match for an organ recipient for transplantation.
5. Donor Alliance walks alongside the family during the recovery process and ensures their loved one's gifts are safely received at transplant centers in a timely manner.
6. Donor Alliance also facilitates tissue donation to save and heal more lives across our community and ensures these gifts are safely received at tissue processors in a timely manner.

- **What are the benefits of organ and tissue donation?**

Saying Yes to organ and tissue donation saves and heals lives. Every year, organ, eye and tissue transplants provide hope to tens of thousands of people suffering from disease, injury, trauma or blindness. Transplants offer patients a new chance at healthy and productive lives, returning them to their families, friends and communities.

- **How do Colorado and Wyoming residents become organ and tissue donors?**

Coloradans and Wyomingites can register to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor by saying Yes the next time they obtain or renew a driver license or state ID at the DMV, or anytime at [DonateLifeColorado.org](https://www.donatelifecolorado.org) or [DonateLifeWyoming.org](https://www.donatelifewyoming.org). Anyone can register to be a donor, regardless of age, race, medical history, religion, or income. Even those with chronic conditions, such as hepatitis and diabetes, can sign up to give the gift of life.

- **How are organs allocated to recipients?**

When a deceased organ donor is identified, an organ procurement organization, like Donor Alliance, accesses The United Network for Organ Sharing's (UNOS) secure, centralized computer network and enters necessary medical information about the donor. The system then uses this information to match the medical characteristics of the candidates waiting against those of the donor. The system will generate a ranked list of patients who are suitable to receive each organ. Some of the key elements considered in matching organs from deceased donors to patients on the waiting list are: blood type, body size, severity of patient's medical condition, distance between the donor's hospital and the patient's hospital, the patient's waiting time, and the availability of the potential recipient (e.g., the patient can be contacted and has no current infection or other temporary reason that transplant cannot take place).

- **Does Donor Alliance facilitate living donation too?**

No. Transplant centers facilitate and coordinate living donation. Donor Alliance *only* facilitates deceased donation. Donor Alliance supports the altruistic gift of living organ donation and sees it as a beneficial way to help close the gap on the waiting list.



Learn more about organ and tissue donation, at www.DonorAlliance.org or call 303-329-4747.

Residents can join the *Donate Life* Colorado or Wyoming Registries by visiting:

www.DonateLifeColorado.org or www.DonateLifeWyoming.org

Statistics provided by the United Network for Organ Sharing, www.unos.org & Eye Bank Association of America

Last updated: January 12, 2021 [Based on OPTN data as of January 12, 2021]

