

# Did You Know?

## Facts & figures about organ & tissue donation

Over 95,000 Americans are registered on the United Network for Organ Sharing waiting list for donated organs, including over 750 people on the waiting list in Kentucky.

A new name is added to the waiting list every 14 minutes.

Every year, an estimated 3,000 people die while waiting for an organ transplant. Nine to eleven people die each day due to the lack of a donated organ.

Transplantable organs include the kidney, heart, liver, lung, pancreas and small bowel.

Transplantable tissues include bone, cartilage, skin, corneas, heart valves, saphenous veins, tendons and ligaments.

Acceptable donors range from newborn to senior citizens.

One individual donor can provide organs, bone and tissue for nearly 50 people in need.

An estimated 450,000 Americans are treated with transplanted bone, tendon and ligament tissue each year.

About 40,000 cornea transplants are performed annually, with 5,000 people waiting for donated corneas.

In 2006, approximately 28,000 successful organ transplants were performed. It is estimated that twice as many could have been performed if more people donated organs.

By law, donation is the right of every American age 18 and older. Hospitals are obligated by law, to identify potential donors and to inform families of their right to donate.

Individuals may indicate their wish to be a donor by joining the Kentucky Organ Donor Registry. An individual may go to [www.donatelifeky.org](http://www.donatelifeky.org) to register. Since Kentucky has First Person Consent laws in place, an individual's wishes to donate will be honored.

All efforts are made to save a person's life regardless of whether he or she has signed a up on the Registry. Doctors involved in initial care of a patient cannot be involved in donation or transplantation.

There is no extra expense for the family donating organs or tissues. KODA pays all costs related to organ & tissue donation.

The donor's body is not disfigured by organ or tissue removal. An open casket funeral is possible. No one should be able to recognize that the individual was a donor.

All major religions approve of organ and tissue donation.

**KODA**  
**1-800-525-3456**