

Facts About Minorities and Organ Donation

Compiled by Jean Oxendine
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- The number of minority deceased donors increased from 16 percent in 1988 to 23 percent in 1995.
- Twelve percent of all deceased donors are Blacks, but 27 percent of those on the organ transplant waiting list are Black.
- Minority organ recipients increased from 20 percent in 1988 to 26 percent in 1995. The number of Hispanic organ recipients more than doubled during that time period.
- Minorities comprised 50 percent of the kidney waiting list in 1995, compared to 43 percent in 1988. Most are Black.
- The decrease in graft survival rates among Black recipients of kidney transplants is more pronounced than for other races.
- Blacks on the kidney waiting list wait longer than Whites for transplants. This is primarily because a) the blood group distribution among Black registrants differs from the donor pool, which is predominately white; b) Blacks have a higher sensitivity to donor organs than any other race; and c) Some HLAs are more rare among Blacks than Whites. HLAs, human leukocyte antigens, are the genetic information encoded on white blood cells.
- Five-year patient survival rates for Black recipients of living donor kidney transplants are lower than for other racial groups. Asian survival rates are highest.
- Minority registrants comprised 14 percent of all kidney-pancreas waiting list registrants in 1995, up from 11 percent in 1992.
- Black registrants wait longer for kidney-pancreas transplants than candidates of other races. In 1995, the median waiting time for all races overall was 298 days, and 345 for Blacks.
- Patient survival rates for Black and Asian liver recipients are lower than for other races.
- The number of minorities waiting for hearts increased from 13 percent of all registrants in 1988 to 18 percent in 1995.
- Minorities comprised 13 percent of lung recipients in 1995, up from 3 percent in 1988.

Source: United Network for Organ Sharing

