



North Carolina

You have the power to save lives.

Register Online

Donation Spotlight

North Carolina ranks #6 in the country for the size of our donor registry. Learn more about how you can help us to encourage others to register as organ, eye and tissue donors at DonateLifeNC.org.

You Can Help
Visit donatelifenc.org/you-can-help to find out how.

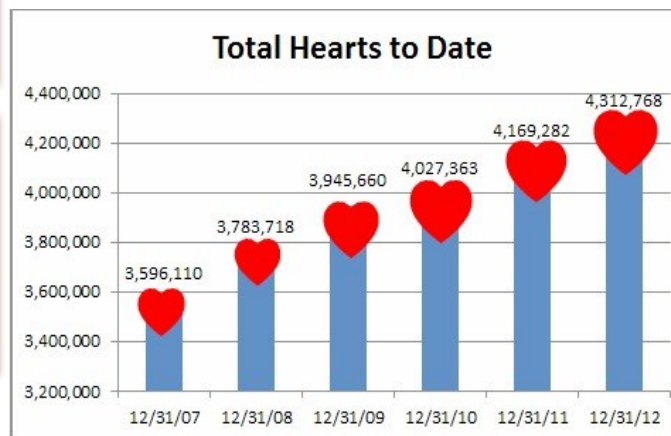
Reporting Results: Round 2

Think about how extraordinary this is: the impact of our collective work has the potential to improve or save the lives of up to 50 people each time someone makes the decision to Donate Life. It's a powerful, life-affirming gift—and for that reason, it is especially important for us to share our results, our stories, and our successes with those who have made these incredible gifts possible.

Last year we shared our results with you as part of our Donate Life Month outreach. We plan to continue this annually, sharing both our progress and challenges while engaging you to help us in our work to inspire more North Carolinians to register as organ, eye and tissue donors. A strategic balance between sharing compelling stories and data is the best way to inspire and provide hope for the more than 3,600 North Carolinians currently on the transplant waiting list. Our aim is to help you learn about our challenges, to think about ways you can help us to improve, and to give you the information you need to inspire others to consider registering as organ, eye and tissue donors.

As we review our results for 2012, we are seeing exciting successes and some obstacles: our registry is maturing and we've seen a drop in our rates in some age groups. We've identified outreach beyond the DMV and teen driver's education classes as the key to informing more people before they get to the DMV to register.

Thank you for being part of Donate Life North Carolina—as a volunteer DMV Ambassador, a Board member, a Driver's Education instructor, a DMV Examiner, a partner agency staff member, or an interested citizen. Share your ideas and feedback for how we can improve our work together at info@donatelifenc.org.



4,312,768 unique donors are registered in North Carolina's Donor Registry as of December 31, 2012. Our total **ADD Rate** is **51.9%** down slightly from 52.8% in 2011. Our **ADD Share** has grown from 43.4% in 2007 to **48.4%** in 2012.

Contact Us:

Donate Life North Carolina
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Inspiring North Carolinians to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

Email: info@donatelifenc.org
Website: DonateLifeNC.org

Facebook.com/DonateLifeNC
Twitter: @DonateLifeNC



Designation Rates by Ethnicity

Definitions

- **ADD Share** is the percentage of all licensed drivers and ID card holders who have placed a donor designation (a heart symbol) on their license or ID card.
- **ADD Rate** is the rate at which driver and ID card applicants choose to renew or add a donor designation to their license or ID card within a given period of time.

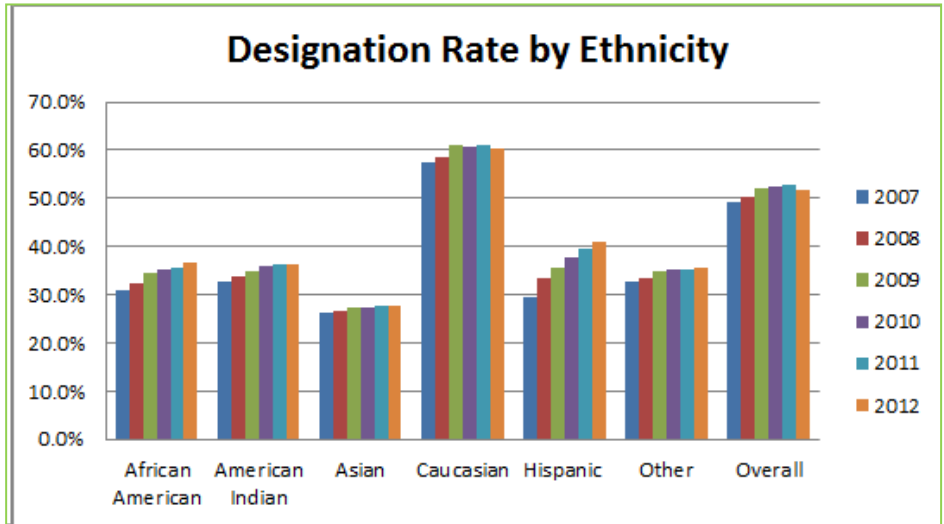
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DonateLifeNC.org

Man-Up!

North Carolina women have a 54.6 percent designation rate while men have a 49.3 percent designation rate. Women have higher rates across all ethnic groups, with the greatest difference among Caucasians (a 7.2% difference).

Asians and African-Americans have the smallest difference between men and women. Our partners at LifeShare Of The Carolinas are piloting an initiative, Man-Up for Organ Donation, to address this gap. Learn more at their website: www.man-upforlife.org.



We track Actionable Donor Designation (ADD) Rates by ethnicity to help identify areas to improve outreach. Disparities exist between ethnic groups, in terms of our ADD share and ADD rate data. We are witnessing a small but steady growth among most minority groups, but it appears to be offset by a decline (for the first time) in Caucasian designations. The good news is that African-American donor designation rates grew by one percent last year.

The ethnic breakdown of those with licenses aligns closely with the ethnic breakdown of the population according to US Census data. Caucasians comprise 66.1 percent of the licenses and contribute 79.8 percent of the hearts. African-Americans comprise 20.9 percent of the licenses but only contribute 13.9 percent of the hearts. Finally, Hispanics comprise 7.6 percent of the licenses but only contribute three percent of the hearts.

We are exploring ways to close the gap. More than half of the national transplant waiting list is made up of multicultural populations. This is true for those waiting here in North Carolina as well. That’s because some diseases of the kidney, heart, lung, pancreas and liver best requiring transplantation are found more frequently in these populations. For example, African-Americans and other minorities are three times more likely to suffer from end-stage renal disease than Caucasians.

While many candidates match a donor from other racial or ethnic groups, transplant success rates increase when organs are matched between members of the same ethnic background. Consequently, a lack of organs donated by multicultural populations can contribute to longer waiting periods for transplantation.

How can we bridge the gap between donor designations and certain populations? If you belong to a civic group, faith-based organization, nonprofit, or another professional association, we would love to bring information and educational resources to your table. Learn the facts about organ and tissue donation by visiting our website at DonateLifeNC.org and reading through our FAQs. Finally, talk with individuals you trust: your family, religious or spiritual advisor, doctor, and others.



2012 Donation by the Numbers in NC

- **152** recovered organ donors authorized by the registry (up from 138 in 2011)
- **299** recovered organ donors (up from 275)
- **0** recovered tissue donors authorized by the registry (tissue is not included in the DMV registry)
- **1,076** recovered tissue donors (up from 937)
- **1,765** recovered eye/cornea donors authorized by the registry (up from 1,514)
- **3,238** recovered eye/cornea donors (up from 2,969)

Check out our new
Donation Corps Blog at
DonateLifeNC.org/blog

Waiting for gift of life

Being on the waiting list for an organ transplant gives hope to those with life-threatening conditions —and can make life stand still. Many have to wait more than five years for a transplant. Every day across the United States, 18 people die waiting for a transplant.

As of mid-March, there were 3,554 North Carolinians on the national transplant waiting list. 3,029 of those waiting need a new kidney.

What's Age Got To Do With It?

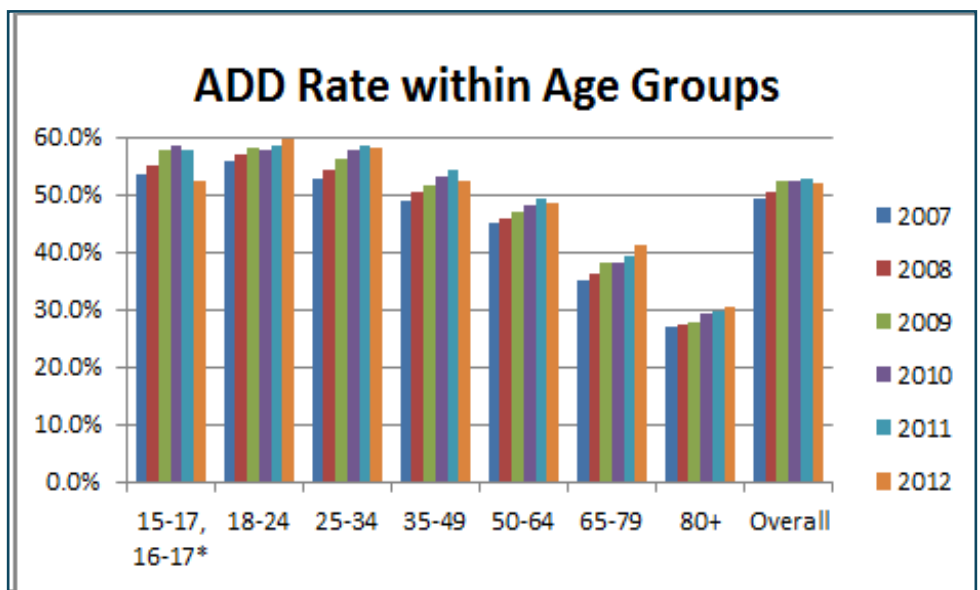
Age and medical history do **NOT** disqualify you from being an organ donor.

However, there are some rather dramatic differences in designation rates between younger and older residents. Teens and young adults usually have the highest designation rates, most likely because they receive education in school about organ donation as part of Driver's Education and Health classes. However, designation rates drop below 50 percent for people aged 50 and older. This is why the Donate Life NC Board has prioritized this age group for outreach.

We know continued investment in education and outreach is critical for maintaining high rates among teens and young adults. Teens 16-17 no longer have the highest ADD rate, having been surpassed by 18-34 year olds. A sharp decline in the teen rate occurred in the fourth quarter of 2011 and continued throughout 2012, until finally reversing between the third and fourth quarters of 2012. While rates for the age groups 18-24, 65-79 and 80+ year olds increased, the sharp decline in the 16-17 group and smaller drops in the 25-64 demographics resulted in an overall rate drop of almost one percent.

We hope that families take this as an opportunity to talk about donation and know each other's wishes. We also hope that individuals do not remove themselves from the registry if they believe they are too old or too sick. The best advice: register as a donor and allow medical professionals to make the final determination. Your willingness to register provides hope to all of those waiting!

We welcome your ideas for addressing these challenges.



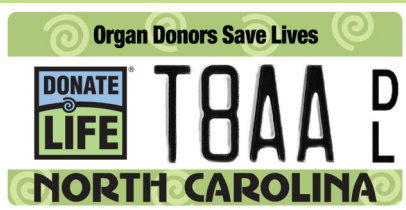


DMV Awards 2013

Beginning in late April, we will present the 2012 Donate Life NC DMV Awards to the offices with the highest donor designation rates and most improved donor designation rates. For the third year running, the Boone DMV office boasts the highest donor designation rate in the state: over 70 percent of customers said "yes" to registering as an organ and eye donor in 2012. The Sanford DMV won the most improved award for North Carolina by increasing its designations by over six percent. Congratulations to all of our achieving offices! We will include presentation photos in our future newsletters.

Join us on Twitter:
@DonateLifeNC
#DonateLife

Donate Life License Plates Ready!



We received more than 300 applications for our license plate. Currently in production, the first plates will be on cars by the end of April. After this time, you can begin ordering your Donate Life license plate at any local DMV License Plate office!

Be a Legislative Champion for Life!

Donate Life NC is hosting our second annual **Legislative Day on May 14** from 10 am—1 pm to educate our state legislators about the importance of the NC Donor Registry and the need to invest in outreach to inspire more North Carolinians to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

The NC Legislature has changed. Many new legislators were elected last fall and some of our strongest champions are no longer in office. It is an important time to remind our legislators about the life-saving power of the NC Donor Registry and the need to continue to invest in education and outreach through driver's education, DMV offices and in the general public.

All are welcome! We hope to see many transplant recipients and families, donor families, volunteers and staff from hospitals, transplant centers and recovery agencies and driver's education teachers participating. We'll provide you with tools, talking points and maps to help you manage your day and advocate for the donor registry! We'll also hold a Linking Hands event in the front of the Legislative Building at noon, where we will form a symbolic chain of life to raise awareness about donation.



Please register at DonateLifeNC.org/legislative or contact us at info@donatelifenc.org.

Be Seen Wearing Blue and Green!

Wear light blue and lime green on **April 19** to show your support for Donate Life. Post a photo of your blue and green "look" to the Donate Life America Facebook page - the top 10 "looks" will win a \$100 gift card! Post a picture to your page and encourage friends and family to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor today and help us meet our goal of registering 200,000 new donors in North Carolina this year. We want you to do the same at our **Legislative Day on May 14**. Wear your blue and green, and show your Donate Life spirit!





Volunteer Trainings

Throughout February and March, Donate Life NC sponsored five Saturday trainings for DMV Ambassadors, volunteers and organ recovery organization staff. These trainings focused primarily on how to be effective advocates for organ, tissue and eye donation through several different advocacy strategies: social media, print media, and proclamations. Also, we discussed how to best share donor designation data with our DMV Examiners. We appreciate all those who attended one of these sessions!

Make a Financial Contribution Online

DonateLifeNC.org

How Important is the DMV to Donation?

The answer: critically important! 99 percent of those North Carolinians who register as organ and eye donors do so through the DMV.

Without examiners asking the question each and every time, hundreds of residents may not have received the gift of life in time. All examiners receive a presentation during Basic Examiner School on donation: the process, what can be donated, and the power donation has on individuals' lives.

Close To My Heart: What Donate Life Means To Me

My story of entering the world of organ donation and transplantation began in 2005 when I had my first heart attack. Two years later, I underwent an emergency double bypass that unfortunately did significant damage to my heart. However, this event had a silver lining. During my hospital stay, I met Denisa, who was my ICU nurse. We ended up getting married and joining our families. I have three daughters and Denisa has two daughters and one son.

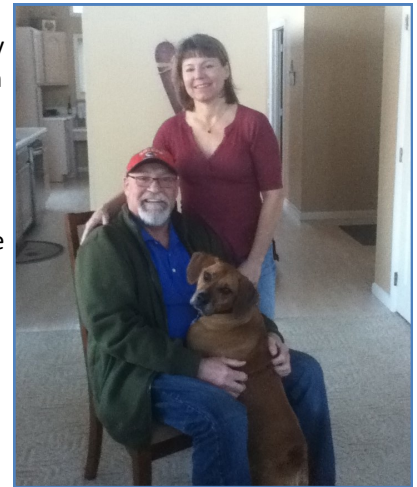
We moved to North Carolina in 2008 and by the middle of 2009, I had to stop work completely due to my deteriorating health. With a diagnosis of severe cardiomyopathy, I was placed on the national transplant waiting list for a new heart. While I waited for the gift of life, my heart and health continued to decline. In January 2011 my right leg was amputated below the knee due to peripheral arterial disease and the poor performance of my heart. This was followed in September of the same year by the amputation of all toes on my left foot (I make a great pirate at Halloween).

By February 2012 I was on a 24/7 infusion of medication to help my heart pump more easily, but things were getting worse. I spent a lot of time resting; I could not climb stairs at all and had trouble walking more than 50 feet. On March 1, 2012 at 5pm, I received the call we had been waiting two and a half years for: Duke University Medical Center had a heart for me. By 6:30 pm I was at the hospital and the wonderful transplant team doctors, nurses, and staff carried out a successful transplant.

We are committed Christians, and I had agonized over someone dying in order for me to live. I spent a lot of time rationalizing this and talking to my wife and my Pastor. Eventually, I understood that death would happen irrespective of my condition and that someone had made an active, unselfish decision to be a donor. Why should I not allow those wishes to be fulfilled?

Just three days after my transplant I heard my new heart beating for the first time. It was an experience I will never forget. It is a strong, powerful beat — nothing like the pathetic, whimpering beat of my own heart. But, it is also the beat of my donor's heart, someone I am physically connected to for the rest of my life. He or she is a part of me as much as I am a part of him or her. I decided then and there to honor the life and the decision of my donor by living the rest of my life for both of us.

Now, at age 55, I have left my previous career and am currently training to become a Hospice/Hospital Chaplain. While it will take several years to complete my training, I look forward to the work. I will do everything I can to bring attention to the need for more organ donors and continue to help those who are currently awaiting a life-saving transplant. I pray that one day I might meet the family of my donor who was so unselfish by giving the gift of life to others, including me.



Pictured: Brian and his wife, Denisa. Brian received a new heart in March 2012 after waiting more than two years.

Brian Carden, heart transplant recipient



Honoring Donor Families

As part of Donate Life Month (April) and National Eye Donor Month (March), organ, tissue and eye recovery agencies around the country hold services to honor and remember the selfless individuals who gave the gift of life through organ, tissue and eye donation.

These "Celebration of Life" or "Services of Remembrance" allow donor families to come together to share stories of their loved ones and to meet other families who have shared experiences. Often, families are able to contribute photos for a slideshow and/or a quilt square to be sewn as part of a donor family quilt.

Find answers to your questions at:

DonateLifeNC.org

DMV Best Practices

When the line of customers continues to grow longer and longer, it can be difficult to find time to answer customers' questions about donation.

Several ideas to provide information quickly is to encourage customers to review the counter mat, share the DMV Examiner Fact Card, or suggest customers take a rack card with them on their way out. We provide these materials at no charge, and all materials have our website address. If you need more information or have questions about these materials, please contact us:
dmvambassador@donatelifenc.org.

Shared Our Wishes: Carl Hart's Story



Freddie and Carl Hart

My late husband and I met Carl and his wife when we were both young, married couples. We became good friends and together enjoyed watching our children grow to adulthood. Carl and his wife, Margie, moved to other locations and ended up retiring to Florida. Both of our spouses died, and Carl and I reconnected. Eventually, we married in 1990.

Carl's family had a history of heart disease, but it did not hinder him from thoroughly enjoying life. The first incident of trouble happened in November 1996 when we were traveling to Wilmington to meet Carl's daughter. Instead of vacationing, we ended up at the emergency room where Carl was diagnosed as having a heart attack. In order to return to home in Brevard, a friend flew his plane to Wilmington and brought Carl to the hospital in Asheville. He received a stent there.

Time passed and we resumed our lives, which included regular cardiologist visits and some late night trips to the local emergency room. Carl enjoyed his regular activities of golf and travel, even after a multiple bypass surgery in December 2002.

Carl and I discussed our desires to be organ and tissue donors. We also made those wishes known in our living wills and designated our status on our driver's licenses.

On the morning of October 8, 2007, Carl called his friends and arranged for a golf game for the following day. That evening he went to the local county library, where he served as treasurer, to pick up the day's earnings from the book sale. He came home, greatly agitated, and asked me to call 911. EMS arrived and transported Carl to the local hospital; he was subsequently transported via helicopter to Mission Saint Joseph in Asheville. I followed in my car, but Carl died before I arrived.

Later that night, I had a conversation with staff members from the recovery agency LifeShare Of The Carolinas and shared with them Carl's wishes to be a donor. I learned after that donation they were able to recover his tissues, including long bones, to help others regain mobility and experience improved qualities of life.

I was glad that Carl's wishes were honored and that he was able to improve many lives because of his willingness to donate. Also, I'm so glad we discussed our decisions to be donors together before anything happened. It gave me peace in knowing that I was carrying out exactly what Carl wanted.

Freddie Hart, donor wife