



For Immediate Release

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While the Majority of Americans Express Interest in Organ and Tissue Donation, Too Few Take Steps to Register as Donors

Survey Reveals Misperceptions About Donation Are Common

RICHMOND, Va. (April 13, 2009) – While the number of Americans registered as organ and tissue donors is rising, the registry still only includes 38 percent of licensed drivers, according to a report card issued by Donate Life America this year. Yet, according to a new survey of Americans, 72 percent of people want their decision to donate honored, even if their family disagrees.

“The number of people awaiting organ transplants has climbed to more than 100,000 – and an average of 18 people die each day waiting for available organs,” said Donate Life America Chair Sara Pace Jones. “It is more important than ever for those who support donation to legally document those wishes – and registering through the DMV or state donor registries are the most important ways to do that. Anyone can find out how to register in their state by visiting www.donatelife.net or www.facebook.com/donatelife.”

The online survey of 5,100 U.S. adults – supported by Astellas Pharma US, Inc. – uncovered some misperceptions and confusion about organ donation and registration. Among them:

- Nearly a quarter (23 percent) of people who say they are undecided, reluctant or do not wish to donate are not sure they would be an acceptable donor. Yet, in reality, age or health conditions do not prevent people from being potential donors as donation screening only occurs before organs and tissue are recovered for transplant.

- Only half (50 percent) of respondents correctly believe that doctors will try as hard to save their life even if they know their wish to be an organ donor
- Just under half (44 percent) mistakenly think that in the U.S. there is a black market in which people can buy or sell organs or tissue.
- Only 43 percent of respondents understand that it is impossible for a brain dead person to recover from his or her injuries.

“There is a real crisis taking place with regards to organ availability in this country – and dispelling commonly held misperceptions and increasing the public’s trust of the donation and transplant system is paramount when it comes to solving it,” said Pace Jones.

To help spread the word about the importance of organ donation registration, Donate Life America is celebrating National Donate Life Month in April with numerous local and national educational programs and several new initiatives, including the launch of the official Donate Life America Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/donatelife. The page makes it easy for users to register as donors in their states and share messages in support of organ and tissue donation. It also features monthly polls; posts from celebrities, recipients, donors and donor families encouraging donor registration; and listings of resources and upcoming events.

About the Survey

The survey was fielded through Survey Sampling International, one of the largest providers of online panels in the U.S., during February 2009 on behalf of Donate Life America. The online survey of 5,100 U.S. adults included a sample size of 100 in each state plus the District of Columbia. The aggregated nationwide data was weighted to reflect the relative proportion of the U.S. adult population in each state. The sample was controlled to match the U.S. population as a whole on age, gender, education, income and ethnicity.

About Donate Life America

Donate Life America is a non-for-profit alliance of national organizations and state teams across the United States, serving as a national voice and inspiring all people to save enhance lives through organ, eye and tissue donation. For more information, visit www.donatelife.net.

About Astellas

Astellas is a recognized leader in transplantation and has been committed to the field of immunology for more than 20 years. Dedicated to supporting the advancement of care for patients, Astellas continues to build upon its legacy and leadership in transplantation by investing in ongoing clinical research and new product development.

Astellas Pharma US, Inc., located in Deerfield, Illinois, is a US affiliate of Tokyo-based Astellas Pharma Inc. Astellas is a pharmaceutical company dedicated to improving the health of people around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products. The organization is committed to becoming a global category leader in focused areas by combining outstanding R&D and marketing capabilities. In the US, Astellas markets products in the areas of Immunology, Urology, Anti-Infectives, Cardiovascular and Dermatology. For more information about Astellas Pharma US, Inc., please visit our Web site at www.astellastransplant.com.

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Donate Life America Questionnaire

2/1/09

Thank you for participating in this study on opinions toward organ and tissue donation.

Please try to answer all questions and be completely open and honest. We respect that organ and tissue donation is a personal decision – that is why it is so important that we hear your opinion on the subject, positive or negative.

Unless otherwise noted, throughout this survey “organ and tissue donation” refers to the donation of organs (heart, lung, liver, kidney, etc.) or tissue (heart valve, bone, skin, eye/cornea, etc.) from a person who has died to a patient who is waiting for a transplant.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you . . .? (Select one answer.)

- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| 1. Male | 48% |
| 2. Female | 52% |

2. Age

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 18-29 | 14% |
| 30-39 | 14% |
| 40-49 | 20% |
| 50-59 | 28% |
| 60+ | 24% |

3. Which one of the following ethnicities or cultural groups best describes what you consider yourself to be? (Select one answer.)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. White or Caucasian | 70% |
| 2. Hispanic, Latino or Spanish | 12% |
| 3. Black or African-American | 10% |
| 4. Asian | 3% |
| 5. Native American or Alaskan Native | 2% |
| 6. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | <1% |
| 7. I'd prefer not to say | 2% |

4. Which one of the following statements best describes your wish to have your organs or tissue donated after your death? (Select one answer.)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. I wish to donate all my usable organs and tissue | 46% |
| 2. I wish to donate only certain organs or tissue | 4% |
| 3. I have not decided if I want my organs or tissue donated | 26% |
| 4. I am reluctant to have my organs or tissue donated | 5% |

5. I do not wish to have my organs or tissue donated 19%

[PROGRAMMING: ASK Q5 IF Q4=1, 2, 3, or 4]

5. Which of the following ways would you be willing to indicate your wishes regarding organ or tissue donation? (Mark all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Tell a member of my family | 62% |
| 2. In a Living Will or other legal document | 60% |
| 3. In person at the Department of Motor Vehicles | 55% |
| 4. Online through a website (that registers donors) | 22% |
| 5. Through text messaging (to an organization that registers donors) | 5% |
| 6. None of the above | 4% |

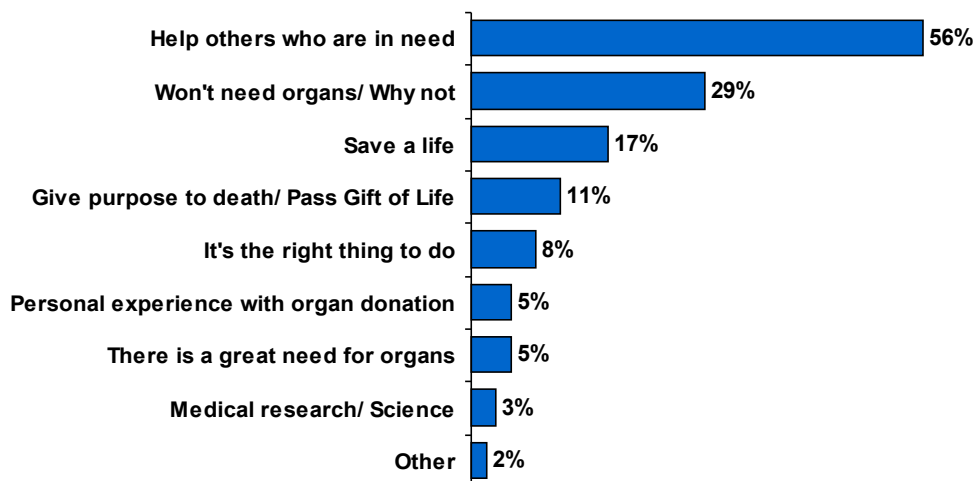
[PROGRAMMING: ASK Q6 IF Q4=1 or 2]

6. In which of the following ways have you indicated your wishes regarding organ or tissue donation? (Mark all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. I did it in person at the Department of Motor Vehicles | 68% |
| 2. I told a member of my family | 67% |
| 3. I signed a donor card | 31% |
| 4. I did it in a Living Will or other legal document | 20% |
| 5. I did it online through a website (that registers donors) | 3% |
| 6. None of the above | 5% |

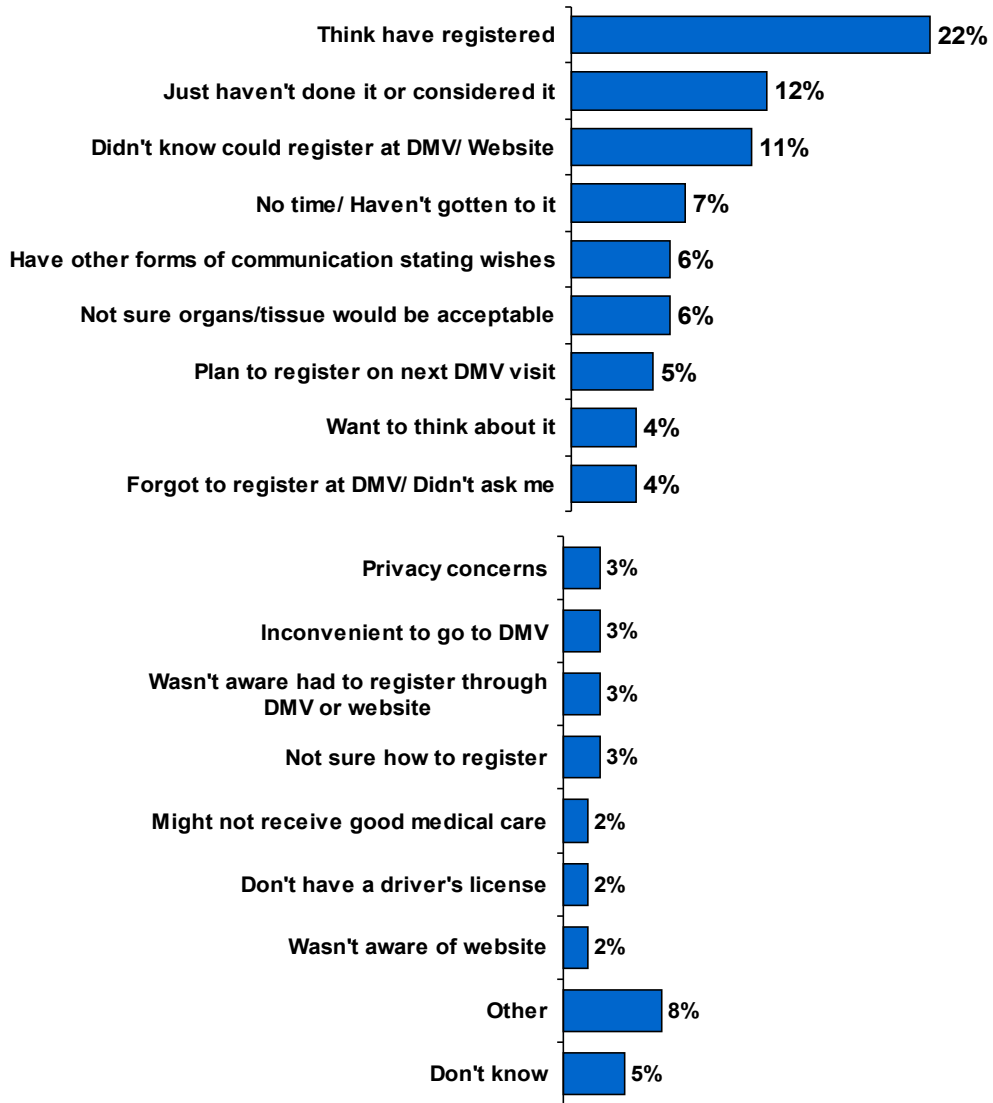
[PROGRAMMING: ASK Q7 IF Q6=2 or 3]

7. What is the main reason that you signed up to be an organ or tissue donor?



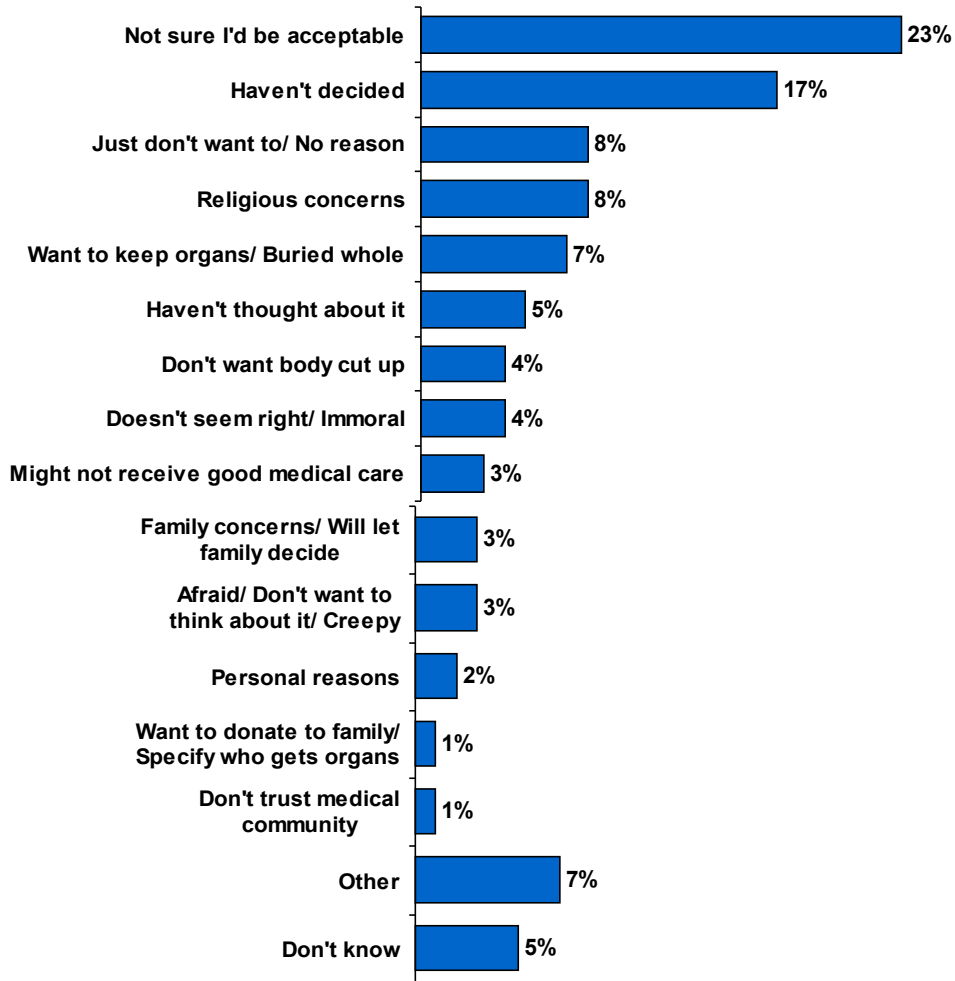
[PROGRAMMING: ASK Q8 IF Q6= 1or 6 ONLY]

8. What is the main reason that you have not signed up to be an organ or tissue donor?



[PROGRAMMING: ASK Q9 IF Q4=3, 4, or 5]

9. What is the main reason that you do not wish to have your organs or tissue donated after your death?



10. For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. (Select one answer in each row.)

RANDOMIZE ORDER	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. I want my wishes regarding organ and tissue donation to be honored after I die, even if my family has different wishes	55	17	20	3	5
2. I think the system in deciding who will get donated organs or tissue is fair	11	21	45	13	10
3. I would be more likely to sign up to be a	11	18	37	10	24

donor if it would increase my chances of getting an organ if I ever needed one					
4. Doctors may not try as hard to save my life if they know I wish to be an organ or tissue donor	10	14	27	17	33
5. I am more comfortable with the thought of donating organs (such as heart, liver or kidney) than donating tissue (such as skin, bone or eye/cornea)	9%	11%	39%	13%	29%
6. I am more comfortable with the thought of donating tissue (such as skin, bone or eye/cornea) than donating organs (such as heart, liver or kidney)	8	9	38	16	31
7. People who donate a family member's organs or tissue end up paying extra medical bills	6	7	45	15	27
8. Organ or tissue donation is against my religion	4	4	20	8	64

11. To your knowledge, is there a national list of everyone in the U.S. who wishes to donate their organs or tissue upon death?

- 1. Yes 23%
- 2. No 12%
- 3. Don't know 65%

12. In general, have the **TV shows** or **movies** you've seen about organ or tissue donation made you more interested or less interested in becoming an organ or tissue donor?

- 1. They have made me MORE interested in becoming a donor 16%
- 2. They have made me LESS interested in becoming a donor 4%
- 3. They have not affected me one way or the other 55%
- 4. I have not seen anything about organ or tissue donation 24%

13. In general, have the **news stories** or **magazine articles** you've seen about organ or tissue donation made you more interested or less interested in becoming an organ or tissue donor?

- 1. They have made me MORE interested in becoming a donor 19%
- 2. They have made me LESS interested in becoming a donor 4%
- 3. They have not affected me one way or the other 54%
- 4. I have not seen anything about organ or tissue donation 23%

14. Which of the following sources of information would most influence your decision to register to be an organ or tissue donor? Please number your top five choices 1-5, with 1 being the most influential source for you. (Please enter a whole number from 1 up to 5. Please only insert each number once.)

	<u>% Selected</u>	<u>Mean (1-6)</u>
1. ___ Family member	67%	3.2
2. ___ Medical professional	49%	4.4
3. ___ Friend	45%	4.5
4. ___ Organ and tissue donation organization	45%	4.7
5. ___ News stories	30%	5.2
6. ___ Clergy or religious organization	23%	5.3
7. ___ Department of Motor Vehicles	22%	5.4
8. ___ Advertising or Public Service Announcements	21%	5.5
9. ___ Work or school	9%	5.8
10. ___ Attorney	8%	5.8

15. For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. (Select one answer in each row.)

RANDOMIZE ORDER	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. People can donate some organs while they are still alive (such as a kidney).	57	24	16	1	3
2. Registering is the most important thing you can do to ensure that your organs or tissue are donated at death	41	30	24	3	3
3. In the U.S., people with money and power have a better chance of receiving donated organs or tissue than other people	27	32	26	8	7
4. In the U.S., there is a black market in which people can buy or sell organs and tissue	16	28	41	8	7
5. Minority patients are less likely to receive donated organs or tissue	10	20	39	15	16
6. People who receive donated organs or tissue risk getting diseases such as HIV, hepatitis, or West Nile virus	9	22	34	19	16
7. It is possible for a brain dead person to recover from his or her injuries	9	17	32	16	27

8. Donated organs and tissue often go to undeserving people	7	13	44	18	18
9. It is difficult to have a regular funeral service following organ and tissue donation	5%	8%	28%	19%	39%

16. Have you, a relative or a friend ever donated, received or needed an organ or tissue for transplant?

- 1. Yes 20%
- 2. No 67%
- 3. Don't know 13%

17. To which of the following people would you be willing to donate an organ (such as a kidney) while you are still alive? (Mark all that apply.)

- 1. To a family member 86%
- 2. To a friend 57%
- 3. To an acquaintance 26%
- 4. To a stranger 24%
- 5. To a stranger if one of your loved ones would receive an organ in return 21%
- 6. None 11%

[PROGRAMMING: ASK Q18 ONLY IF 4, 5, or 6 ARE NOT MARKED IN Q17]

18. Which of the following are reasons that you would not donate an organ to a stranger while you are still alive? (Mark only those reasons that you had previously considered.)

- 1. This surgery may risk my health 52%
- 2. I wouldn't be able to give my donated organ to a loved one if they needed it 50%
- 3. I don't like any surgery 35%
- 4. I may have to pay my expenses 27%
- 5. It might change my ability to get health insurance 20%
- 6. It might change my ability to get life insurance 14%
- 7. There is no financial benefit for me to donate an organ 9%
- 8. None of these 17%

19. When someone registers to be a donor, which one of the following best describes what they are registering to do?

- 1. Donate all organs for transplant 16%
- 2. Donate all organs and tissue for transplant 18%
- 3. Donate all organs and tissue for transplant or medical research 16%
- 4. Donate only certain organs or tissue for transplant 7%
- 5. Donate only certain organs or tissue for transplant or medical research 9%
- 6. I don't know 34%

20. New medical advances have made the transplantation of hands or face possible for the severely injured. How does this affect your desire to be an organ and tissue donor?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. It makes me MORE interested in being a donor | 16% |
| 2. It makes me LESS interested in being a donor | 9% |
| 3. It does not affect my interest in being a donor | 58% |
| 4. It would not affect my interest in being a donor, as long as I could choose not to donate my hands or face | 16% |

To your knowledge...

21. What percentage of adults in the U.S. are registered to be organ or tissue donors? (Please provide your best guess as a percentage in the space below.)

Mean: 29%

22. What is the average length of time that people wait on the National list to receive an organ transplant? (Please provide your best guess as a number in ONE of the spaces below.)

Estimates ran from under 3 days to over 5 years

23. How many people in the U.S. are currently waiting to receive an organ transplant? (Please provide your best guess as a number in the space below. Do not use commas.)

Mean: 232,000

24. How many people in the U.S. die every year while waiting for an organ transplant? (Please provide your best guess as a number in the space below. Do not use commas.)

Mean: 104,000

25. Do you work in the health care profession?

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 11% |
| 2. No | 89% |