



Image: [Donate Life America](#)

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), which manages the national waitlist for organ transplantation, created a [dashboard](#) that monitors the "Access to Transplant Score" (ATS)? The intention of this score is to aid policymakers in the developing and updating relevant organ allocation policies to improve equity in transplant. The ATS outlines factors that can impact a waitlist candidate's access to transplant, such as blood type, education, gender, race, or ethnicity, as well as rural versus urban communities.

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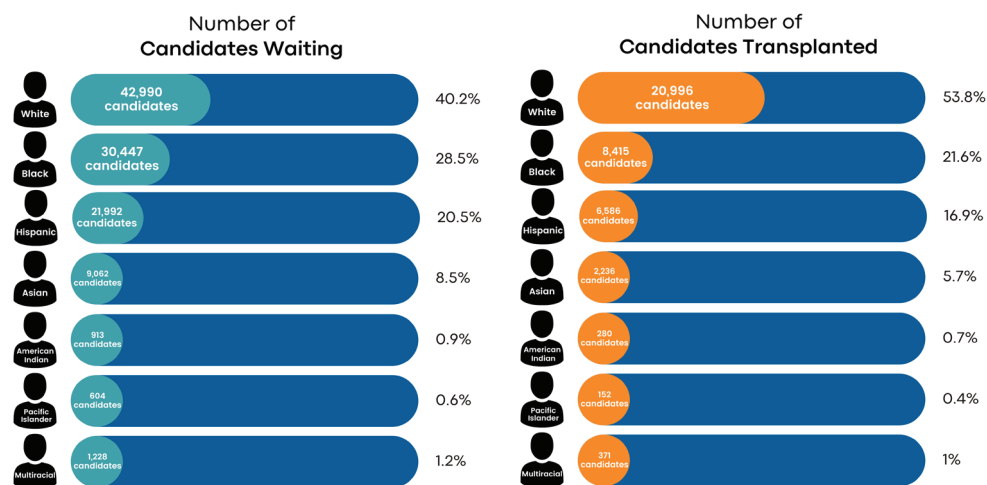
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National Minority Donor Awareness Month

With the goal of improving the quality of life for diverse populations, the National Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation Multicultural Action Group (NMAAG) established an initiative known as "National Minority Donor Awareness Month," to raise awareness about donation and transplantation within multicultural communities. On a collective pursuit to save and heal more lives, the donation and transplantation healthcare continuum observes this initiative each year in August. This year, we celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Learn the Facts:

Statistics Impacting Donation and Transplantation



Source: [Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network \(OPTN\)](#)

Data as of July 2021

- 60% of patients in need of a life-saving transplant are non-white individuals from diverse populations.
- African Americans have higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, placing them at risk for organ failure, particularly kidney failure
- American Indians and Alaska Natives are more likely to develop Hepatitis C, which can result in liver failure.
- The incidence rate for chronic liver disease among Hispanics and Latinos is twice as high in comparison to whites, and they are also twice as likely to die as a result.
- Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are at higher risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. They also have higher obesity rates and are seven times more likely to be diagnosed with chronic liver disease, placing them at high risk of organ failure.
- Asian Americans have less prevalence of diabetes and heart disease, but suffer significantly from liver disease and hepatitis, placing them at risk for organ failure.

Did You Know:

You Can Make a Difference

- **Notify your organ procurement organization (OPO) as soon as you identify a potential organ, eye, and tissue donor following your clinical triggers.** Even if you are unsure about their medical suitability, notify your OPO. They will be able to determine suitability and guide you through the rest of the process.
- **Take care of yourself! Pursue healthy living and disease prevention strategies to decrease your likelihood of needing a transplant.**
- **Register to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor and inform your family of your wishes:** RegisterMe.org
- **Download social media resources from** <https://www.donatelife.net/nmdam/> and encourage your friends and family to register and share their wishes.



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