

MULTICULTURAL STATISTICS

Minorities represent over 54% of those waiting for a life-saving organ transplant but only make up 32% of donors. In 2009, 11,140 minority individuals received an organ transplant; while there were 2,675 minority deceased donors and 2,288 living donors.

STATISTICS: The need for minority organ and tissue donors is on the rise and is a public health crisis.

- ❖ In 2009, there were more than 58,000 minority individuals registered on the U.S. transplant waiting list. Transplantation success rates increase when organs are matched between donors and recipients of similar heritage.
- ❖ Minorities make up 20% of the U.S. population. On average, the multicultural population waits nearly twice as long for their life saving organ transplant due to the lack of minority donors.
- ❖ Many of the health conditions leading to the need for a transplant, such as diabetes and hypertension occur with greater frequency among minority populations. Currently, more than 48,000 minority individuals are waiting for kidney transplants. For these patients, the lack of available organs means longer waiting periods on transplant lists, more time spent on dialysis, and sometimes death.
- ❖ Tragically, every 11 minutes another patient is added to the waiting list while 18 people die each day due to the lack of organ donors. The good news is that a single donor can save or improve the lives of more than 50 people. To register as an organ donor in the state of Kentucky, go to www.donatelifeky.org.