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**DATA CONFIRMS MINORITIES PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE
IN ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION NATIONWIDE**

Data Released as National Minority Donor Awareness Day is Observed on August 1st

McLean, VA—July 30, 2010—In anticipation of National Minority Donor Awareness Day, the Association of Organ Procurement Organization's (AOPO) Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Committee released data tables confirming the critical role minorities play in the fabric of organ donation and transplantation nationwide.

National Minority Donor Awareness Day, first recognized in 1996, is observed annually on August 1 to mark the desperate need for donation and transplantation within the multicultural community and publicize the opportunity to save lives and strengthen communities by signing up on state organ and tissue donor registries.

Representing 35 percent of the nation's population, minorities account for 55 percent of candidates awaiting a life-saving transplant and 61 percent of kidney transplant candidates. Notably, African Americans represent 12 percent of the population but 34 percent of kidney transplant candidates, and Hispanics/Latinos represent 16 percent of the population and 18 percent of kidney transplant candidates.

While the need for transplants is great among ethnic groups, minorities make substantial contributions toward meeting the need as donors. The consent rate for African American eligible donors was 57 percent in 2008, which translated into thousands of lives saved. Although this percentage continues to grow, it still means that in four of ten opportunities for donation, patients whose lives could have been saved died waiting. In 2009, African Americans accounted for 16 percent of deceased organ donors and 11 percent of living donors, saving nearly 5,000 lives through organ donation.

The consent rate among Asian eligible donors was 54 percent in 2008, and Asian donors' 2.4 percent share of recovered organ donors and 3.4 percent share of living donors closely tracked Asians' 4 percent share of the U.S. population. Hispanic/Latino donors, with a substantially higher donor consent rate of 71 percent, represented 14 percent of deceased and living donors in 2009, saving approximately 4,500 lives. By comparison, there was an 80 percent consent rate among White eligible donors in 2008.

Minorities nationwide benefited directly from the generosity of their communities. They received 41 percent of all organs for transplant, and 49 percent of the kidneys transplanted in 2009. Kidneys represent the organ of greatest need across all ethnicities. The need for kidneys is especially great among minorities because of the high incidence of hypertension, diabetes and other medical conditions that lead to renal failure.

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There is a tremendous ongoing need for organ donation. The need for minority donors is critical because the chance of matching a donated organ is greater when donor and recipients are of the same ethnicity. The shortage of organs for transplantation is not due simply to a lack of giving, but also to the rarity with which the opportunity to donate organs presents itself. Although these data points reflect a snapshot of a point in time when more than 90 million Americans have registered as organ, eye and tissue donors nationwide, less than one in 100 deaths actually results in a patient being eligible to donate organs for transplant.

“Whenever someone says ‘yes’ to donation, it’s something we celebrate,” said AOPO President Jeff Orłowski, Executive Director of the Center for Donation & Transplant in Albany, N.Y. “It’s a very rare and special opportunity to leave such a remarkable legacy. The choice to donate life makes a tremendous difference – it saves lives, strengthens families, and helps our community.”

“All Americans can make a huge difference for life by checking ‘Yes’ when they apply for, or renew a drivers license or I.D. card,” said Orłowski. “In the seconds it takes for you to check ‘Yes’ you create the potential to save eight lives as an organ donor and heal another 50 lives as a tissue donor.”

About OPOs

Organ procurement organizations nationwide employ specialists to educate multicultural communities regarding the opportunity to donate, while highly trained family care specialists guide families in a culturally compassionate manner as parents, children and siblings face the loss of loved ones, frequently under sudden circumstances. To find out how to be a donor in your state, visit the Donate Life America website at www.donatelife.net.

About AOPO

AOPO is a non-profit, national organization representing all federally designated organ procurement organizations (OPOs). The association represents and serves the OPOs through advocacy, support and development of activities that will maximize the availability of organs and tissues and enhance the quality, effectiveness and integrity of the donation process. The Executive Committee of AOPO consists of seven elected officials – President, President-Elect, Medical Advisor, Secretary-Treasurer, Member-At-Large, Medical Advisor-Elect, Immediate Past President and AOPO’s Executive Director.

Note to editors: Five data tables follow.

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Table 1: Multicultural Communities and Organ Donation/Transplantation in the U.S.

Ethnicity	U.S. Population, 2009 (1)	% of U.S. Pop., 2009 (1)	% of All Eligible Organ Donors, 2008 (2)	Organ Donation Eligible Consent Rate, 2008 (2)	% of Organ Transplant Waiting List (3)	% of Organ Transplant Recipients (3)	% of Kidney Transplant Waiting List (3)	% of Kidney Transplant Recipients (3)
White	199,851,240	65%	58%	80%	45%	59%	39%	51%
Black	37,681,544	12%	22%	57%	29%	21%	34%	26%
Hispanic	48,419,324	16%	15%	71%	18%	14%	18%	16%
Asian	13,686,083	4%	4%	54%	6%	4%	7%	5%
AIAN	2,360,807	0.8%	0.8%	48%	1.0%	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%
NHPI	448,510	0.1%	0.3%	50%	0.5%	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%
Multiracial	4,559,042	1.5%	0.3%	75%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
ALL	307,006,550	100%	100%	%	100%	100%	100%	100%

(1) Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

(2) Source: Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients

(3) Source: OPTN data as of 7/20/10

Table 2: U.S. Organ Transplant Waiting List by Ethnicity

	All Organs*	Kidney	Liver	Pancreas	Kidney/Pancreas	Heart	Lung	Heart/Lung	Sm Int
White	48,951	32,986	11,162	1,138	1,367	2,173	1,442	51	161
Black	31,593	29,429	1,169	166	464	642	185	10	44
Hispanic	18,931	15,699	2,788	120	274	243	107	11	42
Asian	6,789	5,960	769	17	35	49	25	0	7
AIAN	1,031	905	98	11	28	6	4	1	1
NHPI	508	471	28	1	11	5	3	0	0
Multiracial	511	411	60	2	12	25	8	2	2
ALL	107,960	85,566	16,049	1,455	2,189	3,144	1,772	75	257

Source: OPTN data as of 7/20/10

Table 3: Organ Transplants by Ethnicity, 2009

Ethnicity	Deceased Donor						Living Donor			
	All Organs	% of Total	Kidney	Liver	Heart	Lung	All Organs	% of Total	Kidney	Liver
White	12,897	59%	4,759	4,224	1,494	1,405	4,425	67%	4,236	186
Black	4,817	22%	3,370	663	420	131	885	13%	873	12
Hispanic	2,813	13%	1,532	831	202	100	954	14%	938	16
Asian	999	5%	580	299	74	19	264	4%	261	3
AIAN	160	0.7%	116	33	5	1	38	0.6%	38	0
NHPI	63	0.3%	33	15	6	3	15	0.2%	15	0
Multiracial	105	0.5%	52	36	10	0	28	0.4%	26	2
ALL	21,854	100%	10,442	6,101	2,211	1,659	6,609	100%	6,387	219

Source: OPTN data as of 7/20/10

Table 4: Eligible Deaths, Eligible Donors, Deceased Donors Recovered by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Eligible Deaths* 2008 (1)	% of Total Eligible Deaths 2008 (1)	Consent Rate 2008 (1)	Recovered Eligible Organ Donors 2008 (1)	% of Total	Recovered Organ Donors 2009 (2)	% of Total	Living Donors 2009 (2)	% of Total
White	5,714	58%	80%	4,258	65%	5,366	67%	4,622	70%
Black	2,216	22%	57%	1,130	17%	1,301	16%	754	11%
Hispanic	1,492	15%	71%	976	15%	1,098	14%	933	14%
Asian	373	3.8%	54%	164	2.5%	192	2.4%	225	3.4%
AIAN	80	0.8%	48%	32	0.5%	30	0.4%	32	0.5%
NHPI	30	0.3%	50%	11	0.2%	12	0.1%	15	0.2%
Multiracial	26	0.3%	75%	16	0.2%	23	0.3%	28	0.4%
ALL	9,931	100%	70%	6,587	100%	8,022	100%	6,609	100%

(1) Source: Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients

(2) Source: OPTN data as of 7/20/10

* Eligible Deaths: Declared brain dead, medically suitable, under age 70

Table 5: Donation Service Areas Where Minorities Account for More Than 40% of Eligible Deaths, 2008

Organ Procurement Organization in Donation Service Area	State(s) Served	Eligible Deaths	Recov'd Eligible Donors	% Total Eligible Deaths						
				White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	AIAN	NHPI	Multi-Racial
Alabama Organ Center	AL	120	77	53%	41%	5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%
Donor Network of Arizona	AZ	174	108	51%	5%	32%	3%	9%	0.6%	0.0%
OneLegacy	CA	625	379	39%	15%	34%	12%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%
California Transplant Donor Network	CA	373	241	42%	13%	31%	13%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%
Lifesharing	CA	106	81	50%	8%	32%	10%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Golden State Donor Services	CA	69	49	51%	20%	17%	10%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%
Washington Reg. Transplant Community	DC,MD,VA	119	72	29%	50%	12%	8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency	FL	179	119	37%	27%	34%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
TransLife	FL	126	87	58%	22%	17%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LifeLink of Georgia	GA	326	205	51%	44%	4%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Living Legacy of Hawaii	HI	71	35	30%	0.0%	1.4%	45%	0.0%	14%	10%
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network	IL	307	223	52%	33%	12%	1.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%
Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency	LA	253	133	51%	44%	3%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Living Legacy Fdn. of Maryland	MD	143	89	47%	42%	8%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency	MS	106	71	52%	44%	1.9%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Carolina Donor Services	NC	254	168	52%	39%	6%	0.8%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%
NJ Sharing Network	NJ	210	142	45%	31%	17%	6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%
New Mexico Donor Services	NM	52	32	40%	1.9%	42%	4%	12%	0.0%	0.0%
Nevada Donor Network, Inc.	NV	107	58	57%	14%	21%	7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network	NY	441	212	34%	30%	27%	8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
LifeLink of Puerto Rico	PR	123	89	8%	4%	88%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LifePoint	SC	207	148	57%	38%	4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mid-South Transplant Fdn.	TN	82	52	49%	49%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Texas Organ Sharing Alliance	TX	158	97	44%	7%	47%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Southwest Transplant Alliance	TX	340	213	44%	19%	35%	2.4%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
LifeGift	TX	376	267	48%	19%	31%	1.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%
LifeNet Health	VA	173	114	59%	37%	3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Univ. of Wisconsin OPO	WI	91	70	56%	31%	13%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
ALL OPOs	USA	9,931	6587	58%	22%	15%	4%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%

Source: Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients