



I AM A DONOR

A Proposal to Increase Organ Donation Rates in New York City



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Introduction and Selection of A Community in Need

New York has the third lowest rate of organ donation in the country and yet, the third highest number of citizens currently waiting to receive an organ transplant.

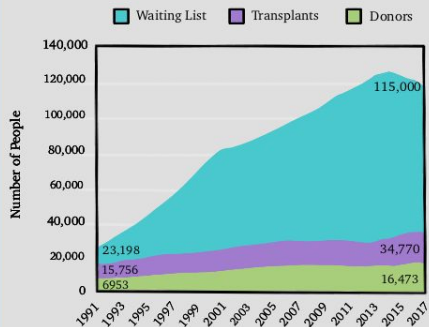
An average of 22 people die every day in the United States while waiting for an organ transplant.

Tissue donated by one person can positively affect the lives of more than 50 other people.

Community Assessment and Analysis

Nationally, most patients wait 1 to 2 years for an organ transplant. In New York State, most patients wait 3 to 5 years.

New York State ranks last in the Nation in percent of residents registered as organ donors.



Problem in The Community



Studies have shown reduced rates of organ donor registration among African Americans, and Asian Americans, as compared to Caucasians. Similarly, Hispanics have shown lower overall willingness to donate organs at the time of death as compared to their European American counterparts.

Multiple studies have been conducted and revealed minority families were less likely than Caucasians to provide consent for organ donation at the time of death.

Medical Mistrust has also been determined to be a substantial barrier to organ donation, in which minorities expressed that the organ distribution system is unethical and biased, further deterring minority populations from becoming registered donors.



Various studies have identified the lack of knowledge amongst healthcare providers concerning organ donation such as brain death, transplant waiting lists and organ transplant procedures.

Though many health education programs include organ donation in their curriculum, a significant amount of schools failed to provide information regarding the exact process of organ donation, including consent forms and discussing organ donation at regular well-visits.

Additional barriers to organ donation include lack of education, lack of knowledge regarding transplantation and cultural incompetency.

Educating healthcare students positively influences donor rates, as many families decline due to myths that surround organ donation.

MYTHS OF ORGAN DONATION

DISFIGUREMENT OF THE BODY

I WILL NOT RECEIVE ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE

MY FAMILY WILL HAVE TO PAY

IT IS AGAINST MY RELIGION

THE FACTS

Throughout the donation and harvesting process, the body is treated with the utmost respect and care. Donation does not interfere with an open-casket funeral.

An individual must be in a hospital, on a ventilator and pronounced brain dead in order to donate organs. The transplant team is only notified when all life saving efforts have failed.

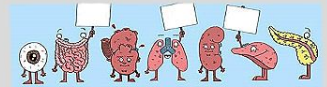
There is NO charge to you or your family upon organ donation.

All major religions not only support organ donation as an individual right, but encourage it as an act of generosity and compassion. This includes Roman Catholicism, Islam, most branches of Judaism and most Protestant faiths.

Proposed Solution

When healthcare professionals are able to accurately inform their patients, it builds rapport and trust between the patient, family and provider, further increasing the likelihood of donation and/or registration.

The information and education will be presented to patients upon admission as well as discharge. Verbal and written information will be provided, indicating the myths surrounding organ donation, as well as the steps to becoming a donor.



Receiving this health education on a regular and repeated basis has been shown to raise awareness and knowledge of the transplantation process as well as the registration process.

The "I Am A Donor" program focuses on inclusivity in educating the community.

I AM A DONOR



It is imperative that the "I Am A Donor" program is made inclusive to all socioeconomic classes, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and to the mentally and physically disabled.

References

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