

What African-Americans Need to Know About Organ Donation

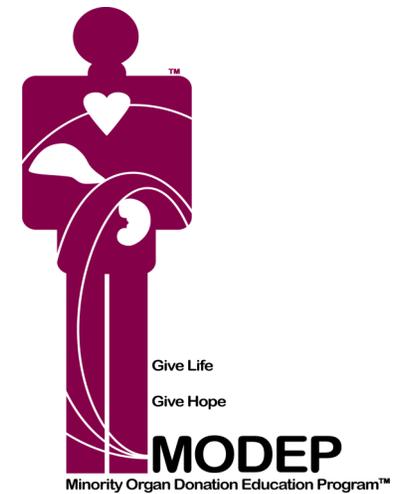
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- ❖ African-Americans, Asian-Pacific Islanders and Hispanics are three times more likely to suffer from end-stage renal disease (lack of kidney function) than Caucasians. Native Americans are four times more likely to suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure than Caucasians. Native Americans have the highest rate of diabetes than anyone.

- ❖ Organ donation among minorities can lead to earlier and more successful transplants, especially for African-Americans because there is a less likely chance of rejection if the organ is from a well-matched African-American donor.

- ❖ Nationally there are over 90,000 people waiting for a organ transplant. African-Americans require the most kidney transplants. But kidneys are the most need organ by all groups.

- ❖ In New York State alone there are over 21,000 patients receiving dialysis due to end stage renal disease (kidney failure). In New York State their are over 8,000 patients waiting for a kidney transplant.

- ❖ There are more than 200,000 Americans undergoing dialysis nationally, with approximately 41 percent of those patients are African-American, while African-Americans comprise only about 12 percent of the general population this is of great concern.

- ❖ Every year the number of patients removed from the national waiting list due to death while waiting for a transplant increases.

- ❖ Some common reasons African-Americans and other minorities hesitate to participate in organ donor programs are:

1. Distrust of doctors and the medical community
2. Fear that there organs will be taken before they are dead

3. Religious beliefs
4. Afraid proper medical attention will not be given to them if they are organ donors
5. Lack of education regarding organ donation

- ❖ Organ donation should be discussed with family members to make them aware of your wishes. Every 15 minutes a new name is added to the national transplant waiting list.

Facts

Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney disease that will eventually lead to end stage renal disease for African-Americans. Diabetes in the overall United States population is the number one cause of end stage renal disease, and high blood pressure is the second leading cause in the general population for end stage renal disease.

African-Americans develop high blood pressure two to three times more often than other populations and the complications are much more severe for African-Americans.