

**REPORT TO THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ANATOMICAL GIFTS**

**ANNUAL DONATION AND COMPLIANCE REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR 2005**

**Submitted by**

**Iowa Department of Public Health**

**in conjunction with the**

**Iowa Donor Network**

**and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank**

## **Introduction**

Iowa is served by one organ procurement organization; Iowa Donor Network (IDN). In contract with the Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB), the Iowa Donor Network serves as the human tissue referral (eyes, bone, skin, tendons and heart valves) agency for the state. ILEB conducts cornea distribution and most human eye recovery services. The organizations cooperate closely with Iowa hospitals to promote and accomplish organ, eye, and tissue donation. In 1996, the Iowa Legislature created the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund. County treasurers seek contributions to this fund when Iowans register or renew the registration on their motor vehicles. In 2004, an organ and tissue donation awareness license plate was created for Iowa motorists. A \$35 charge for the plate plus \$10 renewal fee in addition to the normal fee is provided to the Awareness Fund. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee advises the Iowa Department of Public Health on grants to be made from contributed funds. Iowa Code § 142C.17 requires the department, in conjunction with any statewide organ procurement organization in Iowa, to submit an annual donation and compliance report.

## **Donor Referrals**

The organ donor referrals in Iowa through the third quarter of 2005 were 289, compared to 237 for the same period in 2004. Through the third quarter of 2005 there were 4,592 medically eligible tissue donor referrals made from Iowa hospitals. This is a decrease from the 5,211 referrals received for this same period in 2004. Every general hospital in the state made at least one organ or tissue donation referral in the first three-quarters of 2005. In addition, and as mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, IDN received 3,245 Reports of Death referrals from Iowa hospitals.

Of the 289 patient deaths referred to IDN for organ donation evaluation, 37 became organ donors. This represents a 60 percent increase in actual organ donors for the same time period in 2004. Furthermore, as of September 30, 2005, 2864 referrals were made to Iowa Lions Eye Bank compared with 1914 for the same time period in 2004. This increase is due to ILEB receiving all daytime referrals since May 2005, and due to an expansion of the research areas since July 2005. Year to date in 2005, 442 Iowans became eye donors, compared to 402 for the same time period in 2004 resulting in a 10 percent increase in eye donations.

## **Organs and Tissues Recovered**

Not every referral results in a suitable organ or tissue donation. Consent for donation and medical suitability must also be considered. Through the third quarter of 2005, there were 37 organ donors in Iowa. These donors contributed 113 organs for transplantation. This represents a 43 percent increase in organs for transplantation from the same period

last year when 64 organs were transplanted from Iowa donors. The number of organs recovered per donor decreased from 3.65 to 3.62.

Additionally, 230 Iowans donated bone and other non-vascular tissues for transplantation through September 2005. This represents an 18 percent increase over the same period as last year. Heart valves for corrective and life-saving surgeries were obtained from 60 deceased donors during this time period. Additionally, 220 Iowans contributed, upon death, much-needed skin for burn treatment.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank recovered 492 corneas for sight saving/restoring surgery and another 407 eyes were recovered and provided for important research into the causes of blindness. Through September 30, 2005, six eyes were imported from donors in other states to provide Iowans with sight saving transplants. There is no waiting list for corneal transplants in Iowa due to the generosity of Iowans and the nationwide network of eye banks working to provide the gift of sight. Compared to 2004, there is a 7 percent decrease in eye tissue donated by Iowans for transplant in 2005 and a 39 percent increase in eye tissue donated for research. In 2005, University of Iowa researchers at the Center for Macular Degeneration discovered Factor H, the chemical switch that turns on the disease process of Age-Related Macular Degeneration. This research is supported in part by donated tissue from Iowans through the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

### **Medicare Rules**

In August of 1998, the Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) promulgated regulations designed to increase organ and tissue donation. The rules are part of the Hospital Conditions of Participation for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The rules require "a hospital to have an agreement with the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), under which the hospital will contact the OPO in a timely manner about individuals who die or whose death is imminent in the hospital. The OPO will then determine the individual's medical suitability for donation. The hospital must also have an agreement with at least one tissue bank and at least one eye bank to cooperate in the retrieval, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of tissue and eyes, as long as the agreement doesn't interfere with the organ donation. The final rule requires a hospital to ensure, in collaboration with the OPO with which it has an agreement, that the family of every potential donor is informed of its option to donate organs or tissues or not to donate."

### **Contributions**

The contributions provided through county treasurers to the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Funds were \$28,620 in fiscal year 2005. This is \$2,353 less than provided in fiscal year 2004. An additional \$23,481 was generated through the license plate program. The total 2005 fiscal year revenue of \$52,101 represents a rate of 1.78¢ per capita (based on population of 2,943,451), up from 1.25¢ per capita in fiscal year 2004. The county treasurers, the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory

Committee, the Iowa Donor Network and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank continue to explore ways to increase the visibility of the contribution opportunity and contributions to the fund.

### **Community Grants**

Total payment from the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund totaled \$49,460 in fiscal year 2005. This included public awareness activities, organ transplantation procedures and related patient costs, and for development of the donor registry. Of the overall payments, \$27.16 was for administrative costs.

### **Donor Registry**

Chapter 1052, Acts of the 2000 General Assembly authorized the director of the Department of Public Health to contract for the establishment of a statewide organ and tissue donor registry. As specified, the contract shall provide for a centralized database and automated system to make organ and tissue donor information available to family members and physicians seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. The Iowa Donor Network (IDN) launched just such a registry, [www.iowadonorregistry.org](http://www.iowadonorregistry.org) on March 18, 2002. To date, more than 45,000 Iowans have registered their intentions to become organ and tissue donors upon death. At this time, due to lack of state resources (funding and personnel), there is no electronic sharing of information between IDN, the Department of Transportation and county treasurers offices regarding the donor status of Iowa licensed drivers. It is possible that this automatic link may occur in the future.

### **Summary**

As indicated in this report, the organ and tissue donation program continues to serve a significant number of Iowans. Thankfully, there were more organ donations fiscal year 2005, and tissue donors and tissue contributions increased during this time period. Unfortunately, as of December 2005, the number of citizens continuing to wait for lifesaving organ transplants had climbed to 381. This represents an increase of 20 people from this same time last year. Efforts to increase public awareness and acceptance of organ and tissue donation must continue and be fostered by every practicing nurse, physician, social worker, paramedic, law enforcement official, hospital administrator and funeral director in Iowa. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network, the American Red Cross Tissue Services, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, and the IDPH will continue to promote increased organ and tissue donation and explore ways to increase public awareness of the option of organ tissue donation.