

WHAT PHYSICIANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TEXAS ORGAN DONATION

The Texas Medical Association [supports](#) the ethical principles of organ donation and access to life-altering and life-saving transplants for end-stage liver, kidney, cardiac, and pulmonary disease and [encourages](#) physicians to promote the importance of a readily available donor pool. According to the [Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients](#),¹ the five-year survival rates for donor recipients are good, ranging from 58% for lung donations to 97% for kidneys.

However, the continued shortage of transplantable organs tempers success rates. More than 107,000 Texans are on the waiting list for an organ donation. Unfortunately, some will die before they receive an organ or deteriorate to the point where they no longer qualify for a transplant.

Regulation

The federal [Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network](#) (OPTN) regulates transplantation² and contracts with nonprofit [United Network for Organ Sharing](#) to develop and implement policy for a fair, equitable organ-matching and allocation system.³ The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients provides OPTN with statistical analysis of transplant activity, waiting lists, survival rates, epidemiological data, and more. This information helps inform useful resources for health care professionals and patients.

Texas Data

Texas is served by three organ procurement organizations (OPOs), all founding members of the [Donate Life Texas](#) organ, eye, and tissue donor registry (Figure 1), and 27 active transplant centers (Figure 2). Trends remain positive, after a slow-down in 2020 at the start of the pandemic:

- 3,025 transplants were performed through Oct. 31, 2021.
- More than 500 of these were living-donor transplants, mostly of kidneys, which account for 60% of all transplants.

Figure 1

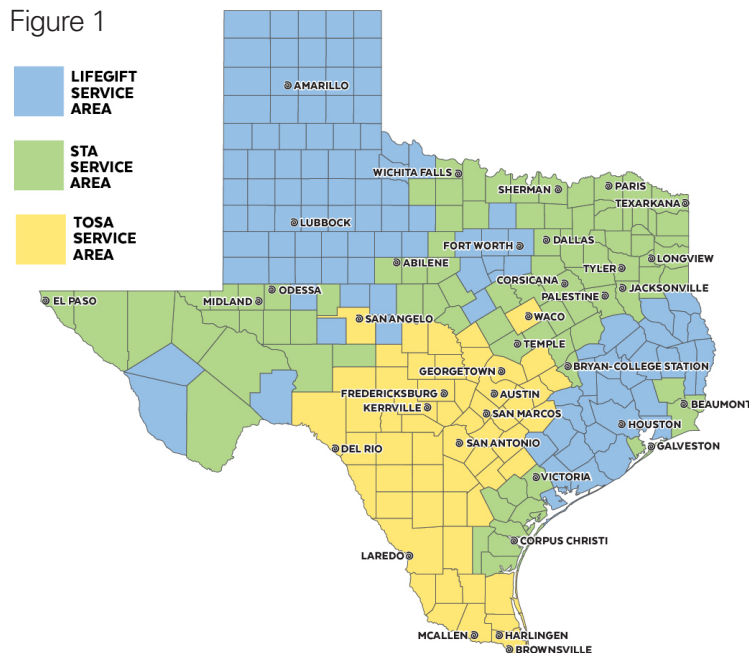
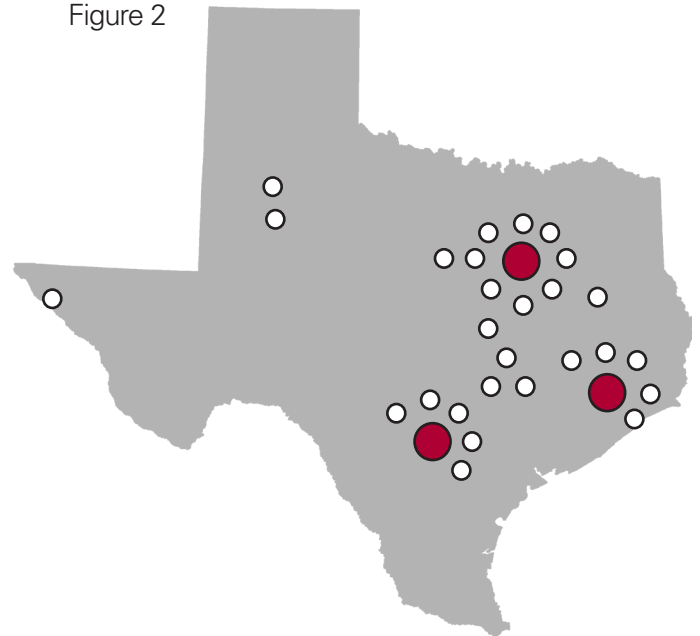


Figure 2



What can TMA members do?

- Be informed about local OPO access and activity within your hospital(s).
- Become an organ donor and encourage your family and friends to do the same. You can [register electronically](#) or [in person](#) when renewing your driver's license.
- Educate your patients about deceased and living-donor donation. Encourage family discussions to prevent confusion at the stressful time of a loved one's illness or impending death. Highlight the importance of recording one's choice to donate.
- Refer potential transplant recipients for evaluation, including dialysis patients.
- Follow national and state "opt-out" discussions and support legislative efforts to improve donor rates that remove financial barriers to donation.

1 [Strategic Registry of Transplant Recipients](#)

2 [Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network](#)

3 [United Network of Organ Sharing](#)