

Organ donation and ethnicity Fact Sheet

The difference you can make

Facts about black, Asian and minority ethnic organ donation

1. More donors from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups are urgently needed to address an increase in patients from the same communities dying whilst waiting for an organ transplant.
2. One in five people who died on the Transplant Waiting List last year were from a black, Asian or ethnic minority background.

Why does ethnicity matter in organ donation?

People from black and Asian communities are more likely to develop conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and certain forms of hepatitis than white people. This makes them more likely to need a transplant.

Blood and tissue types need to match for a successful transplant.

Although many black and Asian patients are able to receive a transplant from a white donor, for many the best match will come from a donor from the same ethnic background.

While some people with a black or Asian background go on to donate when they die each year, this is not enough to meet the needs of all patients waiting for a transplant from those communities.

The current situation

Over 1,800...

Black, Asian and minority ethnic patients are currently waiting for a transplant.

901...

Black, Asian and minority ethnic patients received a transplant from a deceased donor last year. Those who do have their life saved or improved by a transplant will often have waited significantly longer for a successful match than white patients.

114...

Black, Asian and minority ethnic patients donated organs when they died last year. If more people donated their organs after death, or as a living donor, then transplant waiting times would reduce.

Please Sign-Up to the Organ Donor Register and Carry a Donor Card

Call: 0300 123 23 23

NHSBT & CWU Working Together

