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**Report to  
The Vermont Legislature**

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**Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup Final Report  
2019 Report to the Legislature**

**In Accordance with Act 42, 2015, Section 1  
*An act relating to the Organ and Tissue Donation Working Group***

**Submitted to:** House Committee on Human Services  
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

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Commissioner of Health

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**Report Date:** January 15, 2020



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## Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup Final Report January 15, 2020

### Introduction

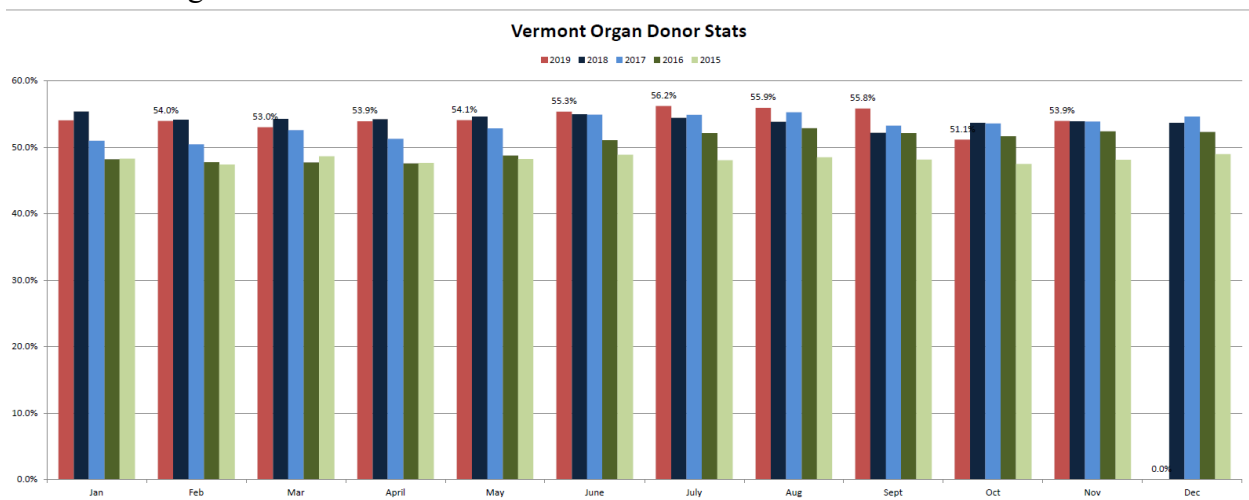
This report outlines the activities, progress and recommendations of the Vermont Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup. The Workgroup was originally established by Act 32 (2013) and renewed by Act 42 (2015). This report is in response to Section 1 of Act 42 (2015). You can find reports from previous years [here](#).

The primary purpose of the Workgroup is to make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor related to organ and tissue donations. The Workgroup is set to expire June 30, 2020. The Workgroup is recommending to the Legislature that it be continued.

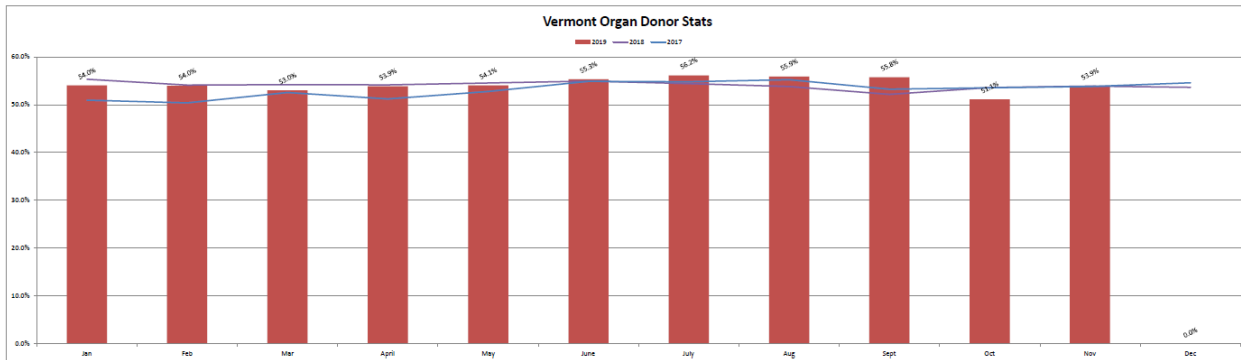
### Vermont Organ Donor Registration Update

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles has been a key partner since the inception of this Workgroup. In 2014, the DMV implemented a system of proactively asking each individual at the time of licensing whether they wanted to become an organ donor. Since that time, registration rose from 7% to around 54%. A new online renewal system will ensure that all Vermonters are asked the question upon renewal as well (the current paper system does not require a response). In the past year the percentage has plateaued at 54%. The Workgroup has a goal of reaching 60%, a figure achieved by at least one other state.

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles was awarded the Silver Medal from American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators Region 1 for second highest Donor Designation Rate in the Region in 2019.



Organ Donor 2019	Jan		Feb		Mar		April		May		June		July		Aug		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Monthly Average		
Yes	8,450	54.0%	8,092	54.0%	9,646	53.0%	9,124	53.9%	9,585	54.1%	9,985	55.3%	11,541	56.2%	10,836	55.9%	9,646	55.8%	11,320	51.1%	7,893	53.9%		#DIV/0!	Yes	9,647	54.3%
No	7,188	46.0%	6,904	46.0%	8,555	47.0%	7,806	46.1%	8,146	45.9%	8,063	44.7%	9,000	43.8%	8,544	44.1%	7,645	44.2%	10,819	48.9%	6,745	46.1%		#DIV/0!	No	8,129	45.7%
Total	15,638	100%	14,996	100%	18,201	100%	16,930	100%	17,731	100%	18,048	100%	20,541	100%	19,380	100%	17,291	100%	22,139	100%	14,638	100%	0	#DIV/0!	Total	17,776	



The DMV plays an essential role in recruiting registered organ donors since 97% of all people who register as organ and tissue donors do so during one of the licensing processes.

### Recommendations

The following is a list of recommendations from the Workgroup.

- 1. Continue an ongoing Vermont Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup with three meetings annually.** The Workgroup has made significant progress in donor registration, but there is much more work to be done to meet the needs of Vermonters waiting for organ and tissue donations.
- 2. Continue to support the Department of Motor Vehicles in their move to online renewals and license renewal processes.**
- 3. Participate in the national Donate Life month in April.** The Workgroup will meet again in February to determine what specific activities to recommend.
- 4. Participate in the annual Spare Parts Team for the Burlington City Marathon.**
- 5. Continue to support live organ donation.** Consider modifying H.23 An act relating to creating an income tax checkoff for the Organ Donation Special Fund in order to be more specific to live donor awareness campaigns and consider other funding sources besides the tax checkoff.

Appendix A: Organ Donation Rate by DMV Location

	Nov 2019			Change
	Yes	No	%	
Middlebury	158	117	57.5%	5.4%
South Burlington	2,127	1,613	56.9%	-1.0%
Montpelier	2,685	2,157	55.5%	7.5%
Dummerston	216	175	55.2%	-2.0%
White River Jct	155	128	54.8%	-2.0%
Springfield	560	482	53.7%	3.3%
Unknown	141	125	53.0%	1.5%
Rutland	804	811	49.8%	-0.2%
Bennington	381	393	49.2%	4.1%
Newport	445	473	48.5%	1.0%
Saint Johnsbury	81	96	45.8%	-3.4%
Saint Albans	140	175	44.4%	-6.8%
Total	7,893	6,745	53.9%	2.8%

	Oct 2019		
	Yes	No	%
South Burlington	2,913	2,122	57.9%
Dummerston	384	287	57.2%
White River Jct	260	198	56.8%
Middlebury	223	205	52.1%
Unknown	556	523	51.5%
Saint Albans	229	218	51.2%
Rutland	1,014	1,014	50.0%
Springfield	723	726	49.9%
Saint Johnsbury	154	159	49.2%
Montpelier	3,662	3,980	47.9%
Newport	681	753	47.5%
Bennington	521	634	45.1%
Total	11,320	10,819	51.1%