

---

---

**Report to  
The Vermont Legislature**

---

---

**Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup Final Report  
2018 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

**Submitted by:** Mark Levine, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health

**Prepared by:** Shayla Livingston  
Public Health Policy Advisor, Commissioner's Office

**Report Date:** January 15, 2018



108 Cherry Street, PO Box 70  
Burlington, VT 05402  
802.863.7341  
[healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov)

**Contents**

Introduction ..... 3  
Vermont Organ Donor Registration Update ..... 3  
Recommendations..... 4

## Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup Final Report January 15, 2018

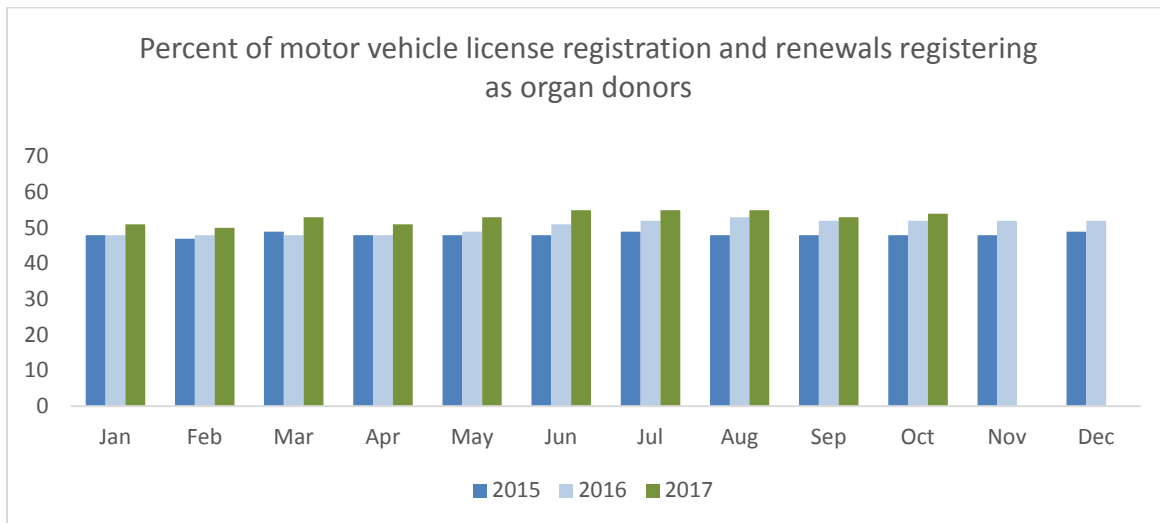
### Introduction

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). Reports from previous years can be found at [http://healthvermont.gov/admin/legislature/leg\\_reports.aspx](http://healthvermont.gov/admin/legislature/leg_reports.aspx).

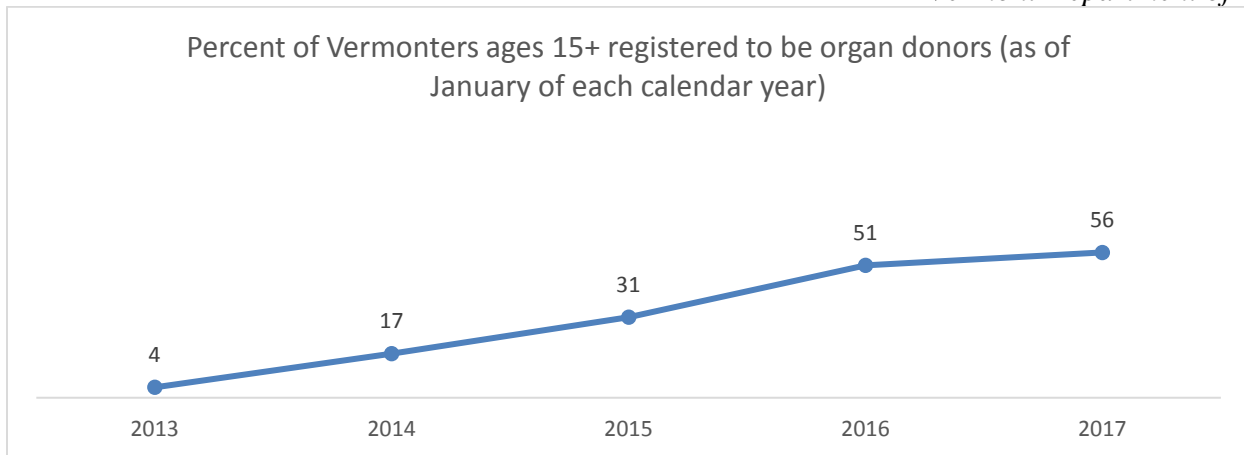
The primary purpose of the Workgroup is to make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor related to organ and tissue donations. The Workgroup met twice in 2018, once in April and once in November.

### Vermont Organ Donor Registration Update

Since the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) implemented its system of requiring every license applicant or renewal to indicate whether they want to become organ donors, Vermont has seen a dramatic increase in the number of registered donors. The percent of Vermonters who register to be organ donors at the time of motor vehicle license registration and renewal has climbed over the past two years. The rate is now above 50%.



The DMV plays an essential role in recruiting registered organ donors because 97% of all people who register as organ and tissue donors do so at the DMV. The following graph represents the percent of all Vermonters ages 15 or older who are registered to be organ donors in Vermont.



## Recommendations

The following is a list of recommendations from the Workgroup.

1. **Continue an ongoing Vermont Organ and Tissue Donation Workgroup.** 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 find and recommend strategies to increase organ donor registration.**
  - a. Work with regional Department of Motor Vehicles offices where uptake is lower than the state average to assess and address any systems that may be inhibiting registration.
  - b. Outreach directly to older Vermonters. National data show that older Americans register at lower rates.
    - i. There may be some limited funds to complete this campaign.
  - c. As part of greater systems change at the Department of Motor Vehicles, change the process for registration at the time of renewal so that each time a Vermonter renews their license they do not have to re-answer the organ donation question.
  - d. Investigate additional venues, such as Vermont Health Connect, where a link to Donate Life Vermont can be prominently displayed.
3. **Participate in the national Donate Life month in April.** The Workgroup will meet again in March to determine what specific activities to recommend.
4. **Participate in the annual Spare Parts Team for the Burlington City Marathon.**
5. **Explore options policy options to increase funding to reimburse basic expenses for live organ donors.** The Workgroup is going to explore different strategies to increase awareness around the need for live organ donation, as well as any approaches to make it easier for interested individuals to donate.