

Organs Recovered Per Donor (ORPD) Measure Fact Sheet

Version September 2026

Organs Recovered Per Donor (ORPD) Measure

The number of organs recovered for transplant per donor in the Organ Procurement Organization's (OPO) Donation Service Area (DSA) in a calendar year, regardless of whether the organs were transplanted.

ORPD Per Calendar Year:

Number of Organs Recovered for the Purpose of Transplant,
Regardless of Whether the Organs Were Transplanted

Number of Organ Donors in an OPO's DSA in a Calendar Year

Overview

AOPO and Quality Improvement

The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) leads the nation's organ donation community with a clear mission: save more lives. Central to that mission is a commitment to continuous quality improvement—advancing donation and transplantation practices, collaborating with stakeholders, and sharing best practices across its OPO member network.

In 2025, AOPO launched the Organ Procurement Organization Performance Measurement Project to redefine how OPO performance is measured. The project aims to create independently validated, scientifically sound, data-driven metrics aligned with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) measurement framework—promoting quality improvement, transparency, trust, and stakeholder alignment while accounting for medically complex donors and the operational realities of the donation and transplantation system.

Background on ORPD

The ORPD measure is an important indicator of organ procurement efficiency, because it reflects how effectively donation opportunities are maximized to increase the number of organs available for transplantation. Although the number of deceased donors has shown a steady annual increase over the last decade, the supply of transplantable organs remains insufficient to meet the needs of patients awaiting transplantation (Hart et al., 2026; Israni et al., 2025; SRTT, 2026). One of the most effective ways to address this issue is the use of enhanced donor management practices to increase the likelihood that multiple organs from a single donor remain viable, thus maximizing the organs available for transplantation.

ORPD: Why It's a Priority

- + The ORPD measure is an intermediate outcome measure intended to assess the effectiveness of OPOs in maximizing the lifesaving potential of every donor.
- + By focusing on the number of organs recovered from each donor, this measure supports improved patient outcomes, reduces health care costs, and promotes high-quality, coordinated care.
- + As a measurement of how well the donation process is working, it highlights areas for improvement and supports the overall goal of increasing transplant capacity to improve the quality of life for patients awaiting a lifesaving transplant.
- + ORPD aligns with the overarching goal of ensuring that every donated organ achieves its highest potential to save or improve lives.

The ORPD measure addresses an important aspect of quality by evaluating donor yield (organs recovered) rather than simply donor volume. Higher organ recovery per donor reflects effective donor evaluation, clinical management, surgical recovery practices, and coordination among OPOs and transplant programs. Conversely, organ nonrecovery is attributed to a variety of reasons, including donor medical history, poor organ function, and the organ being ruled out after evaluation in the operating room (Israni et al., 2025; Olson & Cravero, 2009).

Measure Specifications

The ORPD measure calculates the number of organs recovered for the purpose of transplant per donor within the OPO's DSA in a calendar year, regardless of whether those organs were subsequently transplanted. It is calculated at the OPO level and expressed as a rate per donor. See the definitions section of this document for relevant terms and definitions.

Numerator and denominator data for this measure are drawn from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR). OPOs will submit the data for this measure to Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network (OPTN) as they usually do. AOPO will retrieve the data from OPTN to calculate the measure. Refer to the AOPO Data SOP document for the ORPD measure for details on data standardization, variable format, and measure calculation.

ORPD Per Calendar Year:

Numerator

- ▶ The numerator is the number of organs recovered for the purpose of transplant from donors in the OPO's DSA in the calendar year, regardless of whether the organs were transplanted.
- ▶ Double or en bloc kidneys and double or en bloc lungs count as two organs, and organ segments count as individual organs.
- ▶ Organs recovered with the intent of transplant that are subsequently determined to be unsuitable and designated for research are included in the numerator, because they were recovered for the purpose of transplant. Organs recovered with the intent of research are excluded.
- ▶ Numerator data source: SRTR.

Number of Organs Recovered for the Purpose of Transplant,
Regardless of Whether the Organs Were Transplanted

Number of Organ Donors in an OPO's DSA in a Calendar Year

Denominator

- ▶ The denominator is the number of organ donors in the OPO's DSA in the calendar year—that is, deceased individuals from whom at least one organ was recovered for transplant, regardless of whether the organ was transplanted.
- ▶ An individual is also counted as a donor if only the pancreas is procured and is used for islet cell research or transplantation.
- ▶ Donors are attributed to the calendar year based on the time of death recorded on the death certificate, not the date of organ recovery.
- ▶ Denominator data source: SRTR.

Definitions

Calendar Year

Time between 12:00 a.m. on January 1 of a calendar year and 11:59 p.m. on December 31 of that same year. For SRTTR data, a death is attributed to the calendar year based on the time of death as recorded on the death certificate.

Donor

A deceased individual from whom at least one organ was recovered for transplant, regardless of whether the organ was transplanted. An individual would also be considered a donor if only the pancreas is procured and used for islet cell research or transplantation.

Organ

Human kidney, heart, lung, liver, pancreas, or intestine. Double or en bloc kidneys and double or en bloc lungs count as two organs. Organ segments count as an individual organ.

Organ Recovered for Research

The number of organs recovered with the intent of transplant and subsequently determined to be unsuitable and then designated for research; or organs recovered with the intent of research. Research must occur at an institution or organization that has an ongoing program of research to improve transplantation or support the discovery of cures for organ-related conditions, such as diabetes.

Recovered Organs

Organs recovered for the purpose of transplant, regardless of whether they were transplanted or used successfully.

Transplant

Organ transplants include solid organ transplants and islet infusions. An organ transplant begins at the start of organ anastomosis or the start of an islet infusion.

An organ transplant procedure is complete when any of the following occurs:

- The chest or abdominal cavity is closed, and the final skin stitch or staple is applied.
 - The transplant recipient leaves the operating room, even if the chest or abdominal cavity cannot be closed.
 - The islet infusion is complete.
-

Transplant Organ

Human kidney, heart, lung, liver, pancreas, or intestine that was recovered from a donor and transplanted into a recipient.

Resources

- ▶ Hart, A., Schladt, D. P., & Snyder, J. J. (2026). OPTN/SRTR 2024 annual data report: Overview of US solid organ transplantation. *American Journal of Transplantation*, 26(8 Suppl. 1), S11–S21. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajt.2026.05.718>
- ▶ Israni, A. K., Zaun, D. A., Martinez, A., Schaffhausen, C. R., Lozano, C., McKinney, W. T., Miller, J. M., & Snyder, J. J. (2025). OPTN/SRTR 2023 annual data report: Deceased organ donation. *American Journal of Transplantation*, 25(2 Suppl. 1), S490–S517. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajt.2025.01.026>
- ▶ Olson, L., & Cravero, L. (2009). Donor factors that affect the number of organs transplanted per donor. *Progress in Transplantation*, 19(3), 259–266. <https://doi.org/10.1177/152692480901900312>
- ▶ Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR). OPTN/SRTR 2024 Annual Data Report: Overview of US Solid Organ Transplantation. <https://srrtr.hrsa.gov/adr/2024/Overview/>. Accessed August 17, 2026.