



Transplantation and Diverse Communities

Grade Level

5-12

Ages: 11-18

Time

One full class period

Overview

Instructor will use questioning and group discussion to poll student knowledge and feelings about Organ Donation in minority populations, as well as learning previous notions or biases. Instruction will utilize videos to introduce the topic in more depth.

Lesson Objective

Students will learn about, and be able to share their knowledge and beliefs about Organ Donation in minority populations.

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-12.1.C, 1.D, 2

Next Generation Science Standards

HS-LS1.A

Preparation

- Preview the videos for display:

<https://organdonor.gov/awareness/materials/videos.html> (2:30)

https://www.youtube.com/embed/j0jwhG2f_oI?autoplay=1 (1:07)

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ornNiDhEESs?autoplay=1> (3:03)

-Have lined paper or poster paper and pencils/pens available for small group work

Lesson

1. Utilize discussion prompts:

“Does ethnicity play a role in who receives a transplant?”

“What are some possible reasons minorities have for not registering?”

**You may choose to begin by showing all of the short videos, or intersperse them throughout the class discussions.

2. Once you have exhausted these two discussion topics, and have shown all three videos, divide students into small groups and pose the question:

“What are some ideas to reach out to friends/classmates in diverse communities?”

Discuss appropriate interactions and locations for these discussions.

3. Have groups design plans for outreach to their communities. Make sure that their proposed steps are realistic and achievable.

4. Have groups take turns sharing their plans.

Assessment

- Participation in full class discussion.
- Small group work



Diverse Communities and Donation

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR MINORITIES TO BECOME DONORS?

- Ethnic minorities are in desperate need of more organ and tissue donors.
- There are more than 66,000 minority individuals registered on the U.S. organ transplant waiting list. This number includes African Americans, Asians, Latinos, American Indians, Pacific Islanders and people of multiracial descent.
- Minorities comprise 56 percent of individuals on the national organ transplant waiting list and 32 percent of living and deceased organ donors, while making up 36 percent of the U.S. population.
- Many of the conditions leading to the need for a transplant - such as diabetes and hypertension- occur with greater frequency among minority populations.
- Tragically, every 10 minutes another patient is added to the waiting list and 18 people die each day due to lack of organ donors.

WHAT PREVENTS SOME MINORITIES FROM REGISTERING AS DONORS?

- Many communities of color do not have organ, eye and tissue donation on their “radar” – this end-of-life decision is simply not top of mind.
- Most are not aware of the large number of minorities who are waiting for transplants.
- There is a misperception that minorities do not have equal access to organs for transplantation.
- Some are afraid that they will not receive the best medical treatment in a life-threatening emergency if they were a known organ donor. Often there is historical mistrust on the part of minorities of medical establishments and institutions.

DOES THE CHURCH SUPPORT ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION?

- Every major religion in the United States supports organ, eye and tissue donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.



IS THERE A GREATER NEED FOR ANY PARTICULAR ORGAN AMONG MINORITIES?

- Yes. Kidneys are at the top of the list. While 36 percent of the U.S. population is comprised of ethnic minorities, approximately 63 percent of those waiting for kidney transplants are minorities.
- Currently, more than 76,000 minority individuals are waiting for kidney transplants. For these patients, the lack of available organs means longer waiting periods on transplant lists, more time spent on dialysis, and sometimes death.

WHY IS THE NEED FOR KIDNEYS SO HIGH AMONG MINORITIES?

- Minorities are disproportionately affected by illnesses that can lead to end-stage renal disease and the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant. These diseases include high blood pressure [hypertension] and diabetes.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONOR?

- According to the United Network for Organ Sharing, “successful transplantation often is enhanced by the matching of organs between members of the same ethnic and racial group. For example, any patient is less likely to reject a kidney if it is donated by an individual who is genetically similar. Generally, people are genetically more similar to people of their own ethnicity or race than to people of other races.”
- Knowing that you have the power to give someone else a chance to live a healthy productive life is the greatest gift of all.
- A single donor can save or heal the lives of more than 50 people.
- Donation is a consolation to the donor family knowing that their loved one helped to save and heal the lives of others.

HOW CAN I BECOME AN ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONOR?

- Sign up in your state donor registry. Visit www.donatelifect.org
- It is important to tell your family members that you have decided to become a donor so that they will understand and support your decision.

*Resource: US Department of Human Services (<https://www.organdonor.gov/whydonate/whyminorities.html>)

Why Minority Donors Are Needed

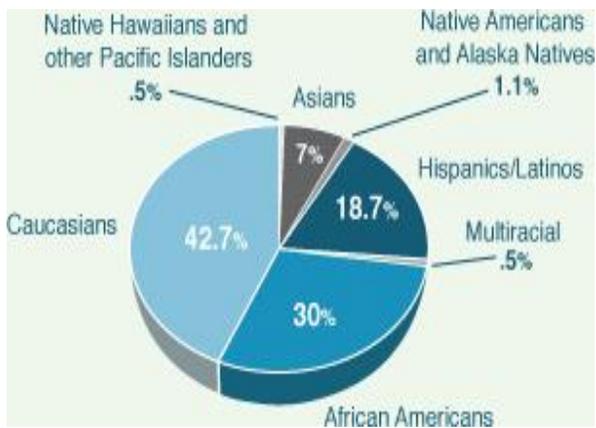
People of all ages, races, and ethnicities can save and enhance lives by donating their organs, eyes and tissues. Organ and tissue transplants are needed by people from every area of our nation.

Some of the conditions that can result in organ failure are best treated through transplantation; others can be treated only by this lifesaving procedure.

People of most races and ethnicities in the U.S. donate in proportion to their representation in the population. The need for transplant in some groups, however, is disproportionately high, frequently due to a high incidence of conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes, both of which can lead to the need for a kidney transplant.

For example, African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics are three times more likely than Whites to suffer from end-stage renal (kidney) disease, often as the result of high blood pressure and other conditions that can damage the kidneys. Almost 35 percent of the more than 80,000 people on the national waiting list for a kidney transplant are African American.

Although organs are not matched according to race/ethnicity, and people of different races frequently match one another, all individuals waiting for an organ transplant will have a better chance of receiving one if there are large numbers of donors from their racial/ethnic background. This is because compatible blood types and tissue markers—critical qualities for donor/recipient matching—are more likely to be found among members of the same ethnicity. A greater diversity of donors may potentially increase access to transplantation for everyone.



Waiting List Candidates by Ethnicity*

58%

Minorities make up more than half of those currently on the organ donation waiting lists.

African Americans are the largest group of minorities in need of an organ transplant. African Americans have higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure than Caucasians, increasing the risk of organ failure. African Americans make up 13% of the population, 34% of those waiting for a kidney, and 25% of those waiting for a heart.

Video: Yolanda speaks about organ donation and Native American culture

<https://organdonor.gov/awareness/materials/videos.html> (2:30)

Video: Alonzo Mourning for organ donation among minorities.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/j0jwhG2F_oI?autoplay=1 (1:07)

Video: Sharing Hope and Life: An important Message about Organ Donation and Minority Communities

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ornNiDhEESs?autoplay=1> (3:03)