



## **ADDITIONAL DATA FOR 2011 – ORGAN DONATION IN QUÉBEC**

The statistics for 2011 and comparative data for 2005-2011 are available at [http://www.transplantquebec.ca/QuebecTransplant\\_fr/stats.htm](http://www.transplantquebec.ca/QuebecTransplant_fr/stats.htm)

- **Over the last five years, over 2,000 persons received a transplant.**
- **Over the last five years, 243 deaths were reported.**
- **Average number of organs transplanted:** 3.4 organs per donor (in brain death); 2 organs per donor (after cardiocirculatory death).
- **Median waiting time for persons transplanted in 2011:** 578 days for the 209 persons who received a kidney transplant. Of the 1,264 persons registered on the list of those waiting for a transplant, managed by Transplant Québec, some 975 are waiting for a kidney.
- In 2011, **organ donation after cardiocirculatory death (DCD) occurred 13 times**, a clear-cut increase over seven donors in 2010. The use of the donation protocol for donors after cardiocirculatory death, in a greater number of hospital centres in 2011, gives reason for optimism in increasing the number of donors in the coming years. Keep in mind that, before 2007, this type of donation was not possible.

**In addition to the 137 donors**, 17 others who consented to donate could not complete the process, notably for legal or medical reasons, or reasons of safety for the receivers. Therefore, there was no transplantation.

There were **48 living donations** (46 kidneys and 2 liver lobes), according to data transmitted to Transplant Québec, made on a voluntary basis through transplantation programs in Québec hospital centres.

### **The deceased-donor profile has changed in the last decade.**

- The average age of donors has increased, going from 45 years in 2001, to 49 years in 2011, and this has had a direct impact on the average number of organs procured; yet, a 76-year-old donor has already donated five organs.
- A decrease in donations was noted after a diagnosis of neurological death, for one, because of an improved rate of survival in traumatized patients, a consequence of advances in medicine and successful road safety campaigns.
- The introduction of a new protocol for organ procurement (donation after cardiocirculatory death) since 2007 is helping to increase the potential donor pool and fulfill the wishes of more people who wish to donate their organs and tissues. At present, the kidney and, in certain cases, the liver can be procured using this protocol. Thus, fewer organs per donor can be procured after cardiocirculatory death.

### **Transplant Québec Data to Keep in Mind:**

- about 1% of hospital deaths open the way to organ donation, therefore, every consent counts;
- over a lifetime, the probability of a man in his forties needing a transplant is seven times greater than that of becoming a donor when he dies; for a woman, the probability is four times greater;
- age is not an exclusion factor in donation; a 76-year-old donor donated five organs, and an 88-year old, the oldest yet, donated his liver;
- once the decision is made to donate one's organs, the will to do so must be expressed and made known to the family members so as to ensure that one's wishes will be respected;
- when the wishes of the deceased person are known to the family members before his or her death, the family members, for the most part, honour the loved one's wishes;
- to learn how to give one's consent or to obtain the consent sticker (to be applied to the back of one's health insurance card), go to [www.signezdon.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.signezdon.gouv.qc.ca). The RAMQ organ and tissue donation consent form is sent with the health insurance card renewal notice. It can also be ordered directly at any time from the RAMQ by calling 1 800 561-9749.
- one can also ask one's notary to register his or her wishes in the *Registre des consentements au don d'organes et de tissus*, administered by the *Chambre des notaires du Québec* at [www.cdnq.org](http://www.cdnq.org). Of the 728, 000 entries in the register established in 2006, 86% are consents.

**Source:** Transplant Québec, February 29, 2012.