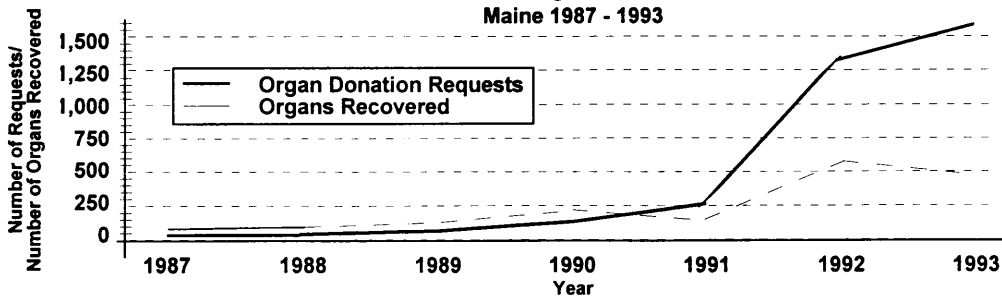


# ANATOMICAL DONATIONS

MAINE: 1987 - 1993

- ➔ Emergency legislation enacted in Maine in 1987 *required* hospitals to ask permission for anatomical donations from the families of people who died in Maine hospitals and who were medically appropriate candidates. The preamble to the legislation stated that only 10% of potential donors actually become donors. It also pointed out that transplants could make the difference between life and death, or the difference between a life of pain and a full productive life. Federal law, effective in 1988, required that requests be made of a much broader group to entitle the hospital to Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement.
- ➔ During 1987, the first year of mandatory reporting under state law, hospitals reported that they made 43 requests with a total of 64 anatomical donations. In 1993, with both state and federal law in effect, Maine hospitals reported making 1,546 requests yielding 495 donations - a 36-fold increase in requests and an 8-fold increase in anatomical donations.
- ➔ In 1993, the number of organ donors nationwide increased by 7% to 4,824; 33,300 patients were waiting for organ transplants.\*

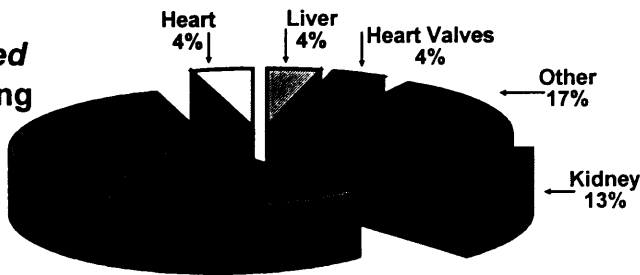
Number of Organ Donation Requests Made by Hospitals and Number of Organs Recovered  
Maine 1987 - 1993



- ➔ There have been over 78,000 deaths in Maine since 1987 when this state legislation was implemented, but only 56% of them (44,013) occurred in hospitals.

Percent Organs Donated by Type of Organ  
Maine 1987 - 1993

- ➔ Over that same 7-year period (1987-1993), hospitals *reported making 3,420 requests* resulting in 1,652 organs and tissues being recovered from donors who died in their facilities. Donations included 946 corneas, 213 kidneys, 74 hearts, 72 livers, and 67 heart valves.



NOTE: The term "organs" includes tissues such as corneas, heart valves, bone tissue, etc.  
\* data are from the United Network for Organ Sharing - a full citation is available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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