



Ipsos Reid



Canadian Blood Services
it's in you to give

OTDT Professional Survey

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Final Report

Prepared for: Canadian Blood Services

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1. Background and Objectives

In the fall of 2010, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) proposed that a comprehensive opinion survey be undertaken to build on previous reports and information on healthcare professional's awareness and attitudes toward organ and tissue donation and transplantation (OTDT).

The objective of this research was to establish timely information on professional opinion, attitudes and actions with regard to organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

2. Overview of Methodology

The study consisted of an online, quantitative questionnaire using the Zoomerang platform. The survey was administered by Canadian Blood Services and the fieldwork was conducted between November 29th, 2010 and January 11th, 2011. A total of 551 surveys were completed across Canada. The target audience for the research included:

- OTDT physicians and professionals
- Other health care professionals

The survey was developed together with OTDT staff, the Office of Strategy Management and the department of Public Affairs. It was distributed via professional associations and e-mail addresses currently held by Canadian Blood Services and used for the Expert Engagement initiative. This ensured that the survey was distributed to professionals both fully engaged in OTDT (the contacts from the Expert Engagement initiative) and those professionals more removed from OTDT but still with influence (the contacts through the professional associations).



3. Executive Summary

Support for organ and tissue donation and transplantation among the healthcare professionals surveyed is extremely high. All respondents fundamentally support the idea of organ and tissue donation and a large majority has made the personal decision to donate their organs and tissues. Specifically, 85% of those surveyed have decided to donate their organs after their death and 73% have decided to donate their tissues. Moreover, 77% said they would donate the organs and/or tissues of loved ones upon their deaths.

Support for organ and tissue donation from a professional standpoint was even higher, with 96% of those surveyed being very or somewhat committed to organ donation and 93% being very or somewhat committed to tissue donation.

Virtually all of the healthcare professionals surveyed believe it is important that the family of a recently deceased, potential donor be given the opportunity to donate that individual's organs and/or tissue. Specifically, 98% of those surveyed believe this is important (very or somewhat) for organs and 96% believe this is important (very or somewhat) for tissues.

However, when asked how often this occurs at their hospital or facility, only 4% of respondents said it always occurs. About one in three (35%) said it happens most of the time, 34% said it happens some of the time, and 9% said it rarely occurs.

When asked specifically about whether or not approaching the family of an individual whose death is imminent or established about organ and/or tissue donation should be mandatory, 86% agree that it should be. Significantly fewer (56%) agree that it should be left to the discretion of the physician caring for the patient.

A rather large majority (78%) of respondents think that donor registries are very or somewhat effective at increasing donation rates. Due to neutral and unsure responses, this is countered by only 6% who think that registries are somewhat or very ineffective.

Moreover, 72% of healthcare professionals are strongly or somewhat confident that a person's wishes regarding organ and tissue donation will be acted upon at time of death.

That being said, three in four (74%) respondents think that the wishes of a deceased person's family are followed should there be a conflict between the wishes of the two parties. When asked what they think should happen, 70% stated that the wishes of the deceased should be followed.

When respondents were asked about the current practices of their facility regarding priority access to ICU beds for potential donors, almost six in ten (57%) were unsure what the policy or procedure was. One in four (25%) stated that their facility gives equal priority for potential donors and those with the highest chance of survival, 13% said patients with the highest chance of survival receive priority, while only 5% stated potential donors receive priority.



When asked what should be the policy in this regard, the proportion indicating that potential donors receive priority access remained basically the same (6%). Just over four in ten (44%) think that potential donors and those with the highest chance of survival should receive equivalent priority, while slightly fewer (40%) think priority should go to patients with the highest chance of survival.

Survey participants were asked their views on several policy positions. The first of these was their opinion on changing the laws to make organ and tissue donation an opt-out (as opposed to an opt-in) process. Slightly more than half of respondents (55%) strongly or somewhat support this change while one in three (31%) somewhat or strongly oppose it.

Respondents were also asked about their perspective on both international acquisition of donated tissue and interprovincial cooperation on organ and tissue donations. The latter of these two topics elicited a strong response supporting the idea, with 85% of respondents strongly or somewhat agreeing that organs and tissue should go to whoever needs them the most, regardless of where they are donated in Canada (only 9% somewhat or strongly disagree).

However, support was markedly lower when respondents were asked about purchasing and importing tissues for transplantation from the United States. Despite being told to assume the tissues were safe, 60% of respondents stated that they were very or somewhat concerned about the practice. Moreover, only 16% of respondents stated they were somewhat unconcerned or not at all concerned, as one in four respondents remained neutral on the matter.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Strong Support for Mandatory Discussion with the Family of Recently Deceased Individuals

The healthcare professionals surveyed in this study demonstrated high levels of support for the implementation of a policy that would require a discussion with the family of recently deceased, potential donors regarding organ and tissue donation and transplantation. When asked directly, 86% of respondents favoured this approach compared to only 56% favouring a discretionary approach. Moreover, only 4% of those surveyed report that this sort of discussion always occurs at their facility. Therefore, movement towards support for and creation of this policy would be met with support among this audience.

Registries are Effective, but May Not Translate into Donations if Family or Next of Kin Disagrees

Almost eight in ten (78%) respondents think that registries are an effective tool for improving organ and tissue donation rates. However, three quarters of respondents (74%) stated that the wishes of family or next of kin are followed should there be a discrepancy in the wishes of the family and the deceased.

A majority of those surveyed, however, support the notion that it is the wishes of the recently deceased that ought to be followed regardless of what the family or next of kin may desire. Based on this finding, it is reasonable to assume that support for a system that would enable an individual to prevent his or her family from overriding their wishes upon their death would be high among healthcare professionals in Canada.

Priority for ICU Beds Should Go to Those with the Best Chance of Survival

Current knowledge among the healthcare professionals surveyed of the practices in their facility regarding whether potential donors receive priority access to ICU beds was quite low, as 57% were unsure. Those who were able to provide a response reported that both potential donors and those with a high chance of survival received equivalent access (25%) or that those with the highest chance of survival receive priority (13%). Only 5% reported that their facility gives priority access to potential donors.

When asked what should happen, almost equal proportions support giving equivalent priority to potential donors and those with the highest chance of survival (44%) or giving patients with the highest chance of survival priority access (40%). Despite unsure responses dropping to 11%, support for giving priority access to potential donors remained low at 6%.

In either regard, the result is that the notion of giving priority access for ICU beds to potential donors is low. At best, the healthcare professionals surveyed think these individuals should receive equal priority to those who have the best chance to survive, but even then support for this approach is not overwhelming.

Healthcare Professionals Skeptical of Tissues from the United States but Strongly Support Interprovincial Cooperation

The healthcare professionals surveyed in this study held two very opposing views in regards to cooperation among Canadian provinces and the purchasing of tissues from the United States. In total, 85% of those surveyed think that organs and tissues donated from anywhere in Canada should be given to those who need them the most – regardless of provincial borders. However, 89% of those surveyed think it is very or somewhat important that Canada be entirely self-sufficient in regards to organ and tissue donation. That is to say, Canada should not have to import organs and tissues from other countries to satisfy demand here. Rather, there should be enough donations occurring within Canada, and across Canada, to satisfy the need for all Canadians.

This skepticism of imported organs and tissues is confirmed by 60% of those surveyed being concerned by the practice of purchasing and importing tissues from the United States. The professions most likely to be concerned about this practice are donor coordinators and tissue specialists while ICU physicians and nurses were less concerned.

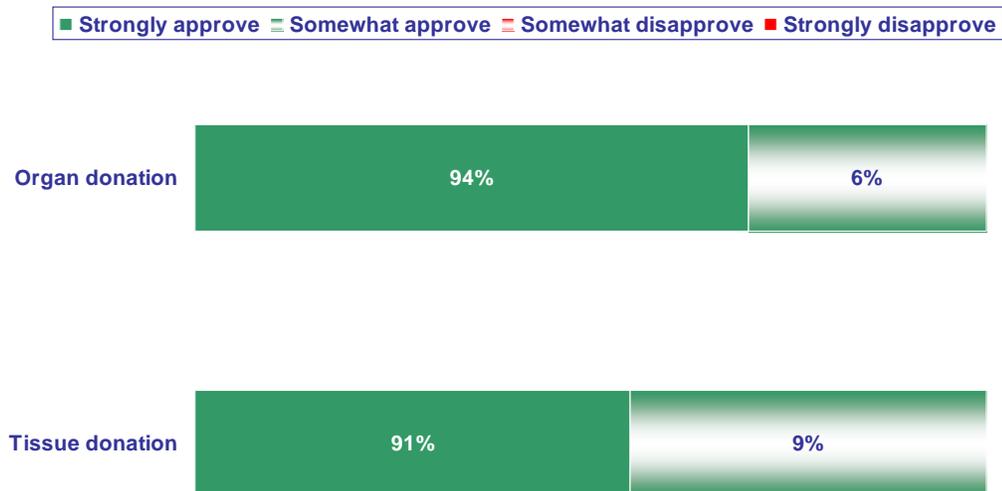
Regional Differences in Support for Organ and Tissue Donation

Noticeable regional differences were evident in the data for this study, particularly in regards to overall support for organ and tissue donation and transplantation. While no province or region was opposed to the practice, or even somewhat opposed, some areas were consistently less or more supportive than others. Generally speaking, residents of British Columbia were less supportive of organ and tissue donation initiatives while residents of Atlantic Canada were generally more supportive.

5. Personal Views on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation

5.1 Personal Support for Organ and Tissue Donation

When respondents were asked if they personally approve of both organ and tissue donation following death, all respondents said they approve either strongly or somewhat. In fact, in regards to organ donation, 94% of respondents claimed they strongly approve with 6% saying they somewhat approve. Similarly, 91% of respondents strongly approved of tissue donation with the remaining 9% somewhat approving.



1. Do you personally approve of organ donation, that is people donating their organs after death?
2. Do you personally approve of tissue donation, that is people donating their tissues after death?

Base All Respondents: n=551

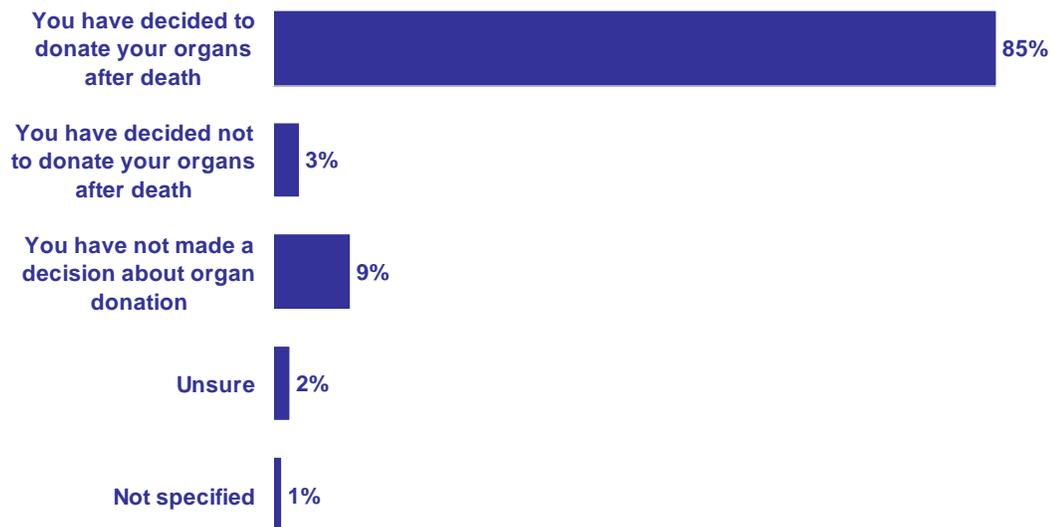
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While support was strong across the country for organ donation, Atlantic Canadians were more likely to strongly approve (at 97%) than both British Columbians (86%) and Albertans (90%). Similarly, a response of “Strongly Approve” was more likely among residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (97%) and Ontario (96%) than those in Alberta.

In regards to tissue donation, residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (93%), Ontario (93%), and Atlantic Canada (94%) were more likely to select “Strongly Approve” than those of British Columbia (78%).

5.2 Personal Decision on Organ Donation

Respondents were asked what their personal situation is in regards to their decision to donate their organs. In total, 85% of all respondents have decided to donate their organs following their death. A further 9% of respondents have yet to make a decision on whether to donate, while 3% have opted to not donate. Only 2% are unsure.



3. Which of the following best describes your own situation?

Base All Respondents: n=551

All regions of the country showed high levels of support for organ donation. However, residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (90%), Ontario (86%), and Atlantic Canada (90%) were more likely to have decided to donate their organs than those in British Columbia (72%).

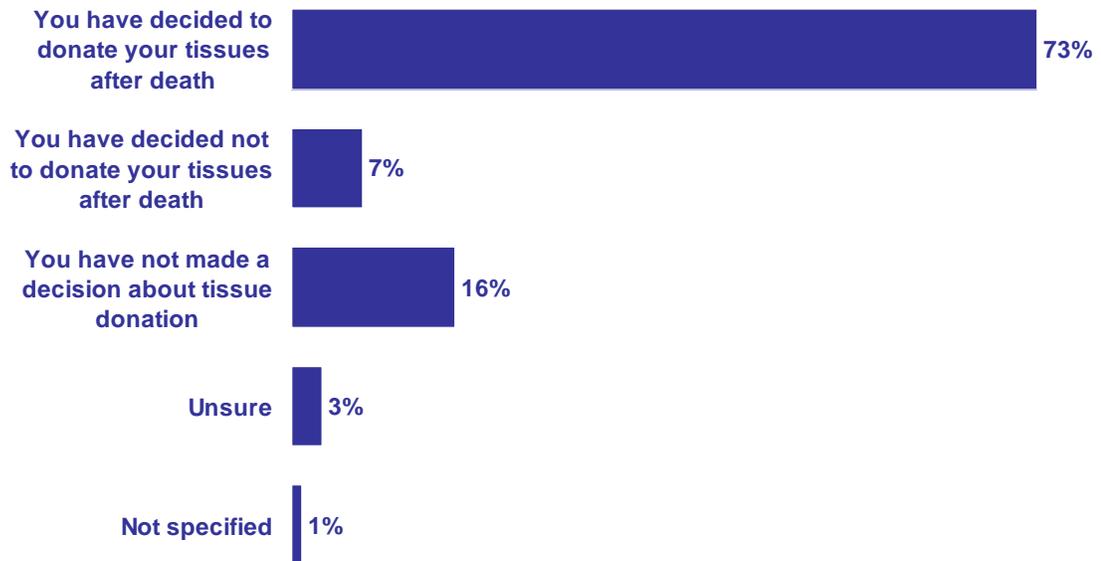
Additionally, physicians were more likely to donate, at 87%, than tissue specialists (72%) while donor coordinators were more likely to donate than all other professions, at 100%.



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5.3 Personal Decision on Tissue Donation

Overall, a large majority (73%) of respondents have made the decision to donate their tissues following their death. A further 16% have yet to make a decision while 7% have decided not to donate their tissues. Three percent of respondents are unsure.



4. Which of the following best describes your own situation?

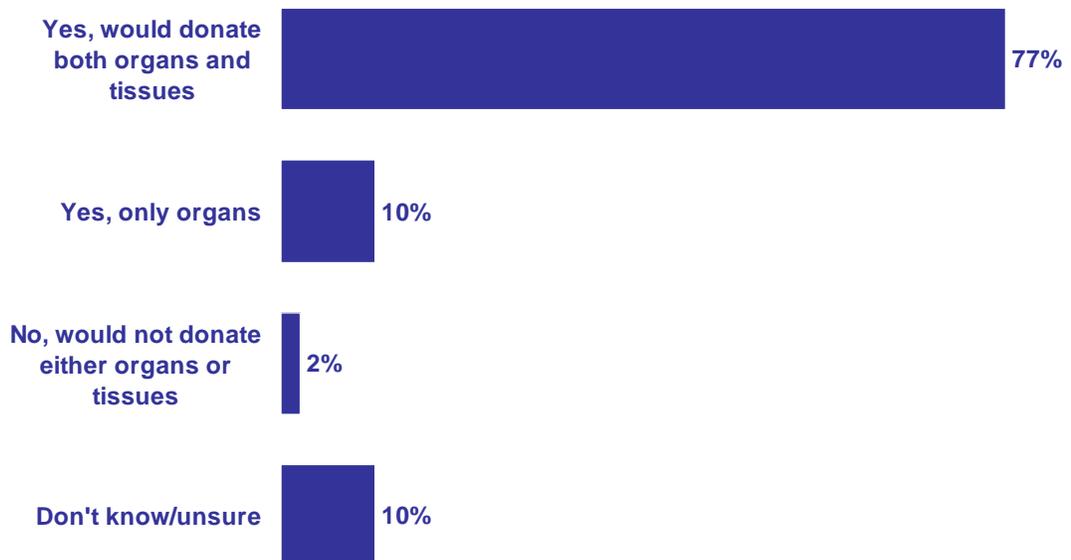
Base All Respondents: n=551

Residents of Ontario and Atlantic Canada were more likely (77% and 78% respectively) to have decided to donate their tissues than residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (63%). In regards to profession, physicians were more likely to have decided to donate (at 81%) than tissue specialists (61%) and hospital administrators (63%). Additionally, those whose practice areas involve transplant patients or potential deceased patients are more likely to donate (82% and 76% respectively) than those who do not practice in either of these areas (63%).



5.4 Organ and Tissue Donation Involving Loved Ones

When respondents were asked whether they would be willing to donate the organs and/or tissues of their children or loved ones after death 77% said they would donate. A further 10% said they would only donate organs, while 2% would donate neither organs nor tissue. This is rounded off by 10% of respondents selecting “don’t know/unsure”.



5. Would you donate the organs and/or tissues of your children or loved ones after death?

Base All Respondents: n=551

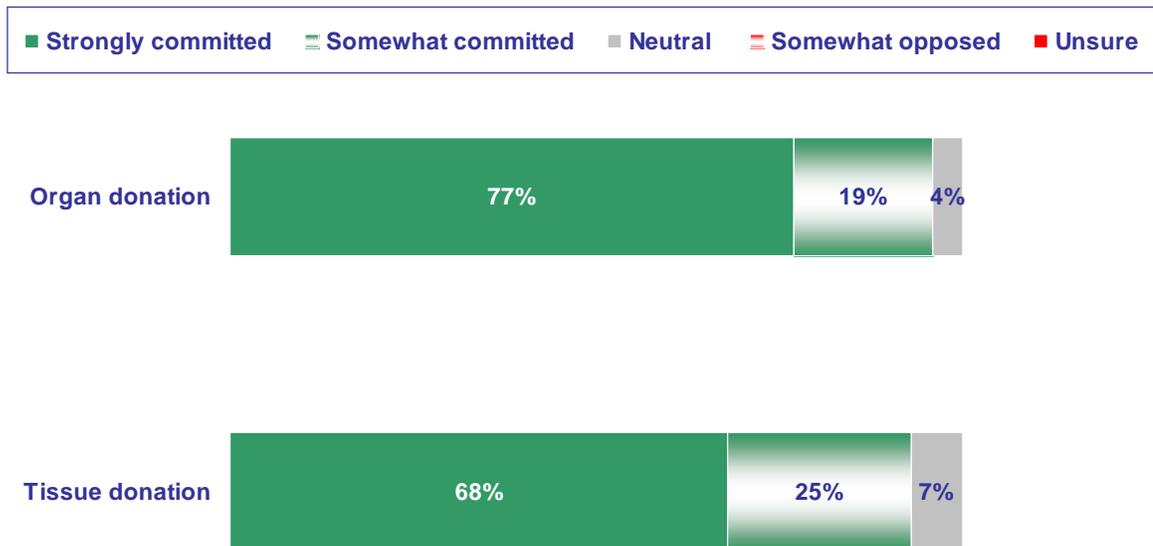
Residents of Ontario and Atlantic Canada were more likely to be willing to donate both organs and tissue, with 81% and 82% responding in this way respectively, than residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (68%).

Both physicians (82%) and nurses (83%) were more likely to be willing to donate both organs and tissue than tissue specialists (67%). Moreover, those whose practice area involves transplant patients were more likely (86%) to donate both than those whose practice area involves potential deceased (75%) or neither of the aforementioned areas (71%).

6. Professional Views on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation

6.1 Professional Commitment to Organ and Tissue Donation

On a professional level, support for both organ and tissue donation is quite high. A total of 95% of respondents were strongly or somewhat committed to organ donation while 92% of respondents were strongly or somewhat committed to tissue donation.



6. As a health care professional, how committed are you to organ donation?
7. As a health care professional, how committed are you to tissue donation?

Base All Respondents: n=551

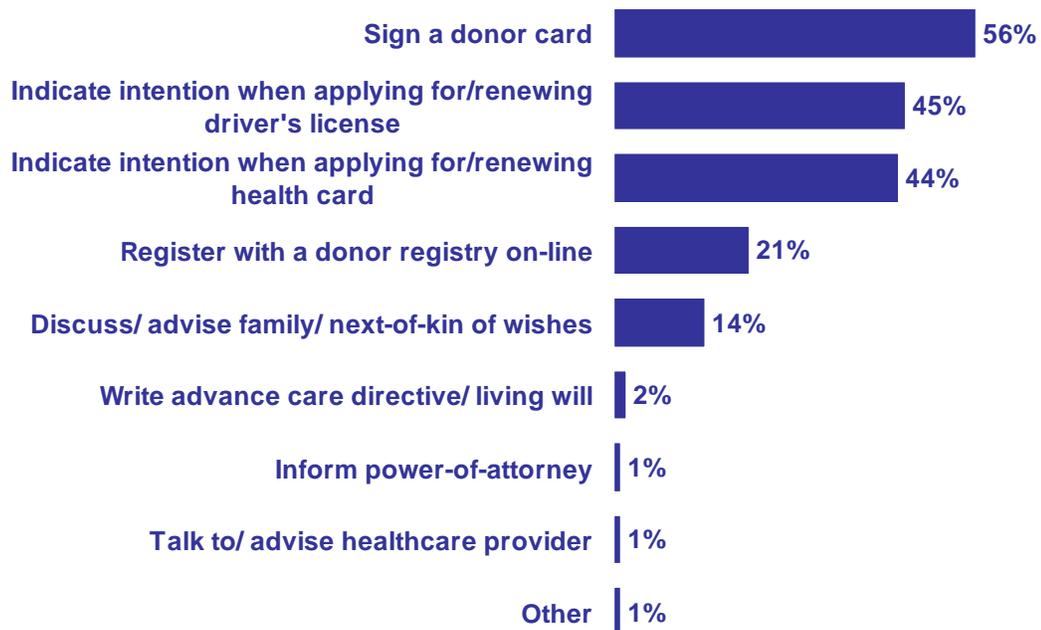
In regards to organ donation, residents of Alberta (76%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (88%), Ontario (76%), and Atlantic Canada (83%) were more likely to be strongly committed on a professional level than residents of British Columbia (60%). Moreover, ICU physicians/nurses and tissue specialists were more likely to be strongly committed (88% and 89%) than physicians (73%). Donor coordinators had the highest level of strong commitment at 98%.

Commitment to tissue donation had less geographical fluctuation with only Atlantic Canadians being more likely to be strongly committed (77%) to tissue donation than residents of British Columbia (54%). Donor coordinators and tissue specialists were more likely to be strongly committed (each at 89%) than physicians (64%), nurses (68%), and hospital administrators (67%).

7. Local Practices and Organization

7.1 Local Method of Officially Expressing One's Wish to Donate Organs and/or Tissue

Overall, when asked about the practice in their specific province on how to indicate one's intent to donate organs and/or tissue, most respondents selected that it can be done by signing a donor card (56%). Indicating this preference on one's drivers license (45%) or health card (44%) were also frequently mentioned responses.

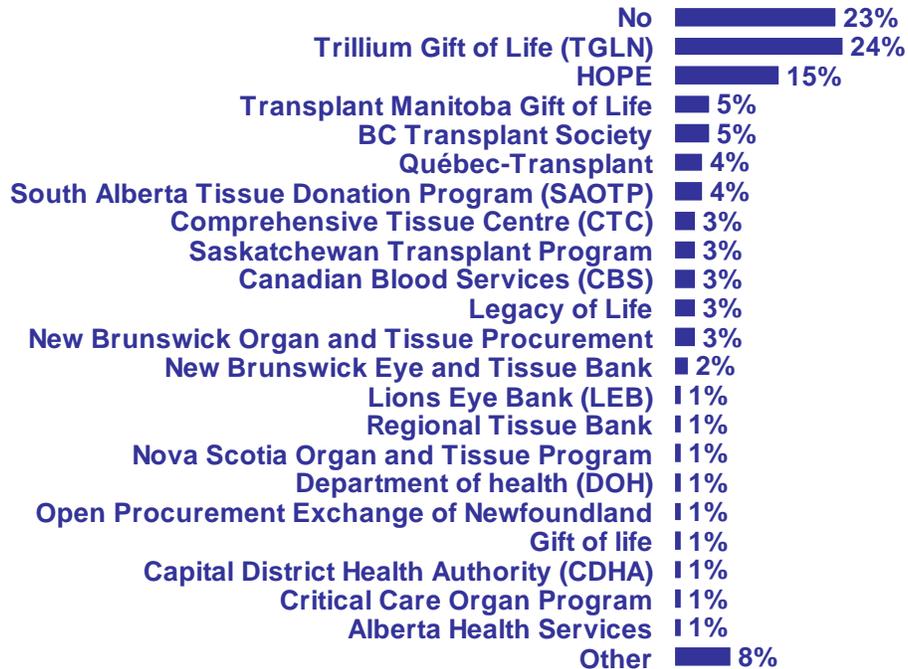


8. As far as you know, how does a person in your province officially express their intention to donate their organs or their tissues at the time of their death?

Base All Respondents: n=551

7.2 Knowledge of the Organization(s) Responsible for Managing Organ and Tissue Donation Programs

Respondents were asked on an open ended basis whether they could recall the name of the organization responsible for administering organ and tissue donation programs in their province. A majority of respondents (77%) were able to provide a response, yet roughly one in four (23%) indicated that they could not.



9. Do you know the name of the organization(s) responsible for managing organ and tissue donation programs in your province?

Base All Respondents: n=551

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In terms of region, those in British Columbia were most likely to mention the BC Transplant Society (44%). Resident of Alberta were most likely to mention HOPE (64%), those in Saskatchewan/Manitoba mentioned Transplant Manitoba Gift of Life (48%) and Saskatchewan Transplant Program (23%) most often, those in Ontario mentioned the Trillium Gift of Life Network (71%) most often, and those in Quebec were most likely to mention Quebec-Transplant (81%). Residents of Atlantic Canada mentioned the New Brunswick Organ and Tissue Procurement Program (12%), New Brunswick Eye and Tissue Bank (9%), Regional Tissue Bank (6%), Nova Scotia Organ and Tissue Program (6%), the Department of Health (5%), and the Open Procurement Program of Newfoundland and Labrador (5%) most often.

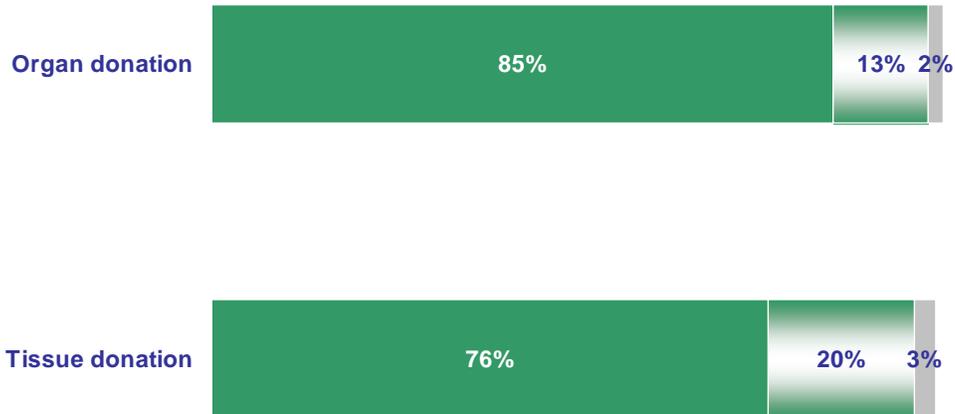
The inability to recall the name of the organization responsible for these programs was highest among residents of British Columbia (46%), physicians (40%), and among those whose practice deals neither with transplant patients or potential deceased patients (35%).

8. Timing of Discussion for Potential Donation

8.1 Importance that a Family is Given the Opportunity to Donate at the Time of a Loved One's Death

Respondents were asked to describe how important it is to them that a family, once a loved one has died, be given the opportunity to donate that person's organs and tissue. In regards to organs, 98% of respondents felt this was very or somewhat important and 2% were neutral on the matter. For tissue donation, 96% of respondents felt it was very or somewhat important that the family be given this opportunity.

■ Very important ■ Somewhat important ■ Neutral ■ Somewhat unimportant ■ Very unimportant



10. How important is it to you that a family is given the opportunity to donate organs at the time of a loved one's death?

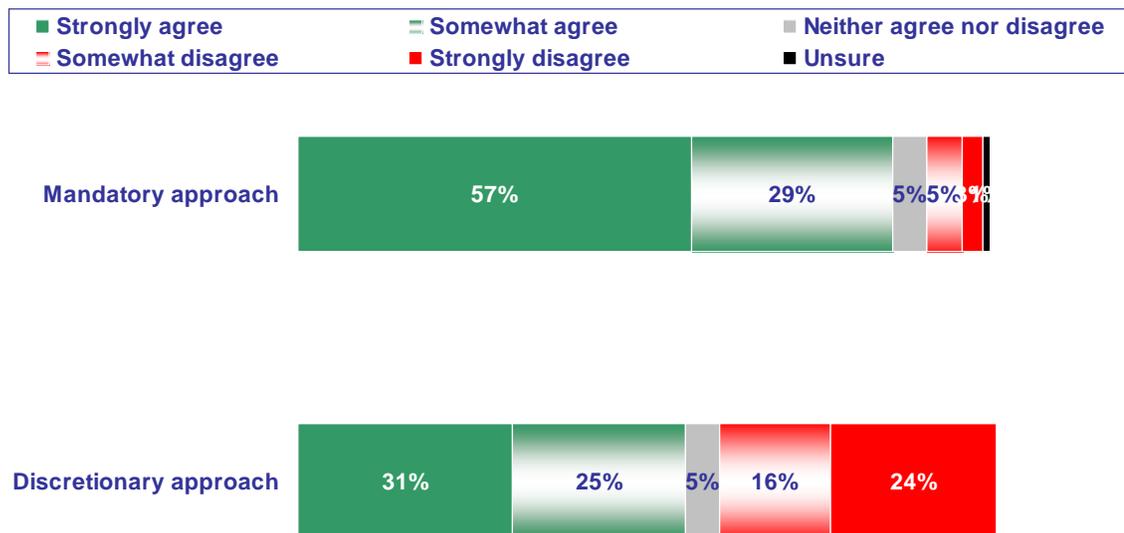
11. How important is it to you that a family is given the opportunity to donate tissues at the time of a loved one's death?

Base All Respondents: n=551

Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba were more likely to say being given this opportunity was very important (95%) compared to residents of British Columbia (78%) and Ontario (83%).

8.2 Views on Mandatory versus Discretionary Discussion with Family of Organ/Tissue Donation when Patient Death is Imminent

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with two different approaches to raising the issue of organ/tissue donation with the family of an eligible patient whose death is imminent or established. The first method, the mandatory approach, received rather strong support with 86% of respondents either somewhat or strongly agreeing. Conversely, the second method, the discretionary approach, received less support with 55% of respondents strongly or somewhat agreeing. Moreover, for this approach, 40% of respondents disagreed with it somewhat or strongly (compared to only 8% for the mandatory approach).



12. Please indicate how strongly you agree with the statement: For eligible patients whose death is imminent or established, it should be mandatory that their family members be approached to discuss their options around organ/tissue donation (mandatory approach). / 13. Please indicate how strongly you agree with the statement: For eligible patients whose death is imminent or established, the decision to approach their family members to discuss their options around organ/tissue donation should be made on a case by case basis as determined by the physician caring for the patient (discretionary approach).

Base All Respondents: n=551

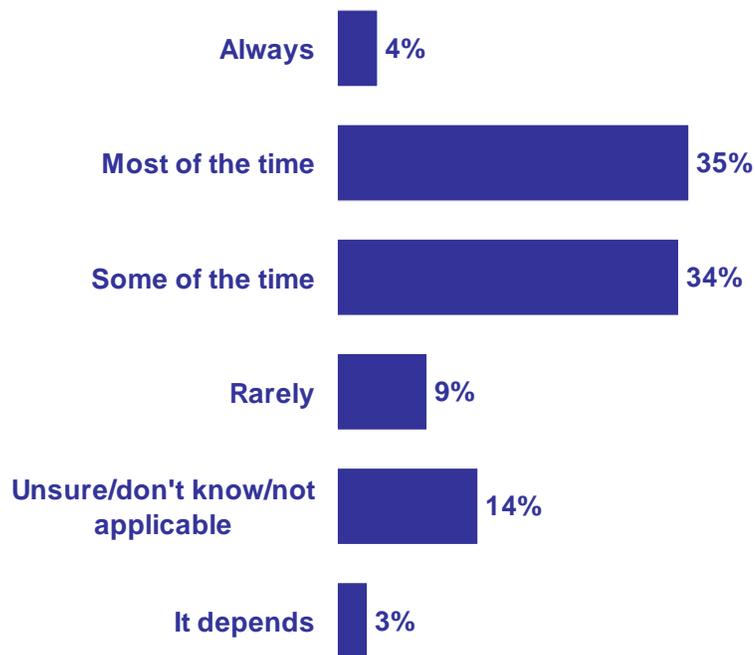
With regard to the mandatory approach, residents of Ontario were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (88%) than those of British Columbia (76%). Additionally, residents of Atlantic Canada were more likely to strongly or somewhat agree (91%) than residents of British Columbia and Alberta (both at 81%).

The discretionary approach was more likely to receive responses of strongly agree or somewhat agree by residents of British Columbia (68%) than residents of Alberta (50%) and Atlantic Canada (50%).

8.3 Frequency of Families Being Approached About Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation at Respondent's Hospital

Respondents were asked to describe how often they think the family of a potential organ/tissue donor is approached to discuss the issue. Only 4% of respondents claimed it always occurred while a further 35% stated that it happened most of the time. 34% of respondents said it happened some of the time while 9% said it rarely occurs.

When respondents who said "it depends" (n=14) were asked to elaborate, five respondents said it depends on the unit, four said it rarely happens for tissue donation, and four said it always happens for organ donation. Two said it depends on the staff's comfort level.



14. Thinking about organ and tissue donation at your hospital, how often do you think a potential donor/donors family is approached to discuss organ or tissue donation?

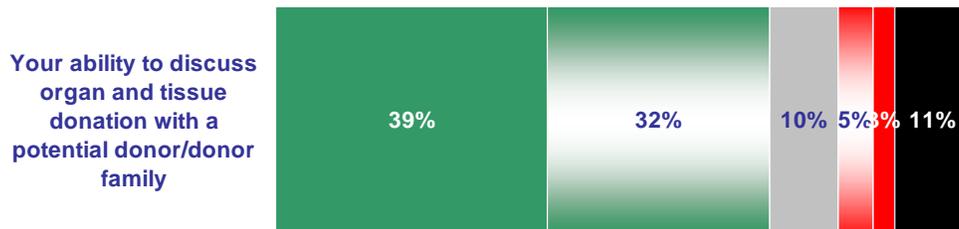
Base All Respondents: n=551

Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (47%) and Atlantic Canada (46%) were more likely to say that it happens always/most of the time than residents of British Columbia (18%) and Alberta (31%).

Moreover, ICU physicians/nurses were more likely to say it happens always/most of the time (69%) than any other profession.

8.4 Ability of Respondent to Discuss Organ Donation with Potential Donor or Donor's Family

Respondents were asked about how they felt about their own abilities to raise the issue of organ donation with either a patient or a patient's family. Seven in ten (72%) of respondents are confident in their ability (strongly or somewhat agree), 10% are neutral, and 7% are not confident (somewhat or strongly disagree). One in ten (11%) were unsure of their confidence level.



17. How confident are you in your ability to discuss organ and tissue donation with a potential donor/donor family?

Base All Respondents: n=551

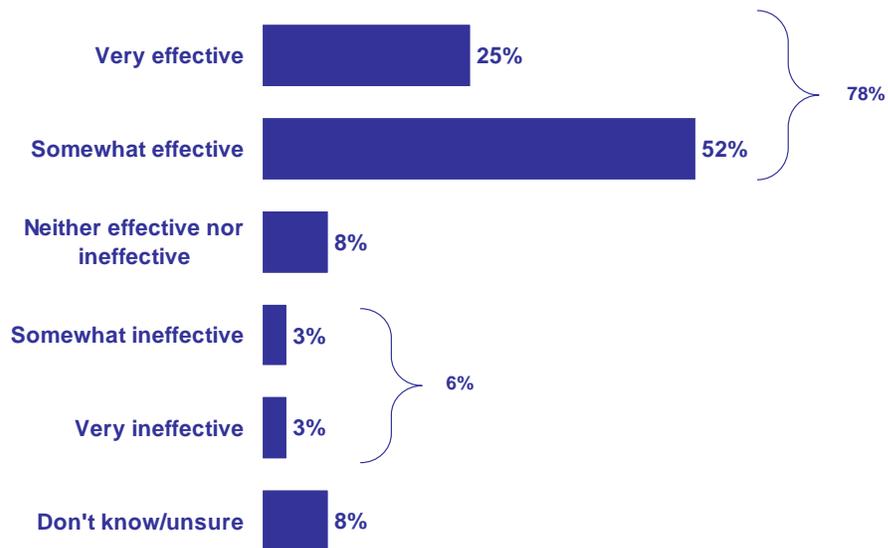
Those in Atlantic Canada were more likely to claim higher levels of confidence (82% strongly or somewhat agree) than those in British Columbia (66%) or Ontario (66%).

Donor coordinators were more likely (96%) to be confident than physicians (76%), nurses (77%), tissue specialists (78%), and hospital administrators (62%). ICU physicians and nurses were more likely to claim higher levels of confidence (92%) than physicians (76%), nurses (77%), and hospital administrators (62%).

9. Effectiveness of Donor Registries

9.1 Views on the Ability/Potential of Registries to Increase Donation Rates

Respondents were asked whether they think donation registries were effective, or had the potential to be effective, at increasing donation rates of organs and tissues. Overall, 78% of respondents think they are somewhat or very effective while only 6% think they are somewhat or very ineffective.



15. How effective do you think donation intent/consent registries are/could be at increasing donation?

Base All Respondents: n=551

Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba are more likely to think it is effective (88% very or somewhat effective) than residents of British Columbia (70%), Alberta (74%) and Ontario (76%).

9.2 Confidence in the Ability of a Patient's Expressed Wishes Regarding Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation to be Acted Upon at Time of Death

Respondents were asked to rate their level of confidence that a patient's expressed wishes regarding the donation of their organs and tissues will be followed following their death. Overall, 72% of respondents stated they were very or somewhat confident, 10% were neutral, 15% said they were somewhat not confident or not at all confident, and 2% were unsure.



16. How confident are you that a person's expressed wishes regarding organ and tissue donation will be acted upon at time of death?

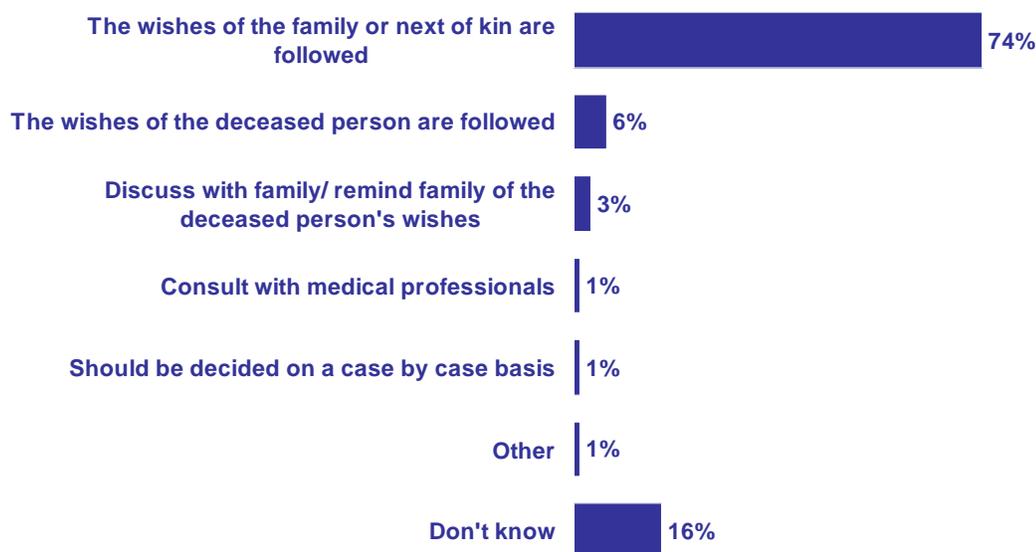
Base All Respondents: n=551

Surgeons were more likely to respond that they were strongly or somewhat confident (86%) than physicians (70%) or nurses (68%).

10. Conflict Between Patient or Registry and Family

10.1 Result of Patient-Family Disagreement Over Organ and Tissue Donation

Respondents were asked what usually happens in a situation where a patient has signed a donor card or registered with an organ and tissue donation registry, but his or her family does not wish for the donation to occur following their death. Three-quarters of respondents (74%) said that the wishes of the family or next of kin are followed. Only 6% of respondents said the deceased person's wishes are followed and 3% said a discussion of the deceased person's wishes takes place with the family.



18. What happens in a situation when someone has signed a donor card or registered with an organ and tissue donation registry, but his/her family does not wish any donation to take place?

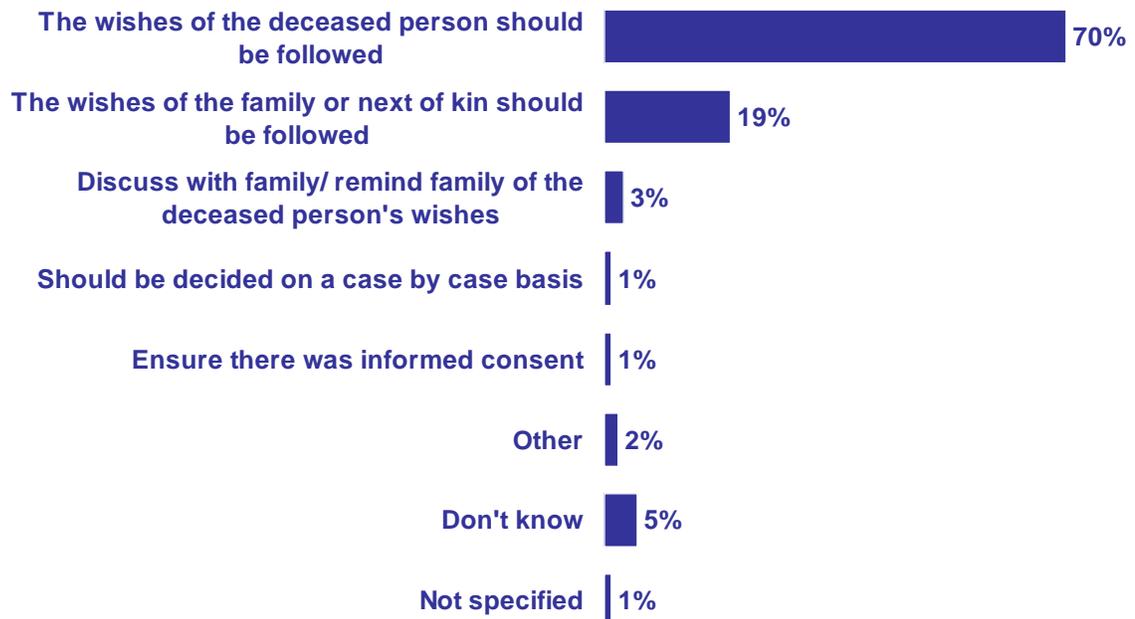
Base All Respondents: n=551

By region, Alberta (74%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (80%), Ontario (75%), and Atlantic Canada (84%) were more likely to say the wishes of the family are followed than British Columbia (48%). Conversely, those in British Columbia were more likely to respond "Don't Know" (at 32%) than those in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (12%), Ontario (15%), and Atlantic Canada (9%)

By profession, surgeons were more likely to say the wishes of the deceased person are followed (17%) relative to ICU physicians/nurses (2%), nurses (5%), donor coordinators (0%), and tissue specialists (0%). Donor coordinators, though, were more likely than any other profession to say the wishes of the family or next of kin are followed (98%).

10.2 Views on How a Patient-Family Conflict Over Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Should Resolve

Respondents were asked what they think should happen when a deceased person signs a donor card or registers with a registry, but whose family does not wish the donation to take place following their death. Nearly three quarters (70%) of respondents said the wishes of the deceased should be followed while one in five (19%) think the wishes of the family or next of kin should be followed.



19. What do you think should happen in a situation when someone has signed a donor card or registered with an organ and tissue donation registry, but his/her family does not wish any donation to take place?

Base All Respondents: n=551

Overall, surgeons (72%), donor coordinators (71%), and hospital administrators (79%) were more likely to respond that the wishes of the deceased ought to be followed than tissue specialists (47%). Moreover, physicians (77%) were more likely to say the wishes of the deceased should be followed than both tissue specialists (47%) and nurses (65%). Conversely, tissue specialists were more likely to say the wishes of the family should be followed (36%) than physicians (16%), ICU physicians/nurses (15%), and hospital administrators (12%).

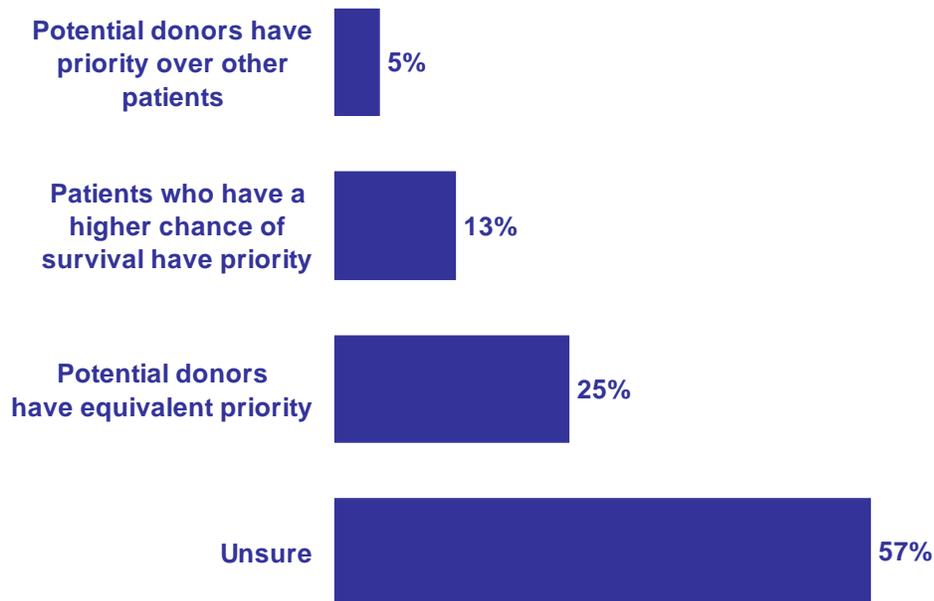
Personal donation preferences also seem to have an impact as those who intend to donate their own organs were more likely to believe the wishes of the deceased should be followed (75%) than those who do not plan on donating organs (45%). Moreover, 76% of those who plan on donating their own tissue believe the wishes of the deceased should be followed compared to 55% of those who do not intend to donate their own tissue.



11. Views on Giving Priority to Donors for ICU Beds

11.1 Current Practice of Priority Beds for Potential Donors at Respondent's Facility

When asked whether their facility provides priority access to ICU beds for potential organ and/or tissue donors, 57% of respondents were unsure. For those who were sure, 5% said potential donors did receive priority access, 13% said patients with a higher chance of survival receive priority access, and 25% said both groups have equivalent access.



26. In your facility, do potential donors have priority access to ICU beds?

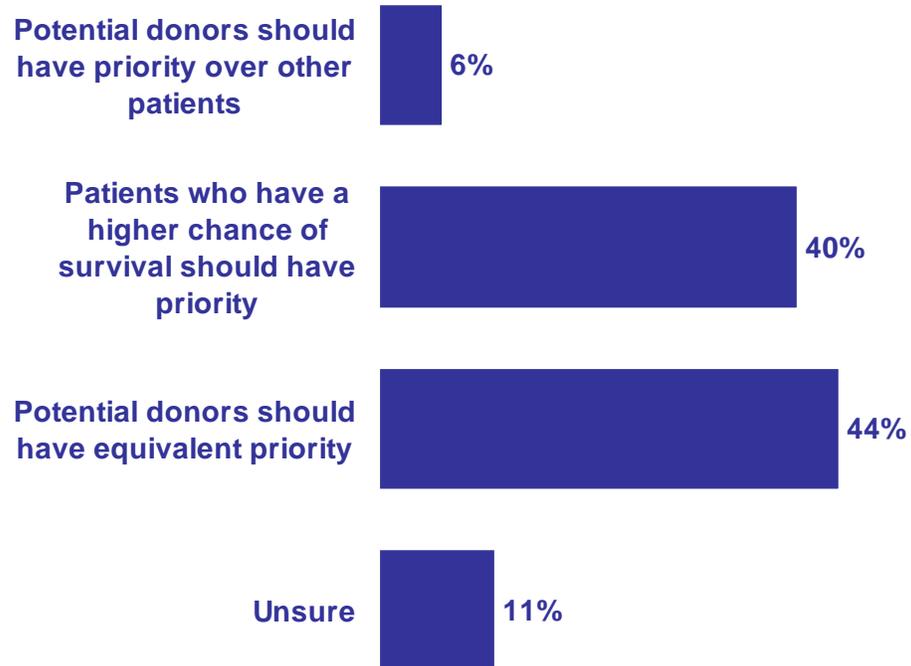
Base All Respondents: n=551

Those more likely to say potential donors receive priority include Atlantic Canadians (9%), surgeons (11%), nurses (12%), and donor coordinators (16%). Those more likely to say patients with the highest chance of survival receive priority include residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (20%), Atlantic Canadians (17%), ICU physicians/nurses (25%), and donor coordinators (22%). Those most likely to say potential donors receive equivalent priority include Atlantic Canadians (34%), residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (30%), ICU physicians/nurses (58%), and hospital administrators (46%).



11.2 Personal Standpoint on Giving Potential Donors Priority to ICU Beds

Responses were markedly different when respondents were asked their personal views in that a significantly smaller percentage (11%) responded as unsure. However, only 6% stated that potential donors should receive priority access while 40% stated that patients with the highest chance of survival should receive priority. Additionally, 44% said that potential donors should receive equivalent priority.



25. Do you believe that hospital practice should allow potential donors priority access to ICU beds?

Base All Respondents: n=551

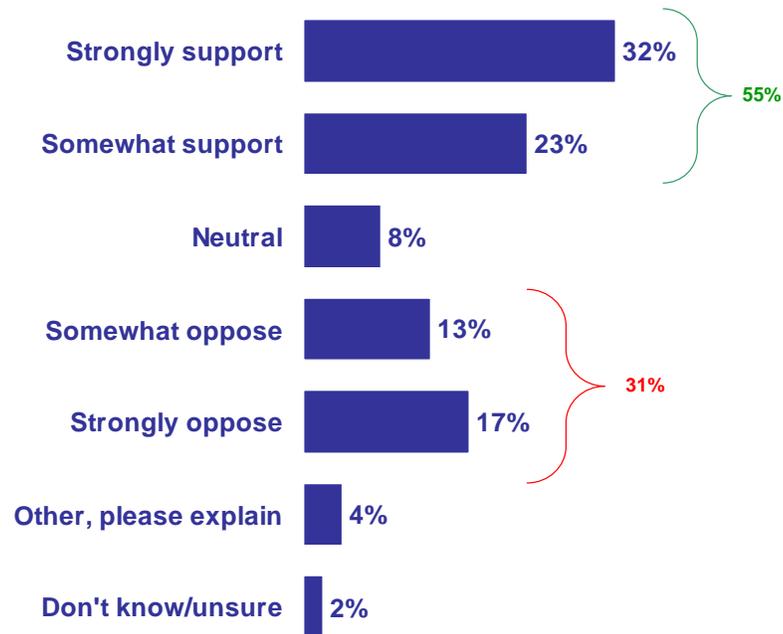
Overall, donor coordinators were more likely (at 18%) than physicians (4%), surgeons (3%), or tissue specialists (0%) to believe potential donors should receive priority access to ICU beds. For their part, physicians (52%) and surgeons (58%) were more likely than ICU physicians/nurses (33%), nurses (32%), and donor coordinators (18%) to believe patients with the highest chance of survival should receive priority access. Donor coordinators, however, were more likely (with 60%) to believe potential donors should receive equivalent priority for ICU beds than physicians (33%) and surgeons (31%).

12. Views on Government Regulations and Policies

12.1 Support and Opposition for Changing Laws and Regulations to Make Organ and Tissue Donation Opt-Out Rather than Opt-In

Respondents were asked what their views were on changing the laws and regulations in Canada to make organ and tissue donation occur automatically unless a person specifies otherwise. In total, 55% of respondents strongly or somewhat support making this change while 31% were strongly or somewhat opposed to it. One in ten respondents (8%) respondents remained neutral on the issue

Of those who selected “other” (n=20), seven said there needs to be more public discussion/awareness, four said family wishes should be respected, and two said the opt-out option must be clear/easy.



20. Do you support or oppose changing the laws and regulations in Canada so that organ and tissue donation occurs unless a person specifies otherwise?

Base All Respondents: n=551

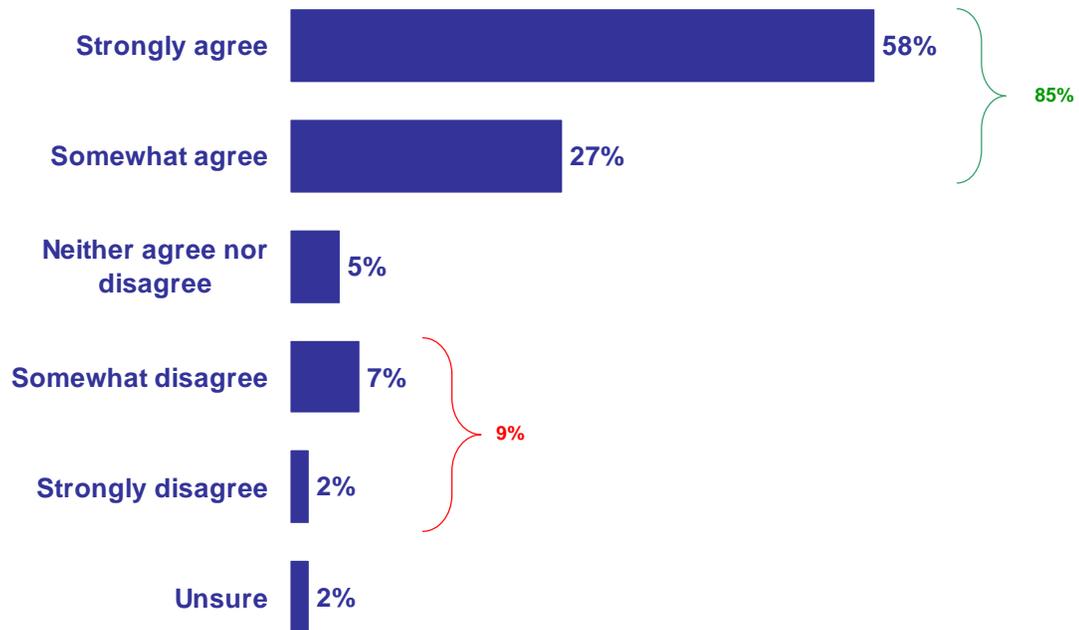
Residents of Ontario and Alberta are more likely to support this change (both at 60%) relative to those in British Columbia (40%).

Donor coordinators (40%), tissue specialists (42%), and hospital administrators (42%) are more likely than nurses (22%) to oppose this change.

Respondents who personally intend on donating their organs are more likely to support this change (60%) than are those who do not intend to do so (23%).

12.2 Views on Inter-Provincial Organ/Tissue Donations

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with the statement, “it should not matter where in Canada organs and/or tissues are used as long as they go to the patient(s) that need them the most.” Overall, 85% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreed with this statement while 9% somewhat or strongly opposed it.



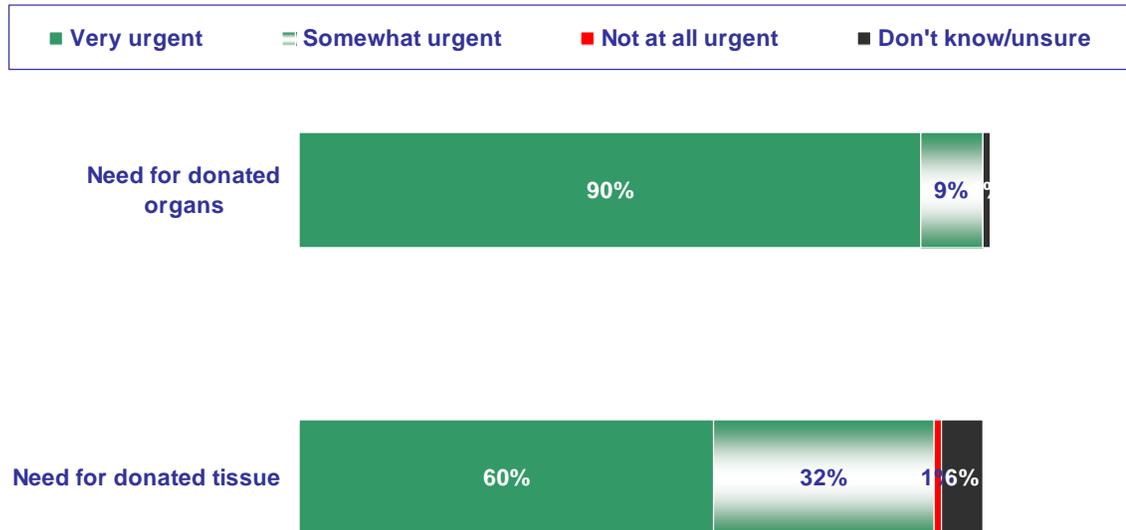
21. Please indicate how strongly you agree with the statement: It should not matter where in Canada organs and/or tissues are used as long as they go to the patient(s) that need them the most.

Base All Respondents: n=551

Physicians were significantly more likely (85%) to agree with this statement than were donor coordinators (71%). Additionally, donor coordinators were more likely to disagree (22%) with this statement than were physicians (10%) and nurses (6%).

12.3 Perception of Urgency for Donate Organs and Tissues in Canada

When asked about the urgency for donated organs, an overwhelming 99% of respondents said the need was very or somewhat urgent (90% very urgent). In regards to donated tissues, 92% said the need was very (60%) or somewhat (32%) urgent.



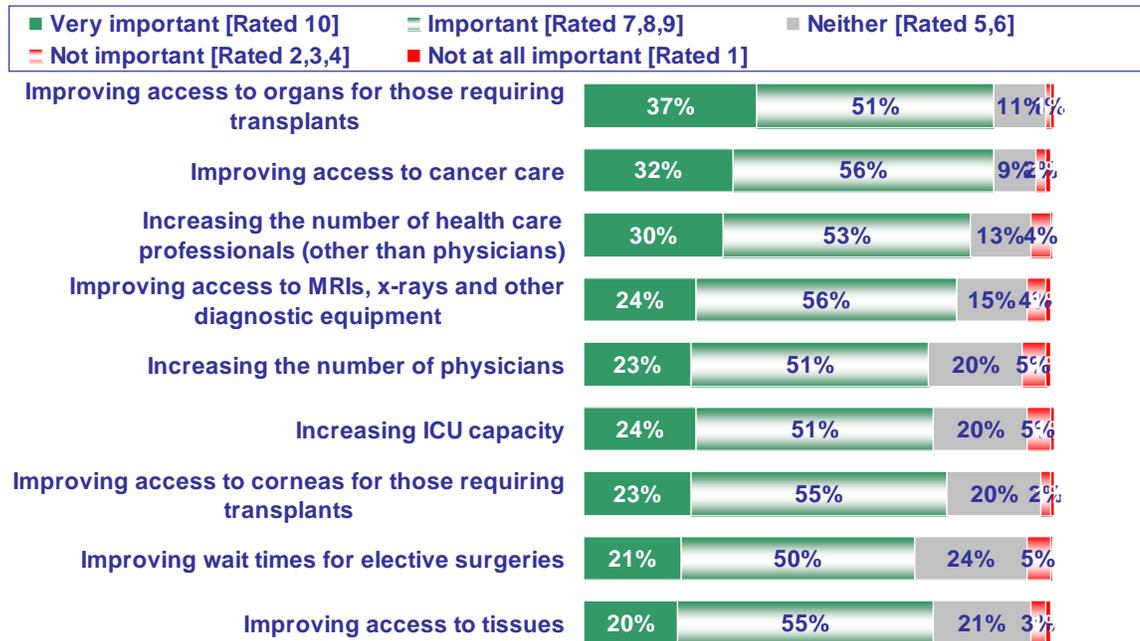
22. How urgent do you feel the need is for donated organs in Canada?
23. How urgent do you feel the need is for donated tissues in Canada?

Base All Respondents: n=551

There are no significant differences among population sub-groups.

12.4 Perceived Importance of Investing Tax Dollars in Various Areas

Respondents attributed a high level of importance to each of the areas that were presented. Rated most important were, “improving access to organs for those requiring transplants”, “improving access to cancer care”, and “increasing the number of healthcare professionals (other than physicians)”. Relatively lower levels of importance were assigned to, “improving wait times for elective surgeries” and “improving access to tissues”.



24. Thinking about the various healthcare priorities in Canada today, how important do you think it is to invest tax dollars in each of the following:

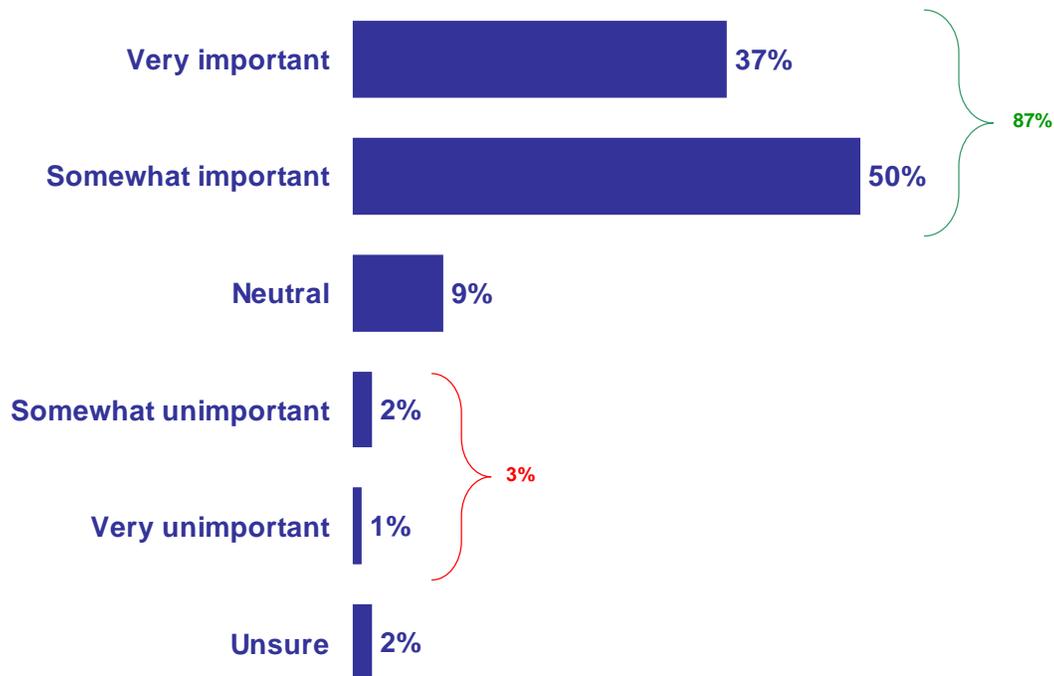
Base All Respondents: n=551

There were some regional differences in the responses to this question. In particular, “Increasing the number of physicians” was more likely to be selected by residents of British Columbia (24%), Alberta (34%), and Atlantic Canada (30%) than those in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (8%) and Ontario (17%).

In terms of profession, nurses, tissue specialists, and donor coordinators generally rated each area as being more important than those of other professions.

12.5 Importance of Spending Resources on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Compared to Other Areas of Practice

When posed with the question, “compared to other areas of practice, how important do you feel that resources be spent on building improvement in health care practice for organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Canada?”, 87% of respondents said it was very or somewhat important. Conversely, only 3% of respondents said it was somewhat or very unimportant, with 9% remaining neutral.



31. Compared to other areas of practice, how important do you feel that resources be spent on building improvement in health care practice for organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Canada?

Base All Respondents: n=551

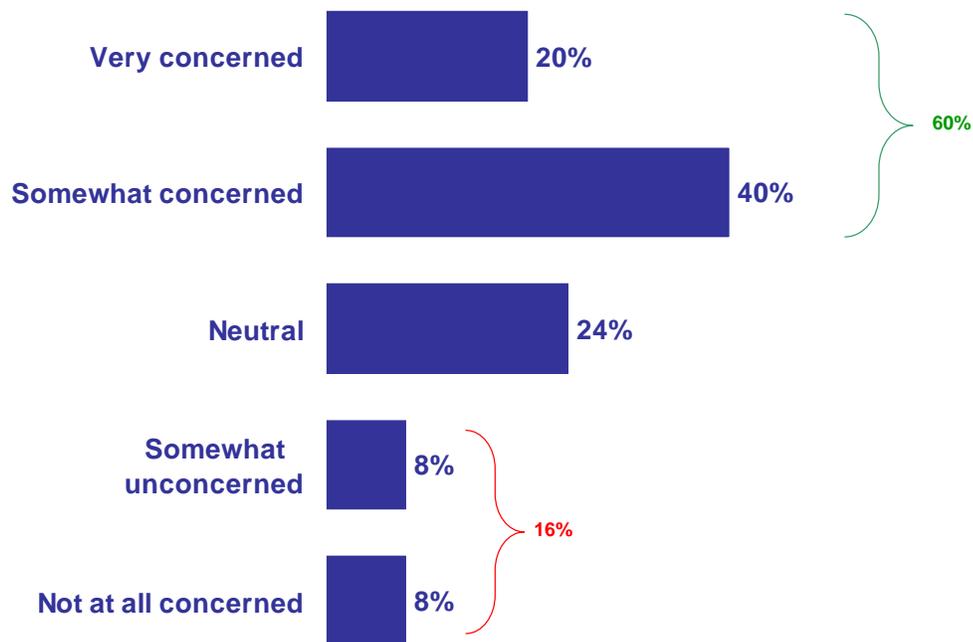
Atlantic Canadians were more likely to respond with very important (47%) than were British Columbians (18%), Albertans (34%), and Ontarians (33%).

Donor coordinators (98%), tissue specialists (94%), and nurses (91%) were more likely to see this as important (both very and somewhat) than were surgeons (78%). Donor coordinators (98%) were also more likely to respond with important than were physicians (83%) and hospital administrators (85%).

13. Views on the Importation of Tissue and Organs

13.1 Level of Concern Regarding Purchasing and Importation of Tissues from the United States

Respondents were asked to describe their level of concern regarding the purchase and importation of tissues from the United States, with the assumption that these tissues are safe. Respondents were more than three times as likely to indicate that they were concerned (very/somewhat) than not concerned (somewhat not at all). Twenty percent (20%) of respondents said they were very concerned, 40% said somewhat concerned, 8% were somewhat unconcerned and another 8% were not at all concerned (24% remained neutral).



27. Assuming tissues are safe, how concerned are you about purchasing and importing tissues for transplantation from the United States?

Base All Respondents: n=551

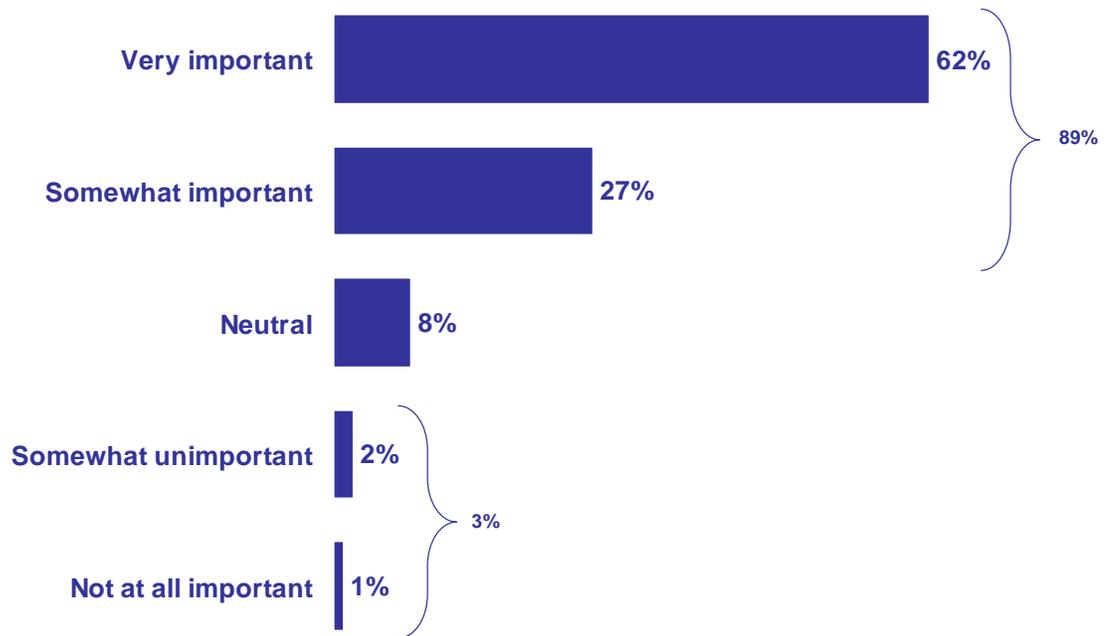
Respondents from Saskatchewan/Manitoba were more likely to respond as being not at all concerned (20%) relative to Alberta (2%), Ontario (7%), and Atlantic Canada (7%).

Both donor coordinators and tissue specialists (both at 33%) were more likely to select very concerned than were physicians (17%) and ICU physicians/nurses (15%).



13.2 Views on Self-Sufficiency in Regards to Tissue Donation versus Importation of Tissues from Other Countries

Overall, 89% of respondents believe it is very or somewhat important for Canada to provide as much tissue as possible from Canadian donors and not be dependent on tissues that are imported from another country. Only 3% of respondents believe this issue to be somewhat or not at all important.



28. How important do you think it is that Canada should provide as much tissue as possible from Canadian donors and not be dependent on tissues that come from other countries?

Base All Respondents: n=551

Donor coordinators were more likely to see this issue as being very or somewhat important (98%) than were physicians (87%), ICU physicians/nurses (83%), or nurses (87%).

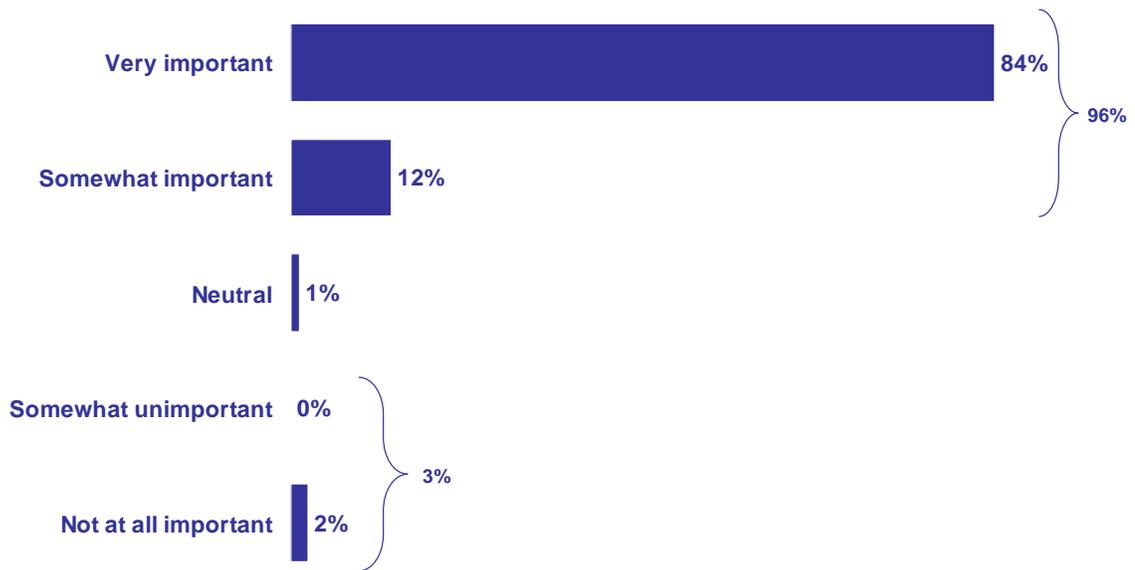
Additionally, those whose practice involved transplant patients are more likely (91%) to see this as very or somewhat important than those who do not work with this type of patient. Similarly, those who work with patients that could potentially die are more likely (94%) than those who do not work with potentially terminal patients (87%) to see this as very/somewhat important.



14. Professional Education

14.1 Importance of Educating Health Care Professionals on OTDT Issues

When asked whether they believe it is important to educate healthcare professionals about issues involving organ/tissue donation and transplantation in Canada, 96% of respondents say it is very or somewhat important. Only 2% of all respondents believe it is not at all important to do.



29. How important do you think it is to educate health care professionals about organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Canada?

Base All Respondents: n=551

Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (98%) were more likely to view this as very important relative to residents of every other province, excluding Quebec (77%).

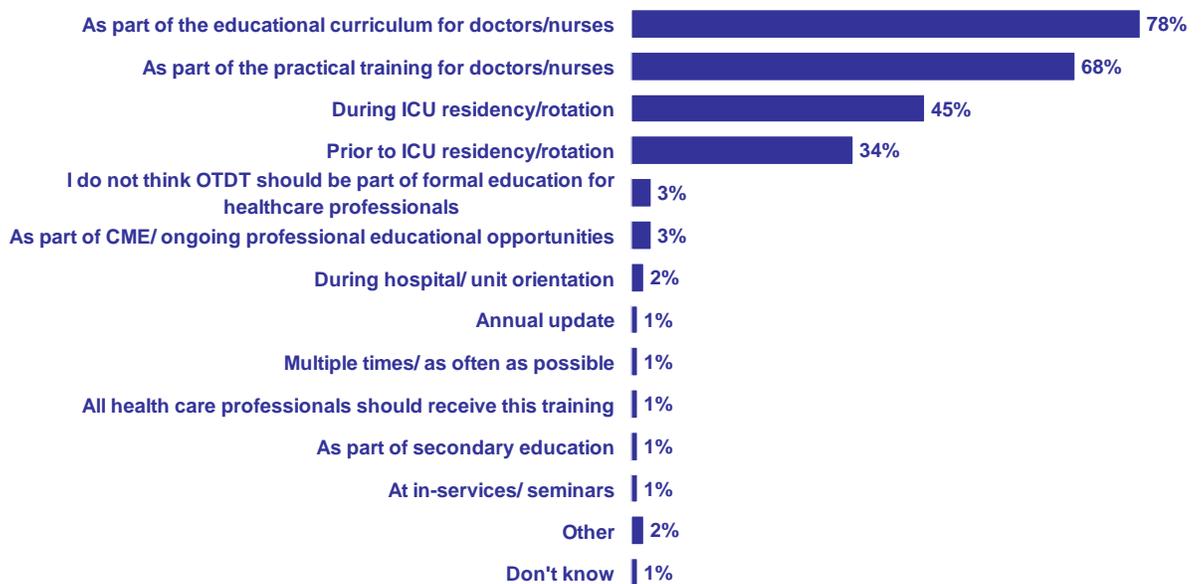
Additionally, donor coordinators (98%) were more likely to view this as very important relative to any other profession, excluding tissue specialists (92%).



14.2 Most Appropriate Time to Educate Health Care Professionals on OTDT

Respondents were given a list of options on different opportunities and methods on how to educate healthcare professionals on OTDT and were able to select multiple responses. In total, 78% of respondents chose “as part of the educational curriculum for doctors/nurses” while 68% of respondents also selected, “as part of the practical training for doctors/nurses”.

Second-tier mentions include, “during ICU residency/rotation” (45%), and, “prior to ICU residency/rotation” (34%). Three percent of respondents do not think that OTDT should be part of the formal education process for healthcare professionals.



30. When do you think would be the most appropriate time to provide education to healthcare professionals on organ and tissue donation and transplantation? (select all that apply)

Base All Respondents: n=551



15. Respondent's Profession

Physician	25%
Nurse	20%
ICU Physician/Nurse*	9%
Hospital Administrator	9%
Donor Coordinator	8%
Tissue Specialist	7%
Surgeon	7%
Laboratory Technician	6%
Government Employee	3%
Management	2%
Spiritual care	1%
Social Worker	1%
Researcher	1%
Quality assurance	1%
Pharmacist	1%
Patient Advocate Representative	1%
Pathologist Assistant	1%
Pathologist	1%
Lab director	1%
Dietitian	1%
Coroner	1%
Consultant	1%
Other	6%

Total respondents, n=551

*ICU Physician alone was 5% of total mentions.

*ICU Nurse alone was 3% of total mentions.

16. Appendix I



Professional Opinion Survey

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Professional Opinion Survey



Canadian Blood Services
Société canadienne du sang

Page 1 - Question 1 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Do you personally approve of organ donation — that is people donating their organs after death?

- Strongly approve
- Somewhat approve
- Somewhat disapprove
- Strongly disapprove
- Unsure

Page 1 - Question 2 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Do you personally approve of tissue donation — that is people donating their tissues after death?

- Strongly approve
- Somewhat approve
- Somewhat disapprove
- Strongly disapprove
- Unsure

Page 1 - Question 3 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

Which of the following best describes your own situation?

- You have decided to donate your organs after death
- You have decided not to donate your organs after death
- You have not made a decision about organ donation
- Unsure



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Page 1 - Question 4 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

Which of the following best describes your own situation?

- You have decided to donate your tissues after death
- You have decided not to donate your tissues after death
- You have not made a decision about tissue donation
- Unsure

Page 1 - Question 5 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

Would you donate the organs and/or tissues of your children or loved ones after death?

- Yes, would donate both organs and tissues
- Yes, only organs
- Yes, only tissues
- No, would not donate either organs or tissues
- Don't know/unsure

Page 2 - Question 6 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

As a health care professional, how committed are you to organ donation?

- Strongly committed (actively promote/encourage organ donation)
- Somewhat committed
- Neutral (neither promote nor discourage organ donation)
- Somewhat opposed
- Strongly opposed (actively discourage tissue donation)
- Unsure

Page 2 - Question 7 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

As a health care professional, how committed are you to tissue donation?

- Strongly committed (actively promote/encourage tissue donation)
- Somewhat committed
- Neutral (neither promote nor discourage tissue donation)
- Somewhat opposed
- Strongly opposed (actively discourage tissue donation)
- Unsure

Page 2 - Question 8 - Choice - Multiple Answers (Bullets)

[Mandatory] [Randomize]

As far as you know, how does a person in your province officially express their intention to donate their organs or their tissues at the time of their death? (check all that apply)

- Sign a donor card
- Indicate intention when applying for/renewing driver's license
- Indicate intention when applying for/renewing health card



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- Register with a donor registry on-line
 - Other, please specify
-

Page 2 - Question 9 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Do you know the name of the organization(s) responsible for managing organ and tissue donation programs in your province?

- No
 - Yes, please specify
-

Page 3 - Question 10 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

How important is it to you that a family is given the opportunity to donate organs at the time of a loved one's death?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant

Page 3 - Question 11 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

How important is it to you that a family is given the opportunity to donate tissues at the time of a loved one's death?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant

Page 3 - Question 12 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Please indicate how strongly you agree with the statement:
For eligible patients whose death is imminent or established, it should be mandatory that their family members be approached to discuss their options around organ/tissue donation (mandatory approach).

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Unsure



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Please indicate how strongly you agree with the statement:
For eligible patients whose death is imminent or established, the decision to approach their family members to discuss their options around organ/tissue donation should be made on a case by case basis as determined by the physician caring for the patient (discretionary approach).

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Unsure

Thinking about organ and tissue donation at your hospital, how often do you think a potential donor/donor's family is approached to discuss organ or tissue donation?

- Always
 - Most of the time
 - Some of the time
 - Rarely
 - Never
 - Unsure/don't know/not applicable
 - It depends (please explain)
-

How effective do you think donation intent/consent registries are/could be at increasing donation?

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Neither effective nor ineffective
- Somewhat ineffective
- Very ineffective
- Don't know/unsure

How confident are you that a person's expressed wishes regarding organ and tissue donation will be acted upon at time of death?

- Strongly confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neutral
- Somewhat not confident
- Not at all confident
- Unsure

How confident are you in your ability to discuss organ and tissue donation with a potential donor/donor family?

- Strongly confident
- Somewhat confident
- Neutral
- Somewhat not confident
- Not at all confident
- Not applicable/unsure

What happens in a situation when someone has signed a donor card or registered with an organ and tissue donation registry, but his/her family does not wish any donation to take place?

- The wishes of the deceased person are followed
 - The wishes of the family or next of kin are followed
 - Don't know
 - Other, please specify
-

What do you think should happen in a situation when someone has signed a donor card or registered with an organ and tissue donation registry, but his/her family does not wish any donation to take place?

- The wishes of the deceased person should be followed
 - The wishes of the family or next of kin should be followed
 - Don't know
 - Other, please specify
-

In some countries when a person dies that person's organs and tissues, if considered suitable, are donated unless that person specifically indicated that he/she does NOT want donation to occur (also known as presumed consent). In Canada, a person or his/her family members must specifically agree to donation before it will take place.

Do you support or oppose changing the laws and regulations in Canada so that organ and tissue donation occurs unless a person specifies otherwise?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral

- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know/unsure
- Other, please explain

Page 8 - Question 21 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Please indicate how strongly you agree with the statement:
It should not matter where in Canada organs and/or tissues are used as long as they go to the patient(s) that need them the most.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Unsure

Page 9 - Question 22 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

How urgent do you feel the need is for donated organs in Canada?

- Very urgent
- Somewhat urgent
- Not at all urgent
- Don't know/unsure

Page 9 - Question 23 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

How urgent do you feel the need is for donated tissues in Canada?

- Very urgent
- Somewhat urgent
- Not at all urgent
- Don't know/unsure

Page 10 - Question 24 - Rating Scale - Matrix

[Mandatory] [Randomize]

Thinking about the various healthcare priorities in Canada today, how important do you think it is to invest tax dollars in each of the following?

	Not at all important	2	3	4	Neutral	6	7	8	9	Very important
Increasing the number of physicians	<input type="radio"/>									
Increasing ICU capacity	<input type="radio"/>									
Increasing the number of health care professionals (other than physicians)	<input type="radio"/>									



- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Improving access to MRIs, x-rays and other diagnostic equipment | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improving access to organs for those requiring transplants | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improving wait times for elective surgeries | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improving access to corneas for those requiring transplants | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improving access to tissues | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improving access to cancer care | <input type="radio"/> |

Page 11 - Question 25 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Do you believe that hospital practice should allow potential donors priority access to ICU beds?

- Potential donors should have priority over other patients
- Patients who have a higher chance of survival should have priority
- Potential donors should have equivalent priority
- Unsure

Page 11 - Question 26 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

In your facility, do potential donors have priority access to ICU beds?

- Potential donors have priority over other patients
- Patients who have a higher chance of survival have priority
- Potential donors have equivalent priority
- Unsure

Page 12 - Heading

Canada does not have a national or coordinated provincial tissue banking system. Instead many hospitals manage their own tissue needs by collecting and storing tissues for their own use, or they buy tissues from private companies inside and outside of Canada.

Page 12 - Question 27 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Assuming tissues are safe, how concerned are you about purchasing and importing tissues for transplantation from the United States?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Neutral
- Somewhat unconcerned
- Not at all concerned



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How important do you think it is that Canada should provide as much tissue as possible from Canadian donors and not be dependent on tissues that come from other countries?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat unimportant
- Not at all important

How important do you think it is to educate health care professionals about organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Canada?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Not at all important
- Don't know/unsure

When do you think would be the most appropriate time to provide education to healthcare professionals on organ and tissue donation and transplantation? (select all that apply)

- As part of the educational curriculum for doctors/nurses
 - As part of the practical training for doctors/nurses
 - Prior to ICU residency/rotation
 - During ICU residency/rotation
 - I do not think OTDT should be part of formal education for healthcare professionals
 - Other, please specify
-

Compared to other areas of practice, how important do you feel that resources be spent on building improvement in health care practice for organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Canada?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant
- Unsure

Do you work with:



- Transplant patients (waiting list and/or recipients)
- Potential deceased donors
- Both
- Neither

Page 14 - Question 33 - Choice - Multiple Answers (Bullets)

[Mandatory] [Randomize]

Please indicate your profession

- Physician
- Surgeon
- Intensive Care physician
- Nurse
- Intensive Care nurse
- Donor Coordinator
- Tissue Specialist
- Social Worker
- Government Employee
- Patient Advocate Representative
- Hospital Administrator
- Other (please specify)

Page 14 - Question 34 - Open Ended - One Line

If applicable, what is your area of practice/specialty?

Page 14 - Question 35 - Choice - One Answer (Drop Down)

[Mandatory]

What province do you practice in?

- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Prince Edward Island
- Newfoundland

Page 14 - Question 36 - Open Ended - Comments Box

Do you have any additional comments/suggestions about organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Canada?



Ipsos Reid

Thank You Page

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. As the development of an integrated system for organ and tissue donation continues to evolve, we may periodically send additional surveys to gather input from health care professionals. Your participation in the surveys is sincerely appreciated as we work together to build a better health care system for Canadians.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Canadian Blood Services at engage@blood.ca.



Canadian Blood Services
Société canadienne du sang

<http://www.organsandtissues.ca/>



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