

U.S. OPIOID DEATHS AND ORGAN DONATION

An unforeseen result of the opioid crisis has been an **increase in organ donations** from people who have died from overdose — providing hope from tragic loss and the opportunity for families to create a lasting legacy of their loved ones.

Since 2012

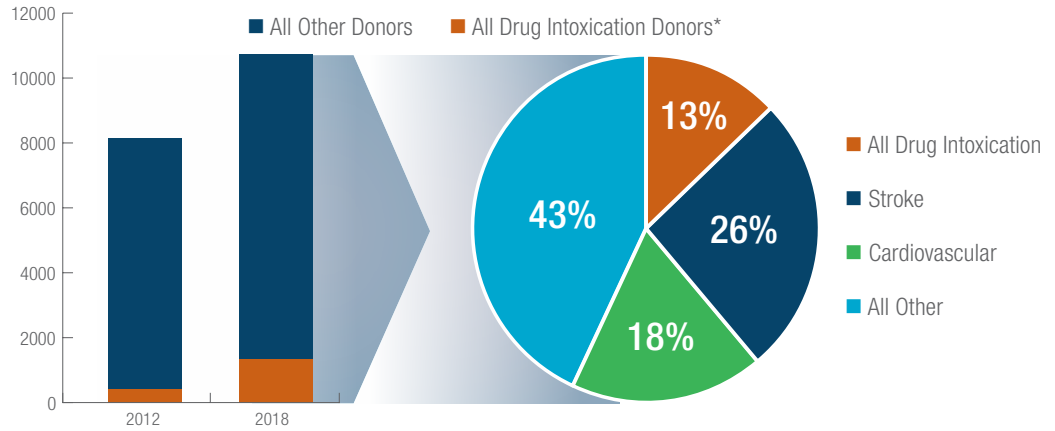
the number of organ donors has **INCREASED** from

8,143 → **10,721**
total donors

411 → **1,356**
drug intoxication donors

13% of all donors in 2018 were from drug intoxication deaths

Turning Tragedy into Hope

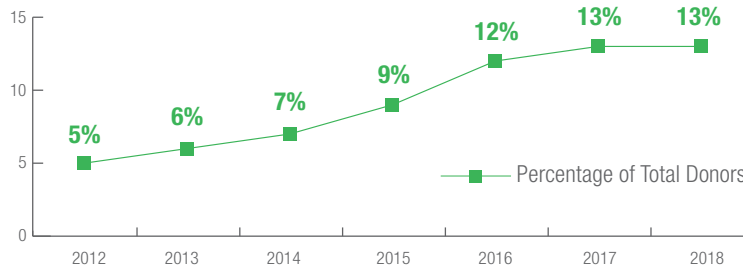


*Not all drug intoxication deaths are the result of opioids.

Source: OPTN National Database

After increasing from 5% to 12% of total donors from 2012 to 2016, **THE NUMBER OF DRUG INTOXICATION DONORS HAS LEVELED OFF.**

A study of organ donation and drug intoxicated-related deaths in the United States in the *New England Journal of Medicine* finds that **public education plays an important role in the recovery of these organs.**



This leveling trend continues into 2019.

Deceased donors dying from drug intoxication through July 31, 2019 = **12%** of total. Donors from other types of deaths continue to increase.

Source: OPTN National Database

Nationally,

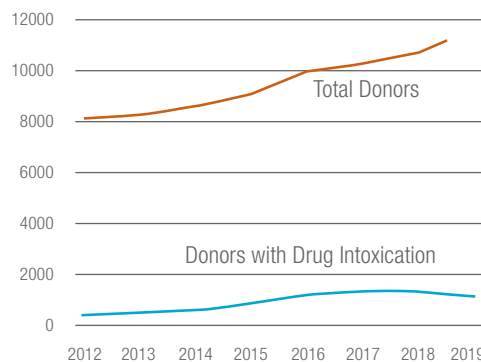
organ donation from deceased donors has increased since 2012 by

32%

Factoring out drug intoxication donors, there was still a **21%** increase in donors during this time.

In a continually changing environment, OPOs consistently deliver innovative, sensitive, and quality care to the community.

While the opioid crisis has unquestionably contributed to recent record-breaking years for organ donation, it alone does not account for the increase in donors.



Source: OPTN National Database

Responding to the opioid crisis

OPOs across the country have worked to understand and support the unique needs of families who have "lost a loved one to overdose, as well as to provide more public and clinical education about the fact that drug addiction and overdose do not rule out the opportunity for organ donation.

Through the efforts of OPOs, working in partnership with community organizations, hospitals and transplant programs, the unfortunate increase in drug-related deaths in recent years has contributed to an increase in organ donors and successful organ transplants.