# THOMSON REUTERS-NPR HEALTH POLL

# ORGAN DONATION COMPENSATION

MAY 2012

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# SURVEY OVERVIEW

Each month, the Thomson Reuters-NPR Health Poll surveys approximately 3,000 Americans to gauge attitudes and opinions on a wide range of healthcare issues. Poll results are reported by NPR's Scott Hensley on the health blog Shots (http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/) and on air.

Complete survey results are posted here:
http://healthcare.thomsonreuters.com/npr/

NPR's reports on the findings are archived here:
http://www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=137038712&ps=sh_sttag

The Thomson Reuters-NPR Health Poll is powered by the Thomson Reuters PULSE™ Healthcare Survey, an independently funded telephone poll which collects information from more than 100,000 U.S. households annually.

The results depicted below represent responses from 3,000 survey participants interviewed from February 1-15, 2012. The margin of error is 1.8 percent.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The survey asked respondents their opinions regarding compensation to living donors for organs for transplant. Following were the results:

- **Appropriate Forms of Compensation:** 60% of respondents said that organ donors should be allowed future compensation in the form of healthcare credits; 46% said that donors should be reimbursed with tax credits; 44% said an award would be appropriate; 42% were in favor of tuition reimbursement; and 41% said monetary compensation was suitable. For all forms of compensation, rates tended to decrease with increasing age.

- **Who Should Provide Compensation:** Of those who thought some kind of compensation was appropriate, 72% said health insurance companies should reimburse donors; 62% said charities would be a suitable source; followed by the federal government (44%); state/local government (42%) and the organ recipient (39%).

- **Appropriate Organs for Compensation:** Respondents were asked which types of organ donation were suitable for compensation. Kidneys ranked highest at 87%, followed by liver (85%) and bone marrow (83%). These rates tended to decrease with increased age and increase as education levels got higher.

- **Total Value of Compensation:** When asked how much donors should be compensated for their donation, 37% said less than $10,000, followed by $10,000-less than $25,000, which registered 27%; 7% said there should be no compensation.

- **The Difference Between Compensation and Buying Organs:** Although some draw a parallel between compensation for donation and buying organs, 60% of respondents indicated a difference between the two; a rate that tended to decrease with inceased age.

# SURVEY DATA

Responses in RED represent statistically significant differences.

**QUESTION 1: Recently, there have been discussions in the healthcare community regarding providing compensation to living donors for organs for transplantation. This compensation can take many different forms. Do you believe that an appropriate form of compensation to living donors would be...?**

1. **Tax credits**
2. **Tuition reimbursement**
3. **Monetary/cash**
4. **Recognition/award**
5. **Credit for other health care needs**
6. **Some other form of compensation**

| **Age** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <35 | 47.6% | 52.1% | 47.9% | 39.4% | 68.3% | 42.0% |
| 35 — 64 | 47.6% | 41.2% | 41.5% | 45.4% | 59.8% | 38.8% |
| 65+ | 41.1% | 33.6% | 34.3% | 44.7% | 54.1% | 28.4% |
| **Total** | **46.3%** | **41.7%** | **41.2%** | **44.1%** | **60.1%** | **37.3%** |
| **Income** | | | | | | |
| < $25k | 50.4% | 52.0% | 48.0% | 49.9% | 69.5% | 38.5% |
| $25k — $49.9k | 42.8% | 36.6% | 36.6% | 39.1% | 58.2% | 36.0% |
| $50k — $99.9k | 52.6% | 45.5% | 42.8% | 42.2% | 62.5% | 41.1% |
| $100k+ | 42.6% | 33.8% | 36.5% | 48.8% | 52.3% | 35.7% |
| **Total** | **46.3%** | **41.7%** | **41.2%** | **44.1%** | **60.1%** | **37.3%** |
| **Education** | | | | | | |
| High School or Less | 44.8% | 44.9% | 42.5% | 45.9% | 60.8% | 32.3% |
| Some College | 49.4% | 47.2% | 46.2% | 43.6% | 61.9% | 39.4% |
| College+ | 44.7% | 35.4% | 36.4% | 43.5% | 58.4% | 38.5% |
| **Total** | **46.3%** | **41.7%** | **41.2%** | **44.1%** | **60.1%** | **37.3%** |

**QUESTION 2: Who do you believe should provide the compensation? Would you say...?**

1. Federal government
2. Local or state government
3. Private charities
4. Health Insurance Companies
5. Organ receipt

| Age | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <35 | 62.1% | 55.8% | 74.6% | 82.4% | 31.2% |
| 35 — 64 | 41.0% | 39.3% | 60.6% | 70.8% | 40.4% |
| 65+ | 35.3% | 35.9% | 55.0% | 64.5% | 39.9% |
| **Total** | **44.1%** | **41.9%** | **62.4%** | **71.9%** | **38.5%** |
| **Income** | | | | | |
| < $25k | 54.9% | 53.7% | 64.0% | 74.6% | 41.2% |
| $25k — $49.9k | 46.8% | 41.1% | 61.0% | 77.3% | 35.7% |
| $50k — $99.9k | 41.4% | 40.1% | 59.8% | 71.6% | 35.4% |
| $100k+ | 26.7% | 26.9% | 65.7% | 63.7% | 46.4% |
| **Total** | **44.1%** | **41.9%** | **62.4%** | **71.9%** | **38.5%** |
| **Education** | | | | | |
| High School or Less | 52.8% | 49.2% | 61.4% | 73.7% | 44.8% |
| Some College | 43.7% | 40.2% | 58.5% | 71.3% | 38.8% |
| College+ | 39.0% | 38.6% | 66.0% | 71.2% | 34.2% |
| **Total** | **44.1%** | **41.9%** | **62.4%** | **71.9%** | **38.5%** |

**QUESTION 3: For which type of organ donation do you believe some form of compensation would be acceptable? Would you say...?**

1. Bone Marrow
2. Liver
3. Kidney

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Age** | | | |
| <35 | 88.4% | 94.2% | 93.8% |
| 35 — 64 | 83.1% | 84.0% | 87.2% |
| 65+ | 77.2% | 76.7% | 80.7% |
| **Total** | **83.0%** | **84.7%** | **87.3%** |
| **Income** | | | |
| < $25k | 80.0% | 79.9% | 85.2% |
| $25k — $49.9k | 86.2% | 87.8% | 89.8% |
| $50k — $99.9k | 86.3% | 87.7% | 90.0% |
| $100k+ | 84.0% | 82.8% | 87.5% |
| **Total** | **83.0%** | **84.7%** | **87.3%** |
| **Education** | | | |
| High School or Less | 79.4% | 83.0% | 84.0% |
| Some College | 82.2% | 84.1% | 87.1% |
| College+ | 86.0% | 86.2% | 89.5% |
| **Total** | **83.0%** | **84.7%** | **87.3%** |

**QUESTION 4: Which of these categories do you believe would represent reasonable total value of the**

**compensation to a living donor? Would you say...?**

1. Less than $10,000
2. $10,000 to less than $25,000
3. $25,000 to less than $50,000
4. $50,000 or more
5. None (voluntary)
6. Depends on what type of organ is donated

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age** | | | | | | |
| <35 | 34.7% | 38.5% | 11.7% | 9.3% | 0.8% | 5.0% |
| 35 — 64 | 38.6% | 24.7% | 11.8% | 13.3% | 8.0% | 3.6% |
| 65+ | 36.7% | 23.5% | 10.1% | 12.8% | 12.9% | 3.9% |
| **Total** | **37.4%** | **27.3%** | **11.5%** | **12.4%** | **7.4%** | **4.0%** |
| **Income** | | | | | | |
| < $25k | 35.1% | 22.3% | 14.7% | 16.4% | 7.6% | 4.0% |
| $25k — $49.9k | 31.4% | 35.9% | 11.5% | 13.2% | 5.8% | 2.2% |
| $50k — $99.9k | 40.1% | 27.5% | 10.2% | 9.6% | 6.4% | 6.1% |
| $100k+ | 44.1% | 27.7% | 7.1% | 8.7% | 9.4% | 2.9% |
| **Total** | **37.4%** | **27.3%** | **11.5%** | **12.4%** | **7.4%** | **4.0%** |
| **Education** | | | | | | |
| High School or Less | 32.4% | 23.9% | 15.0% | 17.8% | 7.7% | 3.1% |
| Some College | 37.9% | 29.1% | 13.6% | 10.5% | 6.1% | 2.7% |
| College+ | 40.3% | 28.0% | 7.5% | 10.3% | 8.4% | 5.6% |
| **Total** | **37.4%** | **27.3%** | **11.5%** | **12.4%** | **7.4%** | **4.0%** |

**QUESTION 5: In your opinion, is there a difference between compensating people for organ donations and buying organs for transplantation?**

| | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| **Age** | | |
| <35 | 61.6% | 38.4% |
| 35 — 64 | 59.8% | 40.2% |
| 65+ | 56.8% | 43.2% |
| **Total** | **59.5%** | **40.5%** |
| **Income** | | |
| < $25k | 56.5% | .5% |
| $25k — $49.9k | 66.1% | 33.9% |
| $50k — $99.9k | 57.1% | 42.9% |
| $100k+ | 58.6% | 41.4% |
| **Total** | **59.5%** | **40.5%** |
| **Education** | | |
| High School or Less | 51.7% | 48.3% |
| Some College | 66.3% | 33.7% |
| College+ | 59.0% | 41.0% |
| **Total** | **59.5%** | **40.5%** |