



LifeCenter
Northwest

The Gift of Organ Donation

Lunch and Learn, April 2025

We're reminded every day that donation is a rare and remarkable process.

The generosity of the person at the center of this process – the donor – touches everyone who takes part, from family members to medical professionals to transplant recipients.

Alaska Donor, Mark Cook



About LifeCenter Northwest

A non-profit federally-designated organization dedicated to saving lives through deceased organ and tissue donation in Alaska, Montana, North Idaho and Washington.

As one of 55 federally designated Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) in the United States, we are uniquely designed to:

- Orchestrate the deceased organ and tissue donation process
- Support donor families
- Educate communities



2024 Alaska Federation of Nations Annual Convention
Laura Givens (donor mother), Dolores Givens (donor grandmother), Maija Katak Lukin (former LifeCenter Governing Board Member)

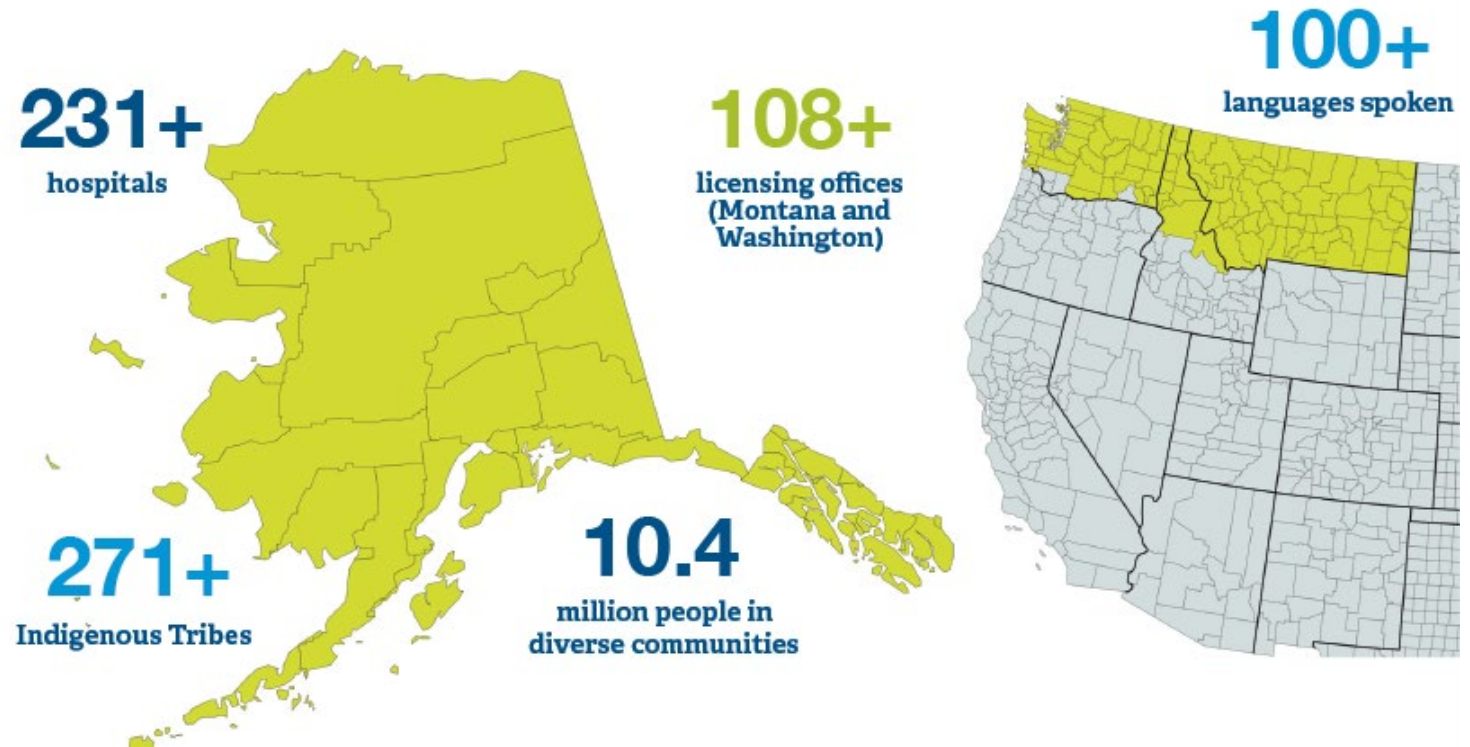
LifeCenter Northwest Team and Service Area

300+ team members

- 70% clinical
- 18% administrative
- 12% leadership

Locations where our staff live

- **Alaska:** 12
- **Idaho:** 7
- **Montana:** 23
- **Washington:** 268



Life Alaska Donor Services

- Tissue and cornea recovery organization
- Manages organ, eye, and tissue donor registry for Alaska
- Life Alaska Donor Services and LifeCenter Northwest partner to honor Alaskan donors



Donation Facts

- **One** donor can save the lives of up to **8** people through organ donation and help many more through tissue and cornea donation.
- More than **100,000** people in the United States are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, about **2,000** in LifeCenter's service area, which includes **154** Alaskans.
- Nationwide, an average of **17** people die every day waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.
- Every **10** minutes another person is added to the transplant waiting list.
- Less than **1%** of people die in a way that allows them to become an organ donor.

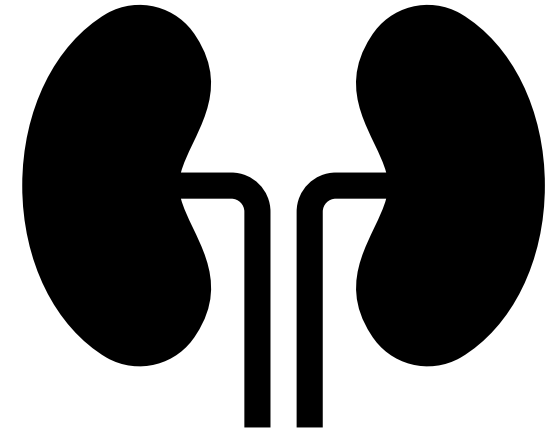


Salmon Heart a formline design, reveals a salmon within the shape of a heart, symbolizing the deep respect and cultural significance of this sacred animal to Alaska Native tribes. The salmon symbolizes cultural significance, the cyclical nature of life, and the symbiotic relationship between natives and fish.

Alaska patients on the national waiting list

Out of the **154** Alaskans waiting for an organ, **137** need a kidney.

Alaska does not have a transplant center to facilitate transplants within the state. All patients are required to relocate or travel to a state where a transplant center exists (e.g., Washington).



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who can be an organ donor?

Becoming an organ donor is an **incredibly rare opportunity**, less than 1% of deaths are eligible.

However, **anyone** can register to be a donor, regardless of age, gender, or health history. A medical assessment determines eligibility after a hospital referral to LifeCenter Northwest.

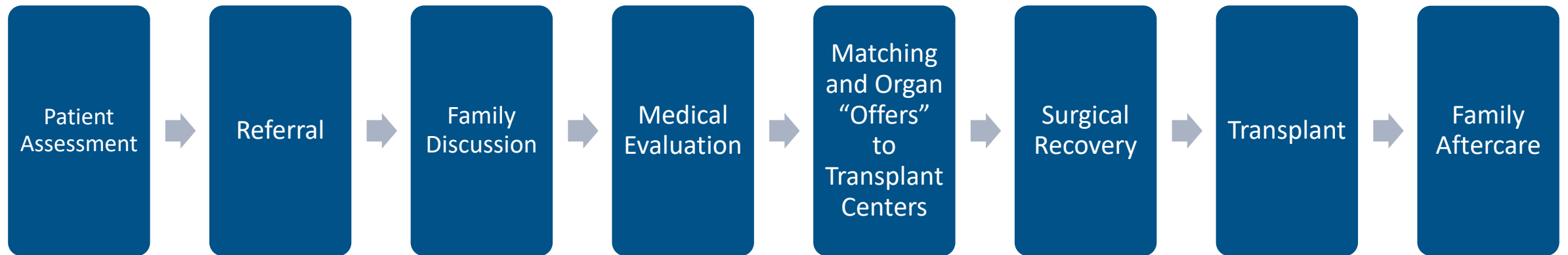
Q. How would someone become an organ donor?

To be eligible to donate organs, an individual must die in a hospital setting on ventilated support.

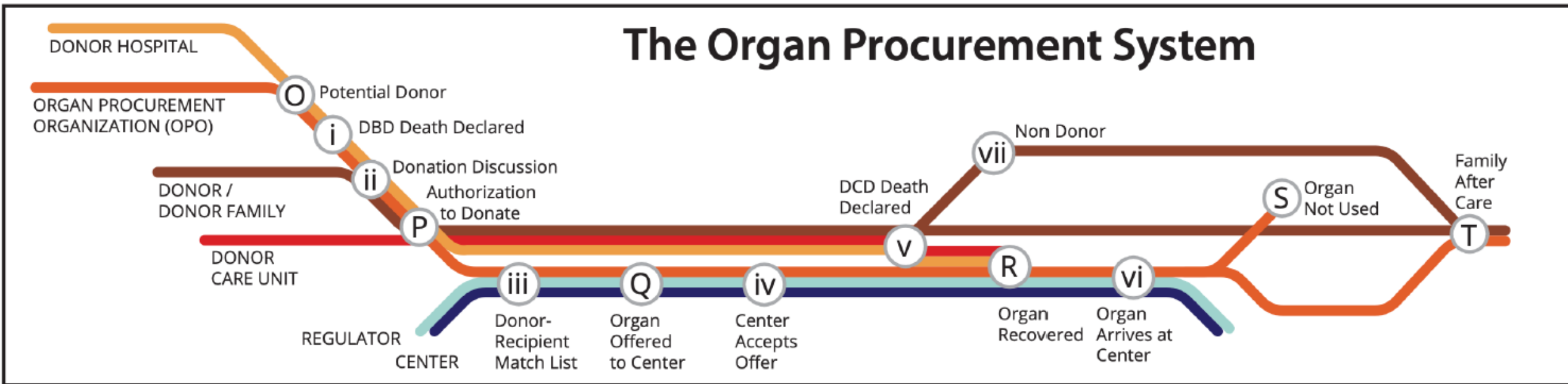
Q. Will the medical team work to save a life even if the patient is a registered donor?

Yes. Life-saving medical staff are separate from organ recovery staff. Donation begins only after all efforts to save a patient fail. The donor registry is confidential and accessible only to recovery organizations.

The Donation Process



The Organ Donation Ecosystem is Complex



Caring for the donor family

- Providing compassionate support to families throughout the donation process
- Opportunities for memory-making and honoring the donor while at the hospital
- Grief and bereavement print materials and resources
- Sharing donation outcomes
- Annual donor remembrance events and gatherings
- Virtual and in-person support groups and workshops
- Donor family and recipient correspondence and connection



National rates for donation and transplantation in 2024

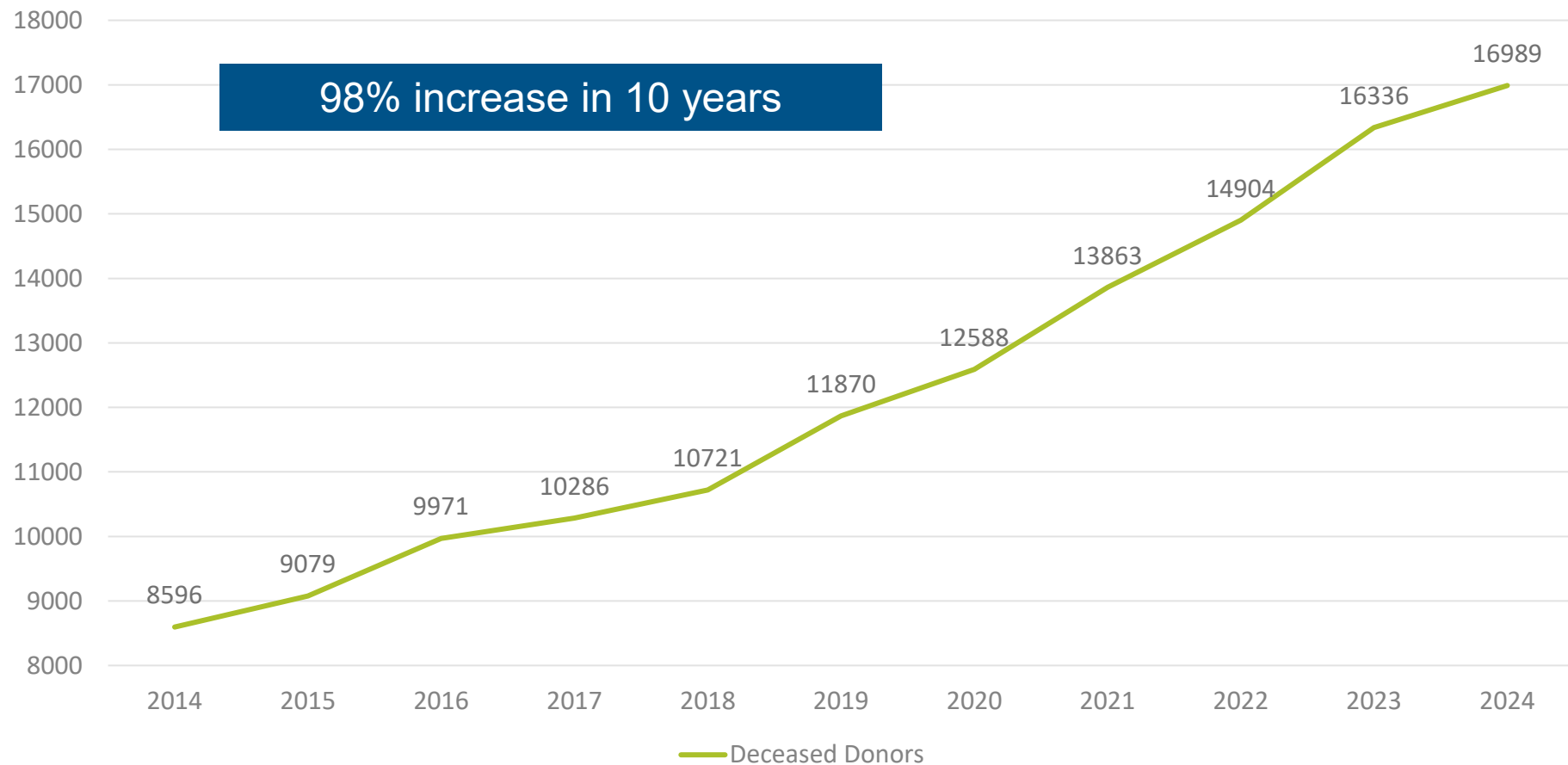
16,988
deceased
donors gave
selflessly
**(4% increase
from 2023)**

45,217
transplants
were
performed
**(3.7% increase
from 2023)**

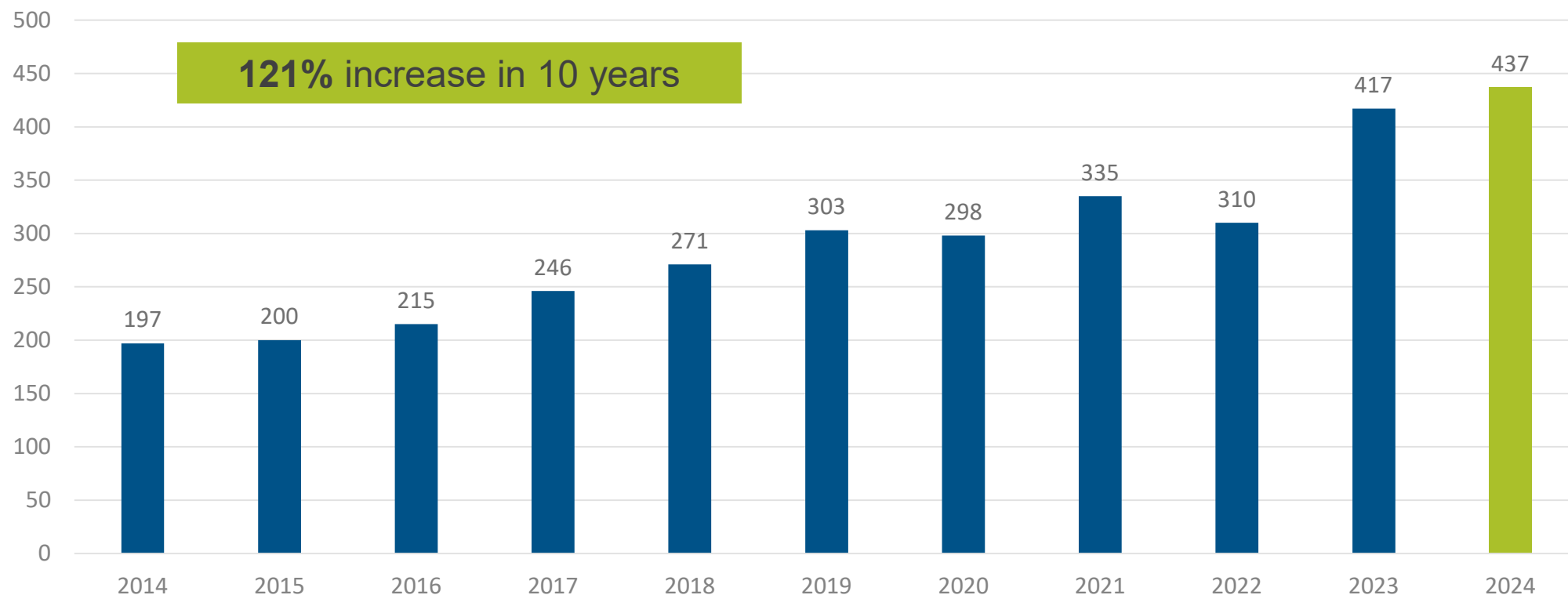
**14 consecutive
years of
increased
deceased
organ donation**

An average of
132 transplants
performed
each day

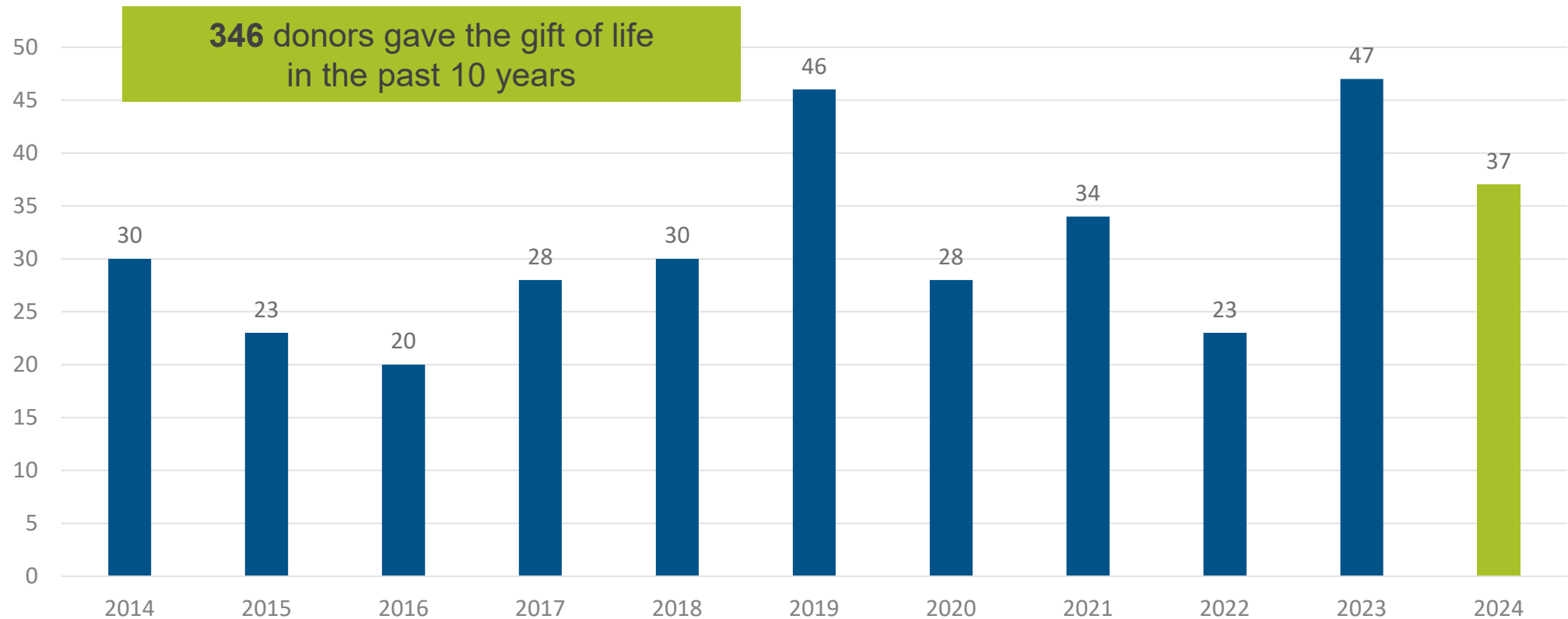
U.S. Deceased Donors, 2014 - 2024



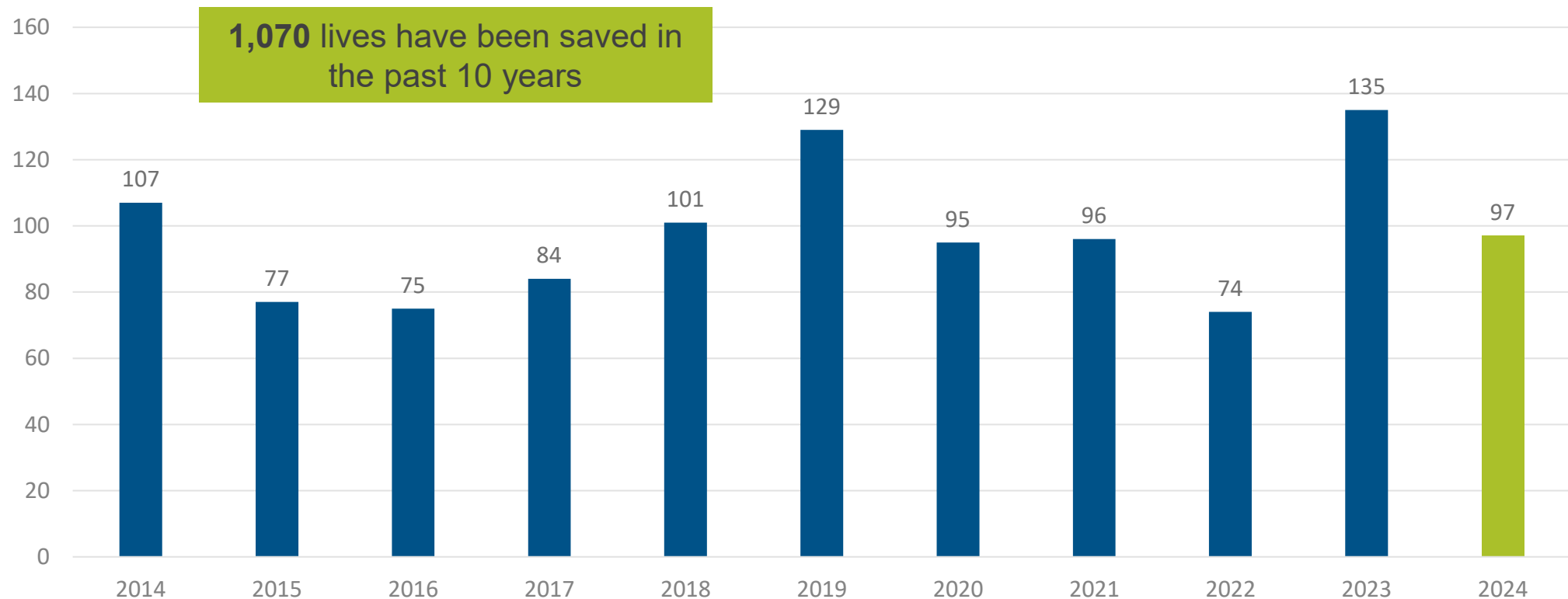
LifeCenter Northwest Organ Donors, 2014 - 2024



Alaska Organ Donors, 2014 - 2024



Lives Saved from Alaska donors, 2014 – 2024



Alaska Recipient, Patrick Holland



April is Donate Life Month

National Donate Life Month is a time to educate about organ, eye and tissue donation, and to honor and remember donors and the lives they have saved and healed.



Governor's Gift of Life Award Ceremony



Donation Awareness

- ✓ Spread the Word – share information in newsletters or on website about the importance of registering as an organ donor
- ✓ Sign up when applying for or renewing a driver's license/ID card
- ✓ Register online: AlaskaDonorRegistry.org
- ✓ Start the Conversation – talk to loved ones about the lasting impact of organ donation
- ✓ LifeCenter Northwest is a resource for constituent questions regarding organ donation

Thank you!

Ashlei Lind, LICSW

ashlei.lind@lcnw.org

www.lcnw.org





Working together to save lives through organ and tissue donation