Heart and Lung Transplantation in the U.S., 1996-2005: Summary View From the 2006 *OPTN/SRTR Annual Report*

OVERVIEW

- The number of heart transplants performed and the size of the heart waiting list continued to drop, reaching 2,126 and 1,334, respectively, in 2005.
- Over the last decade, posttransplant graft and patient survival improved, as did the chances for survival while on the heart waiting list.
- There were 3,170 registrants awaiting lung transplantation at the end of 2005, down 18% from 2004.
- The number of deceased donor lung transplants increased by 78% since 1996, reaching 1,407 in 2005 (up 22% from 2004).
- Death rates for both lung candidates and recipients have been dropping, as has the time spent waiting for a lung transplant.
- Heart-lung transplantation has declined to a small (33 procedures in 2005) but important need in the US.

SUMMARY FIGURES

The figures on the following two pages are "dashboard" views of the state of heart and lung transplantation. Details on the implications of these figures, and explanations of the methods used in creating them, are included in Chapter VI of this year's report, available online at www.optn.org and www.ustransplant.org. These sites also include resources for interested readers, including a glossary, technical notes, other chapters on many aspects of organ transplantation, and a wealth of transplant data.

THE 2006 *OPTN/SRTR ANNUAL REPORT*

This is a U.S. government-sponsored work. There are no restrictions on its use.

The data and analyses reported in the 2006 Annual Report of the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network and the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients have been supplied by UNOS and Arbor Research under contract with the Department of Health and Human Services. The authors alone are responsible for reporting and interpreting these data; the views expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Government.

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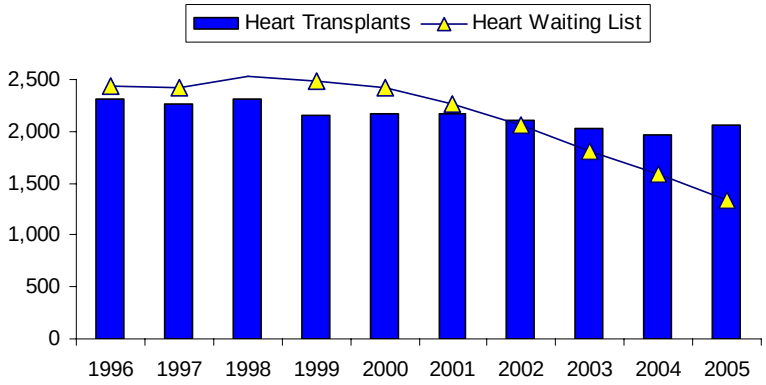
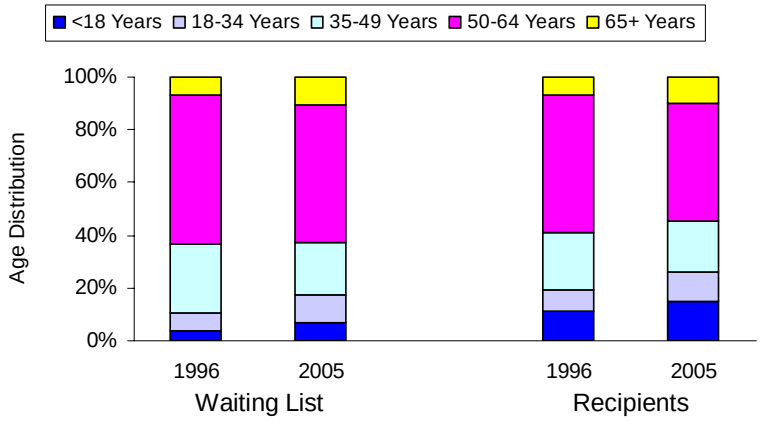
Publications based upon data in this report or supplied upon request must include the above citation.

Heart Transplantation at a Glance



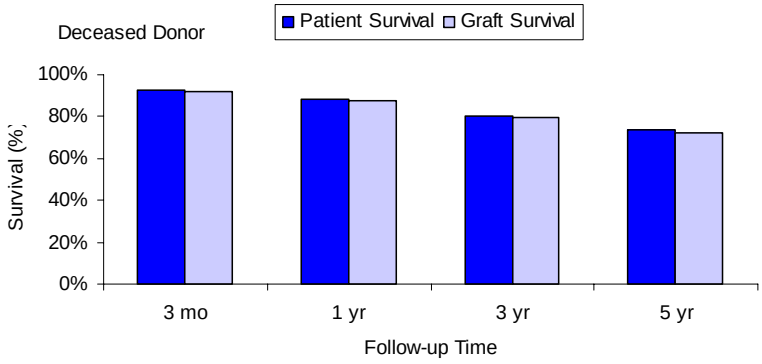
Number of Transplants and Size of Active Waiting List.

The number of heart transplants increased in 2005 after several years of gradual reduction. The number of patients awaiting a heart has decreased steeply since 2000, likely reflecting improvements in medical therapy. Source: *2006 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report*, Tables 1.7, 11.1a.



Age Distribution of Recipients and Active Waiting List.

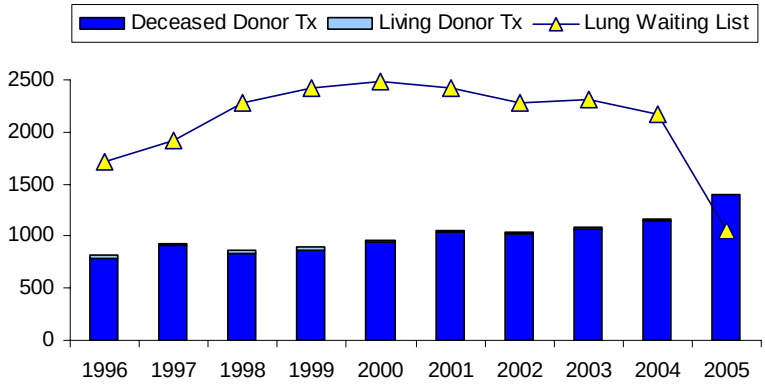
Trends in the age distribution of wait-listed candidates show that the ages below 34 and above 65 years have increased, while ages 35-64 years are less represented. The pattern of trends for transplant recipients is similar although the ages below 35 years have larger percentages than on the waiting list. Source: *2006 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report*, Tables 11.1a, 11.4.



Unadjusted Patient and Graft Survival.

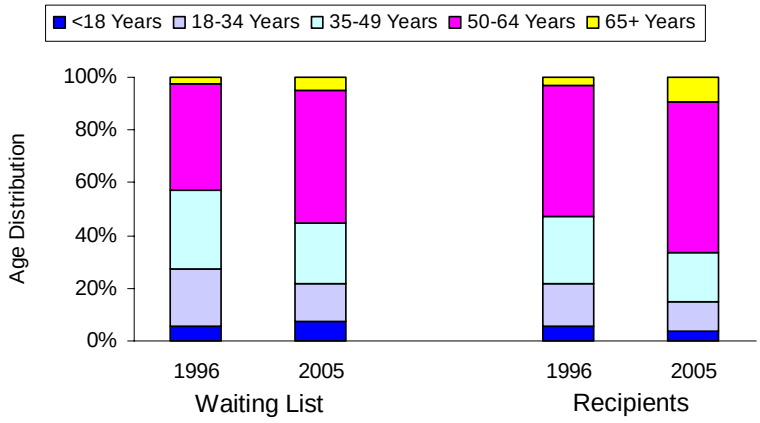
Patient survival has been improving in recent years for heart recipients. At one and five years following heart transplantation 88% and 74% of patients, respectively, are alive. Graft survival is very similar because very few patients may receive a second heart transplant after graft failure. Source: *2006 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report*, Tables 11.10, 11.14.

Lung Transplantation at a Glance



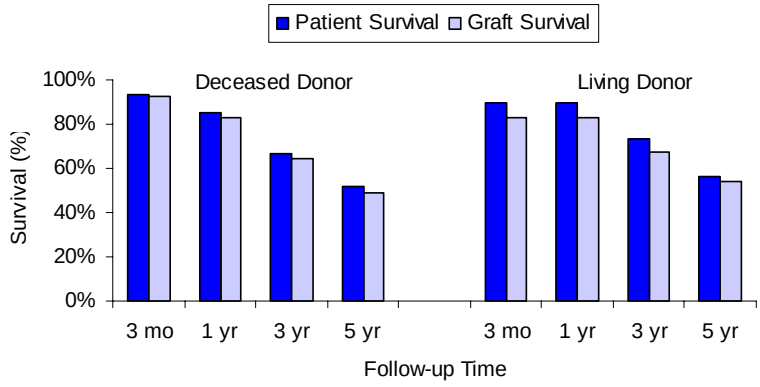
Number of Transplants and Size of Active Waiting List.

The number of lung transplants has increased steeply in the last year. The number of patients awaiting a transplant dropped steeply in 2005 after a stable pattern during the prior seven years. This sharp reduction is largely attributable to changes in allocation policy, which now considers urgency and benefit rather than time spent waiting. Source: *2006 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report*, Tables 1.7, 12.1a.



Age Distribution of Recipients and Active Waiting List.

The lung waiting list shows a mixed trend in age distribution, with increasing percentages of candidates who are pediatric or older than 50. Candidates 18-49 years old show a corresponding reduction in the percentage of the waiting list. The pattern for transplant recipients shows similarly a strong increase for ages above 50 years, but the decrease in percentages for younger ages includes pediatric ages. Recipients include transplants from both living and deceased donors. Source: *2006 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report*, Tables 12.1a, 12.4a, 12.4b.



Unadjusted Patient and Graft Survival.

Patient survival has been improving in recent years for both deceased and living donor lung transplant recipients. At one year following deceased donor and living donor lung transplantation 85% and 89% of patients, respectively, were alive. With the recent good results at one year, it is hoped that longer term patient survival will improve. Graft survival is very similar because very few patients may live after graft failure through a second lung transplant. Source: *2006 OPTN/SRTR Annual Report*, Tables 12.10a, 12.10b, 12.14a, 12.14b.