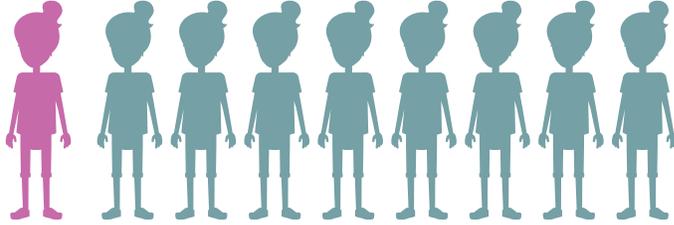


# 10 Things To Know About Pediatric Heart Transplants



**1 gift of life**  
can save up to  
**8 lives<sup>1</sup>**

In 2023, a new volume record of

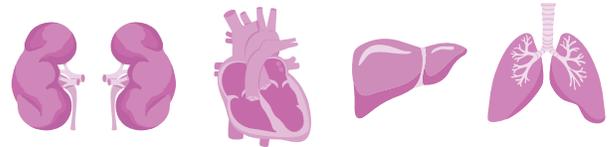
**4,500+**  
**heart transplants**

(pediatric & adult) occurred in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>



On average, about

**100 organs**



(of all types)

are transplanted  
every day in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

A patient is added every

**8 minutes**

to the national transplant wait list.<sup>2</sup>



The first pediatric heart  
transplant was in **1967**,  
and they became more  
common in the **1980s.**<sup>3</sup>

# 10 Things To Know About Pediatric Heart Transplants



## How long could we wait for a transplant?

Once on a wait list, there are different wait list pools based on how urgently you need a transplant. [Watch ACTION's video](#) for an intro to transplant, urgency status levels, and wait times. [Check the SRTR website](#) for your center's specific wait list trends based on age, blood type, and status.



## Is a pediatric heart transplant a cure?

While heart transplant is not a cure, it is an amazing chance at living a "new normal" life, that will still involve regular clinic visits, tests, procedures, and medicines. Your life will not be exactly the same as those who are not immunocompromised, but your transplant team will try to make it as close to normal as possible. You can enjoy going to school, hanging out with friends, hobbies, and even participating in physical activities.

[See how Liam's family is grateful](#) for all they have.



## What will life be like in the SHORT term after transplant?

Some may only need to be in the hospital for several weeks after surgery, others may need more time. After discharge from the hospital, there are frequent clinic visits, blood tests, and some procedures, but with time and following your transplant team's advice, most will get stronger and need less frequent follow-up.

These kids' resilience strengthens us all. [See Hand's post-transplant journey begin.](#)



## What will life be like in the LONG term after transplant?

Successful life post-transplant requires close follow-up with your transplant team and daily medicines, but there is so much to look forward to. You can go to transplant camps, travel, play sports, participate in the transplant Olympics, and go to school. You can now celebrate both your birthday and your new transplant anniversary!

[Watch Dylan and other ACTION kids](#) live their best lives going to summer camp and at the Transplant Games of America.



## How long could a transplanted heart last?

More than 80% of pediatric heart transplant patients are going strong 5 years after transplant, and the majority of recent transplants are going strong more than 15 years out. The longest surviving pediatric transplant recipient, with their original heart, is now 35 years post-transplant and counting! ([ishlt.org](#) & [lluh.org](#))