**Type of Data**

Secondary/transplant database

**Years Available**

1987 - Present

**Short Description**

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is a private non-profit organization under contract with the federal government to run the nation’s transplant system, the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN), and provides a national database of transplant organ data, Standard Transplant Analysis and Research (STAR) data files. More details about UNOS can be found at their [fast-facts website](https://unos.org/about/fast-facts/) [external link].

Living and deceased organ donors, transplant recipient candidates and post-transplant outcomes are collected. Most of the data are collected using the following eight forms: Deceased Donor Registration (DDR), Donor Histocompatibility (DH), Living Donor Registration (LDR), Living Donor Follow-up (LDF), Transplant Candidate Registration (TCR), Transplant Recipient Registration (TRR), Transplant Recipient Follow-up (TRF), and Recipient Histocompatibility (RH), some forms specific to the organ being transplanted. UNOS provides more information on their website about their [data collection forms](https://unos.org/data/data-collection/) [external link], and [data requests](https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/data/request-data/data-request-instructions/) [external link].

**Strengths**

* Very long duration of data collection -> large amount of data with many variables
* The data are well formatted and maintained with data dictionaries, available in tab delimited, SAS, and STATA formats

**Limitations**

* Some variables are more reliable than others and can be more questionable for older data
* Some variables are highly missing or are only available for certain years as transplant reporting requirements change through the years

**SDC Members with Expertise**

* April Logan ([1 publication](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35182000/)) [external link].