

DGFG Annual report 2021

Dear partners and interested parties,

This year we celebrate two anniversaries: 25 years of tissue donation in Germany and 15 years of DGFG. While we see ever new innovations in tissue processing and transplantation, tissue donation basically remains as it is: a gift to life, developed by mother nature and unchanged in quality and characteristics.

But the organization of tissue donation can be improved and expanded. Despite the Corona pandemic, the DGFG worked day after day to achieve this last year - with success. Once again we were able to increase the number of tissue donations to 2,923 donors. With the high level of commitment of all the individuals, employees, organizations and partners involved, we have succeeded in further expanding the network. Thank you very much for your tireless efforts, with which we were able to help more than 6,600 patients with a tissue transplant in 2021.

Martin Börgel, Managing Director



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Annual Report 2021
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Tissue donation in numbers

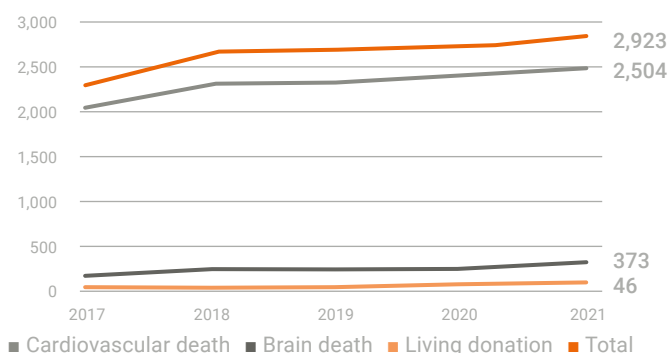
2,923 people donated their tissue in 2021.

This corresponds to **6,422** donated tissue preparations.

6,608 tissue grafts were allocated in 2021.

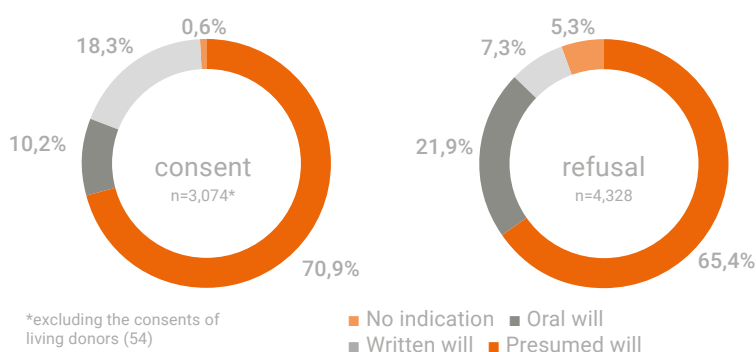
42 % consented to tissue donation in 2021.

Number of tissue donors by type of donation 2017–2021



Last year, 2,923 people donated their tissue. This represents an increase of four percent compared to the previous year. 85.7 percent of donors were cardiovascular decedents. By decreasing from 52 in 2020 to 46 in 2021, the number of living donors (placenta and heart valves) remains relatively low. The number of donors from organ donation who died from an irreversible loss of brain function (brain death) increased by 50 to 373 compared to the previous year.

Expression of will for tissue donation 2021

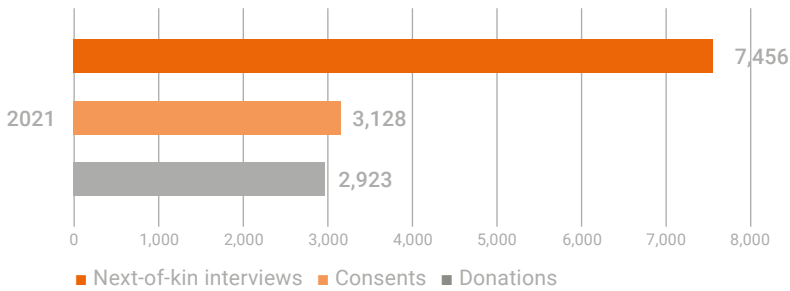


In 2021, 28.5 percent of tissue donations were based on an oral or written declaration of intent. But in more than two-thirds of cases, consent was based on the presumed will of the deceased. A similar picture emerges for refusals. These figures make it very clear that the will of the deceased is often unknown to the next of kin. Only a conversation during lifetime or a completed organ and tissue donation card can relieve the burden on the relatives and give them security in the decision-making process.

25 Years of Tissue Donation in Germany – 15 Years of DGFG

In this annual report we look back on 15 years of DGFG and 25 years of tissue donation in Germany. From 1997 to 2007, DGFG was still working as the Non-profit Society for Tissue Transplantation (DSO-G) – a subsidiary of the German Foundation for Organ Transplantation (DSO) – to expand tissue donation to cardiovascular decedents. Today, this form of donation has reached almost 86 percent. However, we are confronted with an inexorably growing demand for tissue transplants, increased quality requirements and highly developed processing and transplantation procedures, which DGFG also wants to meet. In addition to the expansion of donation programs and the training of retrieval teams, we also see an important key role in the educational work on tissue donation. Therefore, in 2022 we will put a lot of effort to numerous campaigns financed by donations and grants. After all, even after 25 years of tissue donation, knowledge about the subject is shockingly low. Let's work on this!

Next-of-kin interviews vs. consent and donations 2021



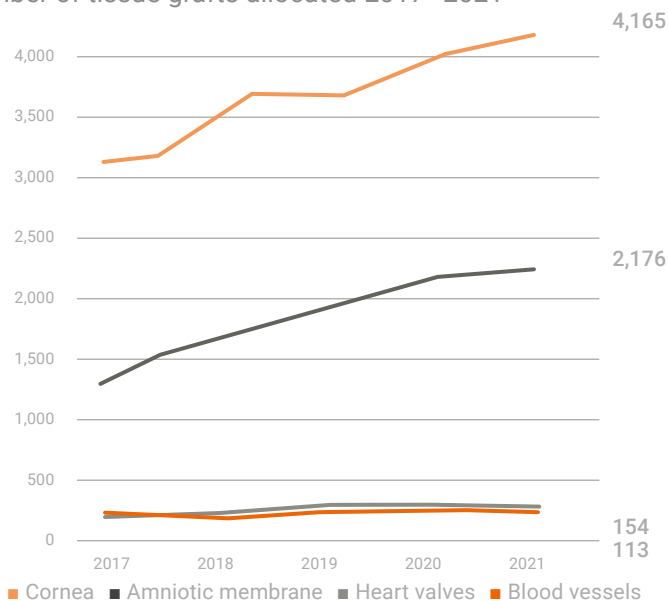
In 2021, the DGFG received more than 44,000 notifications of potential donors. If there are neither medical nor organizational reasons for exclusion, the next of kin are informed about a possible tissue donation. In 2021, 7,456 next-of-kin interviews took place. 3,128 people or their relatives agreed to donate tissue. The DGFG was finally able to realize 2,923 tissue donations.

Donated tissue preparations 2017–2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cornea	4,507	5,249	5,234	5,401	5,612
Heart valves	196	313	378	393	445
Blood vessels	117	195	206	267	335
Placenta (amnion)	15	29	40	20	30
Total	4,895	5,786	5,858	6,081	6,422

In 2021, 6,422 donated tissues were received by the tissue banks in the DGFG network. The donation program for cardiovascular tissue after cardiac arrest, which was intensified since 2018 to complement the donation of heart valves and blood vessels from organ donors, continues to show success.

Number of tissue grafts allocated 2017–2021



The number of tissue transplants delivered by DGFG has again increased compared to the previous year: In 2021, DGFG was able to provide a total of 6,608 patients with a tissue transplant; of these, 4,165 were corneal transplants. Almost half of the corneas provided by German cornea banks originate from the DGFG network. Among the 2,176 amniotic membrane delivered, 81 were AmnioClip-plus. The allocation of heart valves decreased slightly: 154 patients received a heart valve from the DGFG network. In 2020 167 patients were provided with a transplant.