NATIONAL SURVEY

RESEARCH

ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION IN ARGENTINA



CRUZ ROJA ARGENTINA

OBSERVATORIO HUMANITARIO

Centro de Referencia de la Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja

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Glossary

Ablation: Surgical procedure that allows the removal of organs from a person's body.

Donation: Donation of organs or tissues intended for implantation in humans.

Real donor: Person from whom at least one organ was removed with the purpose of transplantation.

INCUCAI: In Spanish, Instituto Nacional Central Único Coordinador de Ablación e Implante (National Central Unique Coordinator of Ablation and Transplantation). It is the agency that promotes, regulates, coordinates, and supervises organ, tissue, and cell donation and transplantation activities in Argentina.

Waiting list: A system (or method) to maintain an updated list of candidates for transplantation, ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of the patients on the waiting list.

Express Declaration of Will: The right of every citizen to express their wish regarding the fate of their organs and tissues after their death. Any person over 18 years old can expressly state their affirmative or opposing will regarding the donation of their own organs or tissues.

Procurement: It is a medical care process that includes all the necessary procedures to carry out the extraction of organs and/or tissues for transplantation.

Transplantation: The transfer (graft) of tissues or organs from a donor to a recipient with the aim of restoring a bodily function.

Executive Summary

Organ transplant is still the best medical treatment for terminal organ failure. It has proven to save the lives or improve the quality of life for patients who undergo this treatment. Nevertheless, organ shortage is the main barrier to address the unbalance between the individuals in need of a transplant and the availability of existing organs. Additionally, this is worsened by the growing number of patients on the waiting list.

Context

The experience in Argentina shows a wide legal framework. Since August 4, 2018, the new Organ, *Tissue and Cell Transplantation Law N°27,447*[1] is in effect, also called Ley Justina. This law aims to speed and simplify donation and transplantation processes, strengthening the procurement system. The *Comprehensive Protection Law for Transplanted Persons N° 26,928*[2], sanctioned on December 4, 2013, is also part of the legal framework. It involves the provision of medication, studies, diagnostics, and healthcare practices for the transplanted person.

Organ and tissue donation is a complex process that involves multiple actors: ranging from donors and their families to medical teams and healthcare institutions. In cultural and social terms, there are no strong religious barriers that prevent this treatment in Argentina. Furthermore, social awareness about the need for donation has increased over the past decade. However, doubts persist that hinder the possibility of increasing solidarity in donation. It is crucial to have data for identifying how much the general population and the healthcare professionals in Argentina know about organ and tissue procurement, and about the donation process. With this information, targeted actions, sensitization efforts, and context-appropriate interventions can be designed and implemented.

1. *"Ley de trasplante de órganos tejidos y células"*, find it on: **https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/ley-27447-312715/texto**

2. *"Sistema de Protección Integral para Personas Trasplantadas"*, find it on: **https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/ley-26928-225480/texto**

Methodology

Two methodological tools were developed to collect the information:



A structured questionnaire targeted to adult population between the ages of 18 to 70 living in Argentina.



A structured questionnaire targeted to healthcare professionals that work in the public and/or the private Argentine healthcare system.

The surveys were conducted both in-person and self-administered online, between July 21 and August 28, 2023. The field operation was deployed in 23 provinces across the country. A total of **4317 surveys** were conducted, from which **3857 were cases of the general population** (3153 in-person and 704 self-administered online) and **460 were cases of healthcare personnel** (346 in-person and 114 self-administered online).

All the registers were collected by **KoboCollect**. Data analysis was conducted by The Humanitarian Observatory of The Argentine Red Cross using the statistical software package SPSS. Throughout the process, the Policy on the protection of Personal Data from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was implemented. Questionnaires were anonymous and its response not mandatory. Personal information such as Name/Last Name, ID number (DNI), etc., were not collected. Neither were data such as geolocation, telephone number or e-mail.

Main Findings

The obtained results reflect a high degree of agreement from the surveyed individuals towards donation: **74%** manifested to be in favor of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Nevertheless, **15%** have no position taken on the subject, which could represent an opportunity to improve solidarity regarding donation.

It also emerges from the research that there is a strong lack of awareness about the subject and the current legal framework. **50%** of the general population indicated not being informed about the presumed donor concept. In the case of healthcare personnel, **64%** of the surveyed individuals state that the available educational offerings on organ and tissue donation are insufficient.

The lack of trust among some of the surveyed individuals regarding organ and tissue donation transparency and protection process stands out. This indicates the need to work on the access to information, myths and taboos around the issue, and guaranteeing the safety of every actor involved.

Lastly, **40%** of the surveyed general population has not conveyed their intention to be a donor to their family and/or friends, indicating that communication established on the subject is limited. In the case of healthcare personnel, it is observed that a high percentage (**75%**) have expressed their willingness to family and friends.

Recommendations

Results presented in this report may function as a foundation for future research. In particular, this report recommends that the entities, organizations, and stakeholders involved in the organ and tissue donation process undertake specific actions to implement the **following recommendations:**

1. Strengthen the activity of national awareness campaigns among the general public, spreading key concepts regarding organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

2. Enable and disseminate free access to publicly available data regarding donation and transplantation in Argentina to the general public, with a particular emphasis on dispelling possible myths and taboos.

3. Include the subject on organ and tissue donation and transplantation into the different curricula at every educational level.

4. Develop specialized curricula and training programs on the subject that are available in the different academic institutions within the framework of health-related programs.

5. Encourage the developing of sensitization activities in communal centers such as primary health care centers, neighborhood clubs, community development societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs).

Introduction

Organ transplant is still the best medical treatment for terminal organ failure. It has proven to save the lives or improve the quality of life for patients who undergo this treatment. Nevertheless, organ shortage is the main barrier to address the unbalance between the individuals in need of a transplant and the availability of existing organs. Additionally, this is worsened by the growing number of patients on the waiting list.

The experience in Argentina shows a wide legal framework. Since August 4, 2018, the new Organ, **Tissue and Cell Transplantation Law N°27,447**[3] is in effect, also called *Ley Justina.* This law aims to speed and simplify donation and transplantation processes, strengthening the procurement system. The **Comprehensive Protection Law for Transplanted Persons N° 26,928**[4], sanctioned on December 4, 2013, is also part of the legal framework. It involves the provision of medication, studies, diagnostics, and healthcare practices for the transplanted person. In this way, it ensures 100% coverage for comprehensive care from Social Security, Private Health Insurance, and the State, as applicable.

Organ and tissue donation is a complex process that involves multiple actors: ranging from donors and their families to medical teams and healthcare institutions. In cultural and social terms, there are no strong religious barriers that prevent this treatment in the country. Furthermore, social awareness about the need for donation has increased over the past decade. However, doubts persist that hinder the possibility of increasing solidarity in donation. Additionally, the limited involvement of healthcare professionals belonging to critical areas in the donation process has a negative impact as well.

In this regard, research is a fundamental component for the proper development of raising awareness interventions about organ and tissue donation. Obtaining new knowledge through research makes it possible for every intervention or decision to be based on verified data and best practices. Additionally, it also contributes to strengthen and improve existing public policies.

3. *"Ley de trasplante de órganos tejidos y células"*, find it on: **https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/ley-27447-312715/texto**

4. *"Sistema de Protección Integral para Personas Trasplantadas"*, find it on: **https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/ley-26928-225480/texto**

Scientific advancement has enabled organ transplantation to become a routine therapeutic treatment in clinical practice, with proven efficacy in terms of saving and/or improving the quality of life for patients on a waiting list due to a terminal chronic disease affecting some of their vital organs

Among research on the subject, Nordfalk, F. et al in *"From Motivation to Acceptability: A Survey of Public Attitudes Toward Organ Donation in Denmark (2016)"* explore the public acceptability of organ donation beyond individual motivation. Denmark´s case study is investigated through a telephone survey. The aim is to find out the surveyed population's attitudes regarding the topic considering the significant advancements in organ donation advocacy in this country over the past 30 years. Among the results of the study, **91,9%** of the sample shows a positive or very positive attitude towards organ donation and 85% is willing to donate their own organs.

On the other hand, Zepeda-Robledo, L. et al in *"Results of a survey on organ donation and transplantation in the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, Mexico (2003)"* evaluate the knowledge and the disposition to organ and tissue donation for transplantation among the adult population of the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, Mexico. In this case study it was found that **80,4%** of the surveyed population knew about organ donation and **65%** knew that it is allowed by law. Nevertheless, only **24%** had talked about the subject with their family.

Relevance

The possibility of organ donation depends on the circumstances of the donor's death and on a series of conditions that must be met to ensure the preservation of organs and tissues. The death must occur in the intensive care unit of a hospital to make organ donation possible, as this provides the means to preserve transplantable organs. As a result, and according to the National Central Unique Coordinator of Ablation and Transplantation (INCUCAI), the potential for organ donation only arises in 4 out of every 1000 deaths. For this reason, it is necessary to work on the training of healthcare professionals and sustain ongoing public awareness about the importance of donation in society to optimize outcomes. Sensitization on this topic is essential. An integrated approach covering the fundamental aspects of the complex donation-transplant process is required, including education, ethical-legal, religious, and political-health aspects.

It is crucial to have the data for identifying how much the general population and the healthcare professionals in Argentina know about organ and tissue procurement, and about the donation process. With this information, targeted actions, sensitization efforts, and context-appropriate interventions can be designed and implemented.

Argentine Red Cross
Neuquen Branch



Objectives

This study has three objectives:

1. **Collect information about the knowledge that the Argentine population have about the donation process and about organ and tissue transplantation, carried out by a neutral and impartial organization such as the Argentine Red Cross, organization not related with this issue.**

2. **Collect information about the knowledge that the Argentine healthcare personnel has about the donation process, and about organ and tissue transplantation.**

3. **Collect information on the knowledge about the presumed consent for organ donation in the general population and healthcare personnel.**



Argentine Red Cross
Neuquen Branch

Methodology

It is a descriptive, cross-sectional, and quantitative survey. Two questionnaires were developed to collect the information:



A previously validated structured questionnaire targeted to **adult population between the ages of 18 to 70 living in Argentina.**



A previously validated structured questionnaire targeted to **healthcare professionals that work in the public and/or the private Argentine healthcare system.**

Software: All the registers were collected by KoboCollect. Data analysis was conducted by The Humanitarian **Observatory of The Argentine Red Cross** using the statistical software package SPSS.

Data privacy: To guarantee the proper management of the information obtained, the **Policy on the protection of Personal Data from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** was implemented. Questionnaires were anonymous and its response not mandatory. Personal information such as Name/Last Name, ID number (DNI), etc., were not collected. Neither were data such as geolocation, telephone number or e-mail.

General Population Module

Studied population:
adult people between the ages of **18 to 70** that live in Argentina.

Type of survey:
In **person and self-administered online** survey.

Methodology:
random sampling in areas where the **Argentine Red Cross** and university volunteers have presence.

Sample characteristics:
the field operation was deployed in **23 provinces across the country.**

Date of the field operation:
From July 21 to August 28, 2023.

Number of surveys:
3857 cases (3153 in-person and 704 self-administered online surveys).

Statistical error:
Statistical error is not calculated because it is not a probabilistic sample. As an informative data, a probabilistic sample with this number of surveys has a **+/- 3.8%** margin of error for a trust level of **95%**.

Healthcare Personnel Module





Studied population:

Healthcare personnel from public and private institutions.



Type of survey:

In **person and self-administered online survey**.



Sample characteristics:

the field operation was deployed in **21 provinces across the country**



Date of the field operation:

From July 21 to August 28, 2023.



Number of surveys:

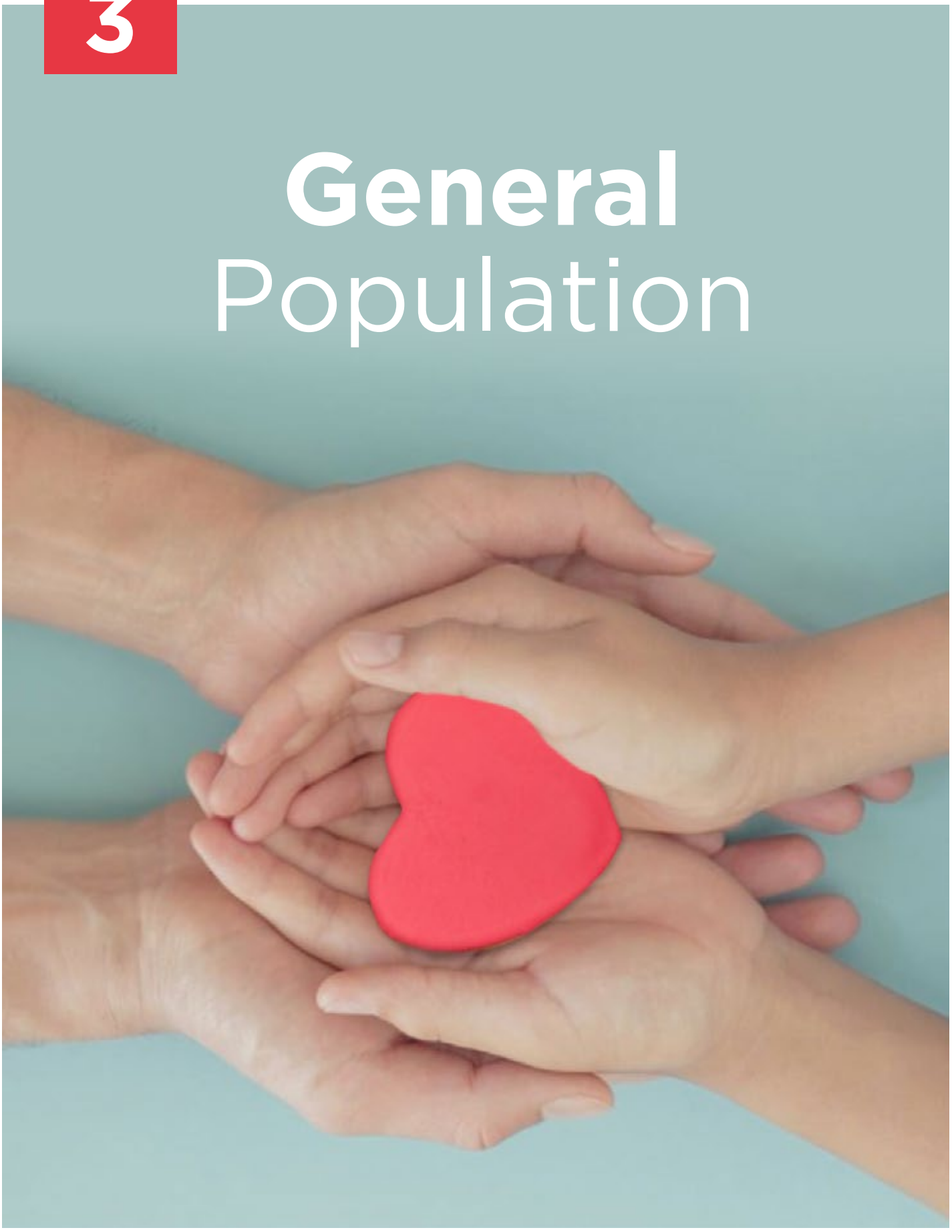
460 cases (346 in-person and 114 self-administered online surveys).



Statistical error:

Statistical error is not calculated because it is not a probabilistic sample. As an informative data, a probabilistic sample with this number of surveys has a **+/- 4,7%** margin of error for a trust level of **95%**.

General Population



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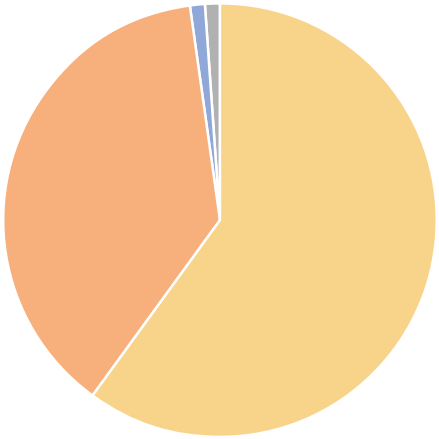
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Sample profile

With 3857 cases in total, the demographic data of the population surveyed is presented below:

FIGURE 1

Surveyed Population by Gender



60% FEMALE

38% MALE

1% OTHER

1% RATHER NOT ANSWER

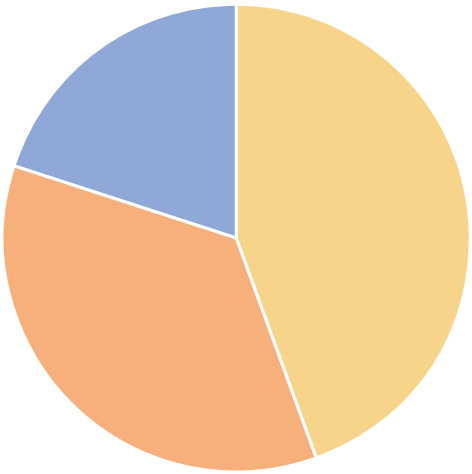
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Of the total number of people surveyed, it is observed that for the gender variable, **60%** are female, **38%** are male, **1%** indicated "other", and **1%** preferred not to respond.

FIGURE 2

Surveyed Population by Age



45% FROM 18 TO 29

36% FROM 30 TO 49

20% 50 OR MORE

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Regarding age range, at the time of responding, **45%** of the surveyed individuals were between 18 and 29 years old, **36%** were between 30 and 49 years old, and **20%** were over 50 years old. Thus, **the age group of individuals under 30 years old predominates.**

TABLE 1

RESIDENCE AREA

RESIDENCE AREA	%
BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE AND CABA	47,4%
NOA	13,4%
CENTER	12,6%
NEA	12,3%
CUYO	10,7%
PATAGONIA	3,7%

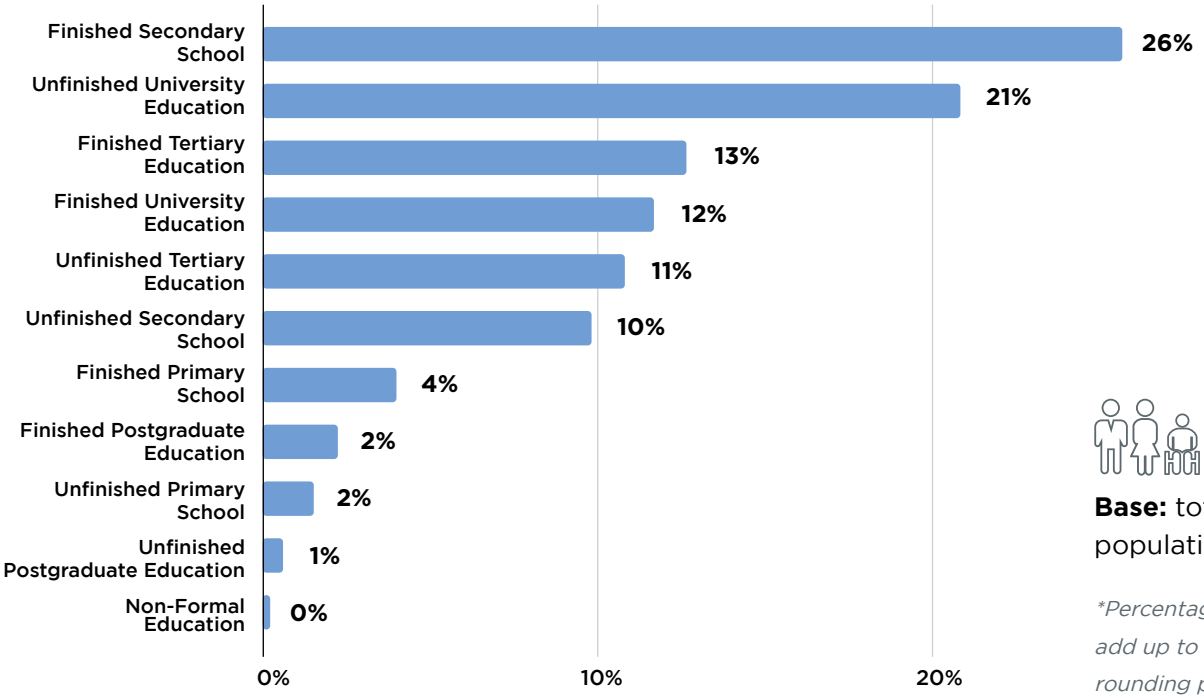
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

According to residence area, the surveyed population is homogeneous in relation to the country's population density.

FIGURE 3

Surveyed population by highest level of education achieved



Base: total population surveyed.

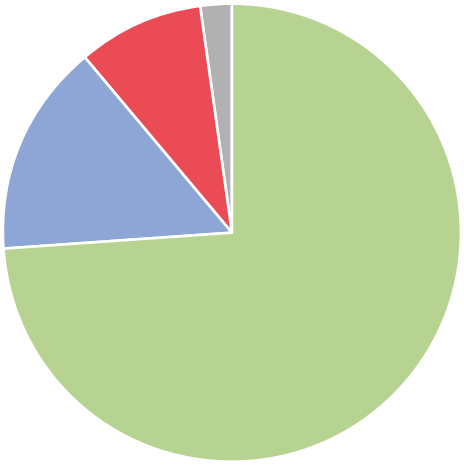
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

The sample is characterized for having a high percentage of individuals that have finished the Secondary level (**60%**). Among them, **21%** said not having finished their University Education yet and **12%** have finished this academic instance.

Position taken on the subject

FIGURE 4

Position taken on organ and tissue donation for transplantation



74%
IN FAVOR

15%
HAVE NO POSITION TAKEN

9%
AGAINST

2%
RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

74% of the surveyed population state to be in favor of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. It is important to notice that **15%** have no position taken, what could be interpreted as lack of information on the subject. An opportunity for improvement is identified to develop actions that will provide information and sensitization efforts aimed at those individuals who express indecision. A low percentage of the surveyed individuals (**9%**) is against organ and tissue donation.

Position taken on organ and tissue donation

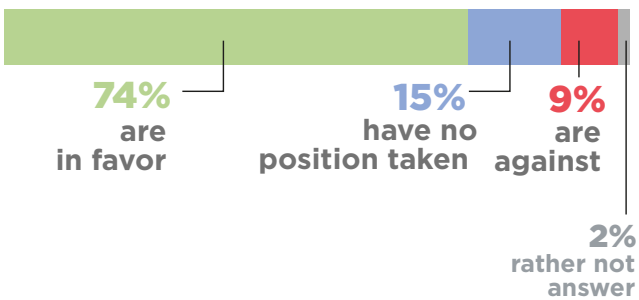


TABLE 2

Position taken on organ and tissue donation by age and educational level

			Age			Educational Level		
		Total	From 18 to 29	From 30 to 49	50 or more	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary / University
Are you in favor or against organ and tissue donation for transplantation?	IN FAVOR	**74%**	**80%**	75%	70%	56%	74%	**83%**
	AGAINST	**9%**	7%	10%	9%	17%	8%	5%
	HAVE NO POSITION TAKEN	**15%**	10%	14%	**19%**	**24%**	15%	11%
	RATHER NOT ANSWER	**2%**	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%

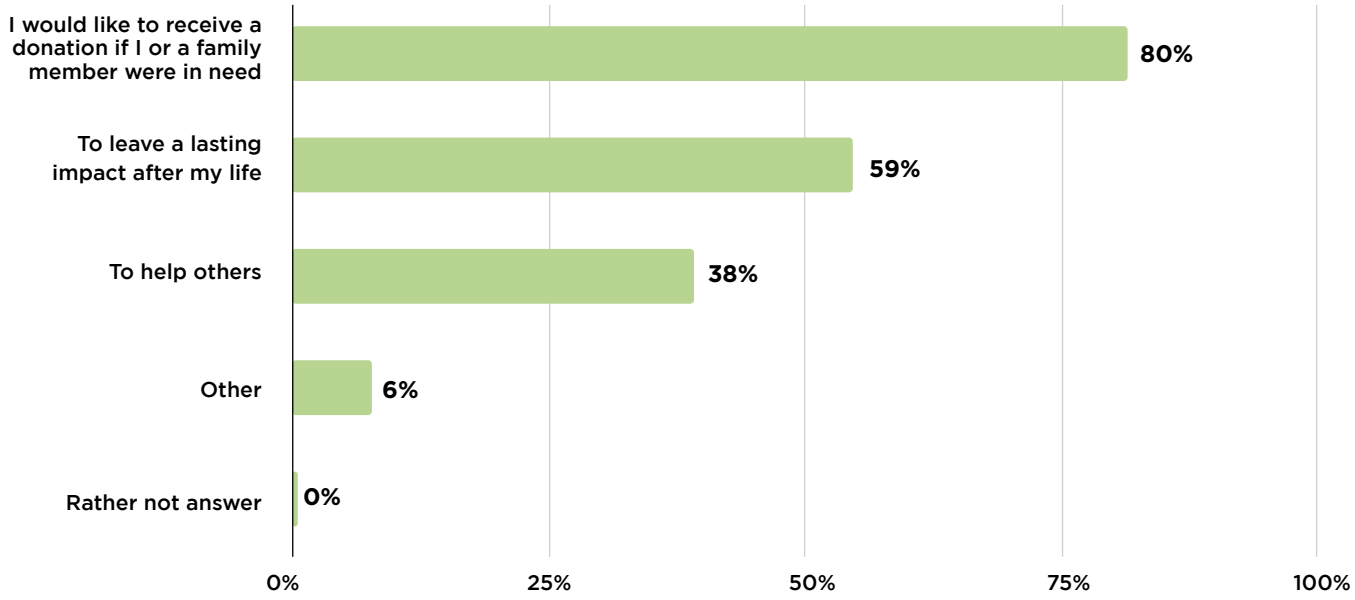
Base: crossing between perception regarding organ and tissue donation for transplantation by age and educational level.

Based on the cross-tabulation of variables such as age and educational level, it is possible to identify findings that are relevant for understanding the positions of the surveyed individuals in relation with donation. Regarding age range, an inversely progressive trend is observed, as age increases, the percentage of people in favor decreases. **80%** of those aged 18 to 29 are in favor of donation, in contrast to the population over 50 years old, where the agreement level is below, with **70%** of the surveyed individuals.

On the other hand, a higher level of education achieved shows a marked trend towards being in favor of donation. There is a significant difference in support based on the level of education: in the case of the population with primary education, **56%** are in favor; and for those with tertiary and university education, there are **83%** in favor.

FIGURE 5

Reasons for being in favor of organ and tissue donation



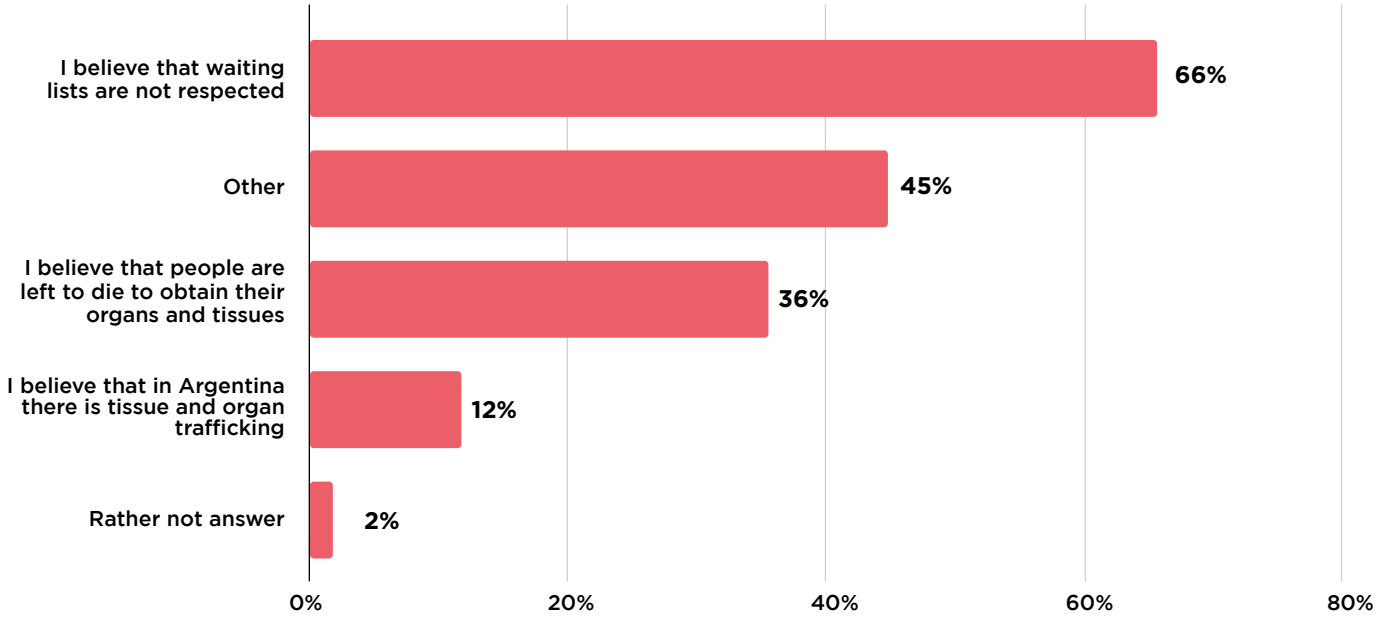
Base: total population surveyed who is in favour of organ and tissue donation.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because it is a multiple-choice question.*

The main reason expressed by the surveyed individuals (**80%**) for being in favor is that if themselves or a family member were in need, they would like to receive a donation, this denotes reciprocity. The second most frequently mentioned reason among the surveyed individuals is the desire to leave a lasting impact after their life (**59%**), followed by **40%** who wish to help others.

Within the **6%** of individuals who chose the option "other", responses related to an argument of the utility of donation stand out, as well as prior sensitization on the subject due to cases involving family members or friends.

FIGURE 6

Reasons for being against organ and tissue donation



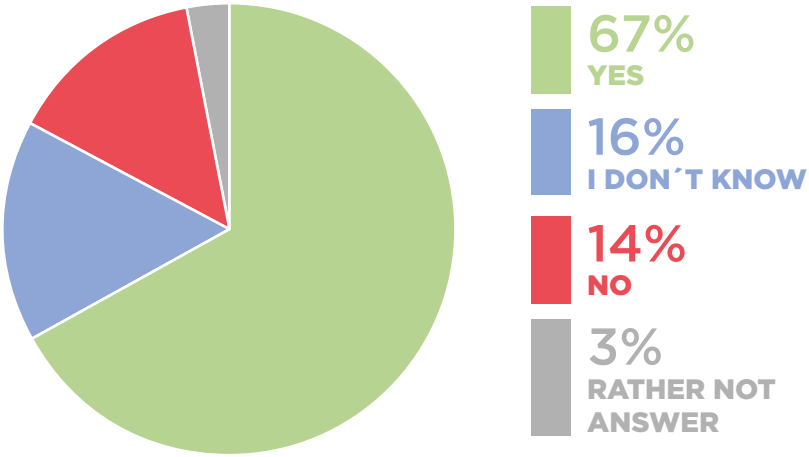
Base: total population surveyed who is against organ and tissue donation

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because it is a multiple-choice question.*

From the **9%** of the surveyed individuals that are against, the main reason stated is the belief that waiting lists are not respected (**66%**), followed by the option "other" (**45%**). Within that category, the answers that stand out the most are related to "religious beliefs" (**24% of the total**), "mistrust" (**8%**) and to the "preference to sell them" (**8%**). Lastly, in third place there is a percentage of people who believe that individuals are left to die to obtain their organs and tissues (**36%**). It is relevant to highlight that among the **9%** of individuals who are against organ and tissue donation, there is a high degree of suspicion regarding lack of transparency or organ trafficking.

FIGURE 7

Predisposition to donate organs or tissues



Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

A high percentage of the individuals surveyed state to be willing to donate organs or tissue (**67%**). Nevertheless, this percentage is lower than the total of people who is in favor of organ and tissue donation (**74%**). In second place, there is a **16%** that are indecisive —perhaps because of lack of information about the subject—, **14%** claims that they are not willing to do it, and **3%** of the surveyed population rather not to answer.

Predisposition to donate organs or tissues

16% of the surveyed people don't have an opinion formed on being organ and tissue donors.

TABLE 3

Disposition to donate organs and tissues after death by age, gender, and education level

			Age			Gender		Educational level		
		Total	From 18 to 29	From 30 to 49	50 or more	Female	Male	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary / University
Are you willing to donate your organs and tissues after dying?	YES	**67%**	**71%**	67%	65%	**72%**	63%	**48%**	67%	76%
	NO	**14%**	8%	13%	17%	11%	17%	24%	15%	7%
	I DON´T KNOW	**16%**	18%	18%	14%	14%	17%	**22%**	15%	15%
	RATHER NOT ANSWER	**3%**	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	6%	3%	3%

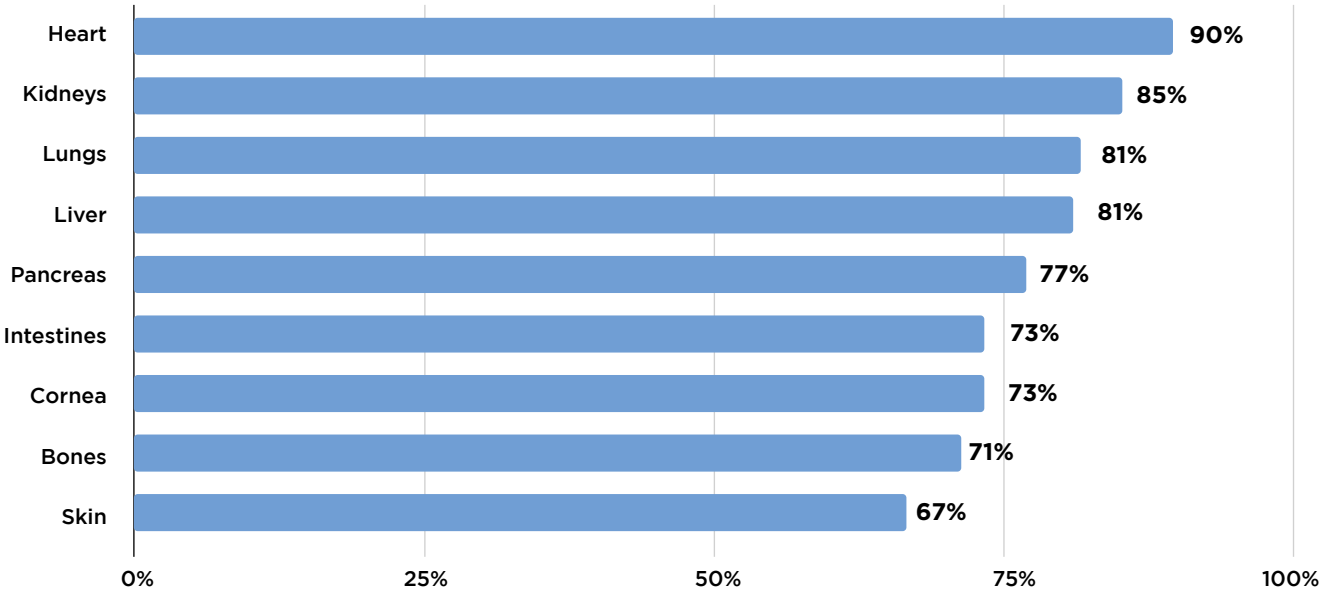
Base: Crossing between predisposition to donate organs or tissues by age, gender and educational level.

Disposition to donate organs and tissues after death varies according to the age of the people surveyed. This can be observed in *table 2*, with greater agreement about donation (**71%**) among those individuals over 30 years. On the other hand, those who perceive themselves as female have a greater disposition (**72%**), and lower indefinite positioning (**14%**), compared to those who perceive themselves males (**63%** and **17%** respectively).

There is also the identified tendency that the higher the educational level accomplished, the greater the agreement with organ and tissue donation. Among the population belonging to primary level of education, only **48%** are willing to donate their organs, while among those in university the percentage rises to **76%**. It is relevant to highlight that the indecisive position of those with primary school education rises to a **22%**, exceeding the percentage of **16%**, which includes all surveyed individuals without distinguishing the level of education achieved.

FIGURE 8

Organs that you will be willing to donate



Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because it is a multiple-choice question.*

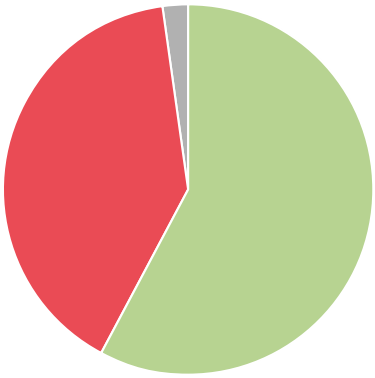
There is high agreement about the organs that the surveyed individuals are willing to donate. It is observed a preeminence in heart (**90%**), followed by the kidneys (**85%**), lungs (**81%**), and liver (**81%**). Those organs or tissues with less awareness in terms of their donation potential stand out for having a lower number of positive responses, such as skin (**67%**) and bones (**71%**). However, it is worth noting that, despite this observed difference, more than two-thirds of the surveyed individuals are willing to make these donations.

Argentine Red Cross
Mar del Plata Branch



FIGURE 9

Inform family and/or friends about the decision of donating organs or tissues



58%
YES

40%
NO

2%
RATHER
NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

More than half (**58%**) of the surveyed individuals informed their intention to be donors to their family and/or friends. However, **40%** indicate not having shared their will to donate organs and tissues to their close ones. Even if expressing this will is a personal choice, the fact that family and friends are aware about this decision is relevant, because it could be of help when going through a difficult, emotional, and challenging time.

Inform about their decision

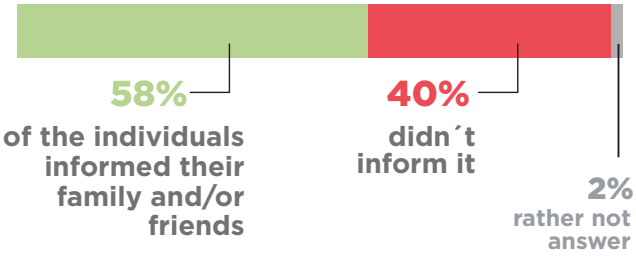


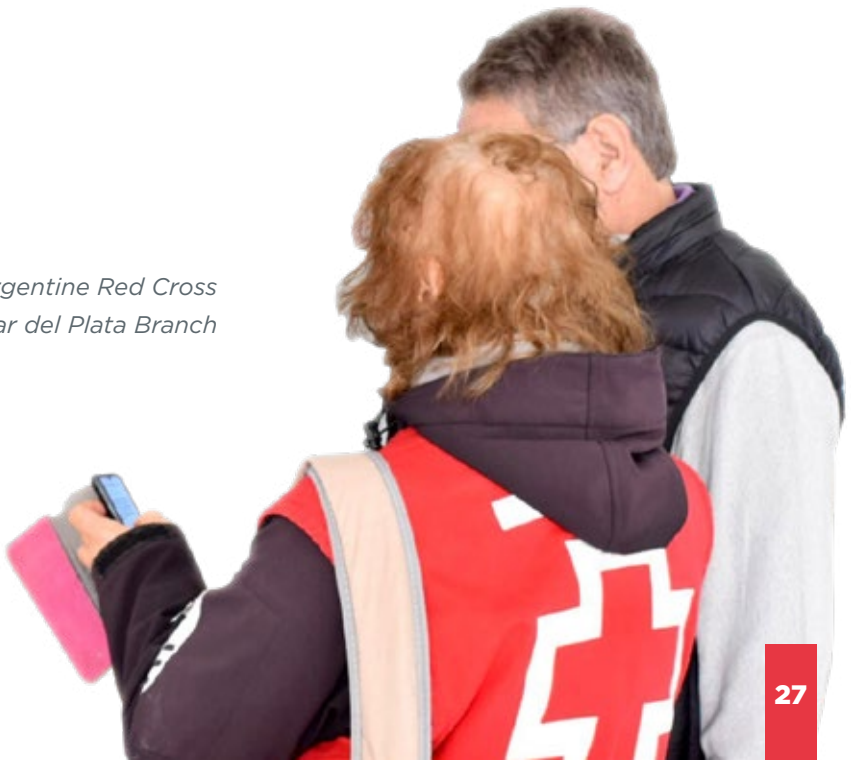
TABLE 4

Inform family and/or friends about the decision of donating organs or tissues by age and gender

			Age			Gender	
		Total	From 18 to 29	From 30 to 49	More than 50	Female	Male
Did you inform your family and/or friends of your will to donate organs and tissues?	YES	**58%**	48%	57%	**63%**	**62%**	54%
	NO	**40%**	49%	41%	34%	37%	43%
	RATHER NOT ANSWER	**2%**	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%

Base: crossing between informing family and/or friends about the decision of donating organs or tissues by age and gender.

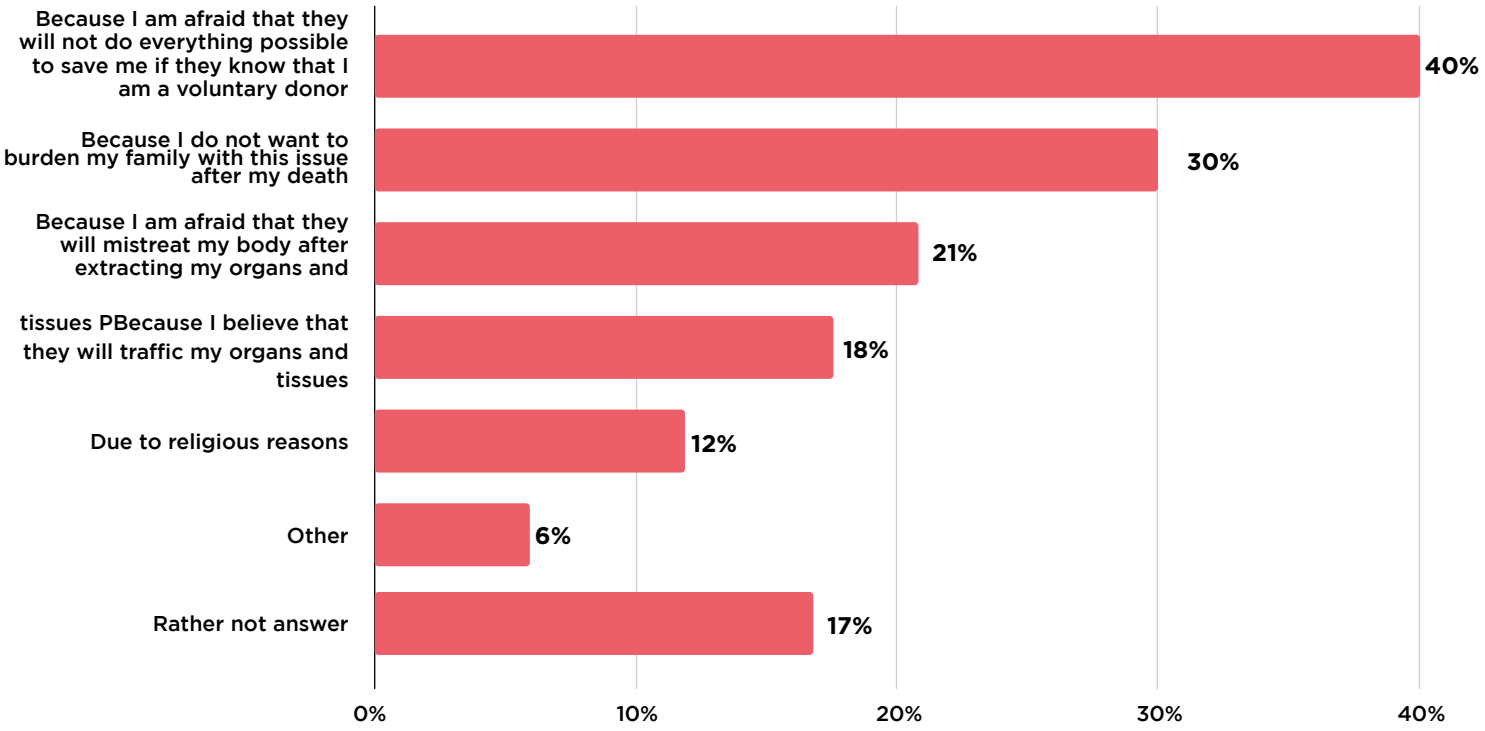
Regarding communication on the subject, individuals over 50 years of age constitute the age group that has expressed their willingness to be a donor the most (**63%**). In opposition, less than a half of the people between 18 to 29 have expressed their decision to their friends and family (**48%**). Meanwhile, it is observed that those who perceive themselves as female have a higher tendency to talk about their predisposition to donate than those who perceive themselves as males, reaching **62%** and **54%** of positive answers respectively.



Argentine Red Cross
Mar del Plata Branch

FIGURE 10

Reasons for not being willing to donate organs and tissue



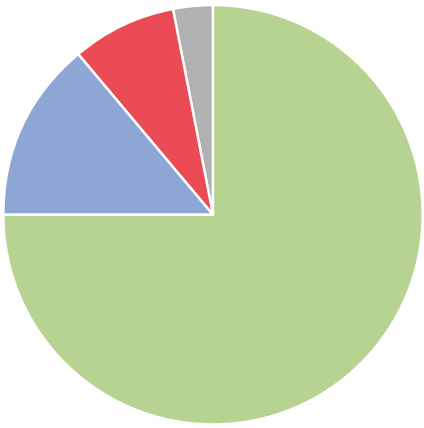
Base: total population surveyed who wouldn't be willing to donate organ and/or tissue.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because it is a multiple-choice question.*

Among the reasons why people would not be willing to donate organs and/or tissues, the fear that everything possible may not be done to save them for being voluntary donors stands out (**40%**), followed by the desire not to burden their family with this issue (**30%**), and, in third place, there is the fear of mistreatment of their body after an organ and tissue extraction (**21%**).

Additionally, **18%** believe that their organs and tissues may be trafficked, a percentage similar to the high number of people who preferred not to respond (**17%**). This indicates that this topic can be sensitive and taboo for part of the population. Finally, within the percentage that chose "Other" (**6%**), there are responses related to lack of knowledge, mistrust, or the preexistence of diseases and/or damage to their organs. This highlights a significant lack of information about the donation process and reinforces the need for campaigns to provide clarity on the subject.

FIGURE 11

Willingness to receive a donated organ in case of need



75% YES

14% I DON´T KNOW

8% NO

3% RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

According to *figure 11*, 3 out of 4 people (**75%**) are willing to receive a donated organ in case it is required by a medical or health condition. Once more, like in *figure 7*, there is a noticeable percentage of people (**14%**) that do not know or that are indecisive. The cause might probably be lack of information or fear. Finally, **8%** of negative answers are observed.

TABLE 5

Willingness to receive a donated organ in case of need by educational level and gender

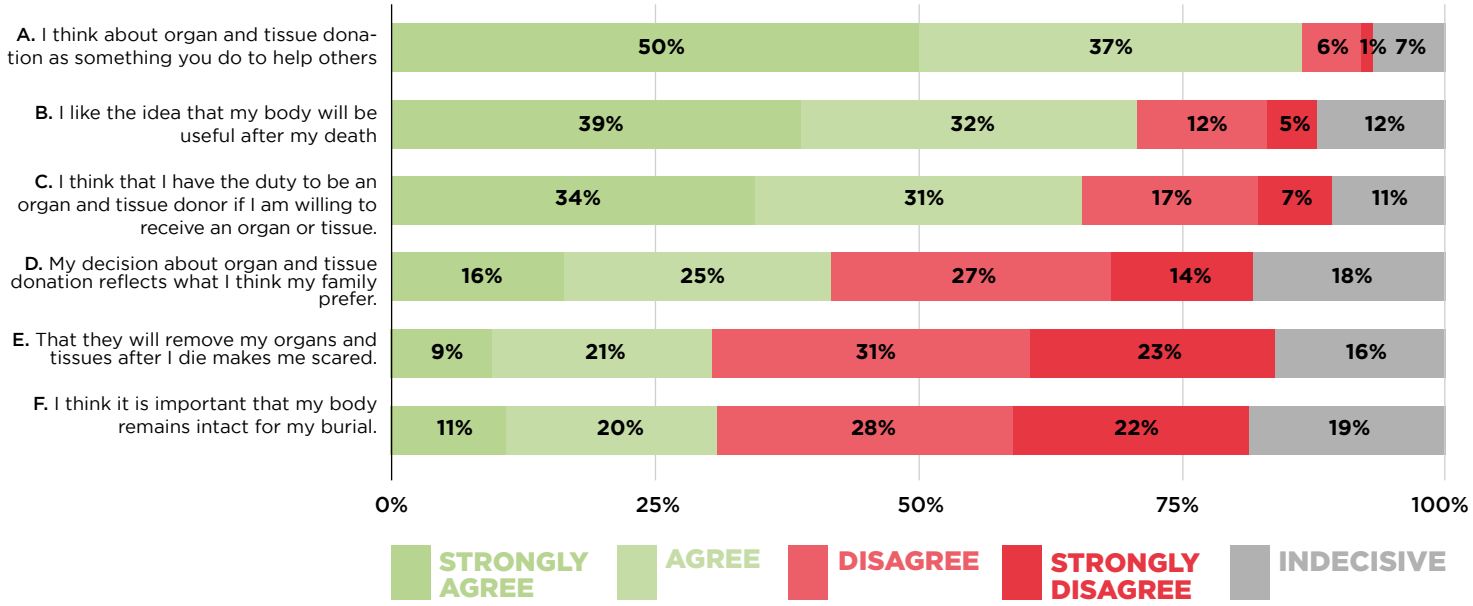
			Gender		Educational Level		
		Total	Female	Male	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary/ University
Will you be willing to receive a donated organ if you were in a health/medical need?	YES	**75%**	**80%**	71%	**61%**	76%	**81%**
	NO	**8%**	5%	**12%**	**14%**	9%	**5%**
	I DON´T KNOW	**14%**	12%	14%	**20%**	13%	11%
	RATHER NOT ANSWER	**3%**	3%	3%	5%	2%	3%

Base: Crossing between willingness to receive a donated organ in case of need by educational level and gender.

Regarding the disposition of receiving an organ in case of need, it is noticeable that those who perceive themselves male are against in a greater measure (**12%**) that females (**5%**). In line with the results from *table 2* and *3*, the population with primary education attainment has a higher percentage of indecision on the topic (**20%**) compared to the total (**14%**).

FIGURE 12

Position regarding these statements



Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Regarding different statements about organ and tissue donation, there is an outstanding majority that Strongly agrees or Agrees with the statement *"I think about organ and tissue donation as something you do to help others"*, reaching an **87%** of positive answers.

At the same level, the statements *"I like the idea that my body will be useful after my death"* and *"I think that I have the duty to be an organ and tissue donor if I am willing to receive an organ or tissue"* also were highly accepted, reaching a **71%** and **65%** of positive answers respectively.

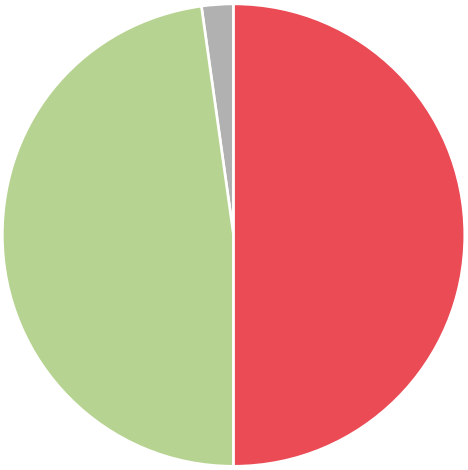
Additionally, the most questioned statements were *"That they will remove my organs and tissues after I die makes me scared"* and *"I think it is important that my body remains intact for my burial"*, being the surveyed people a **54%** and **50%** in disagreement or very much in disagreement with them, respectively.

Finally, it is worth noting the high percentage of non-decision or a preference not to answer in the statements *"I think it is important that my body remains intact for my burial"* and *"My decision about organ and tissue donation reflects what I think my family prefer"*, representing almost a quarter of the surveyed individuals (**19%** and **18%** respectively). Those percentages might be associated to the fear related to death and donation, and for being a taboo topic not highly dealt with by many people.

Knowledge about the legal framework and the current situation in Argentina

FIGURE 13

Knowledge about the applicable organ donation law in Argentina



"Did you know that, according to law, in Argentina every person is a donor, unless they have expressed their refusal during their lifetime?"

50% NO, I DIDN´T

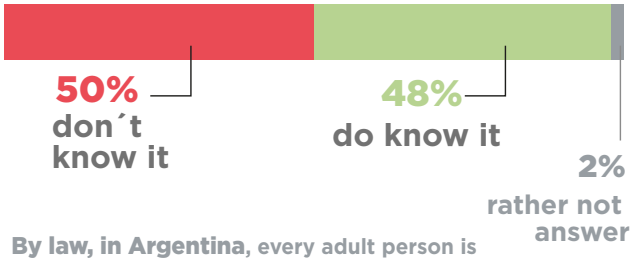
48% YES, I DID

2% RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

50% of the population stated not to be informed about the presumed donor concept. This shows the lack of information regarding this issue among the population, creating a great improvement opportunity to spread the information that is available.

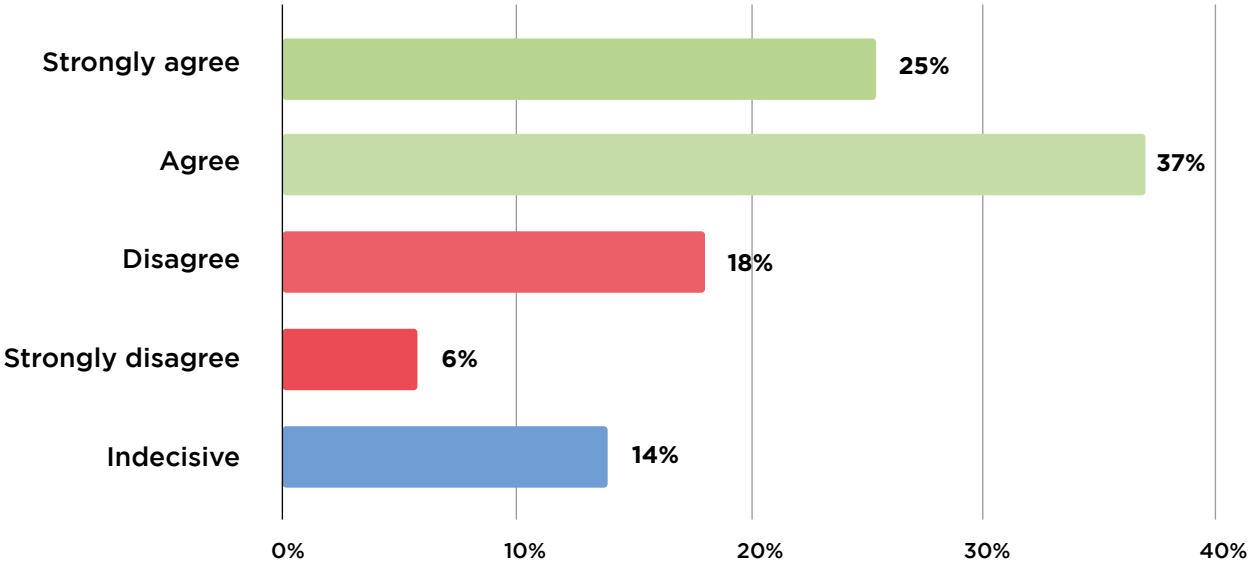
Knowledge regarding the Presumed Donor Law



By law, in Argentina, every adult person is considered a donor, unless they have expressed their refusal during their lifetime.

FIGURE 14

Position regarding the concept of "presumed donor"



Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Regardless the unawareness about the theme exposed in *figure 13*, **62%** of the surveyed individuals stated to Agree or Strongly agree with the presumed donor concept. In opposition, almost a quarter of the surveyed individuals (**24%**) answered to Disagree with it. It is worth to notice the percentage (**14%**) of people that are Indecisive, or that do not have an opinion made. This can indicate the low level of knowledge on the subject. Thus, combining the two previous records, it can be interpreted that 38% of the surveyed individuals express disagreement with the concept of presumed donor. Therefore, it is necessary to work not only on the dissemination of current legislation but also on raising awareness and communicating the importance of donation to increase public support.

TABLE 6

Level of agreement to the "presumed donor" concept by educational level and by people´s knowledge of individuals in their circle who have been donors

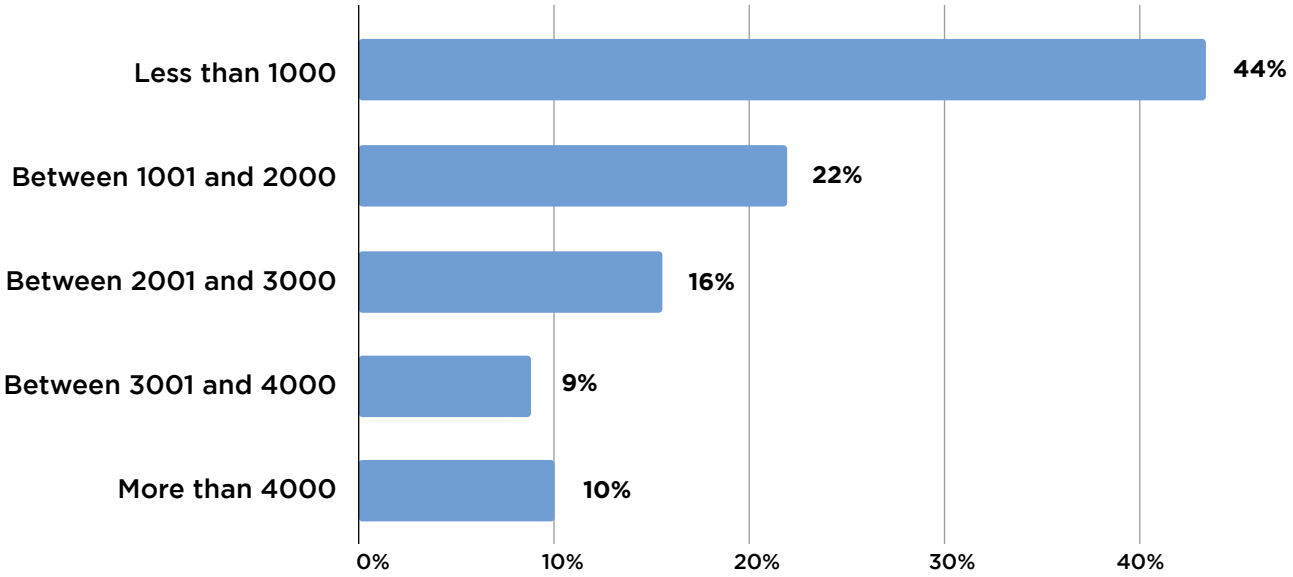
			Educational level			Did any family member/close person donate an organ or tissue?	
		Total	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary/ University	Yes	No
How much do you agree with the concept of "presumed donor"?	STRONGLY AGREE	25%	13%	24%	33%	40%	25%
	AGREE	37%	35%	40%	35%	41%	38%
	DISAGREE	18%	27%	16%	16%	10%	18%
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	6%	6%	7%	5%	1%	7%
	RATHER NOT ANSWER	14%	20%	13%	11%	9%	12%

Base: crossing between the level of agreement regarding the "presumed donor" concept, by educational level and knowing a family member or close person in their circle who has donated an organ and/or tissue.

Regarding positive opinions about the *"presumed donor"* concept, it is noteworthy that **68%** of individuals with tertiary or university education Agree or Strongly agree. However, only **48%** of those with primary education have this position. Concerning personal experiences, **81%** of those who have had a close person be a donor Agree or Strongly agree, surpassing the **63%** of individuals who have not been directly involved and express the same stance.

FIGURE 15

Perception about the number of real donors in Argentina, between January and August 2023



Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

57% of the surveyed individuals wrongly estimated the number of real donors in Argentina during the indicated period. According to the ciphers provided by the INCUCAI[5] (the National Central Unique Coordinator of Ablation and Transplantation), the period between January and August 2023 reached a total of 618 real donors. Even if the majority of the surveyed people wrongly estimated this cipher, **44%** achieved to correctly identify that the number was below 1000.

GLOSSARY

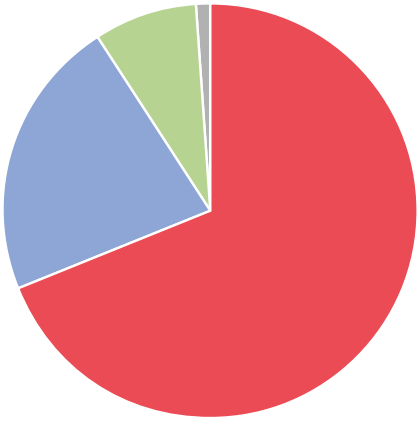
Real donor: Person from whom at least one organ was removed with the purpose of transplantation.

5. *"Donantes reales, comparativo interanual", puede consultarse en* **https://sintra.incucai.gov.ar/estadisticas/donantes-reales-comparativo-interanual/**

Personal experience and access to information

FIGURE 16

Knowledge of family members/close people who have been organ and/or tissue donors



69%
NO

22%
I DON´T KNOW

8%
YES

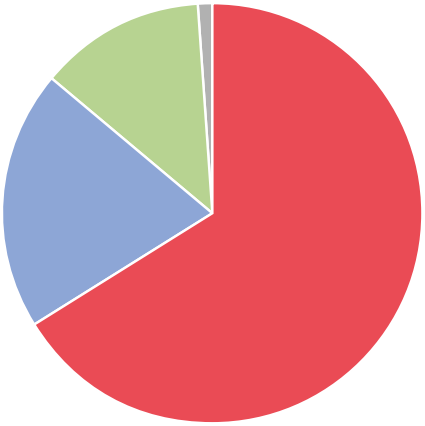
1%
RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

FIGURE 17

Knowledge of family members/close people who have received an organ and/or tissue transplant



67%
NO

20%
I DON´T KNOW

13%
YES

1%
RATHER NOT ANSWER

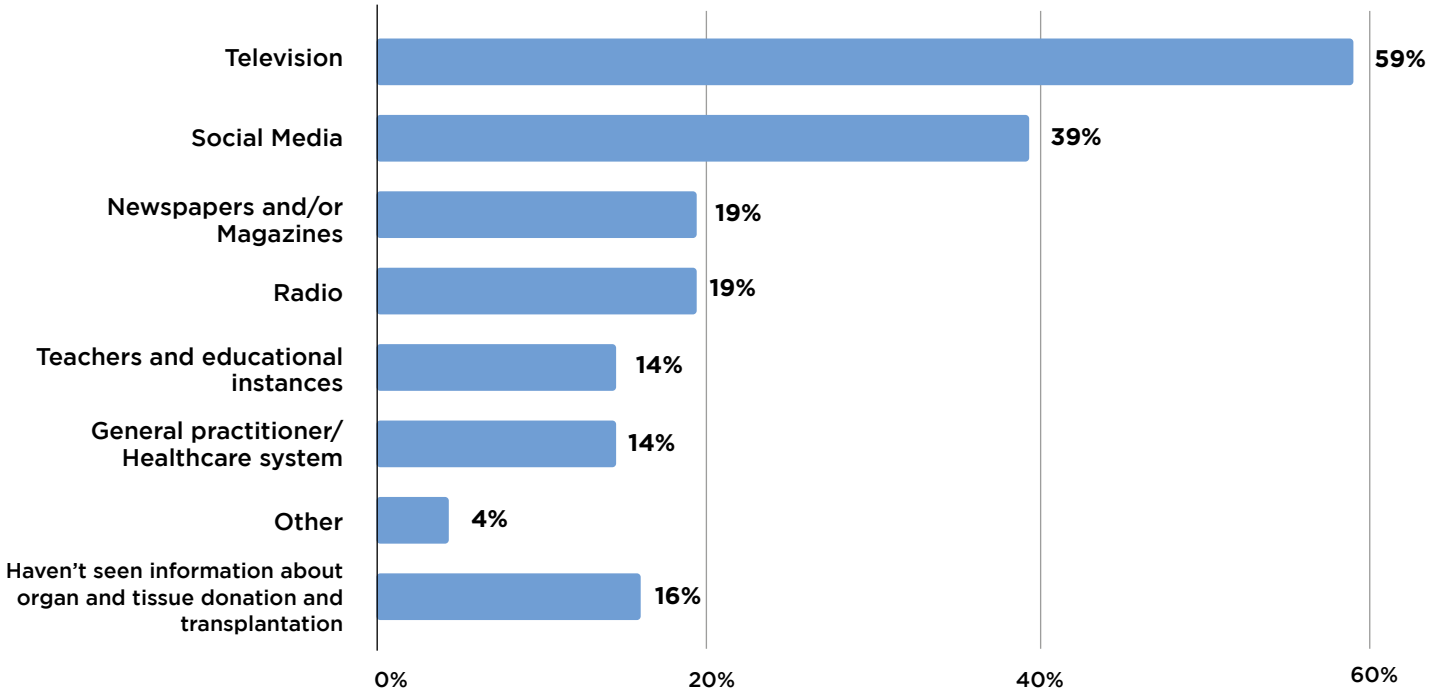
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Both in *figure 16* and *17*, it can be observed that more than two-thirds (**69%** and **67%**, respectively) of the surveyed individuals do not have people in their close circle who have received or been donors. It is also worth noting that in both cases, there is a significant percentage of individuals who are unaware of this (**22%** and **20%**, respectively). This may indicate that the topic is not part of people's daily conversations, so they are not sure if their family and/or friends have been involved in donation or transplant processes.

FIGURE 18

Media and/or circumstances through which information about organ and/or tissue donation and transplantation has been received



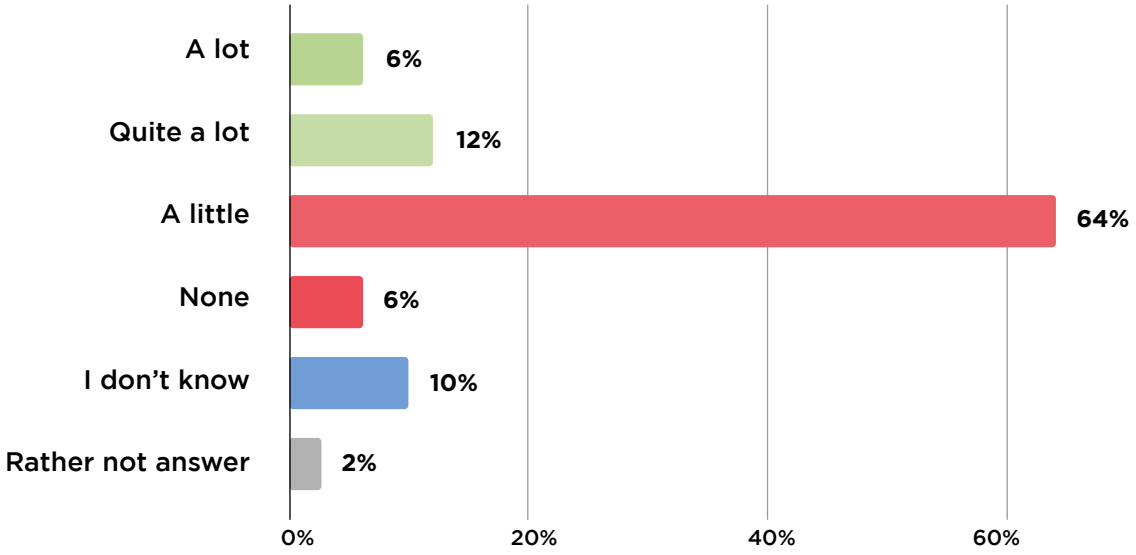
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because it is a multiple-choice question.*

Among the circumstances through which information about organ and tissue donation was received by people, the following stand out: television (**59%**), social media (**39%**), followed by newspapers and/or magazines and radio, in both cases with **19%**. On the other side, only **14%** of the surveyed people identified having received information from teachers or at educational instances. This might be related to the absence of specific training about the subject within the different academic paths of the educational system. It is noteworthy that **16%** of the people that answered the survey stated not having seen information about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

FIGURE 19

Perception about the amount of available information about organ and tissue donation in Argentina



Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Aligned with what has been observed regarding the unawareness of the surveyed people about the issue, when asked about their perception on the amount of information available, **70%** of the surveyed individuals affirmed that it is Little or None. Showing the insufficient information regarding donation promotion. On the contrary, only **18%** agree that the information is A lot or Quite.

Access to information

70% of the surveyed individuals think that there is little or non-available information on tissue and organ donation.

Television and social media are identified as spreading agents of information on organ donation.

Healthcare Personnel



CRUZ ROJA ARGENTINA

OBSERVATORIO HUMANITARIO

Centro de Referencia de la Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja

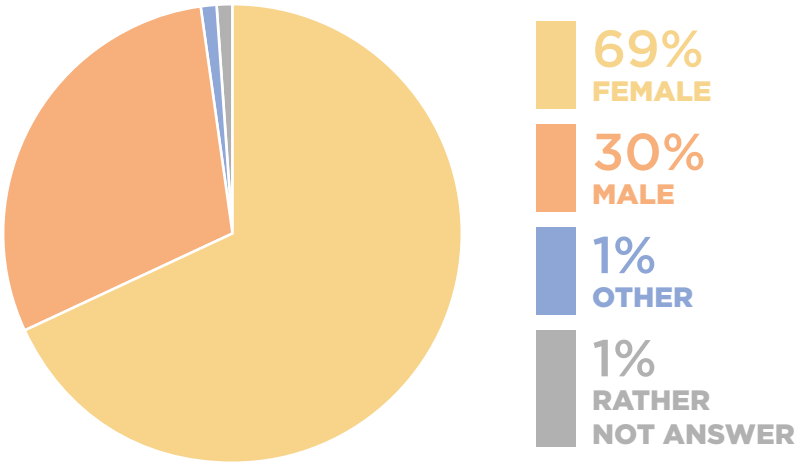
IFRC

Sample profile

With 640 cases in total, demographic data of the surveyed population is presented below:

FIGURE 20

Surveyed Population by Gender



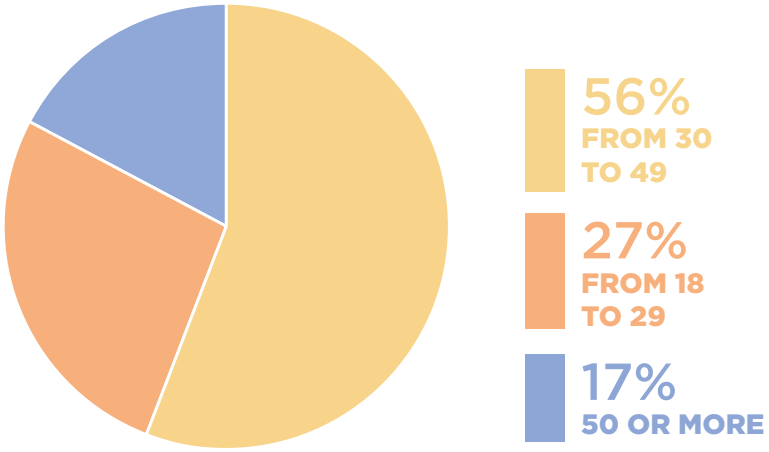
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

From the total of the surveyed population, it is observed that **69%** are female, a **30%** male and **1%** indicated "Other".

FIGURE 21

Surveyed Population by Age



Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Regarding age range, at the time of taking the survey **56%** of the surveyed individuals were between 30 and 49, **27%** between 18 and 29, and **17%** more than 50.

TABLE 7

Residence area

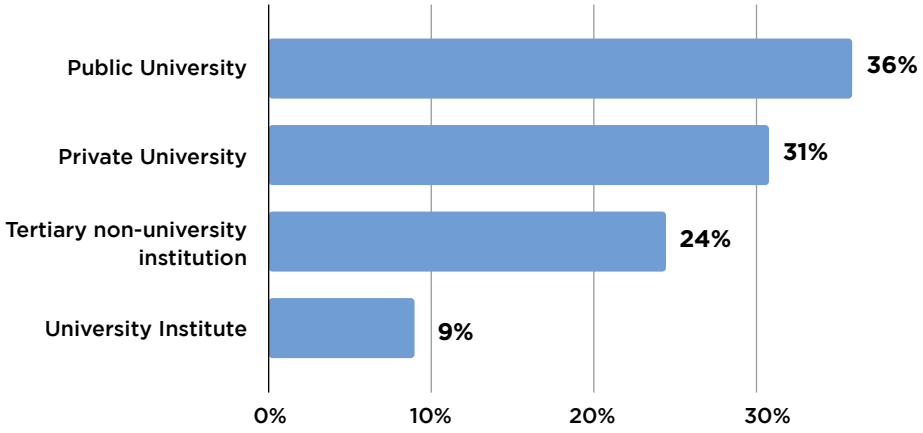
Residence Area	%
BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE AND CABA	47%
CUYO	18%
NEA	11%
NOA	10%
CENTER	7%
PATAGONIA	7%

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

FIGURE 22

Institution where academic training was received



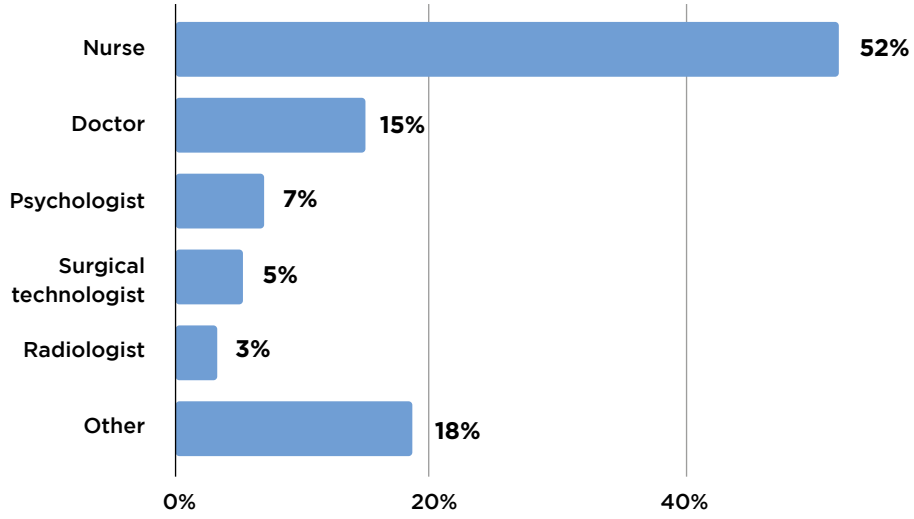
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Surveyed people state, in greater measure (**36%**), to have studied in public universities, **31%** in private institutions, and lastly a **24%** was trained in non-university tertiary institutions.

FIGURE 23

Profession



Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

More than half (**52%**) of the surveyed individuals work as nurses. Among those who chose "Other" (**18%**), dentists and physiotherapists stand out. **15%** work as doctors, **7%** as psychologists, **5%** as surgical technologists, and **3%** as radiologists

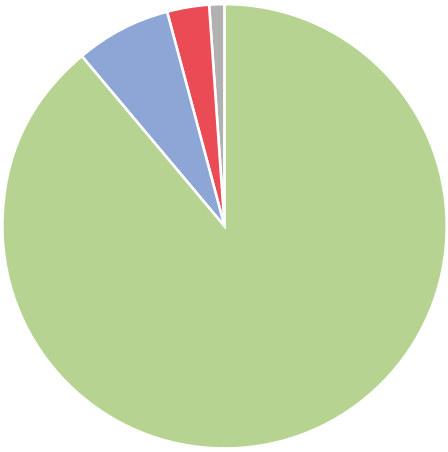
Argentine Red Cross
Comodoro Rivadavia Branch



Position taken on the subject

FIGURE 24

Position taken on organ and tissue donation for transplantation



90% IN FAVOR

7% HAVE NO POSITION TAKEN

3% AGAINST

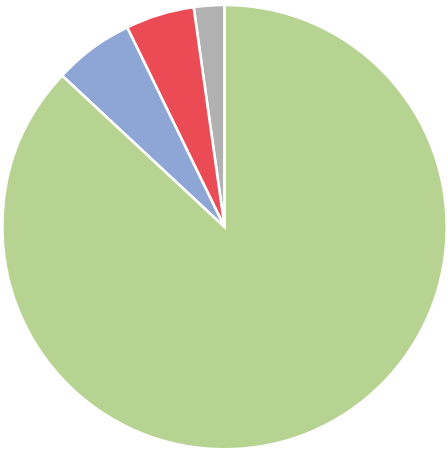
1% RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

FIGURE 25

Disposition to donate organs and tissues



87% YES

6% I DON´T KNOW

5% NO

2% RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

There is a high level of agreement regarding organ and tissue donation among health-care personnel. **90%** of the surveyed population are in favor, and **87%** are willing to donate their organs and/or tissues after death.

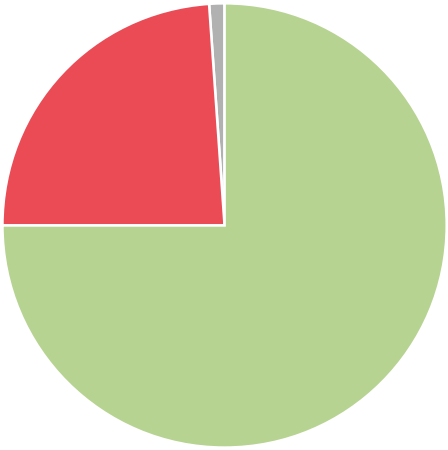
Position taken on organ and tissue donation

90%

of the healthcare personnel are in favor of organ and tissue donation.

FIGURE 26

Inform family and/or friends about the decision of donating organs or tissues



75%
YES

24%
NO

1%
PREFIERE NO RESPONDER

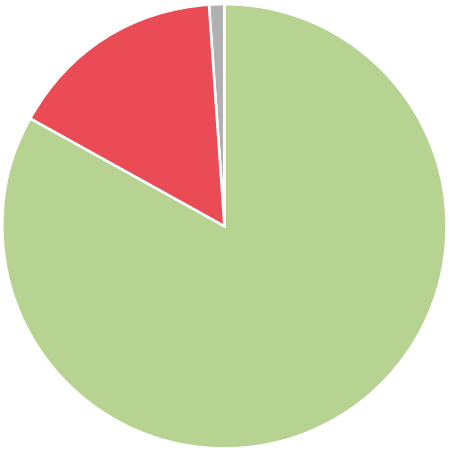
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

A high percentage of the surveyed healthcare personnel (**75%**) has informed their family and friends their will, surpassing the total of the general population that have informed it to their close ones (**58%**).

FIGURE 27

Knowledge about the organ donation applicable law in Argentina



"Did you know that, according to law, in Argentina every person is a donor, unless they have expressed their refusal during their lifetime?"

84%
YES, I DID

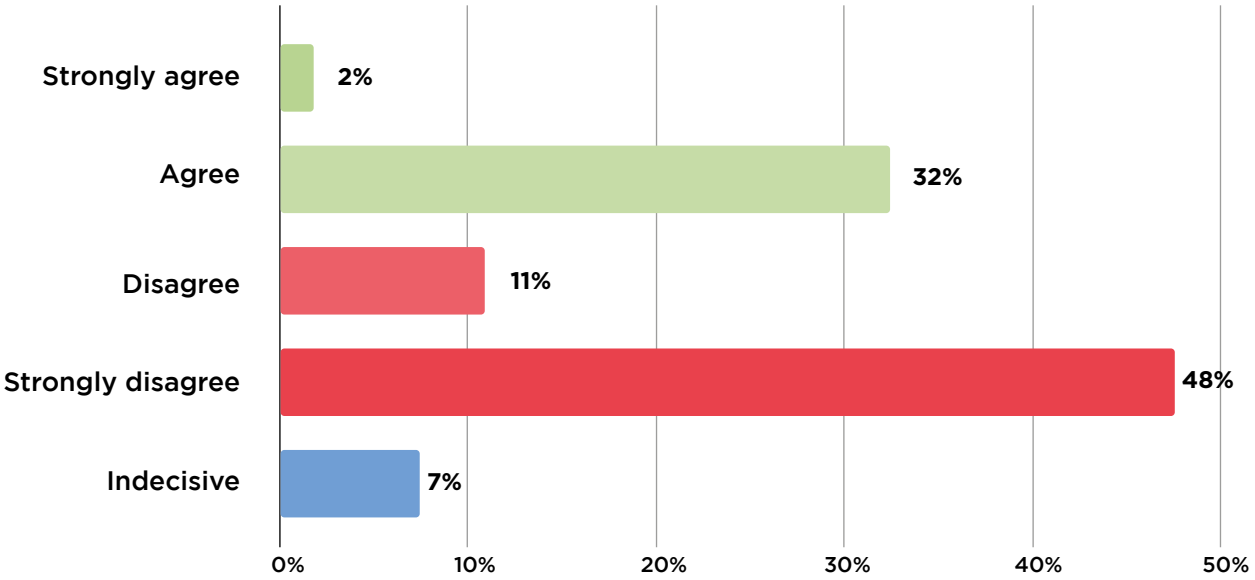
16%
NO, I DIDN´T

1%
RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

FIGURE 28

Position regarding the concept of "presumed donor"



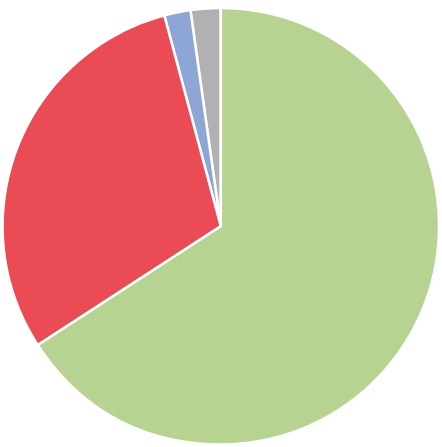
Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Unlike the lack of information about the current legal framework among general public (only **48%** were familiarized with the presumed donor law), **84%** of healthcare personnel stated to be familiarized the law. Nevertheless, only **34%** Agree or Strongly agree with it.

Received training about the subject

FIGURE 29

Training about organ and tissue donation during the academic trajectory



66% YES

30% NO

2% I DON´T KNOW

2% RATHER NOT ANSWER

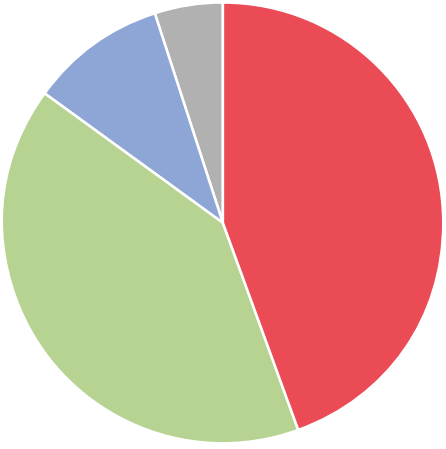
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

More than two thirds (**66%**) of the surveyed individuals manifested having received specific training about organ and tissue donation throughout their academic trajectory. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that **30%** of the surveyed individuals claim not to have received it.

FIGURE 30

Considerations about the training received



Do you consider that the contents taught were sufficient?

Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

45% NO

41% YES

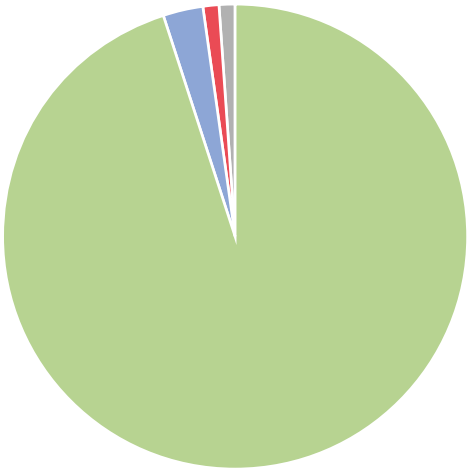
10% I DON´T KNOW

5% RATHER NOT ANSWER

45% of surveyed individuals stated that the instruction about organ and tissue donation was insufficient. Besides, there is a **10%** of responses from individuals that do not know if their instruction on the subject was sufficient or not. It is worth mentioning that **41%** of the respondents consider sufficient the content received about the subject.

FIGURE 31

Considerations on the importance of incorporating content on organ donation into the Curriculum



Do you consider important to incorporate this subject into the curriculum of health-related graduate degrees (or at least into yours)?

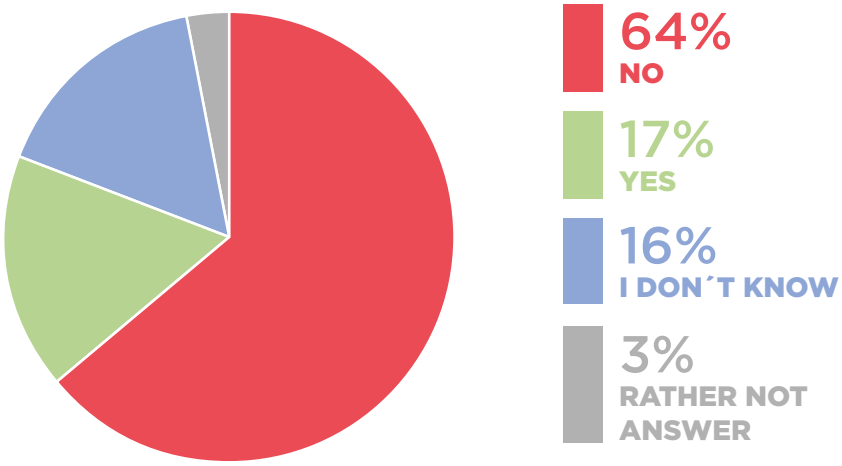
95% YES
3% I DON´T KNOW
1% NO
1% RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

It is almost unanimous (**95%**) the perception on the importance of incorporating the subject about organ and tissue donation into the curriculum of health-related graduate degrees. Only a **3%** of the surveyed individuals stated not knowing, **1%** do not find it of importance and **1%** preferred not to respond.

FIGURE 32

Perceptions regarding whether the available educational offerings related to the topic are sufficient or not



Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Despite the considerations reflected in *figure 31* regarding the importance of teaching the topic, **64%** of the surveyed individuals affirm that there is not sufficient educational offering. If we add the **16%** of individuals who do not know, the result is that **8 out of 10 people** in the healthcare sector state that they either lack knowledge or there is insufficient educational offering regarding the subject of organ and tissue donation.

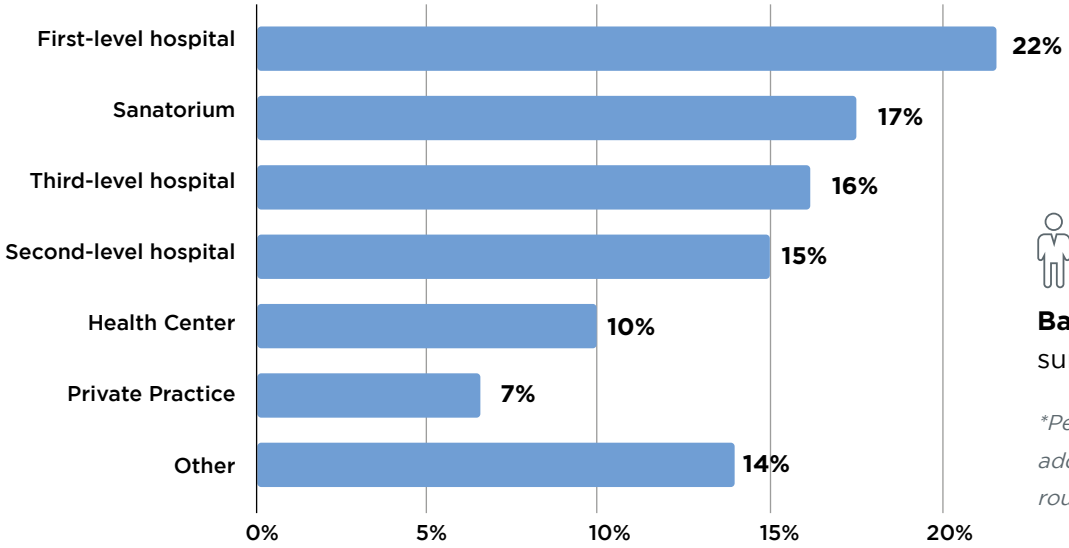
Perceptions about the educational offer available

8 out of 10 individuals
belonging to the healthcare personnel
state that do not know or that there is not enough educational offer regarding organ and tissue donation.

Addressing the issue in work institutions

FIGURE 33

Type of institution where you work



Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

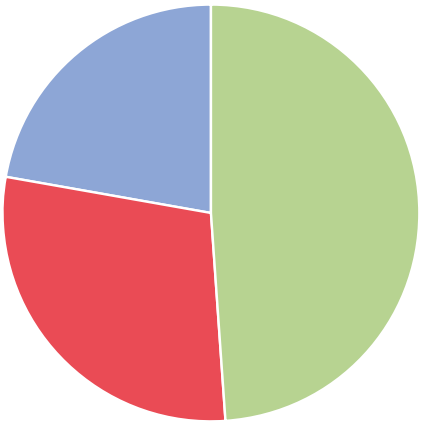
22% of the surveyed individuals work in first-level hospitals, followed by a **17%** who stated working in sanatoriums, and a **16%** that work in a third-level hospital. It is worth mentioning that a high percentage of people work in other types of institutions (**14%**). In general, they manifest working in a private practice or in a Social Security office.



Argentine Red Cross
Neuquén Branch

FIGURE 34

Knowledge about the organ and tissue donation protocol



49%
YES

29%
NO

22%
I DON'T HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF IT

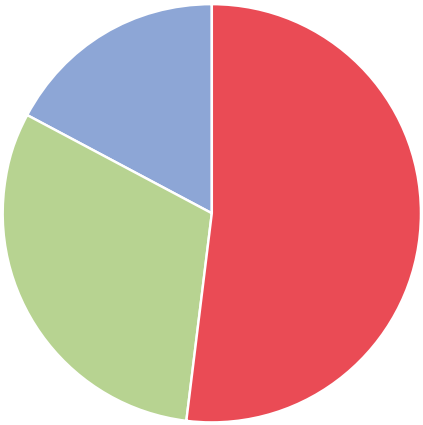
Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Only half of the surveyed individuals (**49%**) claim to know the organ and tissue donation protocol. Nevertheless, in line with *figure 30*, and considering the general lack of awareness about the subject, **5 out of 10 people state that they do not know it or do not have a clear understanding of it.**

FIGURE 35

Undertaking activities related with organ and tissue donation at the workplace



52%
NO

31%
YES

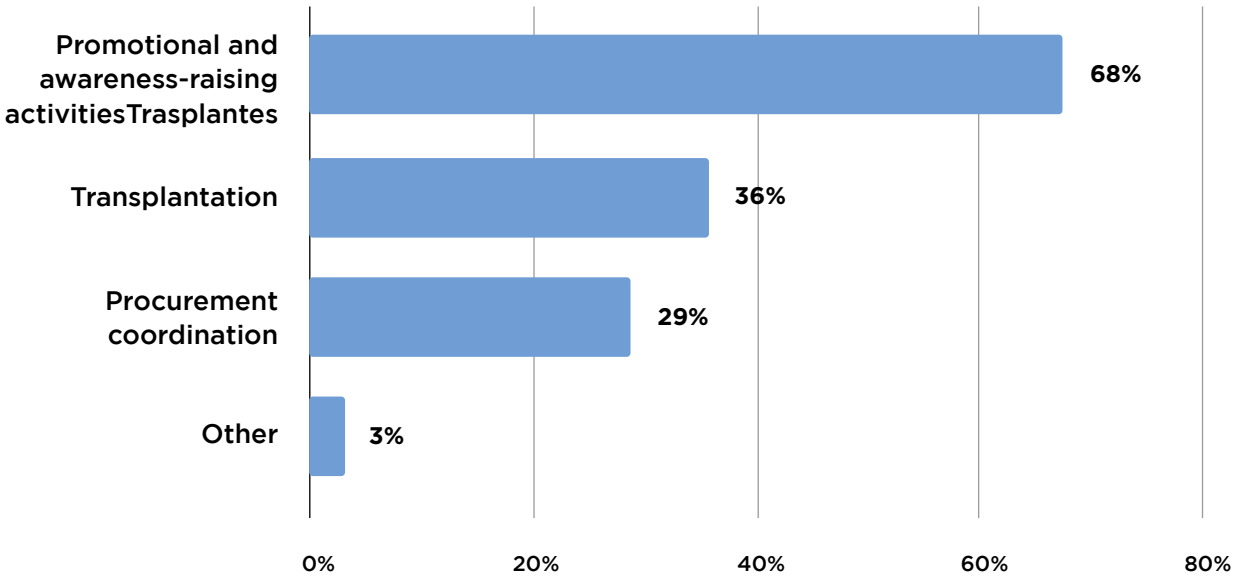
17%
I DON´T KNOW

Base: total population surveyed.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

More than a half (**52%**) of the surveyed population state that there are no activities related to organ or tissue donation at their workplace. Only **31%** said that there are activities of this kind. It is relevant to notice that **17%** are not aware about the practices carried out at their workplace.

36 Types of activities developed



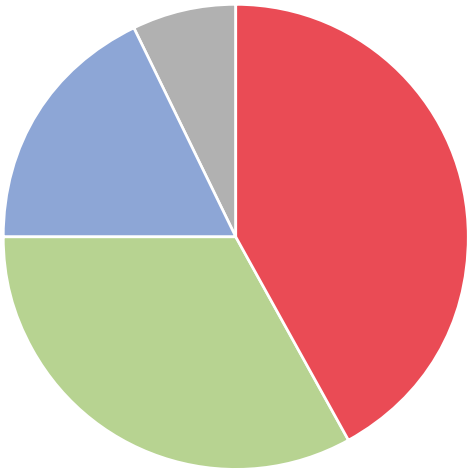
Base: total individuals whose workplaces undertake activities related to organ donation.

** Percentages might not add up to 100% because it is a multiple-choice question.*

More than two thirds (**68%**) of the surveyed individuals claim that promotional and awareness-raising activities are carried out at their workplace. Secondly, **36%** of surveyed individuals stated that organ transplantation procedures are conducted at their workplace. Finally, **29%** affirm that procurement coordination is carried out.

Training, spreading and instructive activities

37 Educational activities



Are there any educational activities targeted to healthcare teams?

42% NO

33% YES

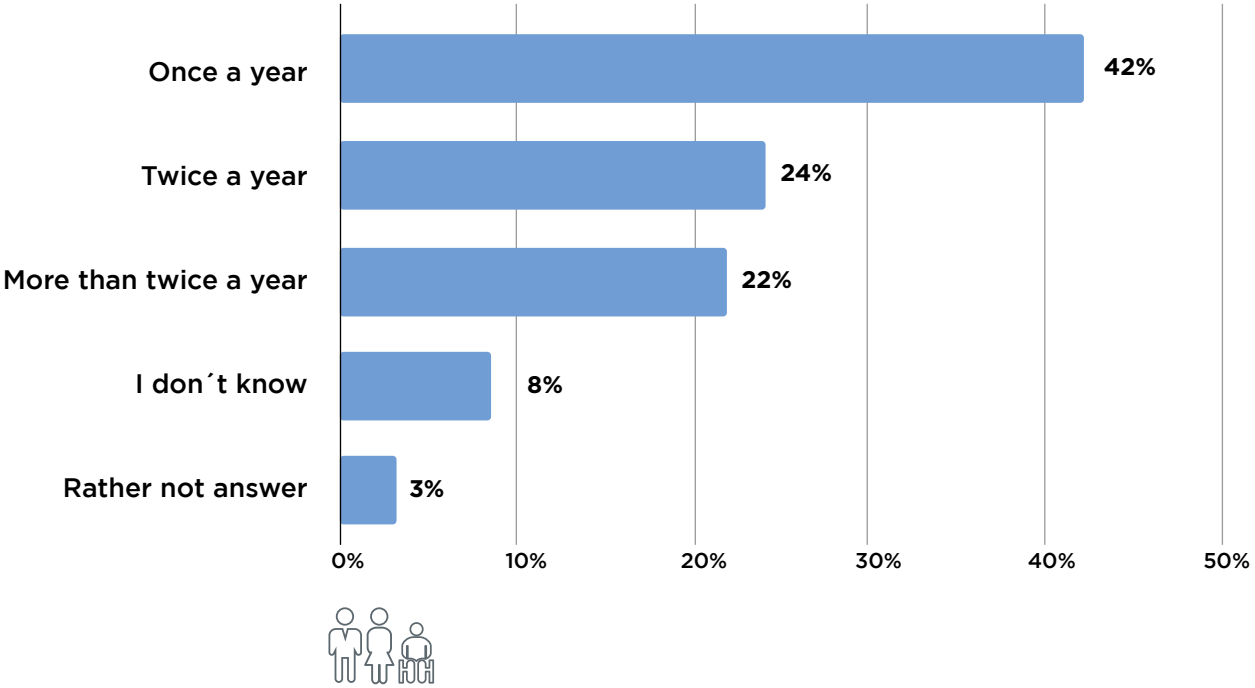
18% I DON´T KNOW

7% RATHER NOT ANSWER

Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because it is a multiple-choice question.*

By reading *figure 37* it is noticeable that **4 out of 10** surveyed individuals affirm that that there are no educational activities specifically aimed at healthcare teams regarding organ donation in their workplace institution. Additionally, when combining the percentages of those who preferred not to answer and those who do not know, a total of **25%** is reached. This does not indicate a positive response either.

38 Frequency of educational activities

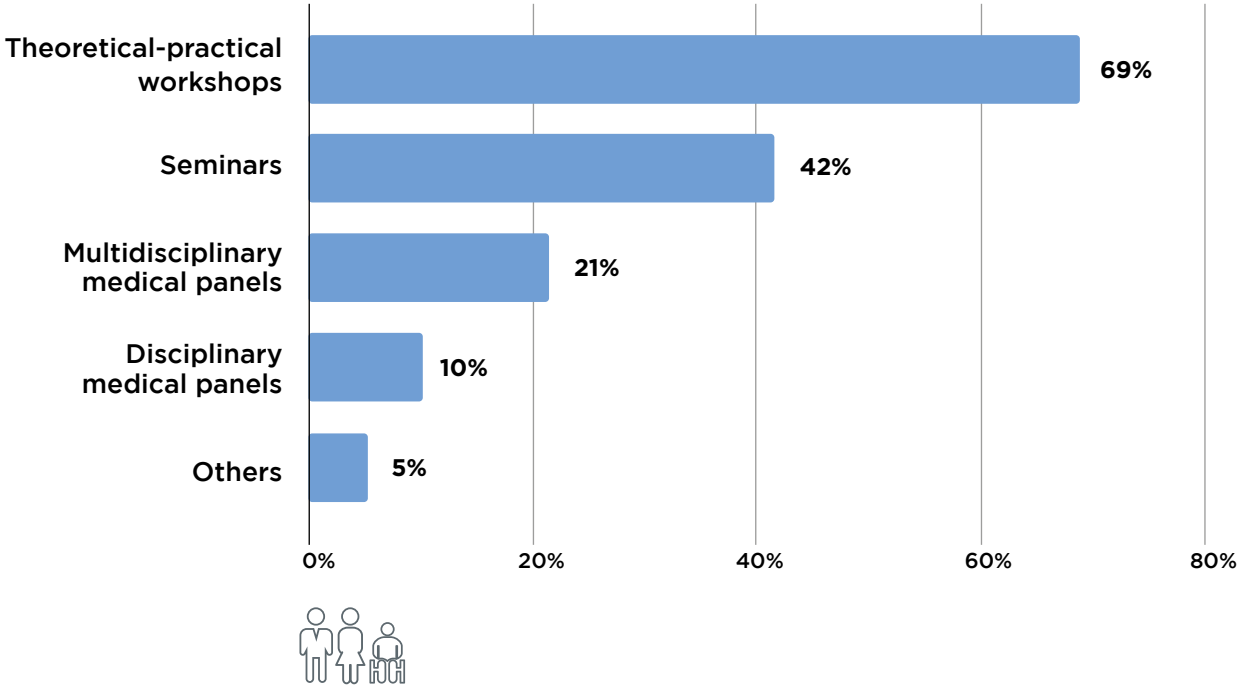


Base: total individuals whose workplaces undertake educational activities related to the subject.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Of those who claim that educational activities are conducted in their workplace, **4 out of 10 (42%)** state that the activities are held once a year. Secondly, **24%** affirm that such activities occur twice a year. Finally, **22%** express that they are conducted more than twice annually.

39 Educational method employed for staff training

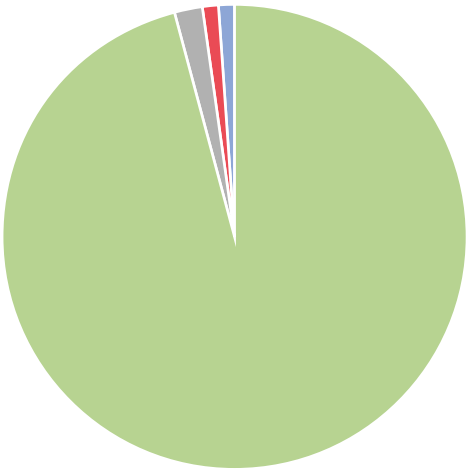


Base: total individuals whose workplaces undertake educational activities related to the subject.

**Percentages might not add up to 100% because it is a multiple-choice question.*

The most applied educational method for healthcare teams training is theoretical-practical workshops (**69%**). In second place, seminars stand out (**42%**), and, finally, disciplinary, and multidisciplinary medical panels (**10%** and **21%** respectively).

40 Training activities at workplace institutions



Do you consider it important for staff training and/or updating activities on this topic to be carried out within hospitals and healthcare institutions?

96% YES
2% RATHER NOT ANSWER
1% NO
1% I DON'T KNOW

Base: total population surveyed.
**Percentages might not add up to 100% because of rounding procedures.*

Similar to what is reflected in *figure 31*, there is nearly unanimous agreement (**96%**) on the importance of continuous training and updating of healthcare staff in the field of organ and tissue donation.

CONCLUSIONS

This research explores about the knowledge that the general population and the healthcare personnel in Argentina have about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. The results reflect a high degree of agreement regarding donation in the surveyed individuals, empathizing with potential recipients and donors. Nevertheless, there is a high level of unawareness about the subject and the existent legal framework. Besides, a great disparity regarding the positioning and the access to information is observed in the general population, depending on the educational level accomplished.

Based on the results obtained, it is evident that the topic of organ and tissue donation is complex, multidimensional, and involves diverse stakeholders. It cannot be taken for granted that the population have access to and is aware of the available resources and materials; rather, active efforts must be made to build and maintain spreading programs and campaigns aimed at enhancing the knowledge of every sector on the subject, with a particular emphasis on groups that have shown higher levels of indecision or lack of positioning on key notions such as the presumed donor concept.

According to the results of the research, there is also a lack of trust that stands out among some of the surveyed individuals regarding organ and tissue donation transparency and protection process. This indicates the need to work on the access to information, myths and taboos around the issue, and guaranteeing the safety of every actor involved.

Concerning healthcare personnel, it is observed a lack of knowledge about the donation process, and even though they have greater knowledge about the current legal framework, most of them disagrees with *"presumed consent"*. They are better informed than the general public, but it is still insufficient. This is important because healthcare personnel are directly involved in the donation process, and they are responsible for clear and timely communication of the death and the donation. It is of utmost impor-

tance to strengthen training activities about the actions that involve them. This will allow to create both a foundational knowledge base regarding the subject among healthcare personnel and the expansion of potential awareness directed towards the general population by healthcare providers.

Lastly, **4,317 people were part of this research** by sharing their experiences, opinions, and time by answering every question of the survey. This made it possible to obtain valuable information that will allow deepening the implemented actions, creating new programs and projects, and contributing from the multiple affected areas to promote organ and tissue donation and help saving and improving the lives of those who are waiting for a donation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Results presented in this report may function as a foundation for future research. In particular, this report recommends that the entities, organizations, and stakeholders involved in the organ and tissue donation process undertake specific actions to implement the **following recommendations:**

1. Strengthen the activity of national awareness campaigns among the general public, spreading key concepts regarding organ and tissue donation and transplantation.



2. Include the subject of organ and tissue donation and transplantation into the different curricula at every educational level.



3. Develop specialized curricula and training programs on the subject that are available in the different academic institutions within the framework of health-related programs.



4. Encourage the development of sensitization activities in communal centers such as primary health care centers, neighborhood clubs, community development societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs).



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The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Humanity

The **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

The Movement makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary Service

The Movement is based on voluntary service and is not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

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The **Humanitarian Observatory of the Argentine Red Cross** is a **Reference Center for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** and it is part of the **Red Cross and Red Crescent Research Consortium (RC3)**. It is a research area for taking action. Through knowledge and awareness, seeks to favor the understanding and the approach of the different situations that our society goes through, from a humanitarian perspective.

https://cruzroja.org.ar/observatorio-humanitario/

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