



EYE BANK ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information please contact:
Rusty Kelly (202) 775-4999 x 16
Vice President rusty@restoresight.org

EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES EYE BANKING STATISTICS FOR 2007

WASHINGTON, DC – The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) announces the eye banking statistics for 2007. The full statistical report, "Statistical Report on Eye Banking Activity for 2007" will be available shortly. The report is a compilation of information provided to the EBAA by 76 U.S. and 9 international eye banks and reflects an essentially complete picture of eye banking activity in the United States.

In 2007, the number of donations reported by EBAA U.S. members increased 7% to 82,741, up from 77,135 in 2006. Total corneal grafts provided for transplant by EBAA U.S. member eye banks also increased 11% to 50,122 from 45,035 in 2006. The number of transplants performed in the U.S rose by 16% to 39,391, up from 33,962 in 2006. The most significant number was the 133% increase in the numbers of tissue provided for endothelial keratoplasty (EK) procedures. In 2006, 6,027 tissues were provided for EK procedures, compared with 14,159 in 2007. The amount of tissue offered for research increased for the first time in several years, to 13,824 from 11,845. Eyes provided for training and education decreased slightly to 4,801 from 4858.

The following U.S. eye banks reported the highest number of corneas provided for transplant:

SightLife	Seattle, WA	2,801
Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research	Tampa, FL	2,706
The North Carolina Eye Bank	Winston-Salem, NC	2,011
Alabama Eye Bank	Birmingham, AL	1,971
Heartland Lions Eye Bank, Kansas City	Kansas City, MO	1,876
Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank	Aurora, CO	1,604
Michigan Eye-Bank	Ann Arbor, MI	1,416
Indiana Lions Eye & Tissue Transplant Bank	Indianapolis, IN	1,268
Georgia Eye Bank	Atlanta, GA	1,244
Minnesota Lions Eye Bank	Minneapolis, MN	1,206

The following U.S. eye banks reported the highest number of corneas/whole globes provided for research:

Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research	Tampa, FL	2366
San Diego Eye Bank	San Diego, CA	1587
Heartland Lions Eye Bank, Kansas City	Kansas City, MO	1456
The North Carolina Eye Bank	Winston-Salem, NC	1067
Minnesota Lions Eye Bank--Vision Share	Minneapolis, MN	818
Georgia Eye Bank	Atlanta, GA	613
SightLife	Seattle, WA	584
Lions Eye Bank of Oregon	Portland, OR	530
Iowa Lions Eye Bank	Iowa City, IA	429
Upstate New York Transplant Services, Inc.	Buffalo, NY	267

For statistical reporting purposes, eye banks count all of their facilities that distribute from a centralized area, under one legal entity. When the EBAA reports a higher membership total in its materials, it bases its count on an accreditation list that separates each facility that is inspected, even if it belongs to an umbrella agency.

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the nation. The EBAA is dedicated to the restoration of sight through the promotion and advancement of eye banking. It has led the transplantation field with the establishment of medical standards for the distribution of eyes and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye banking personnel. These standards have been used as models for other transplantation organizations. Member eye banks operate in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. These eye banks make it possible for more than 44,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants annually.

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