



EYE BANK ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

PRESS RELEASE

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EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES EYE BANKING STATISTICS FOR 2008

WASHINGTON, DC – The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) announces eye banking statistics for 2008. The full statistical report, "Statistical Report on Eye Banking Activity for 2008" is available to EBAA members and may be purchased by non-members by going to <http://www.restoresight.org/donation/statistics.htm>. The report is a compilation of information provided to the EBAA by 77 U.S. and nine international eye banks and reflects an essentially complete picture of eye banking activity in the United States.

In 2008, the number of donations reported by EBAA U.S. members increased 11.5% to 92,306, up from 82,741 in 2007. Total corneal grafts provided for transplant by EBAA U.S. member eye banks also increased 8.4% to 54,359 from 50,122 in 2007. The number of transplants performed in the U.S. rose by 5.7% to 41,652, up from 39,391 in 2007. The numbers of tissue provided for endothelial keratoplasty (EK) procedures increased by 30% to 18,375 from 14,159 in 2007. In 2006, 6,027 tissues were provided for EK procedures, compared with 14,159 in 2007. The amount of tissue offered for research decreased slightly, to 13,682 from 13,824. Eyes provided for training and education increased by 12.1% to 5,385 from 4,801.

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, and represents 100% of the not-for-profit eye banking community in the

United States. 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 50,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants annually.

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