

New Report Shows 22% Increase in Kidney Transplants

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Data show more transplants for patients with longer dialysis times and across ethnic groups.

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A report on the first three and a half months of the recent kidney and pancreas allocation policies indicated that kidney transplants have increased for all ethnicities, blood types, pediatric patients and those with longer wait times on dialysis.

The new policy continues to improve the organ allocation system by focusing even more on the medical needs of patients. As demand increased across the country, the previous system's emphasis on physical boundaries produced inequitable variations between available donor organs and patients in need. By reducing the impact of physical boundaries, the system better serves the sickest patients while increasing equity.

The data in this report show that the policy is working as intended and directly benefiting patients.

Other key takeaways from the report include:

- The 22% increase overall includes a 25% increase for Black waitlisted patients, a 36% increase for Hispanic waitlisted patients, and a 27% increase for Asian waitlisted patients.
- Median time on dialysis at the time of the patient's transplant increased from 4.1 to 4.5 years with the new policy - meaning sicker patients with higher dialysis times are now getting transplants more frequently under the new system.
- Approximately 70 percent of transplant hospitals had the same or more kidney transplants post-vs. pre-policy.
- As predicted by simulation models, the proportion of transplants occurring within 250 nautical miles of the donor hospital increased. Transplants outside the previous system's geographic boundaries also increased. *This indicates the policy prioritizes medical need over location.*

UNOS will continue to monitor the new policies to ensure the system continues to provide equitable opportunity for a lifesaving transplant for all patients on the waiting list.

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) serves as the national donation and transplant system, under contract with the federal government. **Contact:** Chelsea.Haynes@unos.org | 804-782-2958