

Disparities Related to Transplantation Among Undocumented Immigrants

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Portrait of Undocumented Immigrants





Jas

@jasballss



My dad got denied his heart transplant due to not being a legal US resident and has up to 4 weeks to 1 year to live. TWITTER PLEASE DO YOUR THING AND HELP THIS GO VIRAL TO SEEK HELP.



3:40 PM · Jan 13, 2018 from Harbor-UCLA Medical Center · Twitter for iPhone

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Challenges related to getting on waitlist

- Financial
 - Health Insurance
 - Socio-economic status



Challenges related to getting on waitlist

- Language & culturally responsive care
 - Availability of language interpreters
 - Misinformation & delay in waitlisting



Challenges related to getting on waitlist

- Distrust
 - Discrimination
 - Reluctance to seek medical care



Steps to reduce inequities

- Policy level intervention
- Clinic/ health systems level intervention: Patient-centered conversations that are language concordant & culturally responsive



Waitlisting Undocumented Immigrants

Argument against

- Scarce organs

Counterargument

- Undocumented immigrants disproportionately contribute to the pool of donated organs
- Higher rates of living donors



Waitlisting Undocumented Immigrants

Argument against

- Immigrants may lose graft

Counterargument

- Unethical to use non-medical factors as proxy for likelihood of success
- No difference in graft survival between undocumented immigrants and US citizens

Waitlisting Undocumented Immigrants

Argument against

- Immigrants are a financial drain

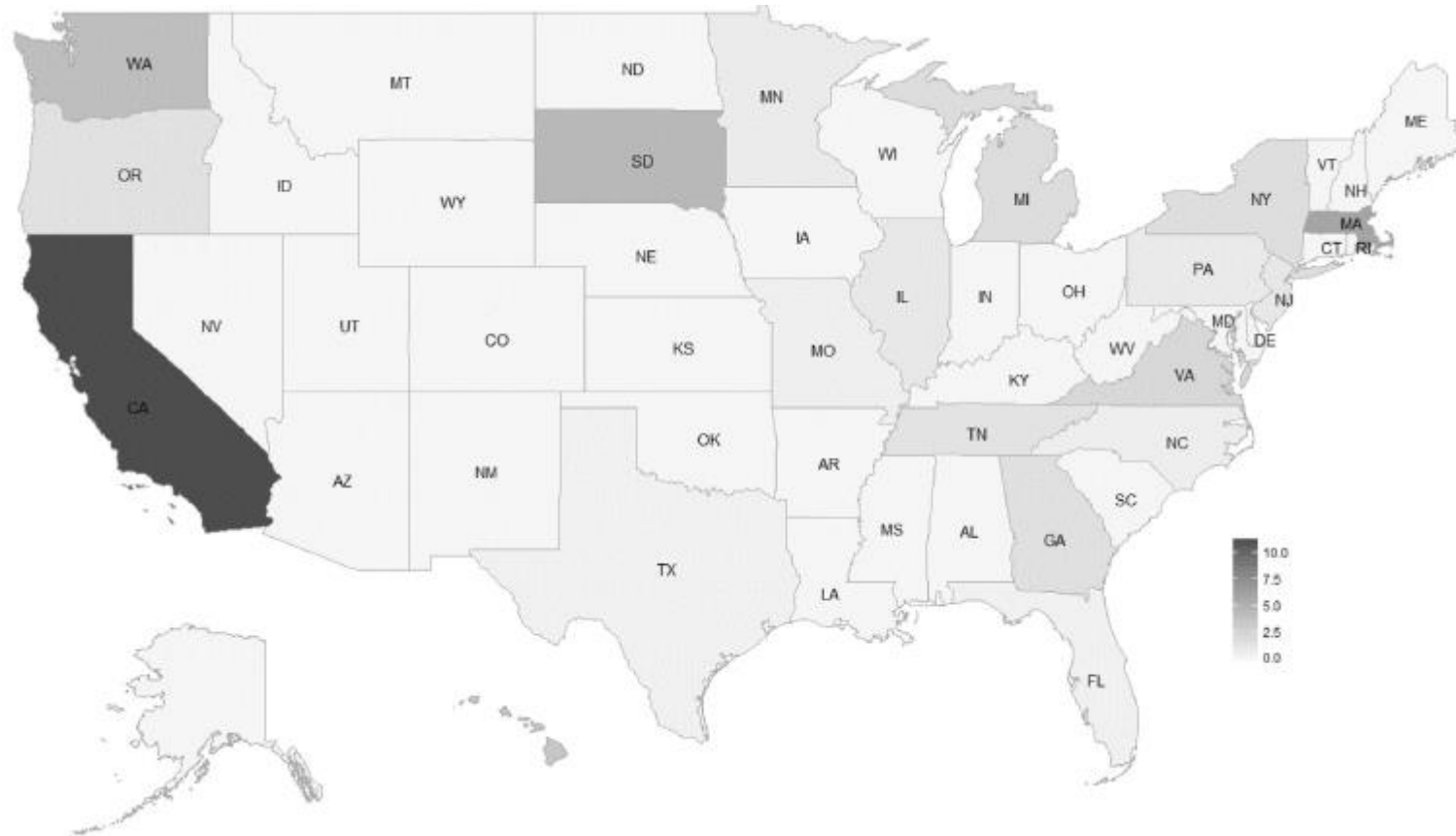
Counterargument

- Undocumented immigrants more likely to rejoin workforce & contribute to the Medicare Trust Fund.
- Cost-savings, especially when alternative is emergency care

Future Research

- Proportion of undocumented who are not referred – no literature
- Amount of time from referral to waitlist – no literature
- Transplant outcomes between undocumented & documented Medicaid patients – no literature on heart and lung
- Severity of illness at time of transplantation – no literature on heart, lung
- Cost-effectiveness study comparing emergency care to transplantation – no literature on liver, heart, lung
- Assess patient level education regarding benefits of transplantation

Percent of adult Medicaid patients who received kidney transplants from 1990-2011 who were undocumented by state



Ca (24.4), NY (2.6), and MA (1.8) performed transplantation on the most undocumented immigrants