

### **Unemployment and Shared Decision Making in an Inner-city Population of Dialysis and Kidney Transplant Patients**

We compare the disease burden and attitudes in people who are currently receiving dialysis and people who underwent kidney transplantation in an inner-city population. A telephone survey on a random sample of 21 dialysis patients and 40 kidney transplant patients was conducted. There was also no difference in employment status between dialysis patients and transplant patients (Dialysis patients: 15% (3/20) employed, 35% (7/20) unemployed, 15% (3/20) retired, 35% (7/20) disability/SSI. Transplant patients: 23% (8/35) employed, 29% (10/35) unemployed, 3% (1/35) retired, 46% (16/35) disability/SSI). There was no difference between the answers given by dialysis and transplant patients when asked about the effect of their disease on their worklife; 71% dialysis patients and 73% transplant patients report having to stop working due to their disease. However, 13 of 13 (100%) kidney transplant patients compared to 9 of 20 (45%) dialysis patients reported they are able to do the same things as age-matched individuals without disease ( $p = 0.01$ ). 12 of 21 (57%) dialysis patients sought care for an emergency during COVID, while only 3 of 23 (13%) kidney transplant patients sought care ( $p = 0.002$ ). 6 of 21 (29%) dialysis patients and 2 of 31 (7%) transplant patients reported having the flu last fall ( $p = 0.03$ ). 20 of 20 (100%) of dialysis patients take part in shared-decision making with their providers, with only 10 of 14 (71%) transplant patients doing so ( $p = 0.01$ ). In our population: The majority of both dialysis and kidney transplant patients were unemployed but a higher number of dialysis patients report their health has limited their abilities and dialysis patients sought emergency care more than transplant patients. The lack of employment difference in this population is concerning as transplant patients are generally healthier than their dialysis counterparts and factors preventing their employment should be explored.