

## **Confidence in COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines Among Inner-City Nephrology Patients**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We studied level of trust in state and federal public health guidelines regarding COVID19 among CKD, dialysis and KTx pts from an underserved community at high risk for COVID19 and relationship to mask wearing and attitudes towards policing.

### **METHODS**

Pts from CKD (20), dialysis (21) and KTx (40) Clinics were surveyed by telephone regarding trust in state and federal COVID-19 guidelines and concerns regarding the virus and policing. Results did not differ between clinics and were analyzed together.

### **RESULTS**

Mean age was 57.4 +/- 13.2. 82% (62) were African American, 8% (6) Hispanic, 4% (3) Southeast Asian, 1% (1) Caucasian, and 5% (4) Other/Mixed Race. 46% (37) were male and 54% (44) female. Older age was associated with trust in state COVID-19 guidelines ( $r=0.27$ ,  $p=0.04$ ). The belief that alternative medicine can cure COVID-19 was inversely correlated with trust in state guidelines ( $r=-0.29$ ,  $p=0.03$ ). Agreement with the statement, "I am afraid of the coronavirus (COVID-19)" was positively correlated with trust in state guidelines ( $r=0.28$ ,  $p=0.04$ ); there was no correlation with trust in federal guidelines. Trust in state and federal guidelines was correlated with composite scores for positive attitudes towards police ( $r=0.37$   $p=0.02$  and  $r=0.40$ ,  $p=0.01$ , respectively). Trust in state (but not federal) guidelines was positively correlated with trust in doctors if they wore a face mask ( $r=0.37$ ,  $p=0.01$ ), use of face masks in crowds ( $r=0.32$ ,  $p=0.02$ ), and belief in importance of masks in public spaces ( $r=0.27$ ,  $p=0.04$ ). Trust in state guidelines was positively correlated with trust in federal guidelines ( $r=0.67$ ,  $p<.001$ ).

### **CONCLUSION**

In our population: 1. Pts who expressed trust in state guidelines were more likely to be older, to trust federal guidelines, to be more afraid of COVID-19, to have positive attitudes towards police, and to understand the importance of mask wearing. 2. Pts who believed in alternative medicine were less likely to trust state and fede