

The Retraction of Living Kidney Donation Is Most Marked among the Poor

Jagbir Gill¹, James Dong¹, Caren L. Rose¹, John S. Gill¹

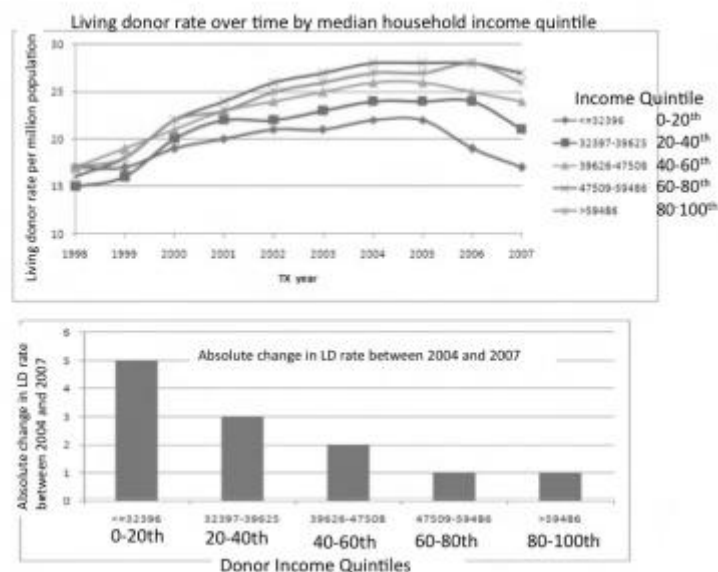
¹Nephrology, St. Paul's Hospital, University of BC, Vancouver, BC, Canada

BACKGROUND: Lower socioeconomic status is associated with a higher incidence of ESRD, yet reduced access to living donor kidney transplantation (Gore et al. AJT 2009). For reasons that are unclear, the number of living kidney donors in the US has decreased in recent years.

In this analysis we determine longitudinal changes in the rate of living donation (LD) as a function of median household income.

METHODS: LD rates per million population, stratified by median household income, were calculated between 2000 and 2007 using data from OPTN/UNOS and the US 2000 Census.

RESULTS: The figure shows that the rates of LD are inversely correlated with median household income. Rates of living kidney donation declined in all income groups over time, but the largest decline was seen in the lowest income group.



CONCLUSION: Living kidney donation decreased most rapidly among lower socioeconomic groups. Removing financial disincentives to living kidney donation may be an important strategy to prevent ongoing retraction of living kidney donation.