

Increase in employment among patients starting dialysis

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(HealthDay)—The probability of employment has increased in recent

years among patients initiating dialysis but is still low, according to a study published online Jan. 18 in the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*.

Kevin F. Erickson, M.D., from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and colleagues used data from a national end-stage renal disease (ESRD) registry to examine [employment](#) trends over time among [patients](#) aged 18 to 54 years who initiated dialysis between 1996 and 2013.

The researchers found that the employment rate was 23 to 24 percent among patients starting dialysis throughout the study period; 38 percent of patients who were employed six months before ESRD stopped working by initiation of dialysis. The probability of employment increased over time after adjustment for observed characteristics; compared with patients starting dialysis between 1996 and 2001, those starting dialysis between 2008 and 2013 had a 4.7 percent increase in the absolute probability of employment at the start of dialysis. Compared with other patients starting dialysis, black and Hispanic patients were less likely to be employed; this gap narrowed during the study period.

"Although working-aged patients in the United States starting dialysis have experienced increases in the adjusted [probability](#) of employment over time, employment at the start of [dialysis](#) has remained low," the authors write.

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