

Racial disparities in kidney transplantation access are highest among young adults

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In a retrospective study of adults initiating kidney failure treatment during 2011-2018, disparities in kidney transplantation by race were highest among patients age 22-44 years of age. Within this age group,

kidney failure was treated by kidney transplantation among 10.9% of white patients but only 1.8% of Black and 4.4% of Hispanic patients.

Research has shown wide racial/ethnic disparities in use of [kidney transplantation](#) and home dialysis, yet how age interacts with these disparities is unknown.

In a study published in the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases (AJKD)*, researchers compared use of kidney replacement therapies between racial/[ethnic groups](#) among patients with incident [kidney failure](#), within age strata, using registry data for 830,402 US adults (>21 years) during 2011- 2018. Absolute disparities in transplantation and home dialysis (outcomes measured at 90 days after treatment initiation) were most pronounced among patients aged 22-44.

After adjusting for numerous patient-level factors, the largest disparities were observed for transplantation among adults age 22-44.

These findings suggest that needs of younger adults should be emphasized in designing interventions to reduce disparities in access to preferred kidney replacement therapies.

More information: Adam S. Wilk et al, Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Kidney Replacement Therapies Among Adults With Kidney Failure: An Observational Study of Variation by Patient Age, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases* (2022). [DOI: 10.1053/j.ajkd.2021.12.012](https://doi.org/10.1053/j.ajkd.2021.12.012)

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