

Understanding Disparities in Progression from Living Donor Candidate Evaluation to Approval: Analysis of the US SRTR Living Donor Collective



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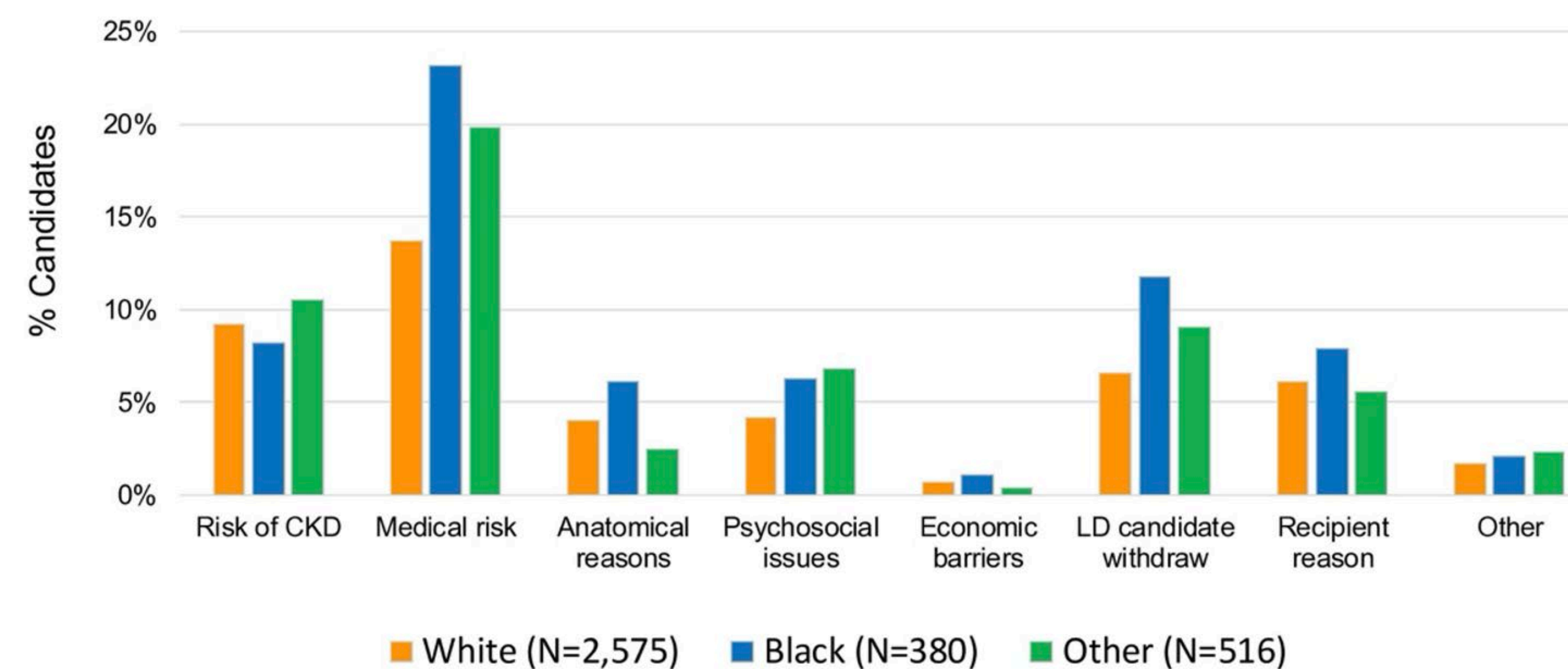
Purpose

- Better understanding of why some **living donor (LD) candidates** do not proceed to donation may improve understanding of disparities in transplant access and guide supportive interventions.
- We examined data from the **Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Living Donor Collective**, a novel LD candidate registry in the US, to assess patterns and reasons for LD candidate **non-approval** according to candidate self-reported race.

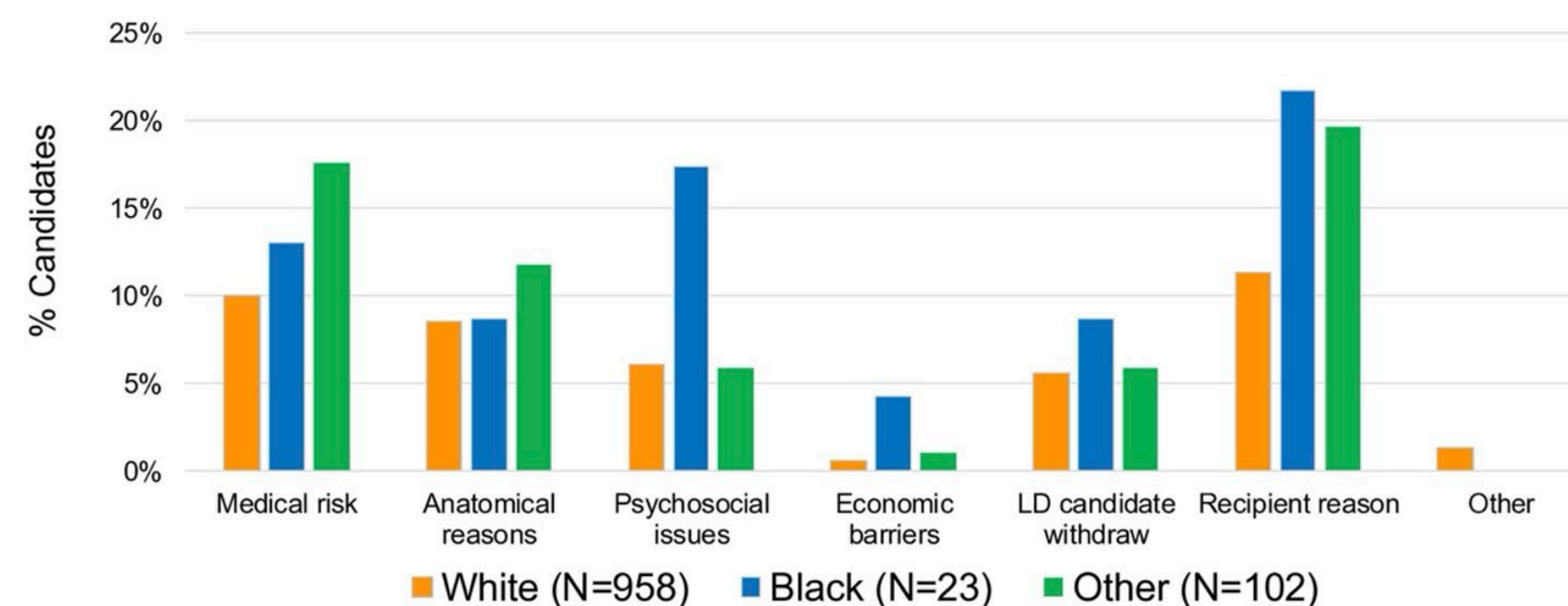
Methods

- LD candidates underwent evaluation at 10 US **kidney** and 6 US **liver** centers (June 1, 2018–November 30, 2024).
- Participating centers registered **LD candidates seen for evaluation** based on data abstracted from medical records.
- The outcome of the candidate evaluation was categorized as “**approved**” or “**not approved/withdrawal**,” with non-approval reasons including chronic kidney disease (CKD), medical risk, anatomical, psychosocial, economic, LD candidate withdrawal, recipient reason, or other (multiple reasons permitted).

Kidney Living Donor Candidate Non-Approval / Withdrawal Patterns, by Race



Liver Living Donor Candidate Non-Approval / Withdrawal Patterns, by Race



Results

- Among **4,554 evaluated LD candidates** (3,471 kidney and 1,083 liver) with a finalized donation decision, **non-approval/withdrawal** was highest among **Black** candidates.
- In **kidney candidates**, **non-approval** was **41.7%** among **White** and **60.3%** among **Black** candidates.
- In **liver candidates**, **non-approval** was **40.3%** among **White** and **60.9%** among **Black** candidates.
- Among **Black vs White kidney LD** candidates, reasons showed a trend of variation by race ($P=.05$): **medical risk** was cited in **23.1%** vs **13.7%**, **CKD risk** in **8.2%** vs **9.2%**, while LD **candidate withdrawal** occurred in **11.8%** vs **6.6%**.
- Among **Black vs White liver LD** candidates, **recipient reasons** for non-donation occurred in **21.7%** vs **11.3%**, **medical risk** exclusions in **13.0%** vs **10.0%**, and **psychosocial concerns** in **17.4%** vs **6.1%** (non-significant due to small n).
- Trends in higher non-approvals were also seen for **Other race** candidates (Figure).

Conclusions

- **Black** LD candidates have **lower rates of approval/retention** than White LD candidates, with trends of **higher medical risk** and LD **candidate withdrawal** among Black **kidney candidates** and more **psychosocial concerns** among Black **liver candidates**.
- Further research should **explore supports to reduce candidate withdrawal** and **psychosocial barriers** to donation, especially among non-White candidates.

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