



Organ Donation in Healthcare versus Non-Healthcare Students

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INTRODUCTION

As of April 2018, over 114,000 Americans were on the national waiting list. Specific cohorts have varying opinions to be organ donors. By identifying similar populations registration rates, future studies can focus why attitudes on organ donation vary to increase the total number of organ donors.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this research study was to examine whether students in healthcare majors have different rates of organ donation registration compared to non-healthcare majors.

METHODS

An anonymous nine question survey was distributed to students at three universities in Western New York, including the University at Buffalo, D'Youville College, and Erie Community College. Flyers were also posted around local universities with a link to the survey, using SurveyMonkey. The surveys collected participants demographics (age, gender, and ethnicity) as well as information regarding their status as an organ donor, and if they anticipated becoming an organ donor in the future (if they were not already currently a registered organ donor). Any participant who was not currently a college student was not included in the study. Data were compiled using Excel. Descriptive statistics (mean, median, mode) and t-test analysis was done using SPSS. Statistical significance was set at $p < .05$.

DISCUSSION

A lack of organ donors is a serious public health issue facing America today. Every day in America, people die while waiting for an organ donation. Results from this study demonstrated that students in healthcare majors have higher rates of organ donor registration compared to students in non-healthcare majors. Future research needs to be conducted to determine why there is a disparity between healthcare and non-healthcare majors in an effort to address the national shortage of organ donors.

Characteristic	Organ Donor	Non-Organ Donor	Total	Organ Donor (%)	P-value
Healthcare	75	63	138	54.3 %	< .05
Non-Healthcare	23	50	73	31.5 %	< .05
Male	40	60	100	40 %	>.05
Female	57	53	110	51.8 %	>.05



Characteristic	Organ Donor	Non-Organ Donor	Total	Organ Donor (%)
Doctoral	20	12	32	62.5 %
Graduate	54	40	94	57.4 %
Senior	10	15	25	40 %
Junior	4	10	14	28.6 %
Sophomore	7	14	21	33.3 %
Freshman	7	18	25	28 %
< 20 (age)	11	30	41	26.8 %
20 – 29 (age)	72	72	144	50 %
> 30 (age)	15	11	26	57.7 %
Caucasian	69	49	118	58.5 %
Black	5	13	18	27.8 %
Asian	11	31	42	26.2 %
Latino	6	12	18	33.3 %
Native American	3	1	4	75 %
Other	4	7	11	36.4 %

CONCLUSIONS

Students in the healthcare major were statistically more likely to be registered as organ donors compared to students who were not healthcare majors. Results can help determine effective interventions to address the disparity among demographics in order to increase awareness and ultimately organ donation rates throughout the United States. Future studies should focus on determining why there is a disparity among students of different majors and different demographics.

RESULTS

Students that were healthcare majors were statistically ($p < .05$) more likely to be registered as organ donors compared to students who were not healthcare majors which is consistent with the hypothesis. Females (51.8 %) were more likely than males (40.0 %) to be registered as organ donors; however, this was not a significant difference ($p < .05$).

Doctoral students (62.5 %) and students over the age of 30 (57.7 %) had the highest registration rates. Native Americans had the highest percentage of organ donation rates at 75% and Asians had the lowest at 26.2%. Healthcare students from D'Youville College had 63% organ donation rate compared to healthcare students from the University at Buffalo which had 32%.

School	Healthcare	%	Non-Healthcare	%	Total
D'Youville College	93	♥ 59 ♥ 63%	♥ 1 ♥ 33%		96
		34 37%	2 67%		
University at Buffalo	25	♥ 8 ♥ 32%	♥ 20 ♥ 29%		94
		17 68%	49 71%		

LIMITATIONS

Minority populations were not well represented due to limited sample size.
 Schools were mainly located in Western New York.
 High proportion (> 50%) of healthcare students were PA students.

REFERENCES

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