

# Decreasing Kidney Non-Use Through Allocation Process Improvement

## Introduction

Organs transplanted from Midwest Transplant Network's broadly selected donor pool save the lives of Americans nearly every day. Our focus shifted to exploring our allocation practices for kidney utilization improvement opportunities.

## Objective

Decrease kidney discards by reviewing Midwest Transplant Network's allocation process, identifying opportunities for improvement, and implementing changes.

## Who's Involved

- Clinical Administrators, On-Call (6)
- Renal Placement Coordinators (16)
- Medical Director
- Chief Clinical Officer
- Organ Procurement Managers
- Director, Organ Allocation & Referrals
- Senior Director, Organ Procurement
- Director, Surgical Services

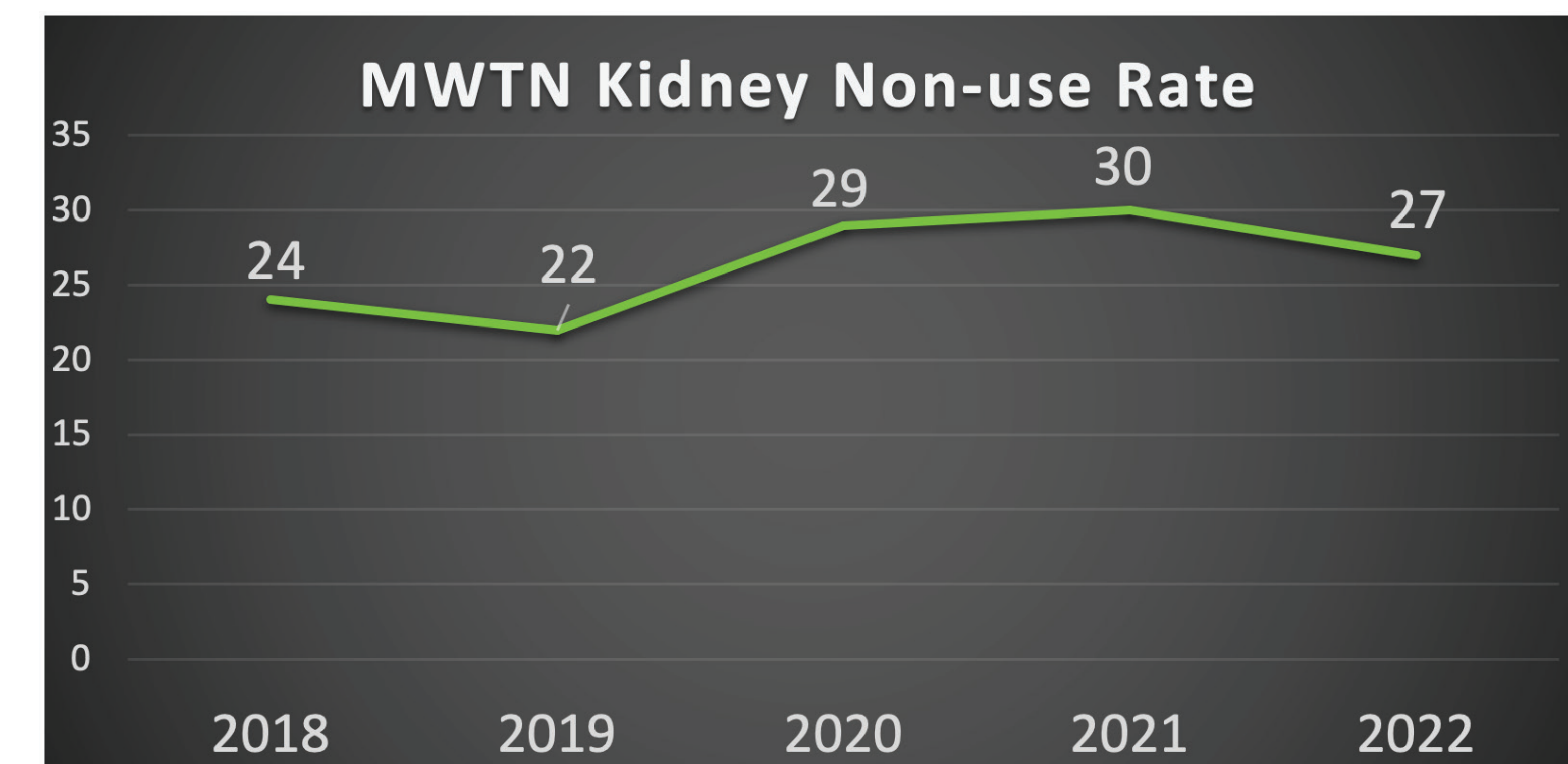
## Methods

- Retrospective and ongoing collection of data points associated with the kidney allocation process to identify opportunities for improvement.
- Implementation of a structured process for making expedited open offers and improving consistency in the allocation process, including standardization of expedited offers outside of the 250nm range.
- Utilization of the Recovery and Utilization Map (RUM) report to create a list of kidney transplant centers likely to accept sub-optimal kidneys.
- In-depth weekly review of each donor case resulting in kidney discards completed by the Director, Organ Allocation & Referrals.
- Establishment of a weekly Organ Utilization meeting comprised of key individuals to discuss each donor case in which organs were not used.

## Results

Changes Implemented Midyear:

- Non-use rate for 2nd half of the year June–December was 25%, final for the year was 27%, down from 30% in 2021
- Data analysis showed 187 non-use kidneys in 2022
- Average age of 50 years
- 70% Brain Death (BD), 30% Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD)
- 16% were expedited DCD
- Average Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) of 72%
- Only 19% of BD donors were pumped
  - Opportunity for improvement: pumping guidelines were not being followed consistently
  - Increased pumping may result in more transplants
- Waivers offered 58% of the time
- Open offers made 50% of the time
- Biopsy slide images should be uploaded 100% of the time
  - Data analysis revealed it was done only 59% of the time



## What's Ahead?

- Enhancement to already existing catastrophic brain injury guidelines—Renal Management Protocol
- Provide local transplant centers long-term transplant follow-up on exported kidneys in which they declined the organ offer
- Continued analysis of kidney discards with creation of automated reports
- Ongoing evaluation of open offers/acceptance rates and patterns