

Perspectives on Living Organ Donation

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References



Living Organ Donation

- In 2019, 113,000 patients needed an organ transplant, and **4,925 people died while waiting for an organ** in the United States [1].
- <15% of organ donations in the US were from living donors in 2020 [2].
- Most organ donations from living donors are kidney and liver donations.
- People can choose to donate a kidney or part of their liver to a loved one in need of a transplant, known as **directed donation**. They may also donate anonymously to a stranger, known as **nondirected or altruistic donation**.
- Living organ donation has the potential to help decrease the shortage of organs available for transplant in the United States.

Objectives

- Evaluate participants' **willingness** to consider becoming living organ donors under different circumstances.
- Determine which **factors** are perceived as more **motivating** and which are perceived as more **discouraging** to living organ donation and potential associations with willingness to donate.

Methods

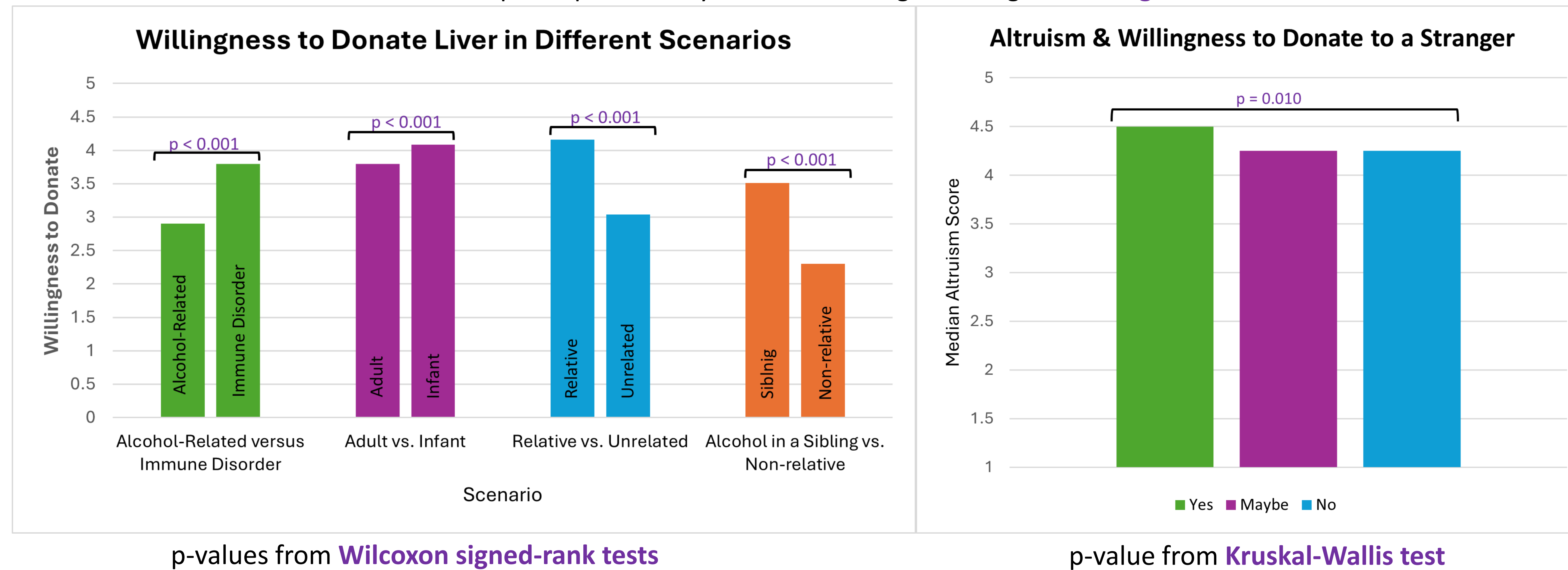
- A 34-question branching survey was designed on Qualtrics containing questions about demographics, participants' perspectives on living donation, and the **altruism** facet of a personality inventory (HEXACO PI-R).
- 348** participants on the **CU Anschutz Medical Campus** completed the survey and spun a wheel for a prize.
- Wilcoxon signed rank tests compared paired responses for different scenarios.
- Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to compare scores and levels for three groups defined by willingness to donate non-directed (yes, maybe, no).

Results

On average, participants were 30 years old (range of 18-70), 70% were female, and 55% white/Caucasian.

53% of participants said yes to considering donating to a **loved one**.

22% of participants said yes to considering donating to a **stranger**.

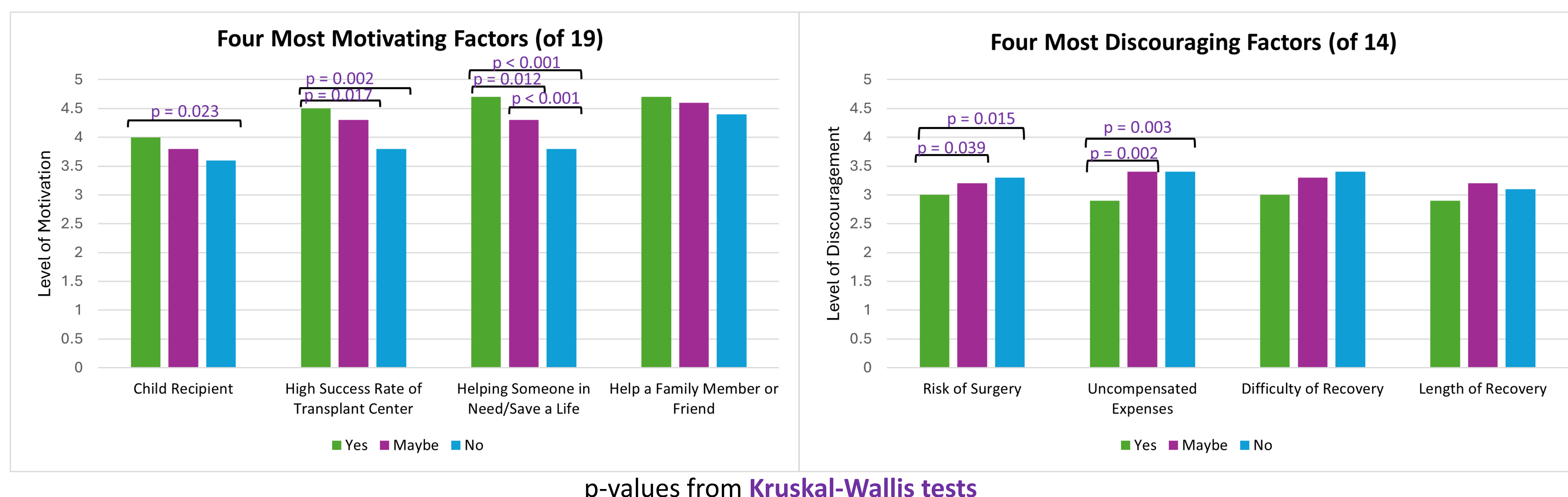


Conclusions

- Willingness to consider living organ donation was higher than expected for both loved ones (53%) and strangers (22%)
- In considering different scenarios, participants were significantly **more willing** to donate part of their liver to:
 - Someone with an immune disorder rather than alcohol-related liver disease
 - An infant rather than an adult
 - A relative rather than a non-relative
 - A sibling with alcohol-related liver disease rather than a non-relative
- Altruism scores** were higher for participants willing to consider becoming an anonymous living donor.
- People who answered 'yes' to consider non-directed living donation had higher levels of motivation than those who said 'no' for 3 of the top 4 factors.
- People who answered 'yes' to consider non-directed living donation had lower levels of discouragement than those who said 'no' for 2 of the top 4 factors.



Motivating factors and **Discouraging factors** were compared against participants' willingness to consider non-directed organ donation.



Future Directions

- Additional research could examine the perspectives of other populations on living organ donation.
- Surveys are planned for distribution at **tattoo shops** in Denver so results can be compared to those from the medical campus sample.
- Results may be used to guide development of **educational** and **recruitment materials**.

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