



# Cystic Fibrosis Research News

## **Citation:**

Lehr, CJ, et al., Impact of Socioeconomic Position on Access to the U.S. Lung Transplant Waiting List in a Matched Cystic Fibrosis Cohort. Ann Am Thorac Soc. 2020

## **What was your research question?**

Do socioeconomic factors (race, marital status, education, health insurance, median zip code income, and distance to transplant program) affect the likelihood of getting listed for transplant (waitlisting) among Cystic Fibrosis (CF) patients?

## **Why is this important?**

Identifying sources of inequity in access to life-saving organ transplant is a first step to removing those barriers.

## **What did you do?**

We constructed social and economic factor position scores (SEP) and compared the scores between patients who did and did not list for lung transplant. SEP factors were selected prior to the study, and included: race/ethnicity, marital status, highest education level, employment, insurance type, household income, and distance to the nearest transplant program.

## **What did you find?**

The probability of waitlisting decreased with an increase in the number of SEP barriers regardless of illness severity.



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## **What does this mean and reasons for caution?**

Work needs to be done in the community to improve access to transplant for patients with SEP barriers. Cautions: we do not have individual reasons for patients who chose not to list.

## **What's next?**

Clinical intervention at CF care centers to better inform transplant candidates of their treatment options would allow for identification of resources for help.