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Increasing Numbers of Organ Offers and Programs Notified During Organ Placement

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Introduction

- While attempting to place donated organs, organ procurement organizations (OPOs) can notify multiple transplant programs of potential offers.
- A notified program will not have the opportunity to accept if the organ was accepted prior to any of that programs' candidates becoming primary.
- We aimed to quantify the number of *excess programs notified* over time in kidney, liver, heart, and lung allocation, and to quantify the variation in this value by OPO.



Allocation Process Background



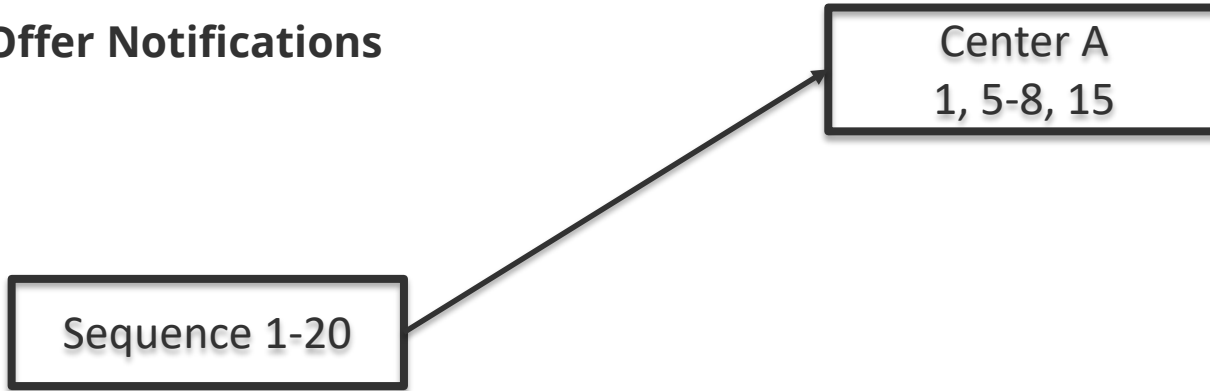
- Batch Offer Notifications

Sequence 1-20

Allocation Process Background



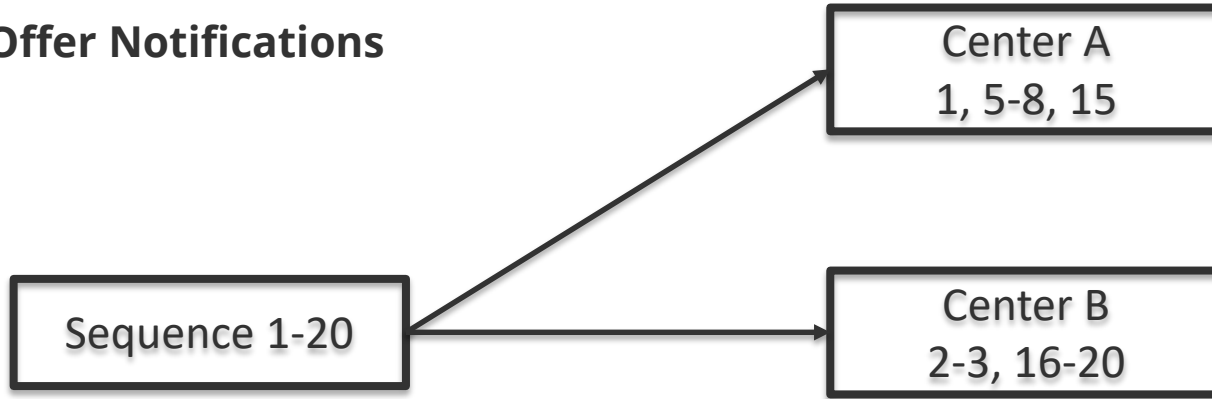
- Batch Offer Notifications



Allocation Process Background



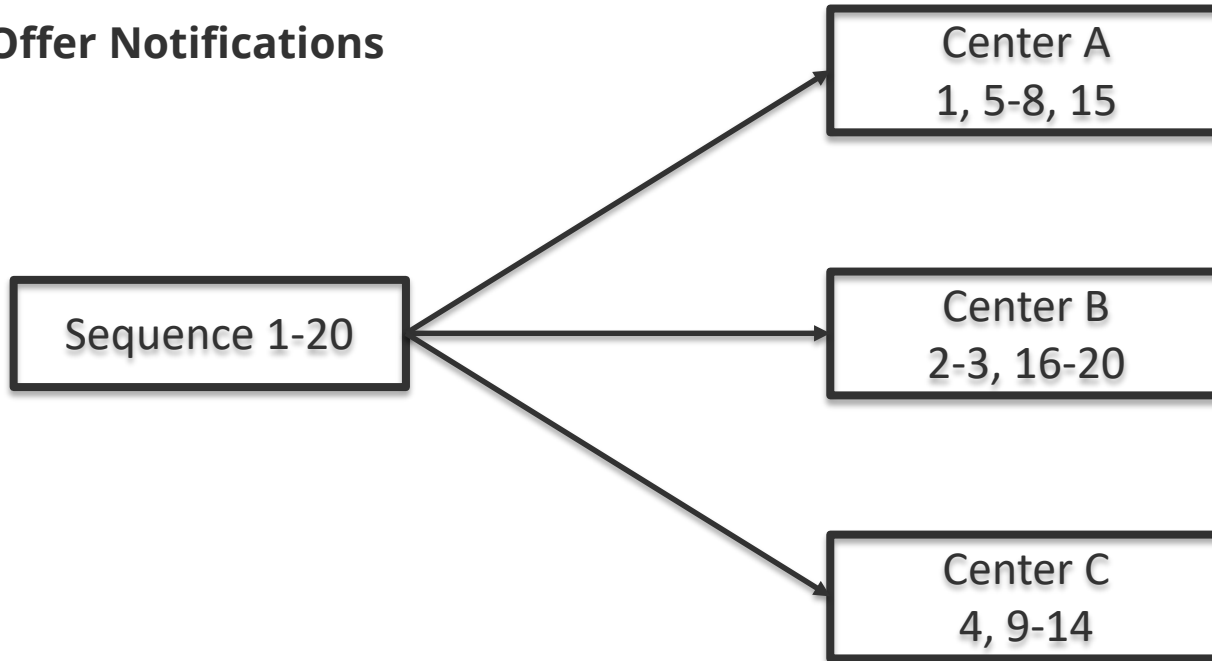
- Batch Offer Notifications



Allocation Process Background



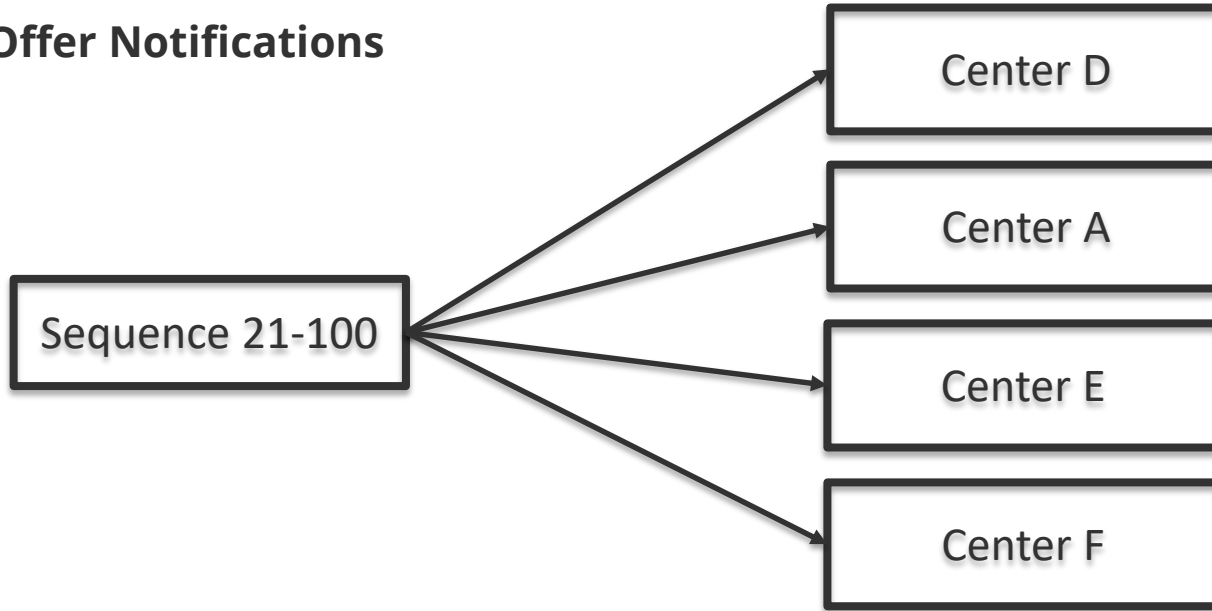
- Batch Offer Notifications



Allocation Process Background



- Batch Offer Notifications



Allocation Process Background

- In this example, 6 kidney transplant centers (A-F) were notified about an offer (spanning sequence numbers 1-100).

Sequence Number	Center	Decision
1	A	Accept
2	B	Decline
3	B	Accept
4	C	-
...

Allocation Process Background

- In this example, 6 kidney transplant centers (A-F) were notified about an offer (spanning sequence numbers 1-100).
- However, only 2 transplant centers had the opportunity to accept an offer (A and B).

Sequence Number	Center	Decision
1	A	Accept
2	B	Decline
3	B	Accept
4	C	-
...

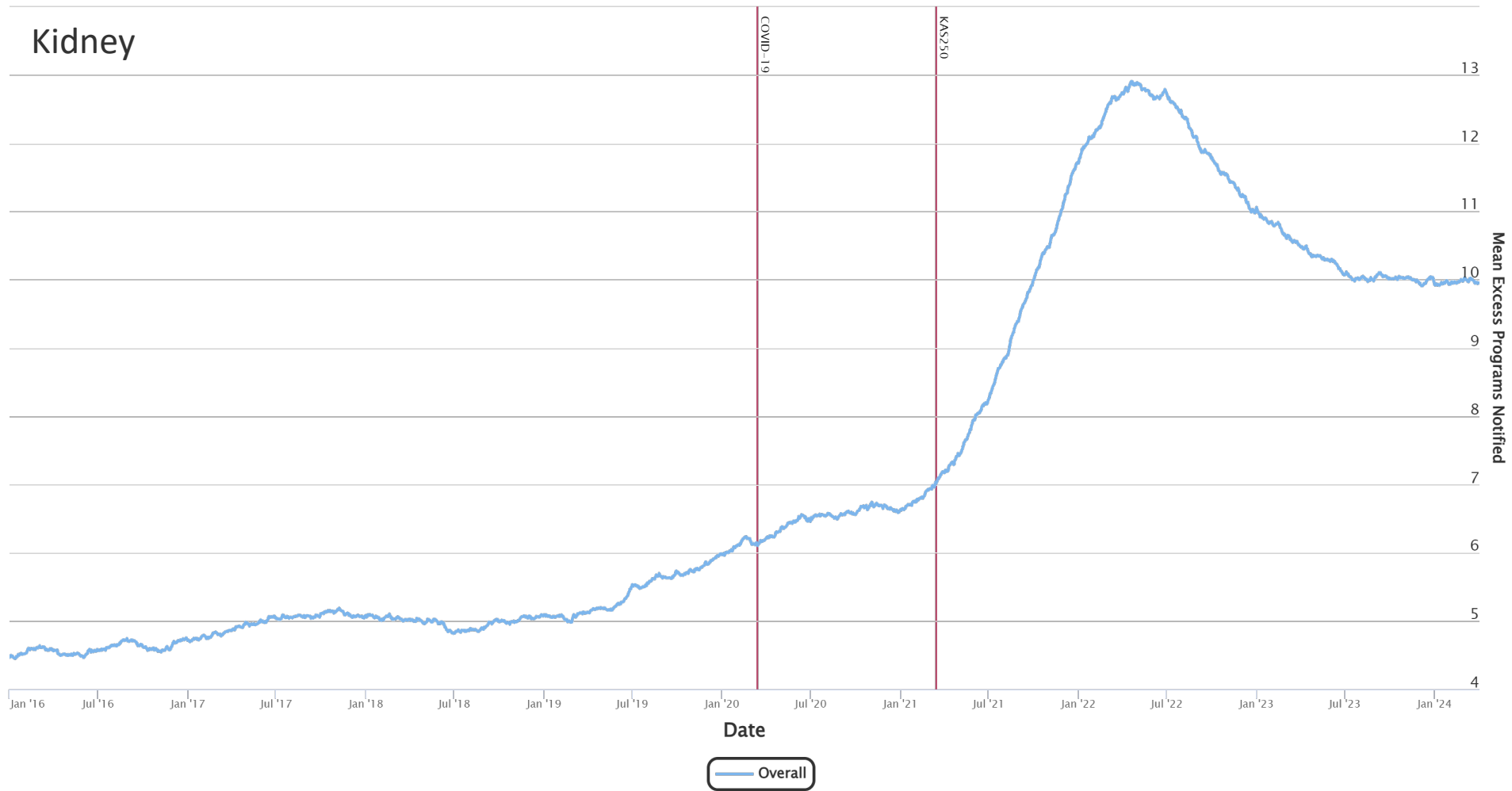
Allocation Process Background

- In this example, 6 kidney transplant centers (A-F) were notified about an offer (spanning sequence numbers 1-100).
- However, only 2 transplant centers had the opportunity to accept an offer (A and B).
- *Excess Programs Notified* = $6 - 2 = 4$

Sequence Number	Center	Decision
1	A	Accept
2	B	Decline
3	B	Accept
4	C	-
...

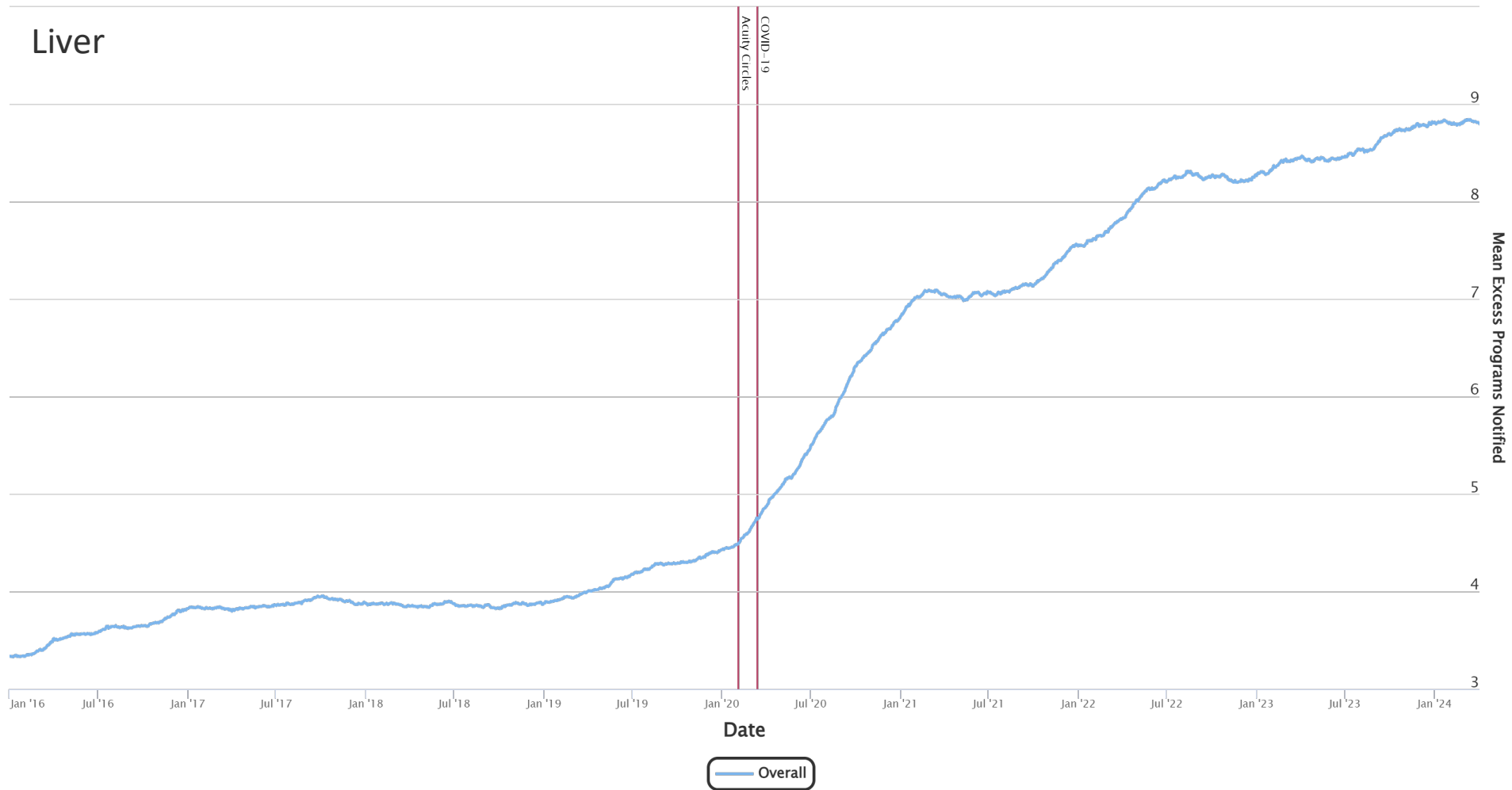
Excess Programs Notified

Kidney



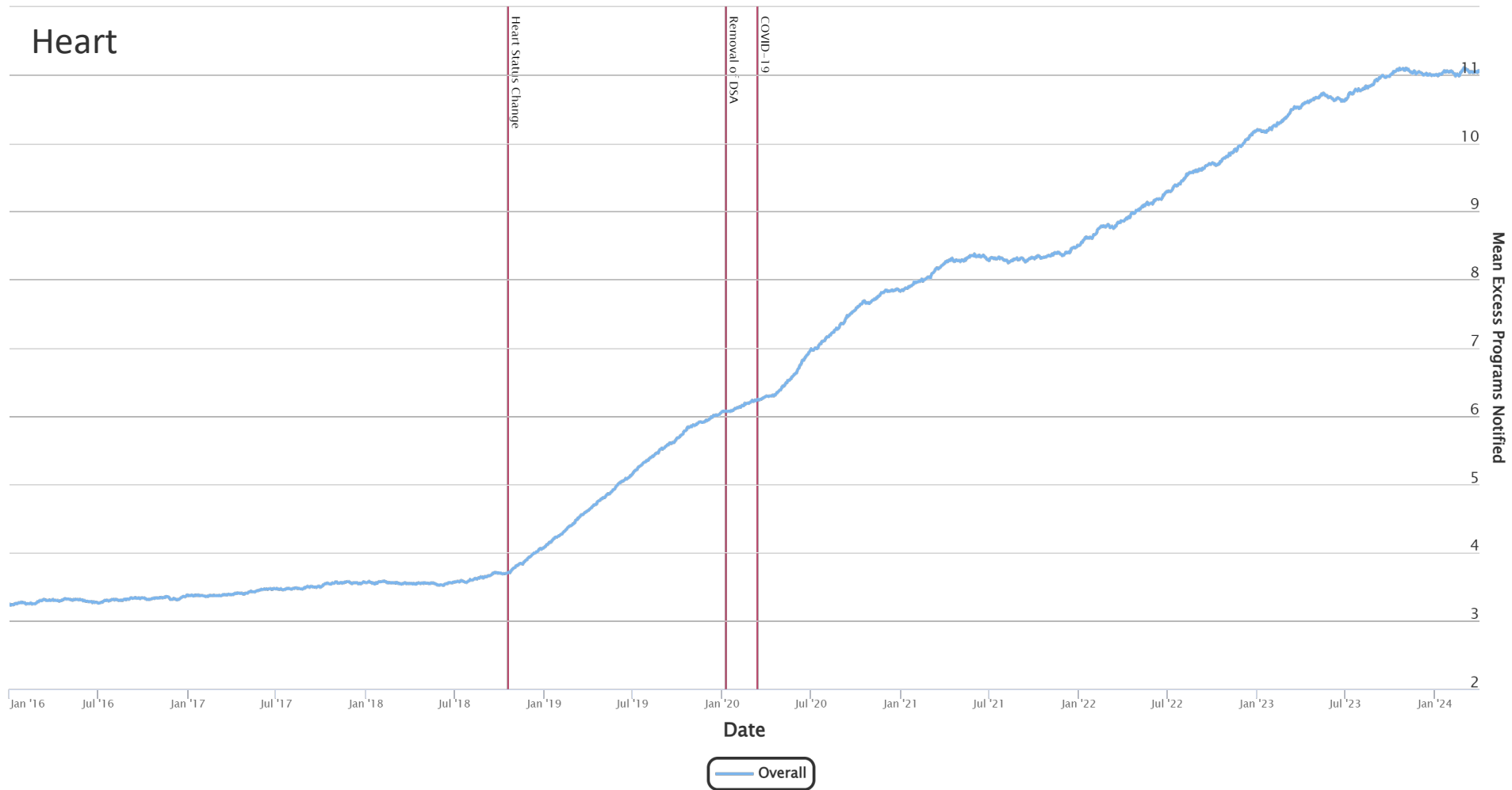
Excess Programs Notified

Liver



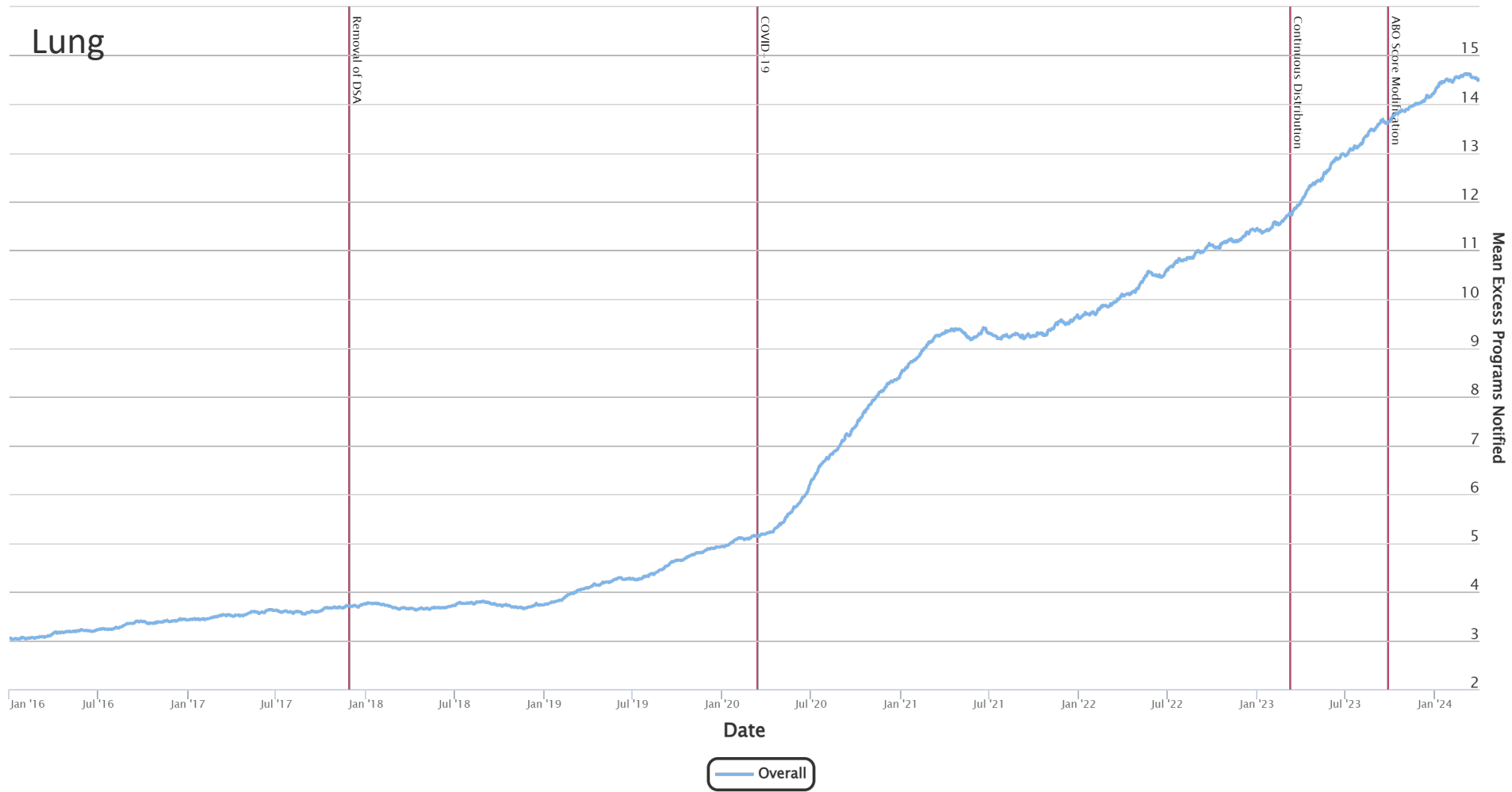
Excess Programs Notified

Heart

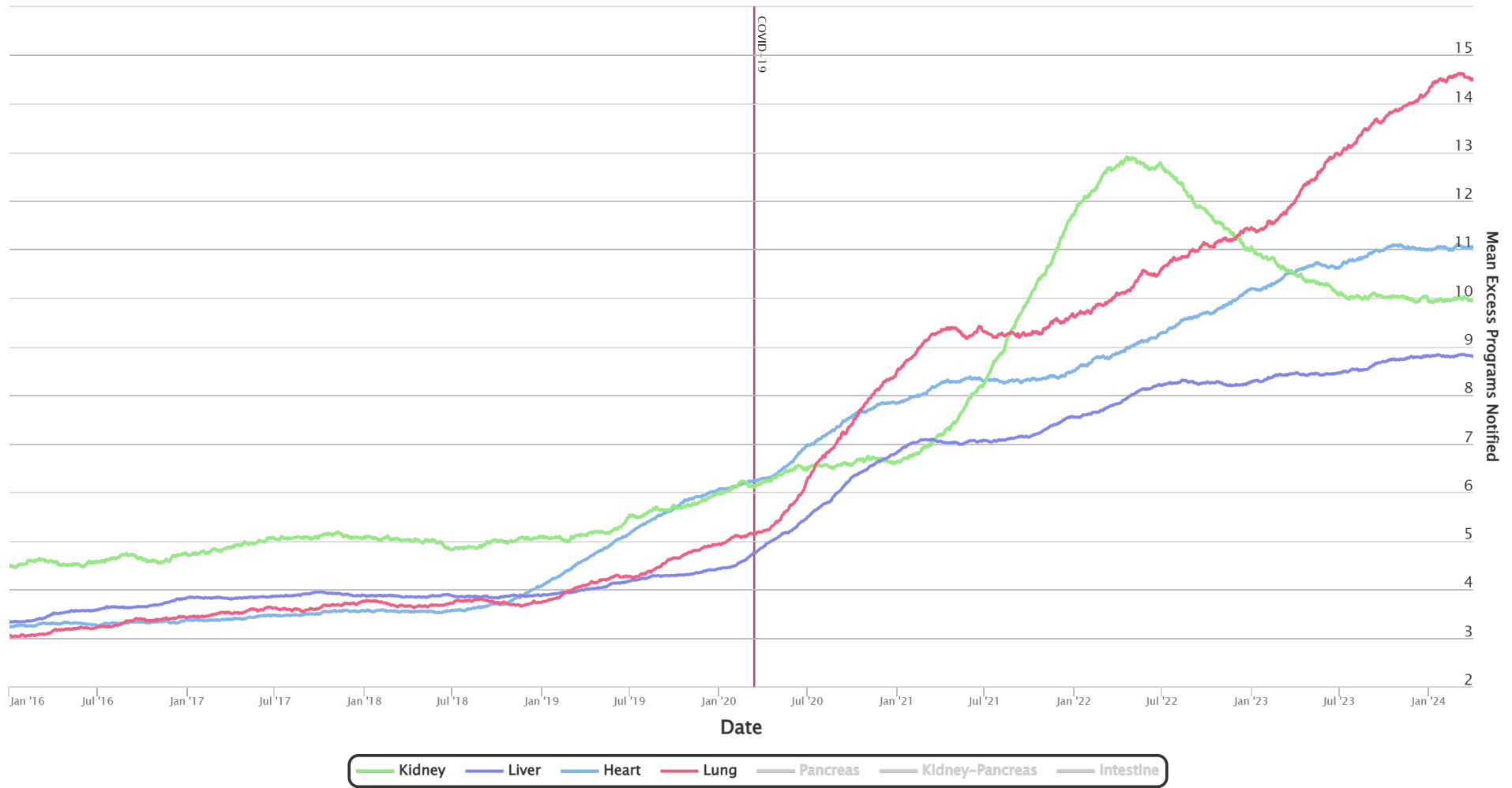


Excess Programs Notified

Lung



Excess Programs Notified

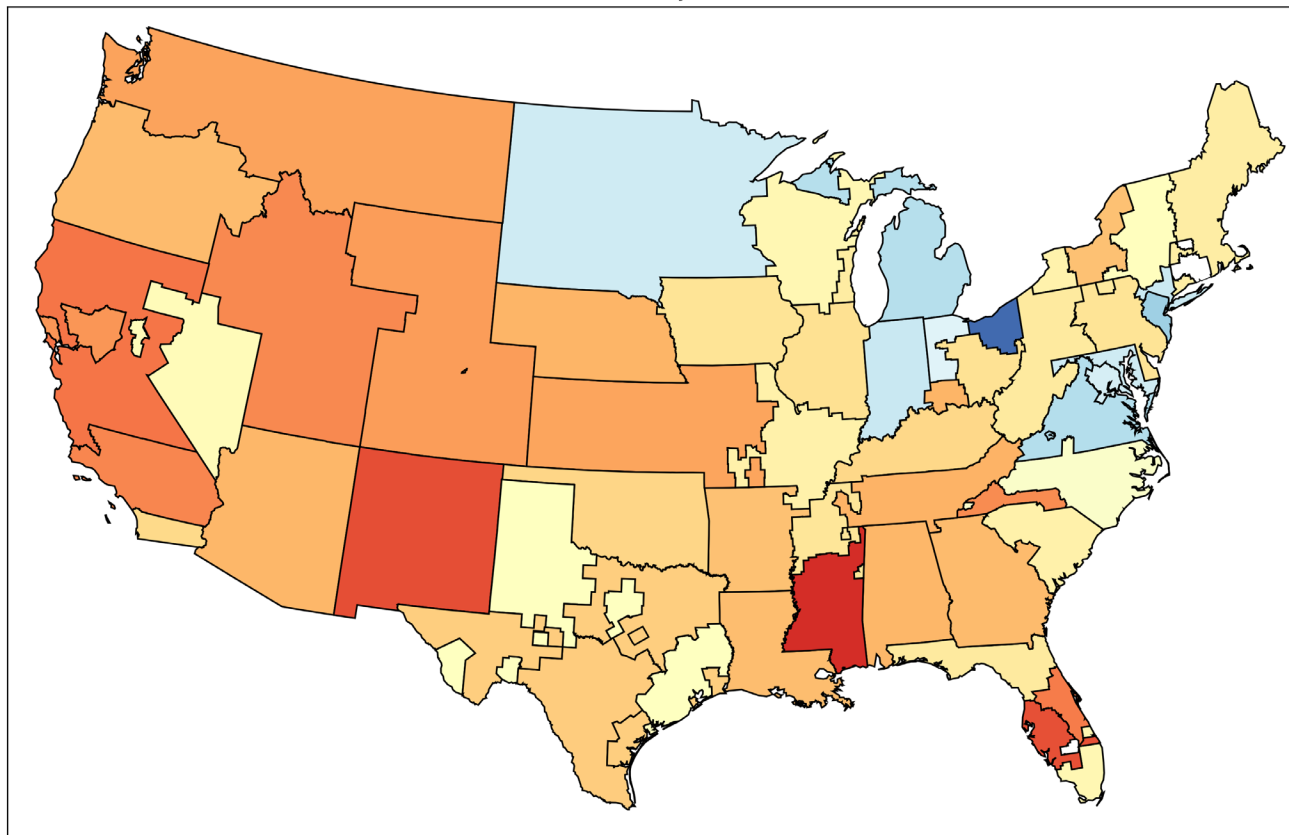


Conclusion Part 1

- Across all of the major organ allocation systems, the average number of excess programs notified has increased over the past decade.
- Dramatic increases are often coincident with major allocation policy changes.
- Gradual increases may be responses to regulatory pressure.
- Offer filters (kidney) can help to reduce excess offer notifications.

Kidney: 2021/06/01 – 2023/06/01

Kidney



Mean Excess Programs Notified

25

20

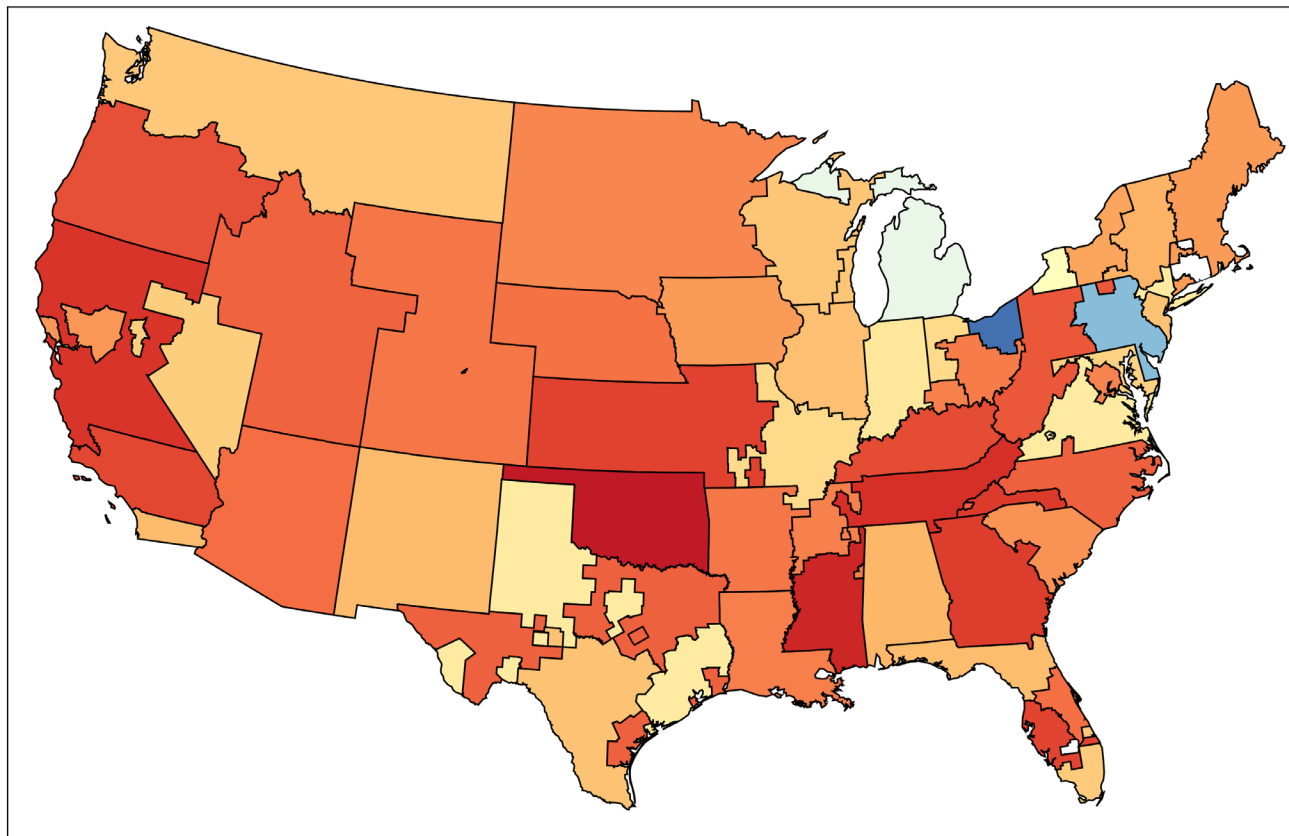
15

10

5

Liver: 2021/06/01 – 2023/06/01

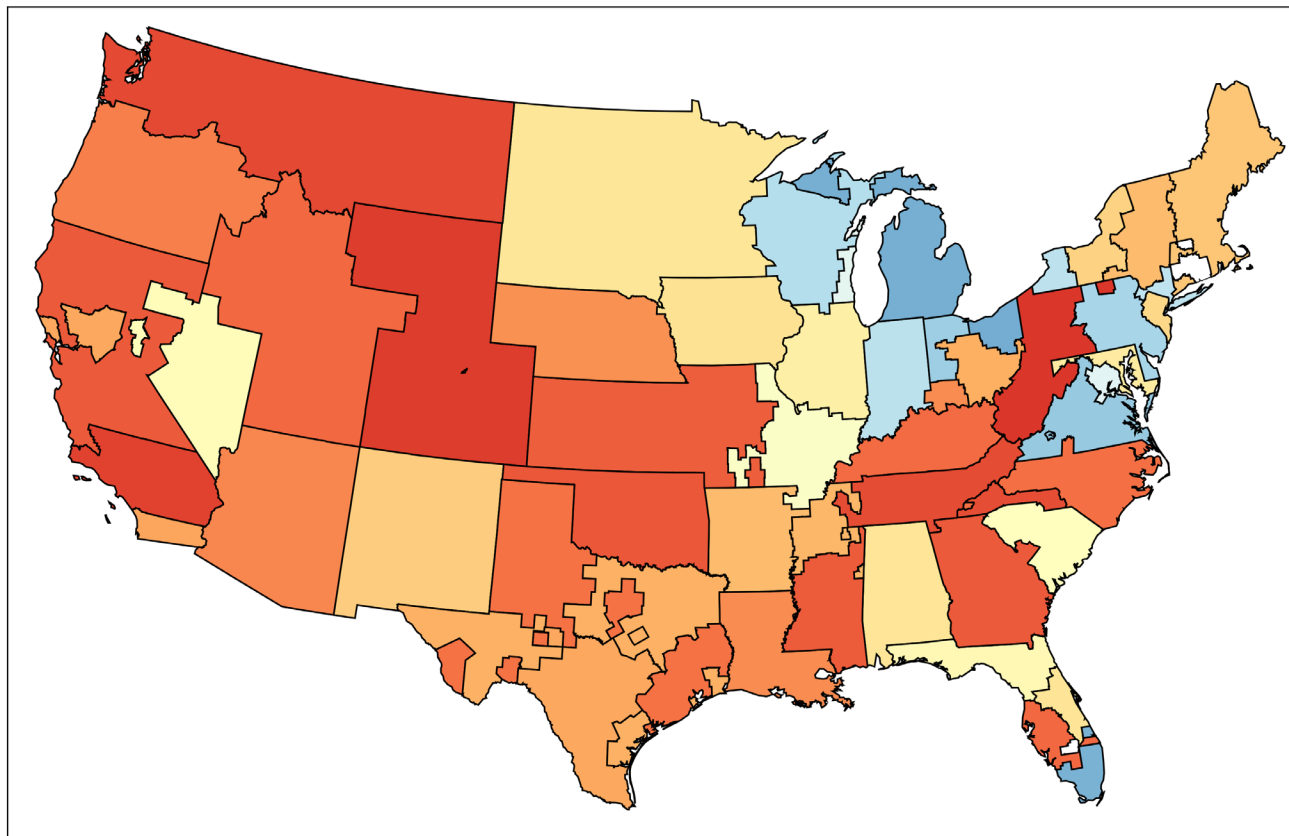
Liver



Mean Excess Programs Notified

Heart: 2021/06/01 – 2023/06/01

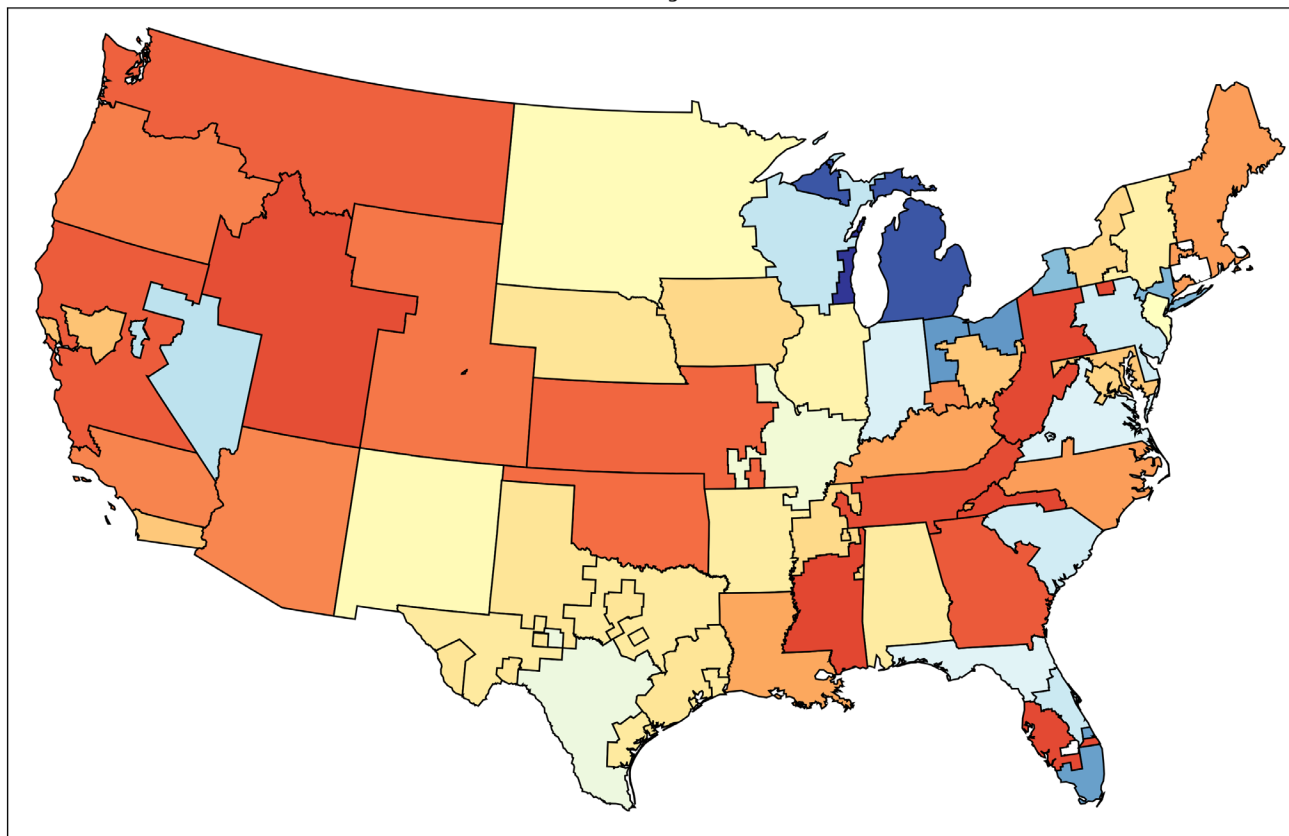
Heart



Mean Excess Programs Notified

Lung: 2021/06/01 – 2023/06/01

Lung



Mean Excess Programs Notified

25

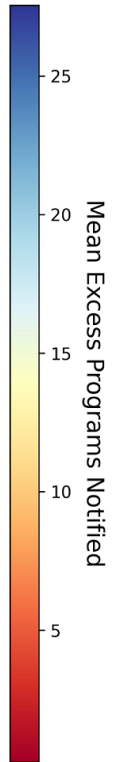
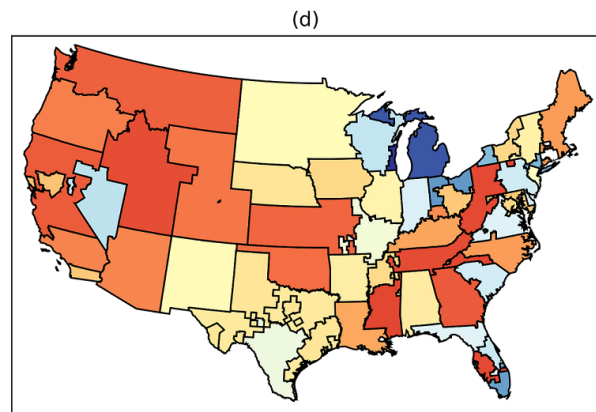
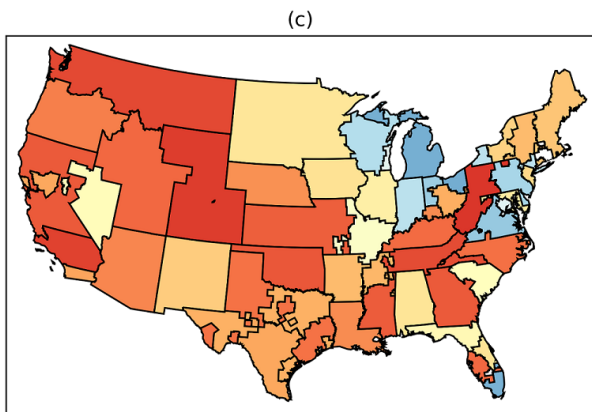
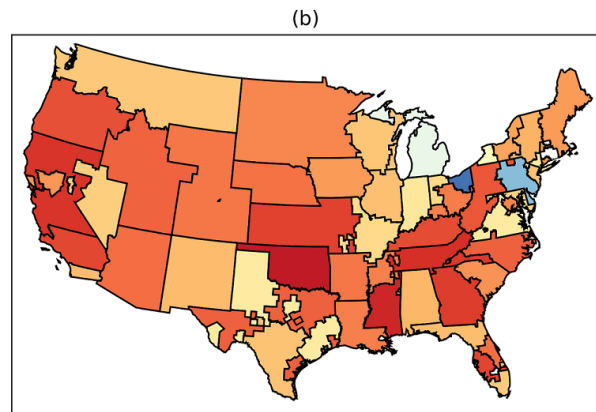
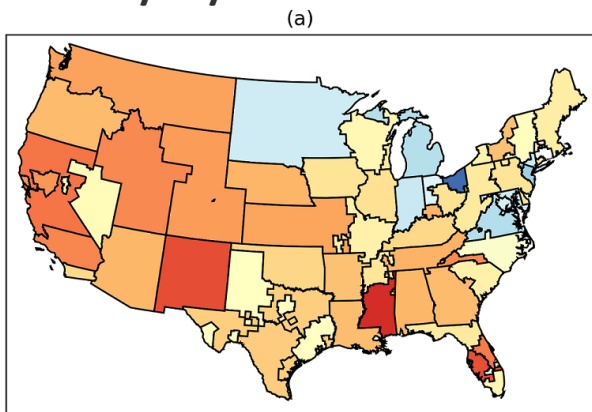
20

15

10

5

2021/06/01 – 2023/06/01



(a) Kidney, (b) liver, (c) heart, and (d) lung.

Conclusion Part 2

- Changes in allocation and increased regulatory pressures are likely influencing OPO offer notification practices, leading to increases in the number of excess programs notified.
- OPOs do not know who will accept; therefore, some excess programs notified is reasonable.
- However, excess offer notifications create increased workload for transplant programs, which may decrease placement efficiency.



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