

Continuous Distribution of Hearts Update, Summer 2024

*OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee
J.D. Menteer, Committee Chair*

Purpose of Update

- Provide results of community's attribute weighting through the Values Prioritization Exercise (VPE)
- Share Committee's on-going attribute discussions and future activities
- Seek community feedback regarding overall attribute weighting suggested by VPE results and attribute-specific concerns

Rationale

- Establish more equitable approach to matching heart donors and candidates
- Better balance impact of criteria used in matching organs
- Consider multiple candidate attributes simultaneously through a composite allocation score rather than within categories
- Establish an allocation system flexible enough to address all organs

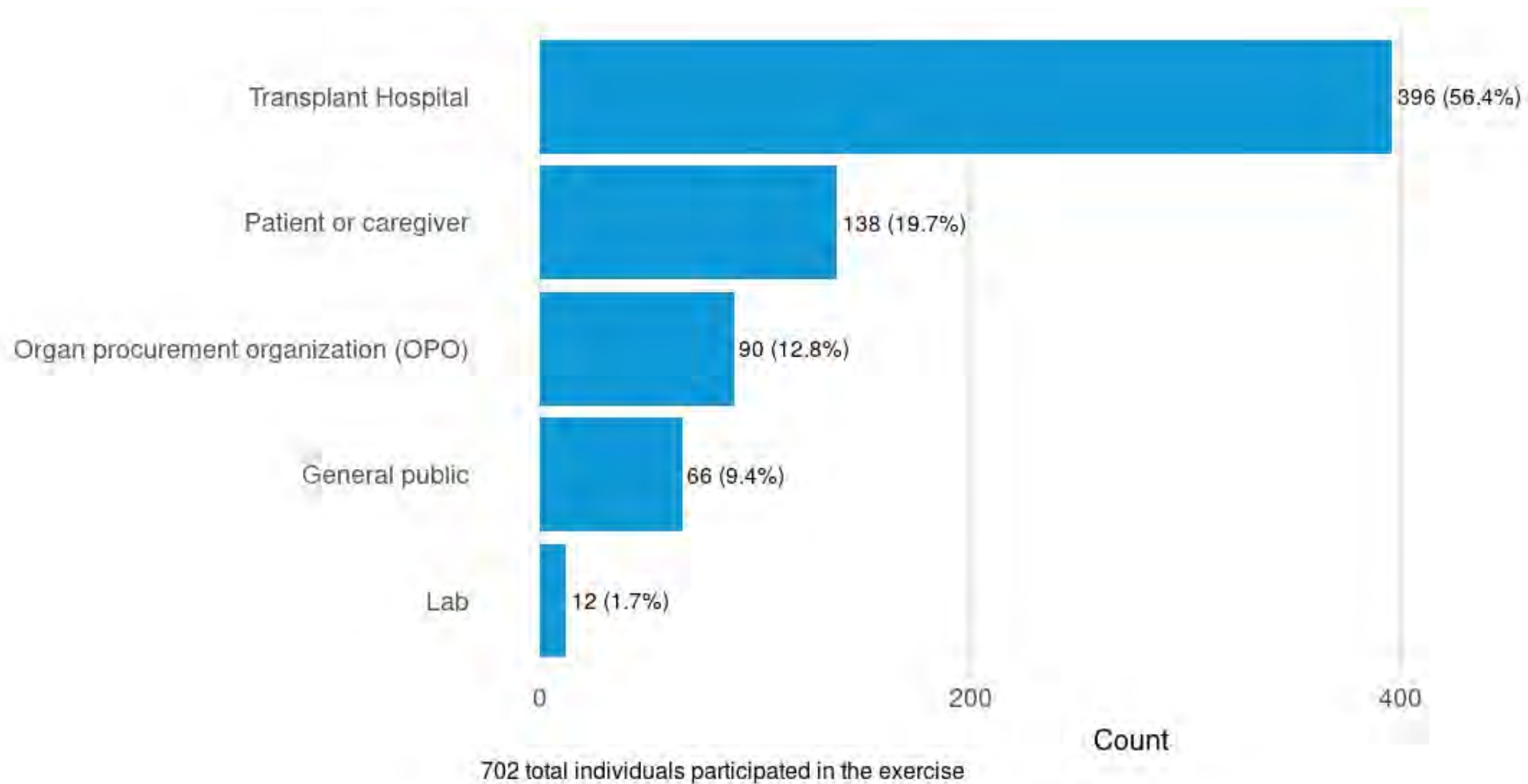
Identified Attributes

	Medical Urgency	Post-Transplant Survival	Reducing Biological Disadvantages	Patient Access	Placement Efficiency
In Current Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult statuses • Pediatric statuses 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority for pediatric candidates • Waiting time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance between transplant and donor hospital (Proximity Efficiency)
Not In Current Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting time on LVAD 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority for prior living donors 	

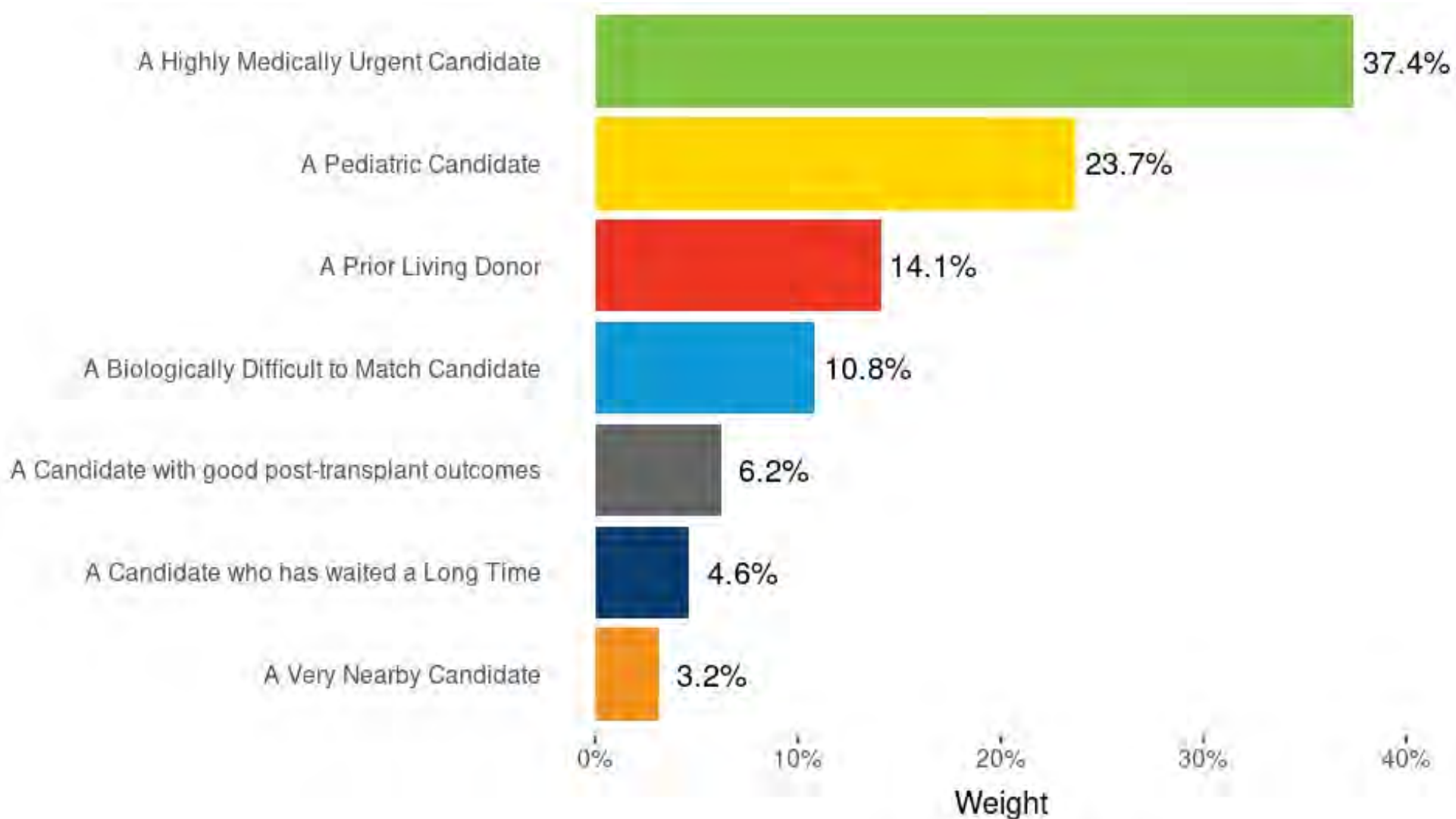
Values Prioritization Exercise (VPE)

- VPE used multiple pairwise comparisons to obtain participant input comparing relative importance of a set of criteria and attributes
- Participants were asked:
 - Which attribute is most important when prioritizing candidates for donor hearts?
 - How much more important is the attribute than another?

702 Value Prioritization Exercises Were Completed



Overall Weights, Adjusted by Demographic Groups



Next Steps

- VPE results will be used in on-going determinations of attribute weights for mathematical optimization and simulation
 - Determine weight for each attribute compared to others
 - Build draft framework and submit for info for mathematical optimization
 - Continuously update and engage community through entirety of developing continuous distribution allocation framework
 - NOTA and Final Rule govern policy development
 - VPE results are advisory and Committee is ultimately responsible for developing policy proposal

What Do You Think?

- Overall, do you agree with the general priority of the attributes based on the Values Prioritization Exercise results?
- Is there additional information about the proposed attributes that the Committee should be made aware of?
- Is there any additional information the OPTN could provide to help you better understand the concepts associated with continuous distribution allocation framework?
- Committee is very interested in hearing from those with a personal connection to organ donation and transplantation

Additional Questions?

- Eric Messick, Heart Committee policy analyst
- Eric.Messick@unos.org

Provide Feedback

Submit public comments on the OPTN website

- July 31 – September 24, 2024
- **optn.transplant.hrsa.gov**



Regional Meeting Information

- Visit <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/about/regions/regional-meetings/> for the latest regional meeting information and meeting materials

The screenshot shows the OPTN website's navigation and content structure. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with links for 'About', 'Policies & bylaws', 'Patients', 'Professionals', 'Data & calculators', and 'News & events', along with a search icon. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home » About » Regions » Regional meetings'. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with a 'Regional meetings' section expanded, showing a list of sub-items: 'What is the OPTN', 'OPTN membership', 'Governance', 'Board of directors', 'Committees', 'Regions', and 'Regional meetings'. The main content area displays the title 'Regional meetings' and a paragraph: 'Regional meetings are held twice each year during the winter and summer public comment periods. Regional meetings are an opportunity to influence policy proposals, prepare for upcoming changes, and hear perspectives from the transplant community about improvements to organ allocation.'

Thank You For Listening!