

# Awareness and attitudes towards voluntary non-remunerated blood donation in two generational groups in Trinidad and Tobago

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## OBJECTIVES

Trinidad and Tobago has a family replacement donor – based blood transfusion service. In October 2018, its Ministry of Health committed to total voluntary non-remunerated blood donation on a national scale and a blood donor education programme to facilitate transitioning. This study was conducted six months later to assess current knowledge, attitudes, practice and acceptability of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation in two generational donor groups, namely 18-30 and 45-60 year olds.

## METHODS

• A questionnaire-based, cross-sectional, descriptive survey was administered to two conveniently selected samples from each group. Participants were informed of the definition of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, the Ministry of Health's plan and classified by age, gender, race, education, employment and donation history. They were assessed for motivators and demotivators to past donation, awareness of the current and proposed blood donor systems and likelihood to donate blood in the future. SPSS was used for descriptive and inferential data analysis, chi square analysis to measure significance and logistic regression to measure strength of associations. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from The University of the West Indies Ethics Committee.

## RESULTS

• The younger generation was more aware of the current donation system compared to the older generation. However, more than half of all participants did not know what the current system was. 14.3% of donors knew about the Government's plan to change the donation system as compared to only 5.1% of non-donors.

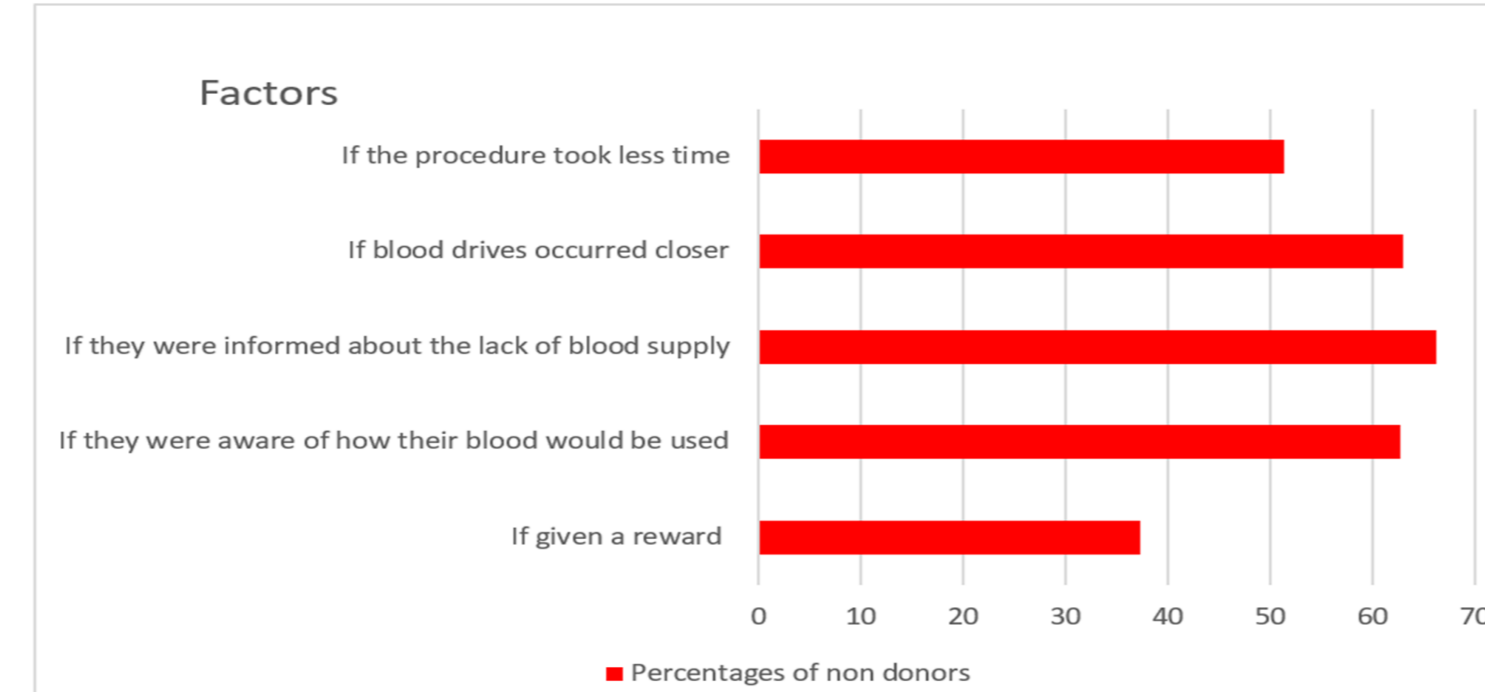
• Only 18% of the entire sample size scored  $> 5/8$ , representing a satisfactory level of knowledge. There was no significant difference between the age groups' knowledge scores, as both medians were found to be 2.

• Attitude score analyses revealed that 56.2% of the respondents displayed a positive attitude. An independent samples t test confirmed no significant difference between the age groups' attitude scores (53.3  $\pm$  SD: 7.1 of the younger generation vs 52.9  $\pm$  SD: 7.3 of the older generation,  $P = .448$ ).

Table 1: REASONS FOR DONATION BASED ON AGE

REASON FOR DONATION	% WITHIN YOUNGER GENERATION	% WITHIN OLDER GENERATION
Family member in need	59.6	70.9
Friend in need	27.0	41.8
Stranger in need	40.4	23.4
Staged for donors		

Figure 2: NON-DONOR MOTIVATORS



PLAN TO DONATE IN FUTURE

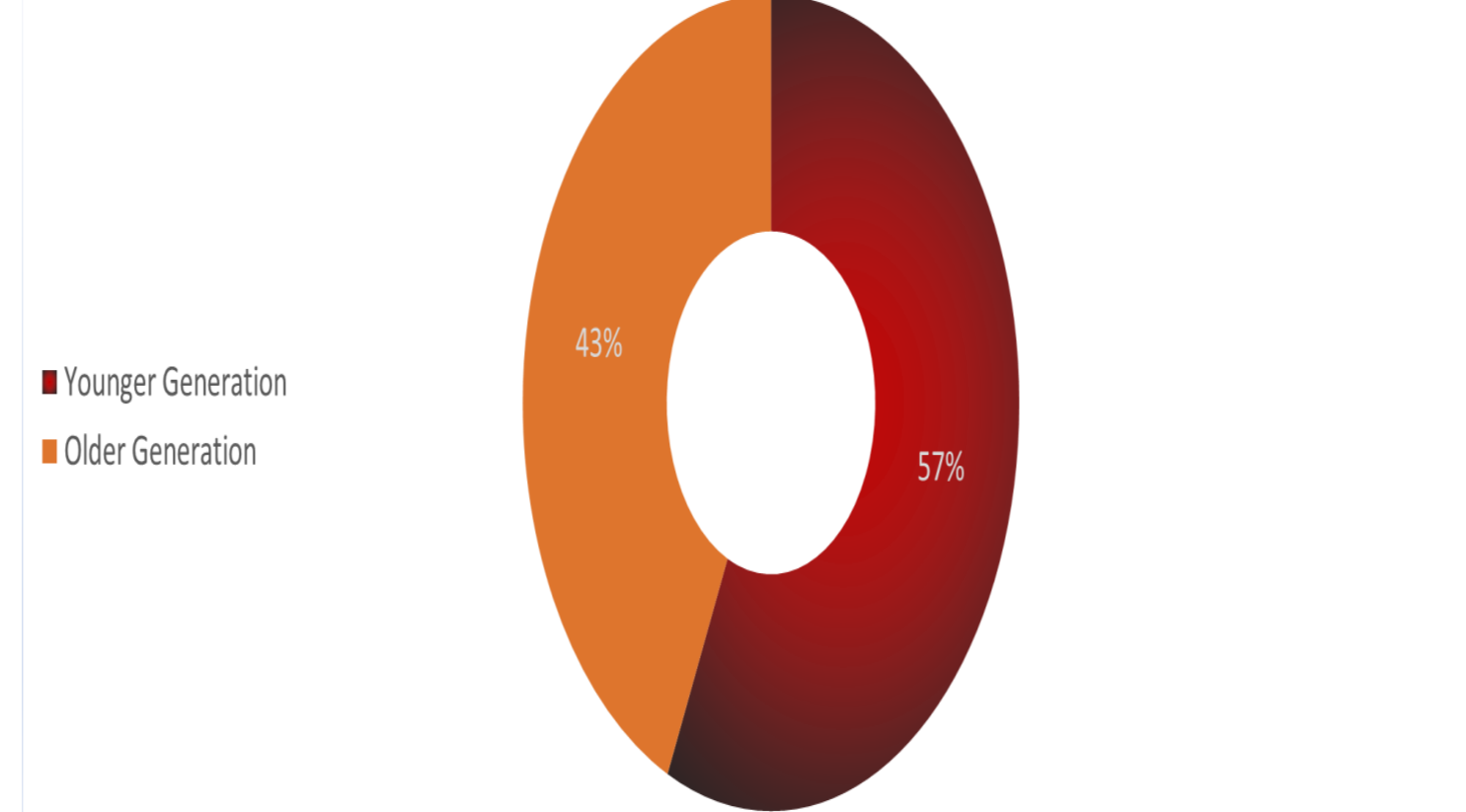
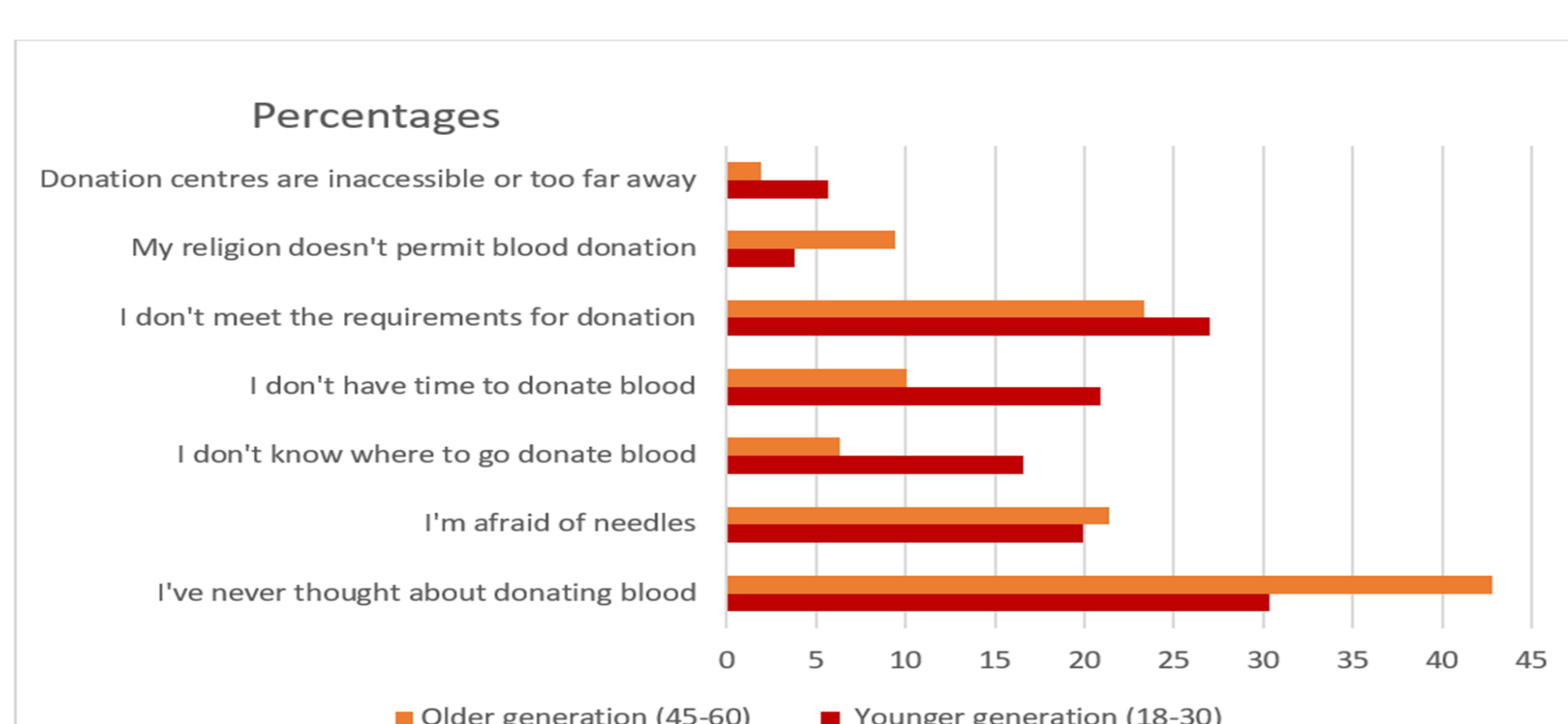


Table 2: REASONS FOR NON DONATION BASED ON AGE



## CONCLUSIONS

Awareness surrounding voluntary non-remunerated blood donation was low in both generational groups. Enlightenment on limited blood supplies was the main motivator for blood donation. While there was no significant difference in the attitude and knowledge scores of the two age groups, the younger generation is more likely to donate in the future. Awareness of the national plan for 100% VNRD was low and must be increased to ensure acceptance by the population.

## References

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