

Preference for nationality of nurse by Arab and Jewish patients in Israel

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Studies have shown that there are patients who refuse treatment or demand that treatment be provided by a professional belonging to a particular ethnic group. In the Israeli healthcare system, the patient-nurse encounter is affected by the strong bias that Jews and Arabs hold against each other

The aim of this study is to investigate whether patients have preferences for nationality of nurse (PFN), and which factors impact these preferences.

The research was a quantitative study that included 1012 Israeli participants, of whom 478 (47.2%) were Israeli Arabs and 534 (52.8%) were Israeli Jews

Table : Means, standard deviations and t-tests for comparing nationality groups (Arabs / Jewish)
Notes. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$. Range 1-6 (1=min preference;6=max preference)

	Nationality comparisons				
Dependent Variable	Category	N	M (1-6)	SD	t-test
Preference for Arab nurses	Arab	478	5.13	1.07	38.14***
	Jewish	534	2.16	1.37	
Preference for Jewish nurses	Arab	478	3.40	1.39	-18.37***
	Jewish	534	4.96	1.31	
Trust in Arab nurses	Arab	478	5.50	0.73	32.44***
	Jewish	534	2.54	1.87	
Trust in Jewish nurses	Arab	478	4.07	1.96	-17.22***
	Jewish	534	5.61	0.61	
Social Distance	Arab	478	3.55	1.93	8.29***
	Jewish	534	2.55	1.91	

- ✓ Arab and Jewish respondents preferred a nurse from the same nationality (Arabs show higher preference for a nurse of the same nationality than the Jews)
- ✓ Trust is the most important factor that influences the PFN than other variable like social distance .

Recommendations for a clear policy, and written guidelines is needed, which addresses the needs of both patients and health care providers, including establishing a dedicated commission in each medical center to eradicate with manifestations of prejudice.