

# The Impact of Cultural and Religious Factors on Knowledge, Perceptions, Attitudes, and Intentions to Seek Palliative Care within the Arab Society in Israel

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## Background & Purposes

### Israeli-Arabs Society



- Arab citizens comprise 21% of Israel's population, is traditionally collectivist, with strong family involvement in healthcare decisions, especially at the end of life.
- The population is religiously diverse, including Muslims (83.3%), Christians (7.7%), and Druze (9%).
- Religious values and spiritual beliefs play a central role in shaping attitudes toward illness, suffering, death, and medical care.
- These cultural-religious dynamics may affect awareness, acceptance, and utilization of palliative care services among cultural minorities, such as the Arab community in Israel.

## Purposes

- To examine how cultural and religious factors influence knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, perceived behavioral control (PBC), and intentions to seek palliative care among Israeli Arabs.

## Research design & Methods

### Design:

This study employed a descriptive, quantitative, cross-sectional • research design.

### Study population:

Israeli-Arab, Aged  $\geq 50$  years, throughout the whole country.

### Questionnaire and Data Collection:

Based on Ajzen's (1991) theory of planned behavior 65-item instrument, four sections : demographics 21 items; knowledge 16 items; attitudes and beliefs 14 items; PBC and intentions 9 items.

Stratified clustered sampling was used to enhance data-collection efficiency and accuracy.

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## Conclusions

- The findings of this study emphasize the critical roles of culture and religious beliefs in shaping individuals' preferences and perceptions toward palliative care.
- Understanding and respecting cultural and religious diversity are crucial for providing patient-centered palliative care that aligns with individuals' beliefs and preferences.

## Results

- The sample included 435 respondents, Aged  $\geq 50$  years.
- Religion: Muslims (81.5%), Christians (9.3%), and Druze (9.3%).
- Data were collected during March–August 2023

### Palliative care Knowledge (scale 0-16)

- Most respondents (58.9%) answered all 16 knowledge questions incorrectly ( $M=6.34$ ,  $SD=4.49$ ).
- Christian respondents exhibited the highest knowledge ( $M=8.8$ ).

### Attitudes, beliefs, normative beliefs (scale 1-5)

- Overall, respondents showed a positive attitude towards palliative care services ( $M=3.70$ ,  $SD=0.77$ ).

### Perceived Behavioral Control (scale 1-5)

#### Higher PBC scores were observed among respondents who:

- Lived in peripheral regions (north/south)
- Were married or widowed
- Had an average or below-average income
- Identified as Christian or Druze

### Intention to seek palliative care

- Significant effect of religiosity was **found only among Muslim** participants ( $F(1,420)=15.62$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ).
- Very religious respondents exhibited a higher intention to seek PC (predicted probabilities = 0.58).

