

Cultural Diversity

NOTE: Within the United States there are over 400 ethnocultural groups, making it impossible to include cultural characteristics for all of them. Those listed are either large in population, new in it's migration status, or a group that is widely dispersed throughout U.S Information from RNotes by Ehren Myers.

Page 1: African-Americans, Arab-Americans, Asian-Americans and Bosnian-Americans.

Page 2: Native-Americans, Mexican-Americans and Russian-Americans

Characteristics	African-American	Arab-Americans	Asian-Americans	Bosnian-Americans
Eye Contact	Establish trust and demonstrate respect.	Females may avoid eye contact with males and strangers.	Direct eye contact may show disrespect.	Looking straight into someone's eyes shows honesty and frankness.
Touching	Generally accept therapeutic touch. Develop trust.	Generally acceptable within same gender but not acceptable between genders.	More acceptable among young people than elders. Feet are considered "dirty" Touch last.	Hand shaking is ok. Strict Muslims do not allow male nurses to examine women.
Gender role differences	Responsibility for decision-making varies by educational level and socioeconomic status.	Most decisions are made by men. Caring for daily needs is delegated to women.	Father or eldest son tend to be primary decision maker.	Traditionally, a patriarchal family structure. Men dying in recent wars may change this.
Religion & Spirituality	Baptist and other Protestant sect; Muslim.	Moslem, usually Sunni branch. Also Protestant, Greek Orthodox, and other Christian faith.	Primary religions are Buddhism and Catholicism.	Majority are Muslim or Christian, although a few are Jewish. Salah is the formal prayer.
Blood/Organ Donation	Will refuse blood if Jehovah's Witness. Reluctant to donate blood or organs.	May refuse organ to keep body whole in order to "meet the creator with integrity"	Not typically allowed	Both are acceptable.
Diet & Nutrition	Generally no prohibitions unless by religion (pork not eaten by Islamics)	Most do not eat pork. Avoid icy drinks when sick or hot/cold drinks together	Generally do not like extremely cold drinks. Vietnamese prefer warm or room temperature water.	Pork is prohibited by Muslims. Medications should not contain alcohol.
Death/Dying/Birth	Reluctant to donate organs.	Colostrum is believed to be harmful to infant.	Very spiritual. Buddhists may use incense. Family should be allowed extra time with deceased.	Many visitors can be expected. No cremation is allowed. May only want females present for deliveries.
Misc.	Silence may indicate lack of trust toward caregiver.	Support family members may need to be encouraged to take a break from caregiving.	Interpreters should be used whenever possible.	Permanent life support is unacceptable. Most consider it shameful to accept Medicaid.

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Characteristics	Native-Americans	Mexican Americans	Russian-Americans
Eye Contact	Maintain sustained eye contact.	May avoid direct eye contact with authority figures, such as healthcare providers.	Direct eye contact is okay. Nodding signifies approval.
Touching	Light handshake ok. Maintain respectful distance.	Except for handshaking maybe considered disrespectful.	Touching ok once familiarity or friendship has been established.
Gender role differences	Vary from tribe to tribe.	Entire family shares equally in decision making.	Typically, both men and women share decision making duties.
Religion & Spirituality	May be traditional Native-American or Christian.	Primary religion is Roman Catholic	Primary religions are Jewish and Eastern Orthodox. May not practice at all because of recent oppression.
Blood/Organ Donation	Generally not desired but open to discussion.	Will vary; may be against organ donation.	May refuse based on the belief that the body is sacred.
Diet & Nutrition	Restrictions will vary with religious/spiritual association	Catholics may refrain from eating meat on Friday or during Lent.	Drinks with ice should not be served.
Death/Dying/Birth	Full family involvement throughout all stages of life. May refuse circumcision.	Strong family support during labor. Very expressive during bereavement.	Father may not attend birth but closest female family member usually does.
Misc.	Older adults may prefer "American Indian" over "Native-American"	Silence may sometimes indicate a disagreement with plan of care.	Interpreters should be used whenever possible.