



EXPERIENCES OF ORTHODOX JEWISH NURSING STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A PRE- LICENSURE NURSING PROGRAM

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Introduction: Anti-Semitism on U.S. College Campuses

- ▶ There has been a rise in anti-Semitic sentiment across college campuses in the United States
 - ▶ Arguments against classifying attacks as “hate crimes”
 - ▶ Jews are not classified as a “racial group”
 - ▶ Jews have a degree of acceptance and success in American society that other racial groups may not
 - ▶ White Passing
 - ▶ No “institutionalized racism” against Jews
 - ▶ The experiences of Jewish students have not been widely studied
 - ▶ Small population
 - ▶ Success of American Jews in society

Introduction: U.S. Nursing Licensure Programs and Discrimination

- ▶ Increasing amounts of discrimination and microaggressions in nursing schools
 - ▶ Approximately 38% of the U.S. population identifies as a non-White ethnic minority
 - ▶ 19.4% of the nursing workforce identifies as coming from a minority background
 - ▶ Schools are attempting to attract more minority students but hostile classroom and clinical environments may make minority student retention difficult
 - ▶ Racial and ethnic minority nursing students
 - ▶ Male nursing students
 - ▶ Disabled nursing students

Research Question

What are the experiences of Orthodox Jewish nursing students enrolled in a pre-licensure nursing program?

Methodology

▶ Recruitment Procedures

- ▶ Convenience sampling
 - ▶ the Orthodox Jewish Nurses Association (OJNA)
- ▶ Snowball sampling

▶ Sample

Participant's Demographic Information

<u>Demographic factor</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Gender	
Female	14
Male	4
Age range	
20-25	15
26-30	1
>30	2
Geographic Location	
Northeastern U.S.	16
Midwestern U.S.	0
Southeastern U.S.	1
Southwestern U.S.	0
Western U.S.	1
Percent of program completed	
<50%	5
>50%	13

Methodology

▶ Data Collection

- ▶ The bulk of data collection took place in November 2023.
- ▶ Electronically signed informed consent forms
- ▶ Demographics questionnaire
- ▶ 60 minute Zoom interviews
 - ▶ Semi-structured interview questions
 - ▶ The average interview 30-40 minutes long
 - ▶ Audio recorded
 - ▶ Zoom platform recording transcription
 - ▶ Otter.ai transcription software
- ▶ Participants sent a \$10 Amazon.com gift card

Results

Research Question 1: What are the experiences of Orthodox Jewish nursing students enrolled in a pre-licensure nursing program?

Findings

Seven themes were identified in the data

- The experience of feeling other on campus
- Perceptions of others
- Expressing Judaism on Campus
- Requiring religious exemptions
- Connecting with peers on campus
- Responding to questions about religion from others
- Experiencing campus life post the Israel-Hamas war of October 7, 2023

Findings

Theme: The experience of feeling other on campus

- ▶ Religious needs separate participants from peers
 - ▶ “Balancing two worlds”
 - ▶ “I’m the only one who’s different”
 - ▶ “We can talk about other things”
 - ▶ “Where’s the line?”

Findings

Theme: Perceptions of others

- ▶ Representing all Jews
 - ▶ “We have so much against us”
 - ▶ “I don’t want to give the impression that I think I’m too good to talk to you.”
 - ▶ “Make a *kiddush Hashem* anytime that you can”
 - ▶ “You are representing a lot more of a people than I would say the average person is.”

Findings

Theme: Expressing Judaism on campus

- ▶ “I want to show that I'm serious about [Judaism]”
- ▶ “ ‘Why does she have to, like portray her religious beliefs out like for everyone to see?’ .”
- ▶ “Find the nearest broom closet.”
- ▶ Desire to drop out?

Findings

Theme: Requiring religious exemptions

- ▶ Emailing professors
 - ▶ Positive experiences
 - ▶ Negative experiences
- ▶ Embarrassment
- ▶ “[Making up] holidays that don’t exist”
- ▶ Scheduling/studying difficulties

Findings

Theme: Connecting with peers on campus

- ▶ Making friends with Jewish vs. non-Jewish peers
- ▶ Friendships stay on campus?
- ▶ Affecting one's connection to Judaism?
- ▶ Participating in on campus events

Findings

Theme: Responding to questions about religion from others

- ▶ Educating peers
- ▶ Advocating for other Jews
- ▶ Stereotypes of Jews in pop culture
- ▶ Microaggressions
- ▶ Finding humor

Findings

Theme: Experiencing campus life post the Israel-Hamas war of October 7, 2023

- ▶ “It was almost as if, to the world, this did not happen. No one's life was affected, nothing changed.”
- ▶ Social media posts by peers
 - ▶ How do you interact with people who post harmful things?
- ▶ Safety concerns on campus
- ▶ Harassment?

Conclusions

Positives and negatives practicing Judaism on campus

Practicing Orthodox Judaism created a separation

Viewed as the “Jewish student”

Forming working relationships and friendships with their peers

Room for improvement on supporting a diverse student body

Expressing pride in their decision to become nurses

Findings in the Context of Previous Literature



Students may view their Jewishness as something to be hidden (Alperin, 2022; Cieslik & Phillips, 2021; Sasso et al., 2022).

Participants interviewed reported minimizing their Jewish identity.



Religious minority students find a balancing point. (Amini & Nguyen, 2021; Carter & McMillian-Bohler, 2020; Cieslik & Phillips, 2021; Parham, 2020).

Participants formed connections on campus, while remaining true to their Jewish values



Religious minorities on colleges campuses may struggle with practicing on campus (Hashem et al., 2022; Manejwala & Abu-Ras, 2019).

Participants reported planning ahead



Minority nursing students reported experiencing race related comments on campus (Carter & McMillian-Bohle, 2020; Flateland et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2022; Metzger et al., 2020; Pusey-Reid et al., 2022; Serrano et al., 2023).

Participants reported experiencing religion related comments from both their peers and nursing school professors.

Limitations

- ▶ Only focused Orthodox Jewish nursing students
- ▶ Northeastern region of the United States
- ▶ Small sample size
- ▶ Private dwellings
- ▶ Interviewed within two months of the October 7th, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel

Improving Subsequent Research

- ▶ Include participants from other regions on the U.S.
- ▶ Explore stress levels
- ▶ Explore sense of self identity
- ▶ Explore community support
- ▶ Explore on campus life after March, 2024

Recommendations

- ▶ Increasing cultural competency and sensitivity training
- ▶ Increasing the education provided to nursing school administrators and faculty
- ▶ School administrations providing education to the professors on the names and times of year of various Jewish holidays
- ▶ Providing education about Jewish holidays
- ▶ Creating a private space for students of all faiths to use to engage in religious practices

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Questions?

