## Pursing Care of Pregnant (Nuslim Women





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In 2015, approximately 3.3 million people of the Muslim faith were living in the United States, representing 1% of the nation's total population. It is estimated that this number will double by 2050, and that Islam will be the second-largest religious group in the United States by 2040 (Mohamed, 2016). One factor in this projected increase is that families within Islam tend to have more children than the average American family, and many American Muslims are now entering their childbearing years (Mohamed, 2016). Even though there are increasing numbers of American Muslims, 55% of Americans have stated that they know little about Islam and its religious practices (Pew Research Center, 2010). The same absence of familiarity extends to health care professionals.

**Abstract:** There are approximately 3.3 million people of the Muslim faith living in the United States. This article explores how Muslim women observe their religious beliefs during pregnancy and discusses implications for nursing care of pregnant Muslim women during Ramadan. Although pregnant Muslim women can be exempt from fasting, many still choose to fast during Ramadan. Factors that influence a woman's decision to fast include gravity and parity, maternal education, maternal age, body mass index, comprehension of Islamic Law, and gestational trimester. Nurses can tailor their care of pregnant Muslim women to include episodes of fasting and help them make informed decisions regarding fasting during Ramadan. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nwh.2016.08.001

Keywords: fasting | Muslim | nursing care | pregnancy | Ramadan

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