

Open to the Public: Meeting the Nursing Challenge of a Diverse America

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Open to the Public: Meeting the Nursing Challenge of a Diverse America

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Abstract:

Cultural belief systems affect how patients and families respond to stress, genders, authority, and end of life decisions. The United States is home to an increasing diverse population who bring their belief systems, cultural rituals, and languages into the Neuroscience ICU. Nurses may struggle to assist patients and families understand the treatment plan and recommendations in the face of cultural and language barriers. One Magnet hospital has developed a cultural awareness program that optimizes the resources available to aid patients, families, and caregivers to communicate clearly, understand cultural beliefs, and respect end of life decisions. A handbook was developed addressing cultural and spiritual beliefs for over 30 religious or cultural communities. In-house interpreters are available, fluent in over 50 languages and books of faith are available on the nursing units. Case studies will be presented illustrating cultural issues that left unresolved would have impacted patient and families emotional health.

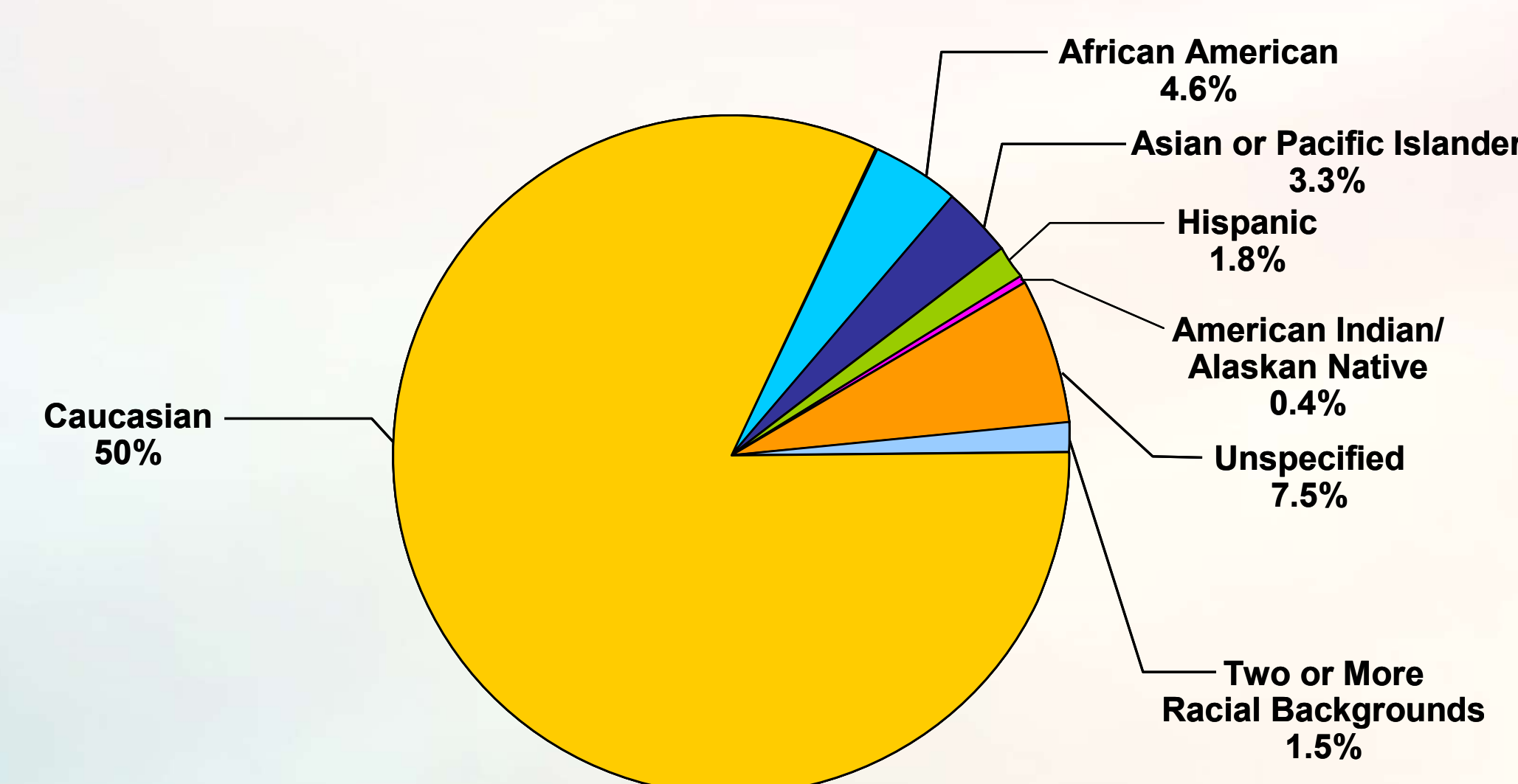
Objectives:

- Discuss the impact of trans-cultural patient expectations on nursing care.
- Describe the resources available to meet diverse patient populations' spiritual and cultural needs
- Review 2 case studies that demonstrate trans-cultural beliefs that impacted nursing care and family response to the medical environment.

Language Paradigm Shift

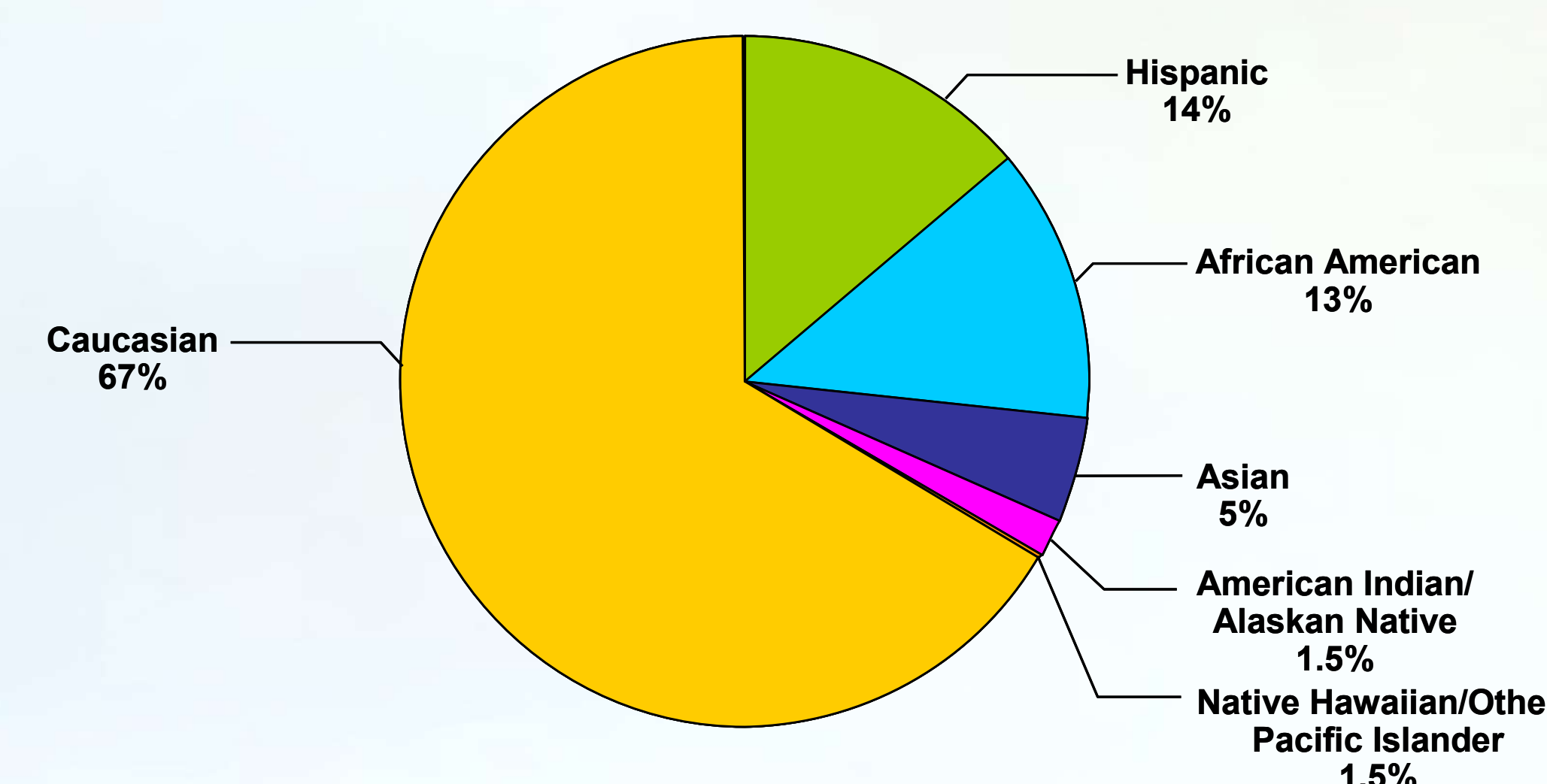
- 52 million U.S. residents do not speak English at home
- 21 million U.S. residents have limited English proficiency

2004 Nursing Force Ethnic Breakdown

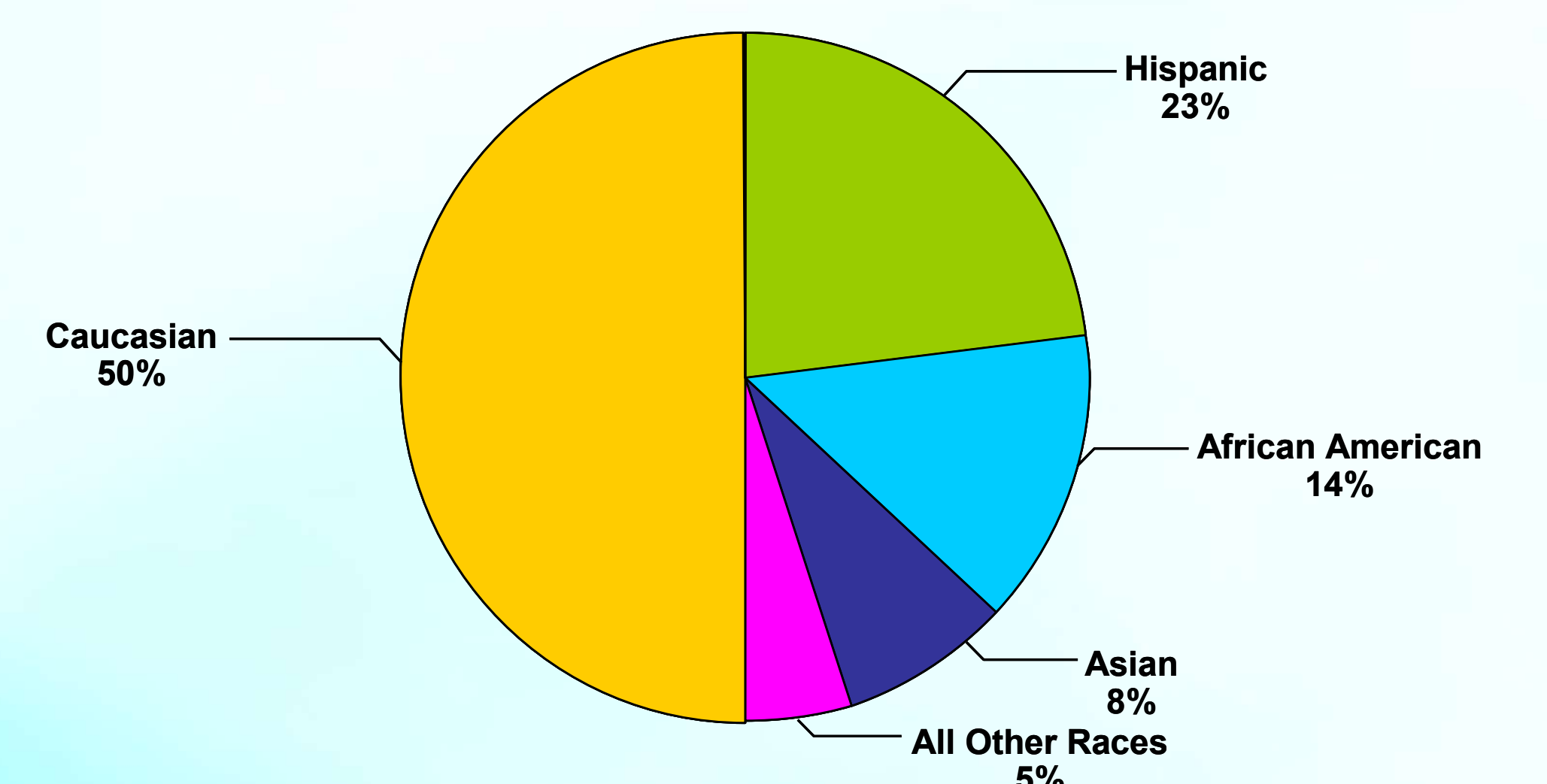


United States Culture Paradigm Shift

2004 National Ethnic Breakdown



2050 Projected Ethnic Breakdown



Health Care Disparity in United States

African Americans

- 29% higher rate of heart disease
- 50% more likely to suffer a stroke
- 30% higher rate for cancer
- 64% of new HIV/AIDS infections are African American woman

Hispanics

- Higher rates of cervical and stomach cancer
- Twice as likely to have diabetes
- Account for 20% of new cases of TB
- 50% higher rate of low birth weight babies

American Indian/Alaskan Native

- Highest rate of depression and suicide of all ethnic groups
- Higher rates for colon and rectal cancer
- Higher rates of infant deaths



Resources Available to Meet Cultural and Spiritual Needs

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services web site: <http://www.hrsa.gov>
- The Office of Minority Health web site: <http://www.omhrc.gov>
- State/City Resources Available
 - Department of Health
 - Community centers
 - Churches
 - Social groups
- Institutional resource available
 - Cultural Diversity Liaison
 - Interpreter Phone covering 150 languages
 - Interpreter Services
 - "GEORGE" - video remote interpretation for hearing impaired
 - Patient education provided in 10 languages
 - Cultural Diversity Handbook

Case Study #1

- 70 year old male admitted with large ICH
- Bosnian Muslim
- Requested spiritual support from Imam and Koran
- Islamic Center utilized to determine appropriate Imam
- Organ donation refused so body could be buried "whole"
- Face the patient toward Mecca at time of death
- Designation of approved funeral home prior to withdrawal of care to assure proper care of body
- Fulfill patient wish to return to Bosnia

Case Study #2

- 54 year old Chinese male admitted with large basil ganglion bleed
- Majority of family in China/ Niece in US
- Females may not have authority to make a value decision
- Male hierarchy prevails regardless of geographic disparity
- Brain death is not death in presence of beating heart
- Belief in prolonging life toward attaining "Enlightenment" by any means
- Contacted male relatives in China for end of life decision



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