

# Cultural Competency and Haitian Immigrants

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## Purnell's model

[Click here to see visual representation of model](#)

Purnell's model is a circle with the outer ring representing global society. Global society is "world communications and politics; conflicts and warfare; natural disasters and famines; international exchanges in business, commerce, and information technology; advances in the health sciences; space exploration; and the increased ability for people to travel around the world and to interact with diverse societies." (p. 9).<sup>11</sup>

The second ring is labeled "Community" and is defined as "a group of people having a common interest or identity and living in a specified locality." (p. 9).<sup>11</sup>

The third ring represents "Family" and is defined as "two or more people who are emotionally involved with each other" (p. 9).<sup>11</sup>

The fourth ring represents "Person" and is defined as "a biopsychosociocultural human being who is constantly adapting" (p. 9).<sup>11</sup>

In from the person ring are 12 wedges that represent cultural domains and their concepts:

- [Overview/heritage](#)

Includes concepts related to:

- Country of origin
- Current residence
- The effects of the topography of country of origin and current residence on health
- Economics
- Politics
- Reasons for migration
- Education status
- Occupations <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

- [Communication](#)

Includes concepts related to:

- Dominant language
- Dialects
- Cultural communication patterns
  - Personal space
  - Body language
  - Touch

- Temporal relationships
- Format for names <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

- [Family roles and organization](#)

Includes concepts related to:

- The head of the household
- Gender roles
- Family goals and priorities
- Developmental tasks of children and adolescents
- Roles of the aged
- Roles of extended family members
- Individual and social status in the community
- Acceptance of alternative lifestyles
  - Single parenting
  - Nontraditional sexual orientations
  - Childless marriages
  - Divorce <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

- [Workforce issues](#)

Includes concepts related to:

- Autonomy
- Acculturation
- Assimilation
- Gender roles
- Ethnic communication styles
- Individualism
- Health care practices from the country of origin. <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

- [Biocultural ecology](#)

Includes concepts related to:

- Skin color
- Body type
- Diseases that are genetic, hereditary, topographic or endemic
- How the culture metabolizes drugs <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

- [High-risk behavior](#)

Includes concepts related to:

- Drug use
- Alcohol use
- Nicotine use
- Dangerous behaviors

- Use of safety equipment (seat belts, helmets)
- High risk behaviors (sexually or otherwise)
- Degree of sedentary lifestyle
- Consumption of unhealthy food <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>
- [Nutrition](#)  
Includes concepts related to:
  - Availability of food
  - Rituals and taboos associated with food
  - The meaning of food to the culture
  - How food is used in sickness and in health <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>
- [Pregnancy and childbearing practices](#)  
Includes concepts related to:
  - Fertility practices
  - Labor and delivery practices
  - Practices that are considered taboo, prescriptive or restrictive during pregnancy
  - Labor and postpartum <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>
- [Death rituals](#)  
Includes concepts related to:
  - How death is viewed
  - Euthanasia
  - Preparation for death
  - Burial practices
  - Bereavement practices <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>
- [Spirituality](#)  
Includes concepts related to:
  - Practices that give strength and meaning of life to a individual
  - Religious practices
  - How prayer is used <sup>11, 12, 13</sup>
- [Health care practices](#)  
Includes concepts related to:
  - Does the culture seek preventative or acute treatment?
  - Magicoreligious healthcare beliefs
  - Traditional practices
  - Individual responsibility for health
  - Self medicating practices
  - iews towards issues such as

- Organ donation
  - Mental illness
  - Rehabilitation
  - How pain is expressed
  - The sick role
  - Barriers to health care<sup>11, 12, 13</sup>
- [Health care practitioners](#)  
Includes concepts related to:
  - Type of practitioners the culture uses
    - Traditional, or folk
    - Biomedical
  - Does gender of the practitioner comes in to play?
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What is the status the practitioner has in this culture?<sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

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<http://www.salisbury.edu/nursing/haitiancultcomp/purnellsmode.htm>