

# Culture and Language Barriers to Living Donor Consent Rates: A Retrospective Study

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**Background:** Foreign-born women giving birth in US hospitals is on the rise. When speaking with potential Birth Tissue donors, early data showed that non-English speaking patients declined donation at a higher rate than US born, English speaking patients. A retrospective study was conducted to discover whether culture or use of an interpreter affected Birth Tissue consent rates. If there was a connection between culture or language barriers to donation, we could provide a more inclusive approach to all birthing mothers. The two most prominent foreign cultures in our service areas were Latino and Middle Eastern with corresponding languages of Spanish and Arabic.

**Methods:** Spreadsheets tracked approached mother's race, interpreter use, language spoken, and if the patient consented or declined donation. The years 2021 and 2022 were studied. Basic demographics and the decline reason were documented. The data was compiled and calculations were performed to identify overall consent and decline rates with and without interpreters. Additionally, consent rates for each ethnicity studied were calculated. The data was then graphed and analyzed.

**Results:** Graph 1 displays that with the use of an interpreter for non-English speaking donors, 97% of 75 Latino women consented to donation. In that same time period, only 78% of 51 Middle Eastern women consented to donation.

As seen in graph 2, the overall consent rate is 94.24%. This data included Latino, Middle Eastern, Caucasian, and African American races. With the use of an interpreter, Latino women were above the average consent rate, while the Middle Eastern women were below..

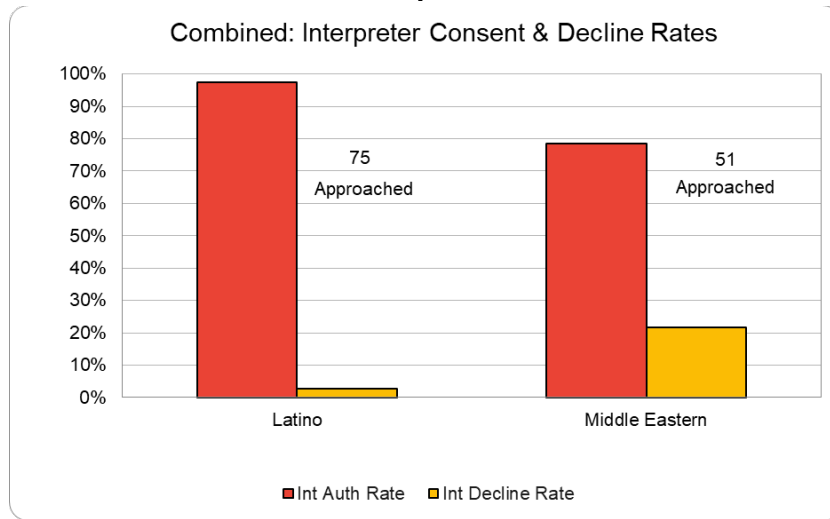
Graph 3 depicts how each ethnicity compares to the total average. For the Latino and Middle Eastern women, this includes the consents completed both with and without an interpreter.

**Conclusion:** After examining the retrospective data, we conclude that using an interpreter has no effect on the outcome of donation. Latino women consented to donation at the same rate regardless of interpreter involvement.

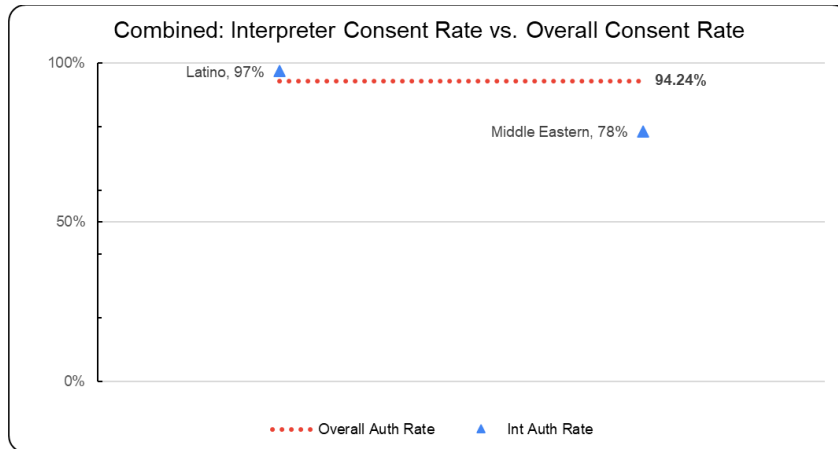
We found that Middle Eastern women were less likely to consent to donation compared to the other groups. One explanation can be that the amount of Middle Eastern women approached was a significantly smaller sample size than the other races. The overall authorization rate among Middle Eastern women over the two years is still strong, so we cannot conclude that culture alone affects donation. Additional and more specific data would need to be collected to make a better determination.

Overall, tissue organizations can surmise that it is best to be sensitive to cultural differences and provide multiple types of donation education. By having the right education materials available in multiple languages, we can create a more inclusive environment for all birthing mothers.

### Graph 1



### Graph 2



### Graph 3

