

Women often unaware of their hospital's religious affiliation

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(HealthDay)—Women of reproductive age are often unaware of their

hospital's religious affiliation, according to a study recently published in *Contraception*.

Jocelyn M. Wascher, from the University of Chicago, and colleagues conducted a [national survey](#) of women ages 18 to 45 years to assess what percentage of U.S. women seeking care at Catholic hospitals are aware of their hospital's [religious affiliation](#).

The researchers found that 16 percent of women reported a Catholic hospital as their primary hospital for reproductive care. Nearly two-thirds of respondents whose primary hospital was Catholic correctly identified this, versus 93 percent of women who correctly identified their hospital as non-Catholic. Of women who misidentified their Catholic hospital's affiliation, two-thirds reported that their hospital was secular, with nearly half of these women feeling sure or very sure of their incorrect response. A religious-sounding name (adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 2.80), respondent older age (aOR, 3.77), metropolitan residence (aOR, 3.35), and income over \$100,000 (aOR, 4.95) were all factors associated with [women](#) correctly identifying Catholic hospitals.

"Efforts are needed to increase [hospital](#) transparency and patient awareness of the implications that arise when health care is restricted by religion," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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