

## Project Implicit

EMS providers encounter people from all walks of life. In surveys, we are often at or near the top of the list of most trusted professionals. Treating all patients with dignity and respect is an important part of living up to that honor.

As Educators, you also have significant influence on current and future EMS providers. Many variables shape our beliefs and attitudes towards others. A willingness to self-reflect can be valuable to your ongoing development as a provider and as an instructor.

If you watch the update video with Dr. Currie, we discussed the Harvard Implicit Association Test. You can access information on this project here <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html> and a link in the toolbar will take you to the available tests. I hope you will review the information about Implicit Association Testing and consider using the project to reflect on your own potential biases. There is a lot more information on the website and the FAQ is worth a review as well.

Does implicit preference = prejudice?

Most academic psychologists use the word 'prejudice' to describe people who report negative attitudes toward a social group. By this definition, showing an implicit preference for one group over another does not mean that a person is prejudiced. Some people who show this preference would also report prejudiced attitudes, while others would not. The point is that the IAT cannot indicate whether a person is or is not prejudiced because it is not an explicit or self-report measure.

The IAT attempts to assess biases that are not necessarily personally endorsed and that may even be contradictory to what one consciously believes. For this reason, we would say that your behavior on the IAT indicates that you may have an implicit preference, which may or may not be the same as the attitude you would report on an explicit measure.

In brief, taking an IAT showing that one might hold biases against, or stereotypes about, people from different groups can provide the opportunity to reflect on how to best mitigate or challenge these associations.