

Common Questions Regarding Federal Standards for Collecting and Reporting Race/Ethnicity

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* D R A F T *

Overview

- Why is there a **Federal Standard** on race/ethnicity?
- What are the **minimum requirements**?
- Can measures of race/ethnicity be **more detailed**?
- How are Federal standards **revised**?

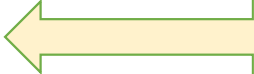
Why a Federal standard on race/ethnicity?

- Established to maximize information that can be used to inform federal policy
- Emphasis on comparability of data collected and reported by federal agencies
 - Establishes minimum requirements when federal agencies collect and report race/ethnicity data
 - Promotes collection more detailed race/ethnicity information
 - Establishes categories for aggregating detailed race/ethnicity information

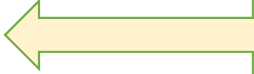
What are the minimum collection requirements?

Select all that apply:

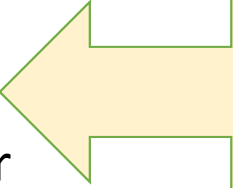
- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White



1. Instruct respondents to select all that apply.



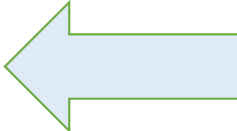
2. Ethnicity is asked before race.



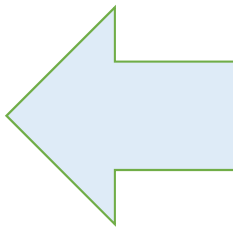
3. Five minimum categories. There is no collection category for more than one race.

What are the minimum reporting requirements?

- Hispanic, any race
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- More than one race



1. Encouraged to report Hispanic by each race group (e.g., Hispanic and Black)

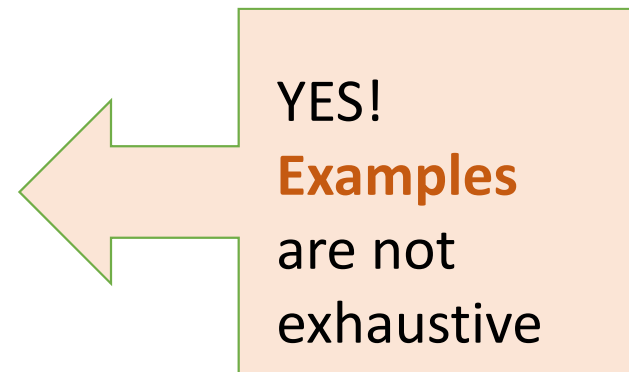


2. Encouraged to report multiple race combinations separately (e.g., Asian and White); else report as more than one race

Can detailed race/ethnicity be collected?

Select all that apply:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Navajo**
- Other American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Middle Eastern Northern African**



Can detailed race/ethnicity be reported?

- Hispanic or Latino, any race
- American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Navajo
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
 - Middle Eastern Northern African



**YES! But must
be able to be
aggregated into
minimum
categories for
reporting
purposes**

How are Federal standards revised?

1. The Office of Management and Budget establishes a Federal Interagency Working Group to review the current standard
2. The IWG examines functioning of the current standard for relevance, accuracy, and access for federal policy needs
3. The public comments on areas of possible revision and proposed changes
4. OMB issues decision
5. Implementation guidance may be issued
 - Additional instruction to Federal agencies consistent with the standard

Why aren't Federal standards more detailed?

1. Not all Federal data collections will have sample sizes large enough to report detailed categories.
 - Example: If the estimate would be unreliable and/or pose a confidentiality risk because it is so small, agencies cannot report it in detailed form. If they cannot report the detailed category, there may be less perceived value in collecting it.
 - Solution: Those who can, should. Those who cannot, won't. Both should aggregate to the minimum categories to allow comparison.

Why aren't Federal standards more detailed?

2. There is disagreement about which categories detailed measures should be aggregated into for comparison
 - Example: Middle Eastern Northern African is currently a detail measure that aggregates into the White category. There is some disagreement if MENA should be its own minimum race category, and how to define it.
 - Solution: Thought leaders from academia and the community have proposed definitions. There seemed to be public support, but there was not policy support during the 2017 review of the standard.

Why aren't Federal standards more detailed?

3. Changes in the Federal standard can affect comparability across the entire Federal and State statistical system.
 - Example: If Hispanic or Latino were considered a race, this could impact Federal collections, particularly agreements with States
 - Solution: Pilot testing conducted by the US Census Bureau in 2015 and 2016 could be expanded to describe impact on estimates. Other Federal statistical agencies could provide bridging and other studies.