



Appendix B: Race and Ethnic Groupings

Appendix B: Race and Ethnic Groupings Used in the Report

We acknowledge that significant diversity exists within each of the race and ethnic categories used in this report, and that the use of broad categories sometimes obfuscates health disparities among smaller subgroups. The category labeled “Asian” combines persons from such diverse cultures as Japan, China, Southeast Asia, and India, and is even more diverse when it has been combined with persons from Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander cultures. The category for “Black or African American” includes both descendants of persons who were enslaved during the U.S. slave period, as well as more recent immigrants from the African continent and elsewhere. All race and ethnic groups include persons who have recently arrived in the U.S. as well as those whose families have lived here for several generations.

Despite the inherent diversity within each category, this report is evidence that the UDOH believes it is worthwhile to aggregate health status data for persons from similar cultures to ascertain whether health status disparities exist. We have selected to use the race and ethnic categories recommended by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, wherever possible. The following excerpts from the Federal Register document those categories.

The minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are defined as follows:

- **American Indian or Alaska Native.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- **Asian.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- **Black or African American.** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as “Haitian” or “Negro” can be used in addition to “Black or African American.”
- **Hispanic or Latino.** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term, “Spanish origin,” can be used in addition to “Hispanic or Latino.”
- **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- **White.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Respondents shall be offered the option of selecting one or more racial designations. Recommended forms for the instruction accompanying the multiple response question are “Mark one or more” and “Select one or more.”



Appendix B: Race and Ethnic Groupings

To provide flexibility and ensure data quality, separate questions shall be used wherever feasible for reporting race and ethnicity. When race and ethnicity are collected separately, ethnicity shall be collected first. If race and ethnicity are collected separately, the minimum designations are:

Race:

- **American Indian or Alaska Native**
- **Asian**
- **Black or African American**
- **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander**
- **White**

Ethnicity:

- **Hispanic or Latino**
- **Not Hispanic or Latino**

Federal Register Notice, October 30, 1997 OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET:
Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity.
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/fedreg/ombdir15.html>

Readers have probably noticed that the categories used on the data pages throughout the report vary. The above OMB classification scheme was our goal, but several data sources did not allow for data aggregation according to the new standard.

As an example, any measures of mortality found in the report have been reported with the Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander categories combined. The mortality data set does currently code those two groups separately, according to the new OMB standard, but it began doing so in only 2002. For mortality measures, we were required to use data from before and after 2002, so we had to leave the Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander groups combined.