

DHHS standards for the collection of data on race and ethnicity

Reference guide

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Utah Department of
Health & Human Services
Health Equity

This document aligns with Utah Code 26B-7-114, Office of Health Equity duties.

This reference guide outlines standards for the collection of data on race and ethnicity. These standards derive from the March 2024 revisions to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 15 (SPD 15), with adaptations for Utah. These revised guidelines supercede all previous guidance on race and ethnicity data collection.¹ For detailed information, refer to the [Utah DHHS Guidelines for the collection of data on race and ethnicity](#).

Race and ethnicity categories and definitions¹

The minimum categories for collecting data on race and ethnicity are as follows:

- **American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN).** Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of North, Central, and South America, including, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, and Maya.
- **Asian.** Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of Central or East Asia, Southeast Asia, or South Asia, including, for example, Chinese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese.
- **Black or African American (B/AA).** Individuals with origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, and Somali.
- **Hispanic or Latino (H/L).** Includes individuals of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, and other Central or South American or Spanish culture or origin.
- **Middle Eastern or North African (MENA).** Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of the Middle East or North Africa, including, for example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, and Israeli.
- **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (NHPI).** Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands, including, for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, and Marshallese.
- **White.** Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, including, for example, English, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, and Scottish.

The default term for most data collection is *Hispanic/Latino*. The term *Hispanic/Latina* may be used for data collection specific to women, and *Hispanic/Latinx* may be used for data collection specific to LGBTQ+ populations.

Race and ethnicity data collection standards

Figure 1. DHHS/OMB race and ethnicity data collection standard, with detailed categories

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply and enter additional details in the spaces below.

American Indian or Alaska Native — *Provide details below.*
Enter, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.

Asian — *Provide details below.*

Chinese Asian Indian Filipino
 Vietnamese Korean Japanese

Enter, for example, Pakistani, Hmong, Afghan, etc.

Black or African American — *Provide details below.*

African American Jamaican Haitian
 Nigerian Ethiopian Somali

Enter, for example, Trinidadian and Tobagonian, Ghanaian, Congolese, etc.

Hispanic or Latino — *Provide details below.*

Mexican Puerto Rican Salvadoran
 Cuban Dominican Guatemalan

Enter, for example, Colombian, Honduran, Spaniard, etc.

Middle Eastern or North African — *Provide details below.*

Lebanese Iranian Egyptian
 Syrian Iraqi Israeli

Enter, for example, Moroccan, Yemeni, Kurdish, etc.

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander — *Provide details below.*

Native Hawaiian Samoan Chamorro
 Tongan Fijian Marshallese

Enter, for example, Chuukese, Palauan, Tahitian, etc.

White — *Provide details below.*

English German Irish
 Italian Polish Scottish

Enter, for example, French, Swedish, Norwegian, etc.

Some other race/ethnicity

Prefer not to answer

DHHS and OMB
SPD 15 race and
ethnicity data
collection standard

DHHS recommends
adding these two
response options

Figure 2. DHHS/OMB race and ethnicity data collection standard, condensed version with examples

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply.

- American Indian or Alaska Native**
For example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.
- Asian**
For example, Chinese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.
- Black or African American**
For example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.
- Hispanic or Latino**
For example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, etc.
- Middle Eastern or North African**
For example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, Israeli, etc.
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander**
For example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.
- White**
For example, English, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Scottish, etc.
- Some other race/ethnicity**
- Prefer not to answer**

DHHS and OMB
SPD 15 race and
ethnicity data
collection standard

DHHS recommends
adding these two
response options

Figure 3. DHHS/OMB race and ethnicity data collection standard with minimum categories only

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White

- Some other race/ethnicity
- Prefer not to answer

DHHS and OMB
SPD 15 race and
ethnicity data
collection standard

DHHS recommends
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response options

Figures 1, 2, and 3 are adapted from the Office of Management and Budget's *Revisions to OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*.¹

Data collection standards for additional details

Additional details for race and ethnicity

There is recognized value in collection and use of disaggregated race and ethnicity data that is more granular than the standard requirements. Significant diversity of races, ethnicities, and ancestries exists beyond what is presented in the standard. This translates into a wide variation in health histories and experiences that may be undetected for smaller subgroups. Through data collection and analysis at a more granular level, health disparities that would otherwise be overlooked may be identified and addressed.

The detailed categories for race and ethnicity in Figure 1 are represented exactly as in SPD 15, which show the top six categories based on Census data for the United States. Figure 4 outlines the top six categories for Utah based ancestry and origin data from the American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau) 5-year estimates for 2020 through 2024.^{2, 3, 4, 5} Note that no detailed categories have been outlined for American Indian or Alaska Native. The categories listed can be integrated into data collection, if determined to be relevant. The main requirement to use additional granularity for race and ethnicity is to be able to aggregate additional details to the minimum race and ethnicity categories.

Figure 4. Ancestries for groups in Utah by population size

<p>American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p>No detailed categories are available. If additional detail is needed, follow the appropriate tribal consultation process.</p>	<p>Asian²</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chinese 2. Filipino 3. Japanese 4. Asian Indian 5. Vietnamese 6. Korean 	<p>Black or African American³</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sudanese 2. Somali 3. Nigerian 4. Haitian 5. South African 6. Ethiopian 	<p>Hispanic or Latino⁴</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mexican 2. Spanish 3. Salvadoran 4. Peruvian 5. Venezuelan 6. Puerto Rican
<p>Middle Eastern or North African³</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iranian 2. Lebanese 3. Iraqi 4. Arab 5. Syrian 6. Egyptian 	<p>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander⁵</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tongan 2. Samoan 3. Native Hawaiian 4. Guamanian or Chamorro 5. Marshallese 6. Fijian 	<p>White³</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English 2. German 3. Irish 4. Danish 5. Scottish 6. Swedish 	

Self-identified race, ethnicity, country of origin, or ancestry open-ended question

An open-ended question on self-identified race, ethnicity, country of origin, or ancestry can help data analysts understand the way that individuals identify, in their own words.

Figure 5. Open-ended question for race, ethnicity, country of origin, or ancestry

How do you identify your race, ethnicity, country of origin, or ancestry? Specify.

If this open-ended question is included, it should be placed before the standard question which presents race and ethnicity in predetermined categories.

References

1. Office of Management and Budget. (2024, March 29). *Revisions to OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for maintaining, collecting, and presenting federal data on race and ethnicity*. Federal Register. Retrieved June 2024, from <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/29/2024-06469/revisions-to-ombs-statistical-policy-directive-no-15-standards-for-maintaining-collecting-and>
2. U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). Asian Alone or in Any Combination by Selected Groups. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B02018. Retrieved February 17, 2026, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=B02018&g=040XX00US49>: Asian Alone or in Any Combination by Selected Groups.
3. U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). People Reporting Ancestry. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B04006. Retrieved February 17, 2026, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=B04006&g=040XX00US49>
4. U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). Hispanic or Latino Origin by Specific Origin. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B03001. Retrieved February 17, 2026, from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=B03001&g=040XX00US49>
5. U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone or in Any Combination by Selected Groups. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B02019. Retrieved July 23, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2024.B02019?q=B02019&g=040XX00US49>: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone or in Any Combination by Selected Groups.

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