

Census Bureau Updates on Race/Ethnicity

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The Census State Data Center Network

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Agenda

- The U.S. Office of Management and Budget's updated Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD 15)
- Implementation of the Updated Race/Ethnicity Standards
- Methods for bridging data between the 1997 SPD 15 and the 2024 SPD 15
- Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement Project
- Questions



Updated Race/Ethnicity Standards

Purpose of SPD 15

SPD 15: Race and Ethnicity Standards

- 1977 = established
- 1997 = only previous revision
- New responsibilities to enforce civil rights laws
- Improve the quality, usefulness, and consistency of Federal data on race and ethnicity
- Provide common language to promote uniformity, comparability, and consistency across Federal information collections

Purpose for 2024 Review and Revision

- Declining data quality for Hispanic and Latino respondents
- Middle Eastern and North African respondents view their identity as distinct from White racial category
- Need for disaggregated data to better understand within-group disparities and outcomes
- Inconsistent and outdated terminology

Interagency Technical Working Group on Race and Ethnicity Standards

The Chief Statistician of the United States, positioned in OMB, convened the Interagency Technical Working Group on Race and Ethnicity Standards (Working Group) in 2022

- Chaired by OMB and Co-Chaired by U.S. Census Bureau
- Composed of Federal career staff representing programs that collect or use race and ethnicity data from across the Federal Government, consistent with OMB's established process
- Provided a set of recommendations to the U.S. Chief Statistician, report is on spd15revision.gov

The Working Group relied heavily on:

- Research conducted by Federal agencies over the last decade
- New research and testing of potential alternatives by several Federal agencies
- Robust public comment in response to a January 2023 FRN (over 20,000 comments), 94 listening sessions, 3 public virtual townhalls, and 1 tribal consultation



Public Outreach and Engagement

Relied on a variety of outreach and communication efforts, and offered diverse ways for the people to engage

- White House blog posts
- [spd15revision.gov](https://www.spd15revision.gov) website
- Listening Sessions
- Federal Register Notice
- Conferences / Convenings

20,000+ written public comments

- including a number of letter writing campaigns

18 Conferences and Convenings

1 Tribal Consultation

3 Public Town Halls

- **200** verbal comments over 9 hours
- **3,550** callers to listen

94 half-hour biweekly **listening sessions**

- **114** total speakers

U.S. Office of Management and Budget Releases Updated Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards

On March 28, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [published the results](#) of their Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) review and issued [updated standards](#) for maintaining, collecting and presenting race and ethnicity data.



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Revisions to OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

AGENCY: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

ACTION: Notice of decision.

SUMMARY: By this Notice, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is announcing revisions to Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD 15). The revised SPD 15 is presented at the end of this Notice; it replaces and supersedes OMB's 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*. OMB is taking this action to meet its responsibilities to develop and oversee the implementation of Government-wide principles, policies, standards, and guidelines concerning the development, presentation, and dissemination of statistical information. These revisions to SPD 15 are intended to result in more accurate and useful race and ethnicity data across the Federal government.

The Updated 2024 Race and Ethnicity Standards

1. Collect Race and Ethnicity Information Using One Combined Question

- The 1997 standards required two questions: a Hispanic or Latino ethnicity question and a separate race question.
- **2024 Update:** A combined race and ethnicity question is required for both self-response and proxy reporting. Respondents can select multiple categories, but a single response is also considered a complete response.

The Updated 2024 Race and Ethnicity Standards

2. Add Middle Eastern or North African as a New Minimum Category

- The 1997 standards defined people of Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) origin as a group within the White racial category.
- **2024 Update:** MENA is a new minimum reporting category distinct from all other reporting categories. The definition for the White category is revised to remove references to MENA.

The Updated 2024 Race and Ethnicity Standards

3. Require the Collection of Detailed Race and Ethnicity Categories as a Default

- The minimum race and ethnicity categories are broad and can contain heterogeneous groups. The 1997 standards encouraged the collection of detailed data, but not did require it.
- **2024 Update:** The updated SPD 15 requires the collection of detailed data on race and ethnicity beyond the minimum categories, unless an agency determines that the potential benefit of the detailed data would not justify the additional burden to the agency and the public or the additional risk to privacy or confidentiality; and, therefore, requests an exemption from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OMB). In those cases, Federal agencies must at least use the minimum categories and justify this determination in the agency's Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) information collection review package.

The Updated 2024 Race and Ethnicity Standards

4. Additional Revisions Include:

- Updates to terminology, definitions, and question instruction wording.
- Guidance on data collection and editing procedures and presentation of race and ethnicity data.

2024 SPD 15 Provides Conceptual Framework of Race and/or Ethnicity

The updated SPD 15 released by OMB requires all race and/or ethnicity categories to be treated equally in collection and tabulation

- Respondents may select as many race and/or ethnicity options that correspond to how they identify
- In tabulation, the minimum race and ethnicity categories must be treated co-equally except if a program or collection effort focuses on a specific race or ethnicity group
- Collection forms may not indicate that some categories are ethnicities and other categories are races

Minimum Race/Ethnicity Reporting Category
American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Black or African American
Hispanic or Latino
Middle Eastern or North African
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
White

2024 SPD 15 Race/Ethnicity Category Definitions

Minimum Race/Ethnicity Reporting Category	2024 SPD 15 Definition
American Indian or Alaska Native	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	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	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	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	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.

Figure 1. Required Race and Ethnicity Question with Minimum Categories, Multiple Detailed Checkboxes, and Write-In Response Areas with Example Groups

Updated SPD 15 envisions that agencies, whenever possible, will collect race/ethnicity data with a question format that includes the required minimum categories disaggregated by the required detailed categories as illustrated in this figure.

- Note, updated SPD 15 does not specify the order in which categories must be presented
- Historically, Census Bureau has presented race/ethnicity categories in population size order
- Also note that, per Congress, the decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS) must include the category “Some Other Race”

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

American Indian or Alaska Native – 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.

Figure 2. Race and Ethnicity Question with Minimum Categories Only and Example Groups

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.

Figure 3. Race and Ethnicity Question 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**

Data from a Combined Question Can Be Tabulated in Multiple Ways

Approach 1. The alone or in combination approach

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

Approach 2. The most frequent multiple responses approach

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

AIAN and Hispanic	Hispanic and Black
AIAN and White	Hispanic and White
Asian and NHPI	MENA and Asian
Asian and White	MENA and White
Black and MENA	NHPI and Black
Black and White	NHPI and White

All additional Multiracial and/or Multiethnic groups

Approach 3. The combined Multiracial and/or Multiethnic approach

American Indian or Alaska Native alone
Asian Alone
Black or African American Alone
Hispanic or Latino Alone
Middle Eastern or North African Alone
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone
White Alone
Multiracial and/or Multiethnic

Note abbreviations used for race/ethnicity categories:
 AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native
 Black = Black or African American
 Hispanic = Hispanic or Latino
 MENA = Middle Eastern and North African.
 NHPI = Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander

U.S. Office of Management and Budget Releases Updated Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards

The Census Bureau commends the scientific integrity and collaboration with our fellow federal statistical agencies and departments throughout this process.

These efforts aim to improve federal race and ethnicity statistics and ensure data more accurately reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the U.S. population.

For more information visit OMB's Interagency Technical Working Group on Race & Ethnicity website – spd15revision.gov



What Updates to OMB's Race/Ethnicity Standards Mean for the Census Bureau

April 08, 2024
Author: Rachel Marks, Chief, Racial Statistics Branch, Population Division; Nicholas Jones, Director/Senior Advisor for Race/Ethnicity Research & Outreach, Population Division; and Karen Battle, Division Chief, Population Division



Estimated reading time: 8 minutes

On March 28, 2024, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the results of its review of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) and issued updated standards for maintaining, collecting and presenting race/ethnicity data across federal agencies.

Among the biggest updates: directives to use a combined race/ethnicity question; the addition of a new "Middle Eastern and North African" minimum reporting category; and a requirement to collect detailed race/ethnicity responses.

Our findings over the past decade resonate with many of the SPD 15 updates. Based on our extensive research and engagement with myriad communities, organizations, scholars, researchers and data users across the country, we know a combined race/ethnicity question with a dedicated Middle Eastern or North African response category and an emphasis on the collection of detailed identities for all communities will produce more accurate race/ethnicity data for our nation's population.

The updates to SPD 15 were informed by robust empirical research; extensive engagement with experts, scholars, organization leaders and communities across the country; and the successful and meaningful collaboration among federal agency leaders and experts on the Interagency Technical Working Group on Race and Ethnicity Standards.

We are confident that the updated standards will improve data on race/ethnicity across U.S. Census Bureau programs, and that these new data will better represent the U.S. population's rich racial/ethnic diversity and detailed identities.

Meeting Our Future: Improving Race/Ethnicity Data With Updated Federal Standards

April 08, 2024
Author: Robert L. Santos, Director, U.S. Census Bureau



On March 28, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the results of its review of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) and issued updated standards for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity data across federal agencies, including the U.S. Census Bureau. These standards were last revised over a quarter century ago. Given the evolution of our nation over the past two decades, this announcement is well received.

Professionally, these updated standards will improve data on race/ethnicity to better reflect the growing, beautiful diversity of our nation and its people. Personally, I am thankful that I and more Americans than ever will be able to self-identify using a single question that respectfully presents race/ethnicity categories co-equally. And checking all that apply allows respondents to report our rich identities in full. Yes, I'm looking forward to answering the new combined race/ethnicity question in the 2030 Census, the American Community Survey and other social and demographic surveys conducted by the Census Bureau.

The publication of these updated standards powerfully impacts our collective understanding of the future racial/ethnic demographics of our nation, providing us with a more nuanced and dynamic understanding of our population's complex and rich diversity of communities and identities. I encourage you to review the updated standards – and think about how you can *not* ~~not~~ *trav* ~~trav~~ *your whole self when answering future race/ethnicity questions in our surveys and censuses*

Implementation of the Updated Race/Ethnicity Standards

Guidance from OMB on Implementation of 2024 SPD 15

- Agencies are to publish an Action Plan on Race and Ethnicity within 18 months
- Agencies are to fully implement the 2024 SPD 15 within 5 years – by March 28, 2029
- OMB convened a new Federal Committee on Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (FC SPD 15)
 - Maintain and carry out a Government-wide research agenda
 - Undertake regular reviews of SPD 15 every 10 years (including public input)

Census Bureau's Initial Steps for Implementing SPD 15

- Collaborating with colleagues across the Census Bureau to begin discussing the updated SPD 15 and next steps for developing an agency action plan.
- We are collaborating with Department of Commerce leaders to develop an action plan for all of Commerce's data collections that include race/ethnicity.
- Working with our FC SPD 15 colleagues to share and develop best practices for implementation.
- Engaging with stakeholders and keeping them posted as we develop implementation plans.

Public Feedback on the Timeline for Implementing Updated 2024 SPD 15 in the American Community Survey

- Census Bureau evaluated the practicability of implementing updated SPD 15 into either the 2026 ACS or the 2027 ACS. The assessment was that implementation will be targeted for 2027, with dissemination of data products to begin in 2028.
- Feedback was solicited about the impact this update would have on Federal agencies and external stakeholders if implemented in either 2026 ACS or 2027 ACS, in light of our assessment of risks to data quality.
- Public comments were collected from July 12 through August 12 via a Federal Register Notice. Comments were also collected from Federal agencies participating on the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy.

SPD 15 Implementation Plans for Decennial Census

- Moving forward, we are including the combined race/ethnicity question for data collection formats following SPD 15 guidance into all Decennial Census operational and field tests.
- For example, the 2024 Small-Scale Response Testing (SmaRT) and the 2026 Census Test include the updated combined race/ethnicity question as part of the demographic content.
- Our Race/Ethnicity Research Team is developing the data processing and edit procedures for the 2030 Census.
- Later this fall, we will begin soliciting feedback from experts about the updated race/ethnicity coding list.

8. What is Person 1's race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply and print additional details in the spaces below.

White — Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> German	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish
<input type="checkbox"/> Italian	<input type="checkbox"/> Polish	<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish

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

Hispanic or Latino — Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Mexican	<input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvadoran
<input type="checkbox"/> Cuban	<input type="checkbox"/> Dominican	<input type="checkbox"/> Guatemalan

Print, for example, Colombian, Honduran, Spanish, etc.

Black or African American — Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Jamaican	<input type="checkbox"/> Haitian
<input type="checkbox"/> Nigerian	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopian	<input type="checkbox"/> Somali

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

Asian — Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese

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

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

Middle Eastern or North African — Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Iranian	<input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian
<input type="checkbox"/> Syrian	<input type="checkbox"/> Iraqi	<input type="checkbox"/> Israeli

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

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander — Provide details below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan	<input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Tongan	<input type="checkbox"/> Fijian	<input type="checkbox"/> Marshallese

Print, for example, Chukchee, Palauan, Tahitian, etc.

Some other race and/or ethnicity — Provide details below.

→ If more people were counted in Question 1 on the front page, continue with Person 2 on the next page.

SPD 15 Implementation Plans for Population Estimates

- Work is underway to transition the population estimates to 2024 SPD 15 categories
- Research is in progress to implement the updated categories potentially as early as the Vintage 2025 estimates (April 1, 2020 – July 1, 2025) for tentative release in Summer 2026

Tentative Transition Plan

- ***Initially:*** Produce estimates in 1997 SPD 15 race and Hispanic origin categories, and bridge population estimates from 1997 categories forward to the 2024 SPD 15 categories
- ***Eventually:*** As input data become available in the updated 2024 categories, transition our components-of-change processing to 2024 categories; bridge population estimates from 2024 categories back to 1997 categories
- Expect to have population estimates available to our internal and external customers in both 1997 and 2024 SPD 15 categories for the rest of the decade (at least)

SPD 15 Implementation Plans for Additional Data Collections

- Working with the Survey Directors for Census Bureau owned surveys to discuss implementation plans and timing for moving to the updated SPD 15. Examples include:
 - Current Population Survey (CPS)
 - Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
 - Household Pulse/Panel
 - Annual Business Survey (ABS)
 - Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics (NES-D)
- Working with Survey Directors for surveys sponsored by other Federal agencies to discuss how and when to implement the updated SPD 15 in their data collections.
- Advising our colleagues who work with race/ethnicity data (e.g., administrative records; internal Human Resources employee demographics data) to incorporate the updated race/ethnicity standards.

Highlights of Recent Engagements and Upcoming Opportunities to Discuss Census Implementation of Updated SPD 15

FC SPD 15

National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations (NAC)



Census Bureau Household Survey Sponsors



2030 Census Advisory Committee

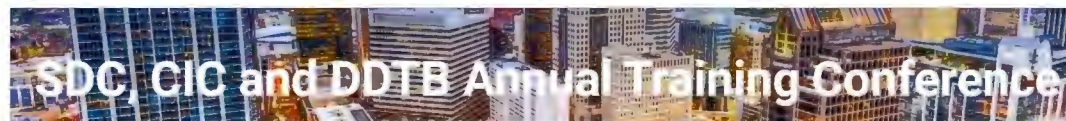
State of California Office of Data and Innovation



Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC)



Pathways to Data Equity: State Data Leaders' Summit



Bridging Race/Ethnicity Data

Bridging Race/Ethnicity Data

To help agencies cross-walk data collected under the previous and the updated standards, the Working Group developed an initial set of publicly available Bridging Data Tools

OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 on Race and Ethnicity Data Standards > Bridging Data Tools


The spd15revision.gov website has:

- [Report and technical documentation](#) describing an initial, basic bridging program for general use on all Federal data by Federal agencies and public data users
- [Additional bridging programs, user guides, and test data sets](#)

Bridging Data Tools

The Federal Interagency Technical Working Group on Race and Ethnicity Standards developed and is making public an initial, basic bridging program for general use on all Federal data used by Federal agencies and public data users. These tools are intended to help Federal agencies estimate and compare race and ethnicity specific statistics over time between those collected under the 2024 and 1997 standards. Agencies are not required to use these tools and may choose to use their own program data to replace or supplement the bridging tools provided here.

Complementary research and development of more robust methodologies are expected to follow, once additional data are collected under the 2024 Statistical Policy Directive No. 15. The bridging programs, user guides, and test data sets will be updated as research continues and will be shared here.

 [Annex 6. Bridging Team Methods Report \[1.1 MB\]](#)

 [ITWG Bridging Team Methods Report: Technical Documentation \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Bridging 1997 to 2024 Factors \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Bridging 1997 to 2024 Program \(.py\) \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Bridging 1997 to 2024 Program \(.sas\) \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Bridging 2024 to 1997 Factors \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Bridging 2024 to 1997 Program \(.py\) \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

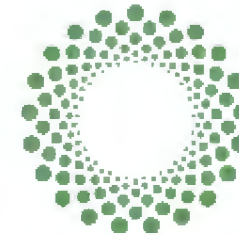
 [Bridging 2024 to 1997 Program \(.sas\) \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Race and Ethnicity Data Example 1 \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Race and Ethnicity Data Example 2 \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Race and Ethnicity Data Example 3 \[<1.0 MB\]](#)

 [Race and Ethnicity Data Example 4 \[<1.0 MB\]](#)



**OMB Statistical
Policy Directive 15
on Race and Ethnicity
Data Standards**

Bridging Race/Ethnicity Data

1997 SPD 15: Two Separate Questions Format with Minimum Reporting Categories

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Hispanic or Latino
- Yes, Hispanic or Latino

What is your race? *Select one or more.*

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

2024 SPD 15: Combined Question Format with Minimum Reporting Categories

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

Overview of Phase 1 Race/Ethnicity Bridging Methods

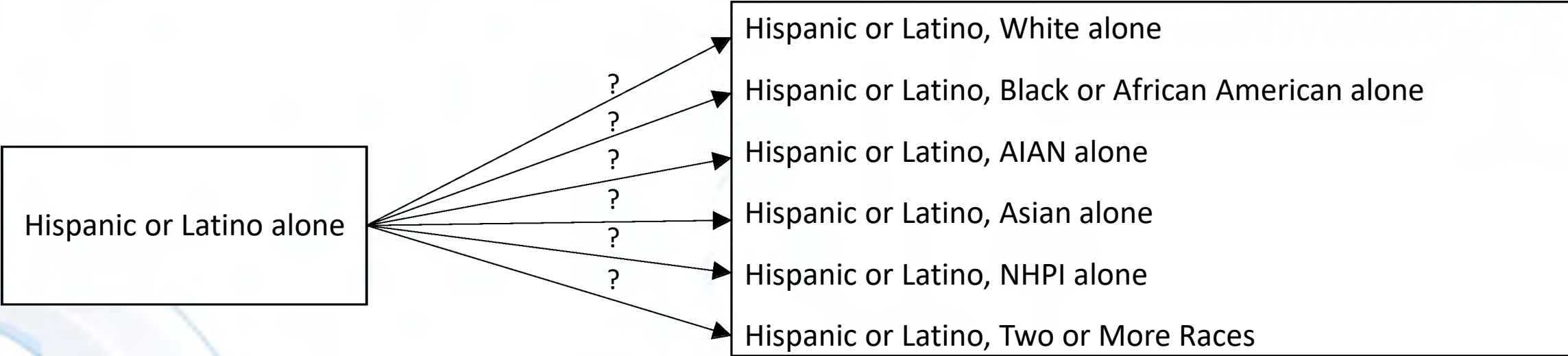
- Almost all of the race/ethnicity categories bridge directly from 1997 to 2024 and vice versa.
- We follow the 1997 SPD 15 definitions for guidance on how to bridge the MENA category (i.e., MENA bridges to White, following 1997 SPD 15 definitions).
- We also use aggregate response patterns from the 2020 Census to bridge categories that do not have a direct relationship.

Bridging the Combined Format (2024) to the Separate Format (1997)

- The 2024 Hispanic alone category has no direct analog in the 1997 SPD 15 format as there is no single race group that the Hispanic alone category can be bridged to.

2024 SPD 15 categories

1997 SPD 15 categories

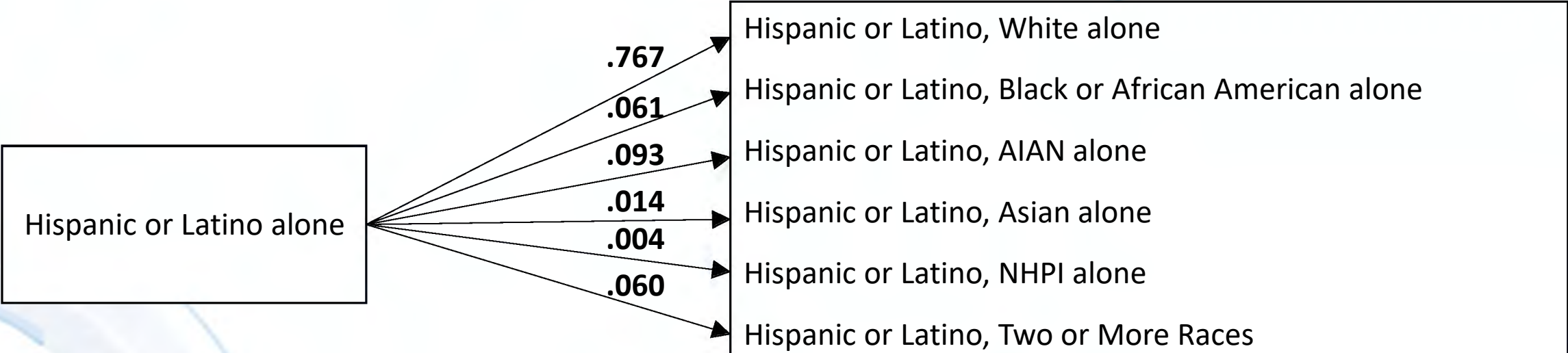


Bridging the Combined Format (2024) to the Separate Format (1997)

- Developed a proportional technique utilizing distributions from the 2020 Census to see how the Hispanic population reported their race on the separate race question.

2024 SPD 15 categories

1997 SPD 15 categories



Bridging the Separate Format (1997) to the Combined Format (2024)

- Developed a proportional technique utilizing detailed responses, including write-ins, from the 2020 Census to see how the White population reported their detailed identity.

1997 SPD 15 categories

White alone

2024 SPD 15 categories

White alone

or

Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) alone

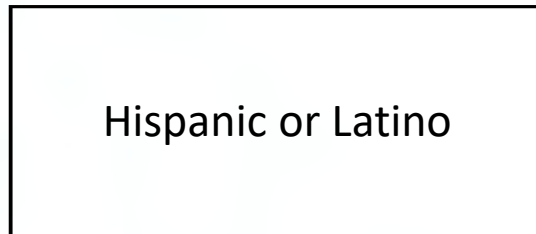
or

White; MENA

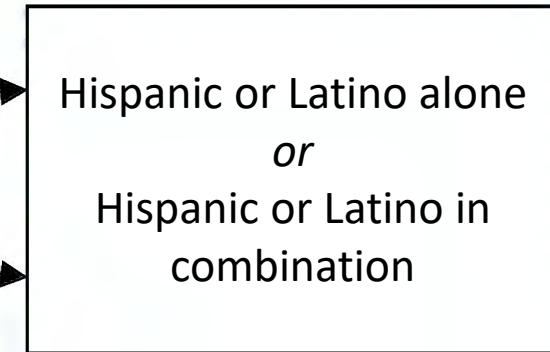
Bridging the Separate Format (1997) to the Combined Format (2024)

- Developed a proportional technique utilizing detailed responses, including write-ins, from the 2020 Census to see how the Hispanic population reported their detailed identity.

1997 SPD 15 categories



2024 SPD 15 categories



Next Steps: Phase 2 Bridging Research

- We are extending the Phase 1 bridging methodology to create state-specific and county-specific factors to allow for regional variation in race/ethnicity distributions.
- Linking individuals who were sampled in the 2015 National Content Test panel that included the combined question with a MENA category to their 2020 Census responses to assess the validity of the Phase 1 bridging factors.
- Actively seeking feedback on methods used in Phase 1 bridging, as well as what outputs are useful to stakeholders.

**For more information on SPD 15,
visit spd15revision.gov
or
email SPD15@census.gov**

Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement Project

Background

- For the 2020 Census, we improved our code list to add new unique codes, especially for White, Black or African American, and Middle Eastern and North African groups, which enabled us to provide disaggregated data for more groups than ever before.
- 2020 Census improvements elicited much more reporting of detailed racial and ethnic identities:
 - 55 million write-ins in 2010 Census
 - 350 million write-ins in 2020 Census
- The code list is a key input for development of our race/ethnicity data products.
- Stakeholder input is a critical part of this process.

POLYNESIAN	7505-7604
Polynesian	7505-7509
Polynesian	7505
Cook Islander	7510-7514
Cook Islander	7510
Easter Islander	7515-7519
Easter Islander	7515
French Polynesian	7520-7524
French Polynesian	7520
Maori	7525-7529
Maori	7525
Native Hawaiian	7530-7539
Native Hawaiian (Detailed Checkbox)	7530
Native Hawaiian	7531
Hawaiian	7532
Part Hawaiian	7535
Niuean	7540-7544
Niuean	7540
Rotuman	7545-7549
Rotuman	7545

Excerpt of 2020 Census Code List

Overview of the Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement Project

- Goal is to ensure detailed race/ethnicity responses are accurately coded in the American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2030 Census.
- Provides a critical opportunity for the public to offer feedback on how detailed race/ethnicity and tribes are coded in the ACS and 2030 Census.
- All updates must meet three criteria:
 - There is strong Federal scientific research and evidence to support the update.
 - Stakeholder feedback supports the update.
 - The update aligns with the definitions of the minimum reporting categories in SPD 15.

What is a Code List?

Contents within the race/ethnicity code list

- **Major category headers** – these are the minimum race/ethnicity reporting categories (e.g., Asian)
- **Group headers** – Detailed racial or ethnic groups, such as Japanese and Korean
- **Code descriptions** – Descriptors for individual codes under each group header, such as Ainu and Okinawa

4000-4999 ASIAN

4040-4049 JAPANESE

4040 JAPANESE (Checkbox)

4041 JAPANESE

4041 AINU

4041 JAPAN

4041 JAPONES(A)

4041 RYUKYU (UAN)

4042 OKINAWAN

4042 OKINAWA

4042 OKINAWENSE

4050-4059 KOREAN

4050 KOREAN (Checkbox)

4051 KOREAN

4051 COREANO(A)

4051 KOREA

4051 NORTH KOREAN

4051 SEOUL

4051 SOUTH KOREAN

Excerpt of proposed 2030 Race/Ethnicity Code List

What Types of Terms Are Included in the Code List?

- Nationalities (e.g., Chinese, Argentinean)
- Transnational groups (e.g., Roma, Hmong)
- Ethnoreligious responses (e.g., Sikh, Chaldean)
- Subnational ethnic groups (e.g., Igbo, Sicilian)
- Pan-ethnic terms (e.g., Arab, Latino)
- Broad geographic terms (e.g., European, African)
- Terms indicating Multiracial/Multiethnic responses (e.g., Mixed, Multiracial)
- Federally and state-recognized tribes and villages, unrecognized tribes, and general terms for tribes in the United States (e.g., Navajo Nation, Cherokee)
- Canadian First Nations and Central and South American Indian groups (e.g., Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Maya)

What Types of Terms Are Not Included in the Code List?

There are many types of responses that people may report in the race/ethnicity question that are not coded as a race/ethnicity response. These include responses such as:

- Protest responses (e.g., “Why are you asking about race? We are all human!”)
- Nonsensical responses (e.g., “Haunted skeleton”)
- Responses that do not represent a race/ethnicity or tribal population (e.g., names)

Additionally, the race/ethnicity code list does not show terms that we assign invalid codes to, such as state names.

Excerpt from the Proposed Race/Ethnicity Code List

Terms	Codes
Coeur D'Alene Tribe	5708
CDA	5708
Coeur D Alene	5708
Coeur D'Alene Tribe	5708
Coeur D'Alene Tribe Of Indians	5708
Schitsu'umsh	5708
Skitswish	5708

Coeur D'Alene Tribe

- Federally recognized tribe coded within the American Indian and Alaska Native minimum reporting category.
- All variations of the tribe's name receive the same code.
- Terms coded to this tribe include variations of the tribe's name, including the native name of Schitsu'umsh.

Excerpt from the Proposed Race/Ethnicity Code List

Terms	Codes
Japanese	4040-4049
Japanese (Checkbox)	4040
Japanese	4041
Ainu	4041
Japan	4041
Japones(a)	4041
Ryukyu(uan)	4041
Okinawan	4042
Okinawa	4042
Okinawense	4042
Not used	4043-4049

Japanese

- Detailed race/ethnicity group coded within the Asian minimum reporting category.
- The detailed Japanese category includes codes 4040-4049.
- Responses of “Japanese” provided through a detailed checkbox (code 4040) or through a write-in response (code 4041) are included in the Japanese category.
- Responses of “Okinawan” (code 4042) receive a different code than responses of “Japanese,” but they are included in the Japanese category.
- Codes 4043-4049 are not used.

How Does a Write-In Response Get Tabulated?

Sometimes a group has one code, but lots of variation in terminology

<p>Step 1: A response is provided to the race/ethnicity question</p>	<p>Step 2: The response is given a code from our code list that is used for tabulation</p>	<p>Step 3: Every term associated with the code is included in the count for that race/ethnicity group or AIAN tribe or village</p>																						
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native — Print, 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.</p> <p>Schitsu'umsh</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Terms</th> <th>Codes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coeur D'Alene Tribe</td> <td>5708</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CDA</td> <td>5708</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coeur D Alene</td> <td>5708</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coeur D'Alene Tribe</td> <td>5708</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coeur D'Alene Tribe Of Indians</td> <td>5708</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schitsu'umsh</td> <td>5708</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skitswish</td> <td>5708</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Terms	Codes	Coeur D'Alene Tribe	5708	CDA	5708	Coeur D Alene	5708	Coeur D'Alene Tribe	5708	Coeur D'Alene Tribe Of Indians	5708	Schitsu'umsh	5708	Skitswish	5708	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Population group</th> <th>Census Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coeur D'Alene alone</td> <td>COUNT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coeur D'Alene alone or in any combination</td> <td>COUNT</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Population group	Census Population	Coeur D'Alene alone	COUNT	Coeur D'Alene alone or in any combination	COUNT
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Coeur D'Alene alone or in any combination	COUNT																							

How Does a Write-In Response Get Tabulated?

Sometimes a group has multiple codes, but less variation in terminology

Step 1:
A response is provided to the race/ethnicity question

Asian — Provide details below.

Chinese Asian Indian Filipino

Vietnamese Korean Japanese

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

Okinawan

Step 2:
The response is given a code from our code list that is used for tabulation

Terms	Codes
Japanese	4040-4049
Japanese (Checkbox)	4040
Japanese	4041
Okinawan	4042

Step 3:
Every term associated with that entire code range is included in the count for that race/ethnicity group or AIAN tribe or village

Population group	Census Population
Japanese alone	COUNT
Japanese alone or in any combination	COUNT

Key Phases of the Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement Research Project

Phase 1
Jan. 2024 –
Fall 2024

Census conducts
internal research
and makes updates
to code list

 **COMPLETED**

Phase 2:
Fall 2024 –
Winter 2025

Publish FRN
seeking feedback
on proposed Census
Race/Ethnicity Code
List; seek feedback
from FC-SPD 15
and conduct
related outreach

Phase 3:
Winter 2025 –
Spring 2025

Review feedback,
make updates to
code list

Phase 4:
Ongoing

Make updates as
necessary

Phase 2 - Federal Register Notice

- A Federal Register Notice (FRN) with a 90-day public comment period is planned for publication in November.
- This is the primary opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the race/ethnicity code list that will be used in the ACS and the 2030 Census.
- The FRN will include a link to the proposed race/ethnicity code list for use in future ACS collections and the 2030 Census.
- The proposed code list includes updates that were made based on stakeholder feedback we have received since the 2020 Census and internal research conducted on responses provided in the 2020 Census.

Phase 2 - Federal Register Notice

Seeking feedback from the public on the following questions:

- Are there any groups missing from the proposed code list? If so, please identify them and suggest how the groups should be classified and why.
- Are any groups on the proposed code list misclassified? If so, please identify them and suggest an alternative classification or indicate if the term should be removed.
- Are there alternative terms, abbreviations, or in-language terms people may use to identify with a specific group that should be added to the proposed code list? If so, please identify them and suggest a classification.
- How do you use the data produced for regional categories from the 2020 Census? Would removing regional categories from the code list and tabulated products impact your ability to use the detailed race/ethnicity data?

Phase 3 – Review Feedback and Make Updates

- Throughout the comment period, our research team will thoroughly review all feedback.
- Updates to the code list will be made during this time period.
- All updates must meet the following criteria:
 1. There is strong Federal scientific research and evidence to support the update.
 2. Stakeholder feedback supports the update.
 3. The update aligns with the definitions of the minimum reporting categories in SPD 15.

Phase 4 – Make Updates to the Code List as Needed

- The code list will continue to undergo updates, specifically to ensure the names of AIAN tribes are listed in accordance with the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs’ annual Federal Register Notice, “Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.”

Outreach and Engagement

- Updated Census Bureau's Tribal Relations Specialists – October 16
- Public Webinar – November 19 @ 2pm ET
- Virtual Tribal Consultations
 - December 11 @ 3pm ET
 - January 15 @ 3pm ET
- We are also releasing a Random Samplings blog later this month