



Final Recommendations from the Race and Ethnicity Interagency Working Group
For Updating Statistical Policy Directive No. 15:
Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

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PRE-DECISIONAL + DELIBERATIVE - DO NOT CIRCULATE

Timeline for Revising SPD 15

- **June 2022:** Chief Statistician of the United States (CSOTUS) announced formal review to revise SPD 15 and convening of Federal Interagency Technical Working Group on Race and Ethnicity Standards (Working Group)
- **January 2023:** OMB released Federal Register Notice which includes Working Group's initial proposals on revising SPD 15, open from January 27 – April 27
- **2023:** ITWG reviewed public FRN comments, continued to engage with stakeholders, assessed evidence, deliberated and developed final recommendations from the Working Group.
- **March 2024:** OMB published the revised SPD 15 Race and Ethnicity standards.

Topic 1: Collect Race and Ethnicity Information Using One Combined Question

Working Group's Initial Proposals:	Summary of Public Input:	Working Group's Final Recommendations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combine the Race and Ethnicity questions (from 1997) into one Race/Ethnicity question for information collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many thought the two-question format was confusing, especially those who identify as Hispanic/Latino or who don't identify with any of the 1997 race categories• Emphasize that respondents should select all categories that apply to them• Concern – undercount of Afro-Latinos• Concern – conflation of two distinct concepts and implying that Hispanic/Latino is a “race”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single, combined Race and Ethnicity question for both self-response and proxy responses• Encourage multiple responses

Topic 2: Add Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) as a New Minimum Category

Working Group's Initial Proposals:	Summary of Public Input:	Working Group's Final Recommendations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add MENA to SPD 15 as a new, distinct minimum reporting category• White category should be revised to remove MENA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nearly all comments addressing MENA supported the proposal• 1997 classification of MENA as White does not reflect the reality for many who are MENA• Feedback on which groups should have a checkbox• Opposed – some MENA consider themselves to be White	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Same as initial proposal</i>

Topic 3: Require the Collection of Detailed Race & Ethnicity Categories (default)

Working Group's Initial Proposals:	Summary of Public Input:	Working Group's Final Recommendations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require more granular data collection than minimum categories* • Specific detailed checkboxes** <p><i>*Exemptions can be requested</i> <i>** Representing the six largest population groups within each minimum category, except MENA</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall support for proposal • Several health orgs stressed importance of having data for detailed groups to measure differences in healthcare outcomes • Flexibility for changes to demographics • Concern – burden on Federal agencies • Concern – risks to data privacy and disclosure for small populations groups • Concern – burden on respondents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed data with flexibility to meet program & stakeholder needs*** <p><i>*** Federal agencies may seek approval from OIRA to use the minimum reporting categories.</i></p>

Topic 4: Updates to Terminology in SPD 15

Working Group's Initial Proposals:	Summary of Public Input:	Working Group's Final Recommendations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove certain terms or phrases in the minimum category definitions• Update language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General support for proposals• Requested specifics in each definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove “majority” and “minority”• Use “race and/or ethnicity” in question stem• Encourage reporting multiple categories• Use “Multiracial and/or Multiethnic” in tabulations

Topic 5: Implementation Guidance

Working Group's Initial Proposals:

- Dates for agencies to incorporate revisions
- Bridging previous and revised data
- Collecting proxy data options
- Multiple category reporting

Summary of Public Input:

- Establishing implementation timeline for compliance
- Concerns about data consistency
- Tools to support bridging
- Transparency on how the data are collected even when not self-reported
- Tabulation
- Questions from the public about tabulations

Working Group's Final Recommendations:

- Five implementation recommendations
- Two on planning and timing
 - Three on how to improve the collection and reporting practices for race and ethnicity data

Thank You!