

*RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHERS: Guidance Document*

**Race & Ethnicity**

**Race** refers to the concept of dividing people into groups based on various sets of physical characteristics and the process of ascribing social meaning to those groups.

**Ethnicity** describes the culture of people in a given geographic region, including their language, heritage, religion and customs.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget requires that race data be collected for a minimum of five groups: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. OMB permits the Census Bureau to also use a sixth category - Some Other Race. Respondents may report more than one race (Two or more races).

The table below compares the current minimum reporting categories with the new, more inclusive reporting categories as permitted by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget:

<b>Current Reporting Categories (5+2 format)</b>	<b>New Reporting Categories (7+2 format)</b>
<b>Five race/ethnicity categories</b>	<b>Seven race/ethnicity categories</b>
Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin of any race
American Indian or Alaskan Native	American Indian or Alaskan Native
Asian or Pacific Islander	Asian
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Black, non-Hispanic	Black or African American
White, non-Hispanic	White
	Two or more races
<b>Two additional categories</b>	
Non-Resident Alien	Non-Resident Alien (of any race or ethnicity)
Race and Ethnicity unknown	Race and Ethnicity unknown

**Definitions of each race/ethnicity listed can be found on the following page:**



## DEFINITIONS:

**American Indian or Alaska Native.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Americas.

**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.

**Two or more races:** People may choose to provide two or more races either by checking two or more race response check boxes, by providing multiple responses, or by some combination of check boxes and other responses. For data product purposes, "Two or More Races" refers to combinations of two or more of the aforementioned race categories.

### References:

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