
U.S. RACIAL AND ETHNIC POPULATION GROUPS

When federal agencies collect data that include race and ethnicity, the agencies follow the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting. The racial and ethnic OMB categories are:



African American or Black

A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

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.

Hispanic or Latino/a

A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

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.

It is important to note that data collected on race and ethnicity rely on individuals self-reporting this information. Therefore, the data may be influenced by sociopolitical constructs and may not fully reflect the individual's genetic ancestry.