

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 basic racial and ethnic OMB categories are:

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 Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

*Hispanic or Latino/a

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/a."

*African American or Black

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

White

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

When using race and ethnicity in record-keeping and reporting, including in the cancer statistics collected and reported by the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program, Asians and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders are often considered together and referred to as Asians/Pacific Islanders.

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

*In this document, we use the terms African American and Hispanic without preference or prejudice.