

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, 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 and the African Diaspora.

Hispanic or Latino[#]

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.

* We recognize that the categories described here refer to heterogeneous groups of people and are only relevant based on their use within official registries, health systems, and the decennial census.

§ 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.

¶ Throughout this report, we use these terms and/or categories without preference or prejudice.

Sometimes described in gender-neutral terms, Latinx or Latine.