

NMDOH Guidelines for Race/Ethnicity Data (12/13/12)

1. NMDOH will collect race and ethnicity data based on the Office of Management and Budget 1997 Standard groupings.¹

2. NMDOH will collect ethnicity data before collecting race data for an individual.

2. NMDOH will collect race data using these five major categories:

White
Black or African American
American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

3. NMDOH will collect multiple race data

4. NMDOH will collect tribal subpopulation data. At a minimum all NM tribal affiliations should be collected.

5. NMDOH will use self-identification (or proxy identification) rather than observer identification or some other mechanism as the preferred basis for data collection

6. When possible, health and health services data provided by NMDOH should be presented by race/ethnicity in order to assist in the identification and tracking of disparities in health status and access to services. The use of race/ethnicity as a social and cultural construct should also be noted when possible.

7. For the purposes of presentation, race and ethnicity will be presented using the following five major categories/labels and in alphabetical order:

American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian or Pacific Islander
Black or African American
Hispanic
White

When data are sufficient, the single category, Asian or Pacific Islander, can be presented as two categories, 1) Asian and 2) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

8. When small numbersⁱⁱ preclude the presentation of data by all of five racial/ethnic categories this should be noted.

9. Because many data are not collected by these exact five racial/ethnic categories and race and ethnicity are frequently collected separately, the following rules should be followed when moving data into the racial/ethnic categories:

- Persons designated as Hispanic ethnicity will be categorized as “Hispanic”
- None of the five race/ethnicity categories presented above will be combined into an “other” category

10. Presentation of missing/unknown race and ethnicity data. The number or percentage of missing/unknown values should be reported as one category.

11. Presentation of multiple race. Presentation of multiple race is database dependent. The number or percentage of multiple race persons should be reported. If multiple race is bridged, the bridging method should be described.

12. Presentation of race and ethnicity together in the same table. Race/ethnicity will be viewed as a single social and cultural construct. Persons designated as Hispanic ethnicity, regardless of race, will be categorized as ‘Hispanic’. Persons not designated as Hispanic will be categorized by their single race (‘Black or African American’, ‘American Indian or Alaska native’, ‘Asian or Pacific Islander’, ‘White’, or ‘Other’).

ⁱ Federal Register Notice October 30, 1997, Office of Management and Budget. Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg_1997standards/.

ⁱⁱ The Epidemiology and Response Division has developed guidelines for the suppression of small numbers in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals and yet provide as much information as possible. A copy of the rule may be found on <http://ibis.health.state.nm.us/docs/Standards/NMSmallNumbersRule2006.pdf>.