



# **HHS Data Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language and Disability Status**

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# Affordable Care Act Section 4302

## Understanding Health Disparities: Data Collection and Analysis

- **Requires the DHHS Secretary to establish data collection standards for five specific demographic data:**
  - Race
  - Ethnicity
  - Sex
  - Primary language
  - Disability status

# Requirements for Data Standards



- **ACA Requirements for Data Standards**
  - Developed within 2 years
  - Used in data collection and reporting by any federally conducted or supported “health care or public health program, activity, or survey”
    - ✦ To the extent practicable
- **Data Standard Development Process**
  - HHS Data Council tasked with drafting recommendations for data standards
  - Guided by existing federal data standards, the results of studies and public reports, and consultation with statistical agencies and programs

# Criteria for Data Standards



- Evidence-based and demonstrated to have worked well in practice in current national surveys
- Minimum data standards
- Data standards already mandated by OMB would serve as the basis for any minimum standard
- Standards would apply to HHS sponsored person-level data collected in population-based health surveys, where subjects either self-report information or a knowledgeable proxy provides information about the subject or responds for all persons in a household survey.

# OMB Standards for Race and Ethnicity



- **OMB Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (1997)**
  - Required in all federally sponsored data collections, including HHS data collection initiatives
  - [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg\\_1997standards](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg_1997standards)
- **OMB minimum categories for race**
  - American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - Black or African American
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - White
- **OMB minimum categories for ethnicity**
  - Hispanic or Latino
  - Not Hispanic or Latino

# Ethnicity



- **Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin?** (one or more categories may be marked)
  - No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin;
  - Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano/a;
  - Yes, Puerto Rican;
  - Yes, Cuban;
  - Yes, another Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin-

# Race

- **What is your race?** (one or more categories may be marked)
  - White
  - Black or African American
  - American Indian or Alaska Native

*Present OMB Standard for these Race Categories*

## Race (cont)



- **What is your race?** (one or more categories may be marked)
  - Asian Indian
  - Chinese
  - Filipino
  - Japanese
  - Korean
  - Vietnamese
  - Other Asian

*Aggregate to the present OMB Asian Category*



## Race (cont)



- **What is your race?** (one or more categories may be marked)
  - Native Hawaiian
  - Guamanian or Chamorro
  - Samoan
  - Other Pacific Islander

*Aggregate to the present OMB Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Category*

## Additional Granularity for Race Category



- **New HHS Data Standards provide 6 additional categories beyond OMB Asian minimum standard**
- **New standards provide 3 additional categories beyond the OMB Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Minimum Standard**

# Sex



- What is your sex?
  - Female
  - Male

# Primary Language



- **Measure of English Proficiency**
- **How well do you speak English? (5 years of age or older)**
  - Very well
  - Well
  - Not well
  - Not at all

# Primary Language



- The Department also provided measures to assess spoken language, for additional and optional granularity:
- Do you speak a language other than English at home?
  - Yes
  - No
- If yes, what is this language?
  - Spanish
  - Other language: \_\_\_\_\_

# Disability Status



- Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?
  - Yes
  - No
- Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?
  - Yes
  - No
- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions? (5 years of age or older)
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? (5 years of age or older)
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing? (5 years and older)
  - Yes
  - No
- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping? (15 years and older)
  - Yes
  - No

# Data Standard Implementation



- **Adopted October 31, 2011**
- **Will apply to new surveys and at the next major revision for existing surveys**
  - HHS-sponsored population surveys where person-level data is collected via either self-report or from a knowledgeable proxy
  - Data standards represent minimum standards
- **Detailed information on Data Standards, Development Process and Rationale available at:**  
<http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/section4302/>