

Race and Ethnicity

Code book for data collection



Background: The Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR) requires that all hospitals and free-standing Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) in Oregon collect data on patient race and ethnicity. A review of the first two years of data—2008 and 2009—shows a clear trend of improvement over time, and also reveals areas where further clarification of data standards is needed.

In particular, confusion appears to exist in the following areas:

- Differentiating between “Other,” “Unknown” and “Patient Refused”;
- How to report missing data;
- The method for recording data on patients who identify as Hispanic for the ethnicity question but do not identify with any of the race categories;
- For organizations who wish to recognize patient diversity within the broad OHPR categories, the method to roll-up a more granular list of races and ethnicities into categories for data reporting; and
- The method for recording data on patients who identify with more than one race.

The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation (Quality Corp) has partnered with OHPR and the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) to set a clear standard for data collection—with special attention paid to demonstrated areas of confusion—so that all organizations may collect race and ethnicity data in a standard, well-defined format. Such consistency is crucial to the accurate analysis and identification of health care disparities in Oregon, if and where they exist.

Required Race and Ethnicity Categories and Definitions: OHPR uses the national Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards as a foundation for the collection of race and ethnicity data. However, they supplement the OMB standards with additional options to permit greater flexibility in responses and to foster a more comfortable and accurate setting for data collection in Oregon. The categories are defined as follows:

Ethnicity

Code	Category
1	Hispanic / Latino—A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
2	Non Hispanic / Latino
8	Patient Refused—This category is an indication that the person did not want to respond to the question and should not be asked again during the same visit or during a subsequent visit.
9	Unknown—This category should be used when data is missing or when the patient or caregiver is unable to provide an answer. The patient may be asked again during the same visit or during a subsequent visit.

Race

Code	Category
1	American Indian / Alaska Native—A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America.
2	Asian—A person having origins in any peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Islands, Thailand and Vietnam.
3	Black / African American—A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
4	Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander—A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
5	White—A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the <u>Middle East</u> , or <u>North Africa</u> .
7	Patient Refused—This category is an indication that the person did not want to respond to the question and should not be asked again during the same visit or during a subsequent visit.
8	Unknown—This category should be used when data is missing or when the patient or caregiver is unable to provide an answer. The patient may be asked again during the same visit or during a subsequent visit.
9	Other—This category provides a response for those who do not identify with a specific race category or respondents who identify with more than one race.

Question Format and Order: Allowing patients to self-identify is the preferred method for collecting data on race and ethnicity. Per OMB guidelines, the two-question format is should be used, with ethnicity being the first question asked.

Missing Data: If a patient does not provide a response for either the race or ethnicity question (leaves the question blank), and staff is unable to elicit a response from the patient, the response should be categorized as “Unknown” for data reporting.

Race and Hispanic Ethnicity: People of Hispanic ethnic origin may be of any race and should be offered the opportunity to select from race categories including White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, etc. Hispanic respondents who do not relate to any of the race categories should be encouraged to select “Other”.

Recording / Reporting Multiple Races: Whenever possible, when individuals identify with more than one race or ethnicity data should be recorded for all responses. Per OMB guidelines, the method for respondents to report more than one race should take the form of multiple responses to a single question and not a “multiracial” category. Two recommended forms for instruction accompanying the multiple response question are “Mark one or more...” and “Select one or more...”

When data are rolled up to the OHPH categories for reporting, individuals with multiple races recorded should be categorized in the “Other” category for race. Similarly, if a system does not allow the user to specify more than one race, and the patient does not indicate a primary race, “Other” should be recorded.

Granular Data and Corresponding Roll-Ups: The race and ethnicity categories required by OHPH for reporting are by no means exhaustive or representative of all the racial and ethnic diversity within Oregon’s population. Given this, organizations are encouraged to adopt a more granular list in order to provide culturally-sensitive care to patients and to assist in the identification of disparities within the broad race and

ethnicity categories. There is no single set of nationally-recommended granular data for this purpose, as locally-relevant populations vary by region. A granular list appropriate for use in Oregon is provided in Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this brief.

The tables are taken from an August 2010 report issued by the Quality Corp, entitled, *“Creating a Voluntary Standard for Collecting Race and Ethnicity Data.”* The report is based on research conducted by a consultant specializing in minority advocacy and input from individual meetings with 11 leaders from the Hispanic/Latino, Asian Pacific Islander, African, African American, Russian and Native American communities in Oregon.

While detailed data increases the likelihood of identifying and targeting disparities in health and health care, it is important to be able to map the granular data to the OHPR categories described above. Aggregated data provides larger sample sizes for a more robust analysis. In addition to providing a granular list appropriate for Oregon, Tables 1 and 2 demonstrate the appropriate method for mapping the detailed data to the OHPR categories.

Table 1. Granular Ethnicity List + OHPR Mappings

		OMB + Additional Categories			
		1	2	8	9
		Hispanic/ Latino	Non Hispanic/Latino	Patient Refused	Unknown
Detailed List	Cuban				
	Guatemalan				
	Honduran				
	Kanjobal				
	Mexican				
	Mixtec				
	Puerto Rican				
	Purepecha				
	Salvadoran				
	Triqui				
	Zapotec				
	Other				

Table 2. Granular Race List + OHPR Mappings

OMB + Additional Categories

1		2	3		4	5			7	8	9
American Indian/Alaska Native		Asian	Black/African American		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	White (includes Middle Eastern and North African)			Patient Refused	Unknown	Other
American Indian	Alaska Native	Asian	Black	African	Pacific Islander	White/ Eastern European	Middle Eastern / North African	White/ Western European			
Burns Paiute Tribe	List Tribe(s) below	Asian Indian	African American	Central African Republic	Fijian	Belorussian	Afghanistani	English			
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians		Burmese	Cuban	Brundi	Guamanian	Bosnian	Algerian	French			
Confederated Tribe of the Grand Ronde		Burmese-Karen	Haitian	Congolese	Native Hawaiian	Croatian	Armenian	German			
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians		Cambodian	Other Country	Ethiopian	Samoaan	Czech	Egyptian	Irish			
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla		Chinese		Nigerian	Other Country	Georgian	Iranian	Italian			
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs		Filipino		Somalian		Kosovar	Iraqi	Scottish			
Coquille Indian Tribe		Hmong		Somalian-Bantu		Moldovan	Israeli	Other Country			
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians		Japanese		Sudanese		Polish	Jordanian				
Cowlitz		Korean		Other Country		Romanian	Kurdish				
Smith River		Laotian				Russian	Kuwaiti				
Other Tribes		Mien				Ukrainian	Lebanese				
		Pakistani				Other Country	Libyan				
		Thai					Palestinian				
		Tibetan					Saudi Arabian				
		Vietnamese					Syrian				
		Other Country					Tunisian				
							Other Country				

Detailed List