

Submitting and Reporting of Ethnic and Racial Data – PRISM

Background -- The racial and ethnic makeup of the country has changed since 1977, giving rise to the question of whether those standards still reflected the diversity of the country's present population. In response to this criticism, the OMB initiated a review of the 1977 Directive. The result of the Committee's efforts was a report describing recommended changes to the Directive. In 1997, the OMB accepted almost all of the recommendations of the Interagency Committee, resulting in changes to the standards.

During October 1997, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced the revised standards for federal data on race and ethnicity. The minimum categories for race are now:

American Indian or Alaska Native;
Asian;
Black or African American;
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander;
and White.

Instead of allowing a multiracial category as was originally suggested in public and congressional hearings, the OMB adopted the Interagency Committee's recommendation to allow respondents to select one or more races when they self-identify. There are also two minimum categories for ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

Recommended coding changes for PRISM – Under the current collection system, participating agencies submit ethnic and race under the 1990 Census coding scheme. The goal, being presented, is to report race and ethnicity on the PRISM reports based on the 1997 standards set by OMB. The recommended new coding standards for PRISM are:

Ethnicity Coding

0 = Unknown
1 = Not Hispanic or Latino
2 = Hispanic or Latino
9 = Not Collected

Race Coding

00 = Unknown
01 = Asian
02 = Black
03 = Asian, Black
04 = White
05 = Asian, White
06 = Black, White
07 = Asian, Black, White
08 = American Indian
09 = Asian, American Indian
10 = Black, American Indian
11 = Asian, Black, American Indian

12 = White, American Indian
13 = Asian, White, American Indian
14 = Black, White, American Indian
15 = Asian, Black, White, American Indian
16 = Hawaiian
17 = Asian, Hawaiian
18 = Black, Hawaiian
19 = Asian, Black, Hawaiian
20 = White, Hawaiian
21 = Asian, White, Hawaiian
22 = Black, White, Hawaiian
23 = Asian, Black, White, Hawaiian
24 = American Indian, Hawaiian
25 = Asian, American Indian, Hawaiian
26 = Black, American Indian, Hawaiian
27 = Asian, Black, American Indian, Hawaiian
28 = White, American Indian, Hawaiian
29 = Asian, White, American Indian, Hawaiian
30 = Black, White, American Indian, Hawaiian
31 = Asian, Black, White, American Indian, Hawaiian
99 = Not collected

Ethnicity code submitted to PRISM will be a composite of Ethnicity and Race coding. For example, a non-Hispanic Asian, Black, White, American Indian, Hawaiian would have a code of "131" and a Hispanic Hawaiian would be coded "216".

Process to transition to new coding structure – Transitioning to the new coding structure will include two phases.

Phase 1 – partners will be asked to resubmit ethnic and race codes for records currently in PRISM. To accomplish this task, partners will be sent a file by PRISM staff that will include the ssn and intake date for every record of the agency in PRISM. Partner agency staff will match the file against the new coding scheme to capture the new ethnic and race code for each record. After the new racial and ethnic codes have been assigned, the records will be sent back to PRISM staff for loading into the database.

Timeframe to complete – July 29, 2005

Phase 2 – data submissions to PRISM by partner agencies should include racial and ethnic codes based on the new coding structure.

Timeframe to complete – Beginning August 1, 2005

Phase 3 – Reporting of racial and ethnicity data will begin with the October 2005 quarterly and year-to-date reports.

For information on the OMB revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity - www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/print/1997standards.html