

# REALD Data Collection: Birth Records



## What is REALD?

REALD stands for race, ethnicity, language, and disability. Oregon law requires health care providers to ask patients about REALD information at health care visits. Then they share this information with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

This requirement helps the state understand who is most impacted by health issues and health inequities so it can better fund and serve these communities. OHA worked with Oregon communities of color when developing this requirement.

## Why we ask?

Your answers to REALD questions will help public health officials understand who are most affected by diseases and other health conditions. This data will be used to plan how to best help these communities and move toward the goal of health equity for all. For example, if we learn there are differences in access to prenatal care among certain groups of people, the state can analyze this data to look for patterns to provide information and resources to communities with the goal of providing access to prenatal care.

## How often will I be asked these questions?

All health providers are required to collect REALD data at least annually. Because of this, you may answer these questions several times and at regular intervals at future medical visits. Oregon Vital Records is collecting REALD data specifically for all birth records in the state, whether the birth happens in a hospital or birthing facility or at home. The birth record system is currently a separate data system from those of healthcare providers.

## You get to decide.

It's up to you whether you answer the REALD questions. While your provider is required to ask you all the REALD questions, you aren't required to answer all of them. For questions you don't want to answer, you can choose "Don't want to answer." Every question serves a purpose, however, and OHA hopes you'll answer these questions, so it can better serve you and all Oregonians.

## How do you protect my privacy?

We want everyone to feel safe answering REALD questions. Your information is strictly confidential and will be treated as confidential. Information on birth records is confidential for 100 years after the birth.

## REALD data and your state benefits.

Sharing your REALD data with us will not impact any benefits you receive from the state, like SNAP or Oregon Health Plan/CAWEM.



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Learn more about REALD at [bit.ly/oha-reald](https://bit.ly/oha-reald)

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