F5: Testing a New Combined Race/Ethnicity Question in Household Surveys
Agency Findings and Results

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1997's SPD 15
Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, & Presenting Federal Data on Race & Ethnicity

**Two-Questions Format for
Self-Response with Minimum Categories**

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

☐ No, not Hispanic or Latino

☐ Yes, Hispanic or Latino

What is your race? *Select one or more.*

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black or African American

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

☐ White

Note: SPD 15 does not dictate the order in which the minimum categories should be displayed on Federal information collections. Agencies generally order alphabetically, as shown here, or by population size.

1. Categories and Definitions

The minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are defined as follows:

American Indian or Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American. A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in addition to "Black or African American."

Hispanic or Latino. A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term, "Spanish origin," can be used in addition to "Hispanic or Latino."
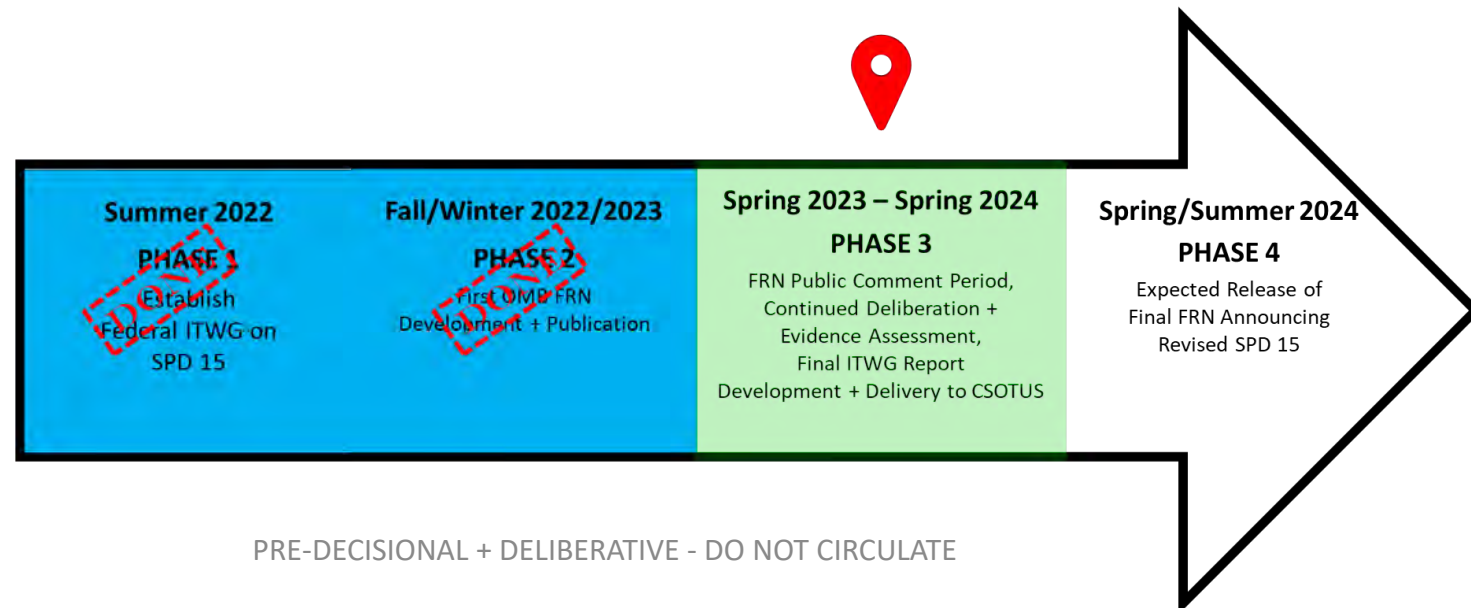
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

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Source: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-10-30/pdf/97-28653.pdf

Revising SPD 15
Where Are We?

→ **June 2022:** Chief Statistician of the United States (CSOTUS) announced formal review to revise SPD 15 and convening of Federal Interagency Technical Working Group on Race and Ethnicity Standards (Working Group)

→ **January 2023:** OMB released Federal Register Notice which includes Working Group's initial proposals on revising SPD 15, open from January 27 – April 27

→ **Fall 2023:** CFO Act Agencies, recognized Statistical Agencies, and EEOC vote on recommendations

Summer 2022

PHASE 1

Establish Federal ITWG on SPD 15

Fall/Winter 2022/2023

PHASE 2

First OMB FRN Development + Publication

Spring 2023 – Spring 2024

PHASE 3

FRN Public Comment Period, Continued Deliberation + Evidence Assessment, Final ITWG Report Development + Delivery to CSOTUS

Spring/Summer 2024

PHASE 4

Expected Release of Final FRN Announcing Revised SPD 15

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Combined Question with Minimum and Detailed Categories

What is your race or ethnicity?
Select all that apply AND enter additional details in the spaces below. Note, you may report more than one group.

☐ **WHITE** – *Provide details below.*

☐ German ☐ Irish ☐ English
☐ Italian ☐ Polish ☐ French
Enter, for example, Scottish, Norwegian, Dutch, etc.

☐ **HISPANIC OR LATINO** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Mexican or Mexican American ☐ Puerto Rican ☐ Cuban
☐ Salvadoran ☐ Dominican ☐ Colombian
Enter, for example, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

☐ **BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN** – *Provide details below.*

☐ African American ☐ Jamaican ☐ Haitian
☐ Nigerian ☐ Ethiopian ☐ Somali
Enter, for example, Ghanaian, South African, Barbadian, etc.

☐ **ASIAN** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Chinese ☐ Filipino ☐ Asian Indian
☐ Vietnamese ☐ Korean ☐ Japanese
Enter, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.

☐ **AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE** – *Enter, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Tribal Government, Tlingit, etc.*

☐ **MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Lebanese ☐ Iranian ☐ Egyptian
☐ Syrian ☐ Moroccan ☐ Israeli
Enter, for example, Algerian, Iraqi, Kurdish, etc.

☐ **NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER** – *Provide details below.*

☐ Native Hawaiian ☐ Samoan ☐ Chamorro
☐ Tongan ☐ Fijian ☐ Marshallese
Enter, for example, Palauan, Tahitian, Chuukese, etc.

Combined Question with Minimum Categories

What is your race or ethnicity?
Select all that apply.

☐ White

☐ Hispanic or Latino

☐ Black or African American

☐ Asian

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Middle Eastern or North African

☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

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Working Group Conducting Additional Research
To Supplement Extensive Knowledge

Example Research Areas:

1. Combined question without Some Other Race category
2. Modifications to question stem and instructions
3. Establishment and business surveys
4. Bridging factors

Examples of Methods:

1. Exploratory interviews
2. Cognitive interviews
3. Respondent debriefings
4. Unmoderated online testing
5. Split-sample ballot testing

The Working Group is collaborating with multiple agencies on conducting qualitative and quantitative testing. Participating agencies include:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics*
- Bureau of Labor Statistics*
- Census Bureau*
- Department of Defense*
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Energy Information Administration
- General Services Administration
- National Center for Education Statistics*
- National Center for Health Statistics*
- National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics*
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service*

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