

Fact Sheet: Office of Management and Budget Notice – Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

Updated: April 2024

On March 28, 2024, the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a [notice of decision announcing revisions](#) to the Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD 15).

OMB initially developed SPD 15 in 1977 to provide consistent data on race and ethnicity throughout the federal government, including the census, household surveys, and federal administrative forms. The goal of SPD 15 is to ensure the comparability of race and ethnicity data across federal data sets and maximize the quality of these data by ensuring the format, language, and procedures for collecting the data are consistent.

To review and revise SPD 15, OMB created a working group composed of federal staff with subject matter expertise in the collection and use of federal race and ethnicity data to develop the proposed revisions. These provisions are effective **March 28, 2024** for all new record keeping or reporting requirements that include race and ethnicity data and **March 28, 2029** for all existing record keeping and reporting requirements.

SPD 15 is revised to:

- Collect race and ethnicity information using one combined question, allowing multiple responses;
- Add Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) as a new minimum reporting category, separate and distinct from the White category;
- Require the collection of more detail beyond the minimum race and ethnicity reporting categories, such as write-in response areas in addition to checked boxes;
- Update terminology, including the removal of “majority” and “minority” terminology, use of “race and/or ethnicity” in the question stem, use of instructions that emphasize reporting multiple categories is permissible and encouraged, use of “multiracial and/or multiethnic” in tabulations to represent people who identify with multiple minimum reporting categories, and providing balance for definitions and use of six example groups to illustrate the breadth and diversity of the categories; and
- Include implementation guidance, including requiring agency action plans on race and ethnicity data within 18 months of publication of this notice and a deadline of implementation of five years after the publication of this notice.

Example of Question Format that Complies with SPD 15

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply and enter additional details in the spaces below.

American Indian or Alaska Native – Enter, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.

Asian – Provide details below.

Chinese Asian Indian Filipino
 Vietnamese Korean Japanese

Enter, for example, Pakistani, Hmong, Afghan, etc.

Black or African American – Provide details below.

African American Jamaican Haitian
 Nigerian Ethiopian Somali

Enter, for example, Trinidadian and Tobagonian, Ghanaian, Congolese, etc.

Hispanic or Latino – Provide details below.

Mexican Puerto Rican Salvadoran
 Cuban Dominican Guatemalan

Enter, for example, Colombian, Honduran, Spaniard, etc.

Middle Eastern or North African – Provide details below.

Lebanese Iranian Egyptian
 Syrian Iraqi Israeli

Enter, for example, Moroccan, Yemeni, Kurdish, etc.

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – Provide details below.

Native Hawaiian Samoan Chamorro
 Tongan Fijian Marshallese

Enter, for example, Chuukese, Palauan, Tahitian, etc.

White – Provide details below.

English German Irish
 Italian Polish Scottish

Enter, for example, French, Swedish, Norwegian, etc.

If you have questions about the contents of the revisions, please contact the AHIMA Policy & Government Affairs team at advocacy@ahima.org.