



Draft Recommendations for Updating Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity September 6, 2023

Background and Current Review's Scope

Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15)

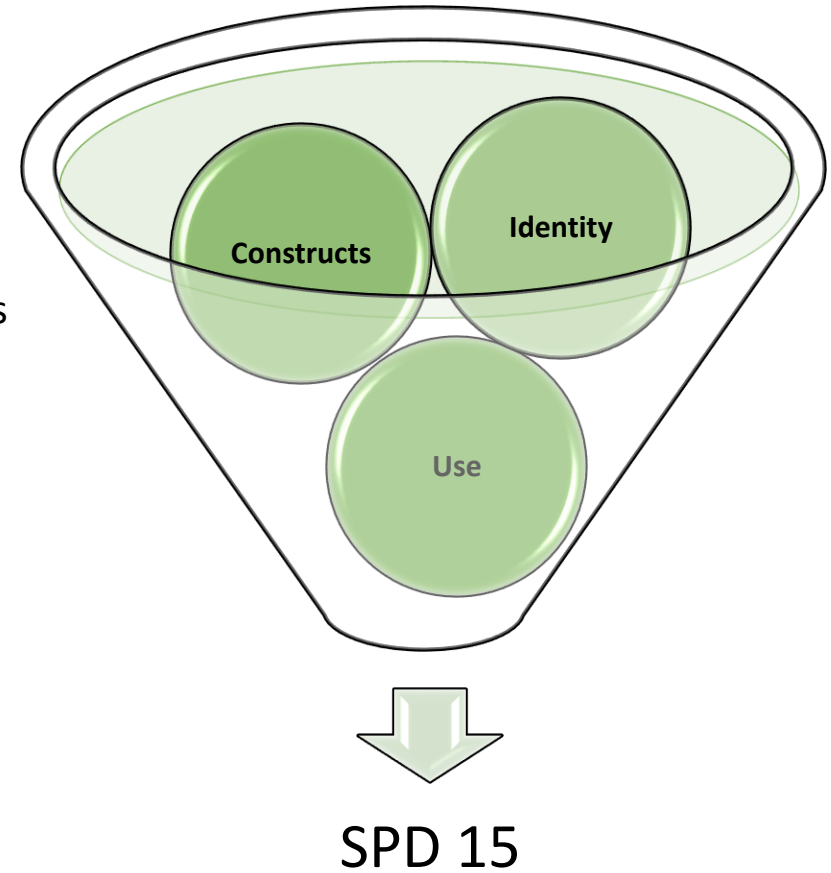
HISTORY OF SPD 15

1977 = Established, **1997** = Last Revised

- New responsibilities to enforce civil rights laws
- Provide common language to promote uniformity, comparability, and consistency across Federal information collections
- Developed through cooperative Federal interagency working group process

WHY REVIEW SPD 15 NOW?

- Increase of “Some Other Race” reporting on decennial census and American Community Survey
- Many Middle Eastern and North African respondents view their identity as distinct from the White racial category
- Need for disaggregated data to better understand within-group disparities and outcomes
- Inconsistent and outdated terminology



1997's SPD 15

Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

Current 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

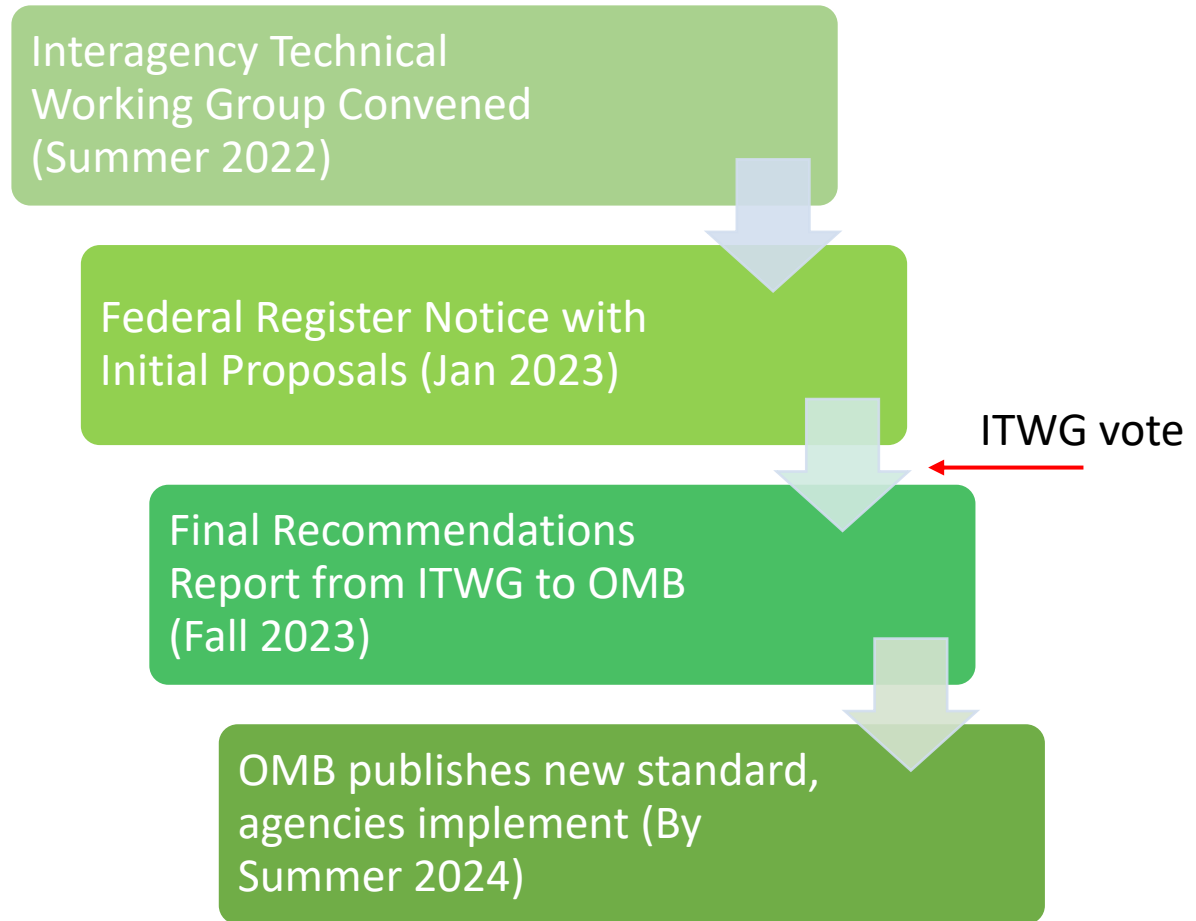
☐ Black or African American

☐ 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.

OMB Revision Process



Content Recommendation 1: Combined Question

Collect race and ethnicity information using one combined race/ethnicity question

- Require a combined race/ethnicity question for both self-response and proxy response.
- Within combined race/ethnicity question design, respondents may select one or multiple categories, and each of the categories should be understood to be co-equal.
- A single response will be considered a complete response (i.e., Hispanic respondents are not required to select an additional category).

Content Recommendation 2: MENA

Add “Middle Eastern or North African” (MENA) as a new minimum category.

- Add “Middle Eastern or North African” to SPD 15 as a new minimum reporting category distinct from all other reporting categories.
- Thus, the SPD 15 definition for the “White” category would be revised to remove references to Middle Eastern or North African, and MENA responses will be classified and tabulated as part of the new MENA category.

Content Recommendation 3: Detailed Data

Require the collection of more detail beyond the minimum race and ethnicity categories by default.

- Require data collection on race/ethnicity with greater detail beyond the minimum categories by default, unless an agency determines that the potential benefit of the detailed data would not justify the additional burden to the agency and the public or the additional risk to privacy or confidentiality. In those cases, agencies must at least use the SPD 15's minimum categories.
- In any circumstance, agencies are encouraged to collect and provide more granular data than the minimum categories.
- Allow agencies to determine what additional data to collect in order to best meet program and stakeholder needs, and allow Federal race and ethnicity questions latitude to adapt to changes in the social and demographic environment while still providing consistent and comparable data at the level of the minimum categories.

Changes to the Questions

Visualizing Recommendations 1-3

Examples for Self-Response Data Collections:

What is your race and/or ethnicity?

Mark all that apply.

Note, you may report more than one group.

☐ AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE

☐ ASIAN

☐ BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN

☐ HISPANIC OR LATINO

☐ MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN

☐ NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER

☐ WHITE

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.

☐ 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.

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

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

☐ Native Hawaiian

☐ Samoan

☐ Chamorro

☐ Tongan

☐ Fijian

☐ Marshallese

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

Recommendation 4: Update the Minimum Category Definitions

Update Terminology in SPD 15 with the following changes:

- a) **Remove “majority” and “minority”** terminology from SPD 15, except when statistically accurate and used for statistical descriptions or when legal requirements call for use of the terms.
- b) **Use “race and/or ethnicity” in the question stem**
- c) **Use the following instructions, depending on context:**
 - a) **Minimum:** “Mark/Select one or more” should be changed to “Mark/Select all that apply”
 - b) **Detailed with write-in:** “Mark/Select all that apply AND enter additional details in the spaces below. Note, you may report more than one group.”
- d) **Multiracial and Multiethnic** – Use “Multiracial and Multiethnic” in tabulations to represent people who identify with multiple minimum categories
- e) **Definitions for Categories + Detailed Race/Ethnicity Groups** – Provide balance for definitions and use six example groups to illustrate the breadth and diversity of the category

Thank you!