



Racialized Group Stratifier: Guidance on Measuring and Reporting Inequalities

Definition

Construct: Self-identified racial group

Race is a social construct used to judge and categorize people based on perceived differences in physical appearance in ways that create and maintain power differentials within social hierarchies. There is no scientifically supported biological basis for discrete racial groups.^{1,2} However, interpersonal and structural racism and discrimination create inequities in health care access, quality, experiences and outcomes.

This reporting guideline is based on the minimum standard that the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) developed for the collection of race-based data. Note that the standard focuses solely on the concept of race, rather than race and ethnicity. For more information, see CIHI's page on [race-based and Indigenous identity data](#). This document focuses on the use of the race-based data standard for reporting.

Reporting analyses disaggregated by race can help identify inequities and inform interventions to address them. Appropriate community engagement and data governance practices should be implemented to minimize the potential risks and harms, such as stigma or discrimination. Guidance for implementation is provided in [Guidance on the Use of Standards for Race-Based and Indigenous Identity Data Collection and Health Reporting in Canada](#).

Measure: Racialized group

CIHI's racialized group stratifier was adapted from standards published in 2018 by the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate for the identification and monitoring of systemic racism.³

For individuals who select more than one race category, additional categories for mixed racialized groups can be created (e.g., Black and White, Black and East Asian). How mixed-race groups are categorized will depend on the available data and reporting context.





Equity Stratification

Table Racialized group reporting categories

Category	Examples
Black	African, African Canadian, Afro-Caribbean descent
East Asian	Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese descent
Indigenous (First Nations, Inuk/Inuit, Métis)*	First Nations, Inuk/Inuit, Métis descent
Latin American	Hispanic or Latin American descent
Middle Eastern	Arab, Persian, West Asian descent (e.g., Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Kurdish, Lebanese, Turkish)
South Asian	South Asian descent (e.g., Bangladeshi, Indian, Indo-Caribbean, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)
Southeast Asian	Cambodian, Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese or other Southeast Asian descent
White	European descent
Another race category	Includes values not described above
Mixed racial group	Individuals who identify with more than one of the above categories
Do not know	Not applicable
Prefer not to answer	Not applicable
Unknown	Not applicable

Note
 * Distinctions-based approaches — that is, separately identifying First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples — may be preferred. For more information on reporting Indigenous identity data, see [Indigenous Identity Stratifier: Guidance on Measuring and Reporting Inequalities](#). Implementation of the Indigenous identity stratifier should include data governance agreements, engagement with appropriate Indigenous authorities and processes related to culturally safe reporting.

Variations

This stratifier is a minimum reporting guideline. More granular information on specific populations within each category may be reported, according to what is appropriate for the regional context.

Additionally, the East Asian and Southeast Asian categories may be combined during reporting should sample sizes warrant.

Key considerations

- CIHI’s race-based data collection standard was published alongside a separate Indigenous identity data standard with a distinctions-based approach. For more information on reporting Indigenous identity data, see [Indigenous Identity Stratifier: Guidance on Measuring and Reporting Inequalities](#). Reporting using the Indigenous identity stratifier should include data governance agreements, engagement with appropriate Indigenous authorities and processes related to culturally safe reporting of the data.



Equity Stratification

- Race-based and Indigenous identity data should not be used in ways that reinforce stereotypes and harm individuals. Harm can occur even if unintentional. Community engagement is important for ensuring this data is used safely and appropriately.
- This data should be used to understand the broader social context of systemic racism and to appropriately attribute inequities to their true root causes. Race should be analyzed with other variables such as sex, gender, housing, income, access to education and health care.
- Data on variables related to race such as ethnicity, language, immigration status, religion or country of birth can complement race-based analyses. Standards for these measures are available from [Statistics Canada](#).

How can I access racial group data?

CIHI's [Measuring Health Inequalities: A Toolkit — Equity Stratifier Inventory](#) is periodically updated with a complete list of the stratifier information available in CIHI's databases, as well as in certain Statistics Canada databases.

The CIHI stratifier is compatible with Statistics Canada's population group measure. Therefore, this stratifier can be used with population group data available in Statistics Canada databases to create racial group data. Details on mapping this standard to population group are available in [Guidance on the Use of Standards for Race-Based and Indigenous Identity Data Collection and Health Reporting in Canada](#).

Statistics Canada's standards

[Population group of person](#), August 25, 2021, to current

[Visible minority of person](#), August 25, 2021, to current

Related resources

The [CIHI Reference Data Model Toolkit](#) provides codes for data collection of the racialized group standard in health care settings.

Visit the [Equity stratifiers page](#) for guidance on additional stratifiers.

Version history

June 2022	Additional reporting categories added for information sheet.
March 2022	Updated standard released in <i>Guidance on the Use of Standards for Race-Based and Indigenous Identity Data Collection and Health Reporting in Canada</i> .
July 2020	Proposed standard released in <i>Proposed Standards for Race-Based and Indigenous Identity Data Collection and Health Reporting in Canada</i> .



References

1. Balestra C, Fleischer L; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. [*Diversity Statistics in the OECD: How Do OECD Countries Collect Data on Ethnic, Racial and Indigenous Identity?*](#). 2018.
2. National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health. [*Let's Talk: Racism and Health Equity*](#). 2017.
3. Government of Ontario. [*Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism: Ontario's Complete Standards and Guidance for Race-Based Data Collection for Government and Other Public Sector Organizations, Including Steps to Follow for Data Collection, Management and Use*](#). 2018.

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