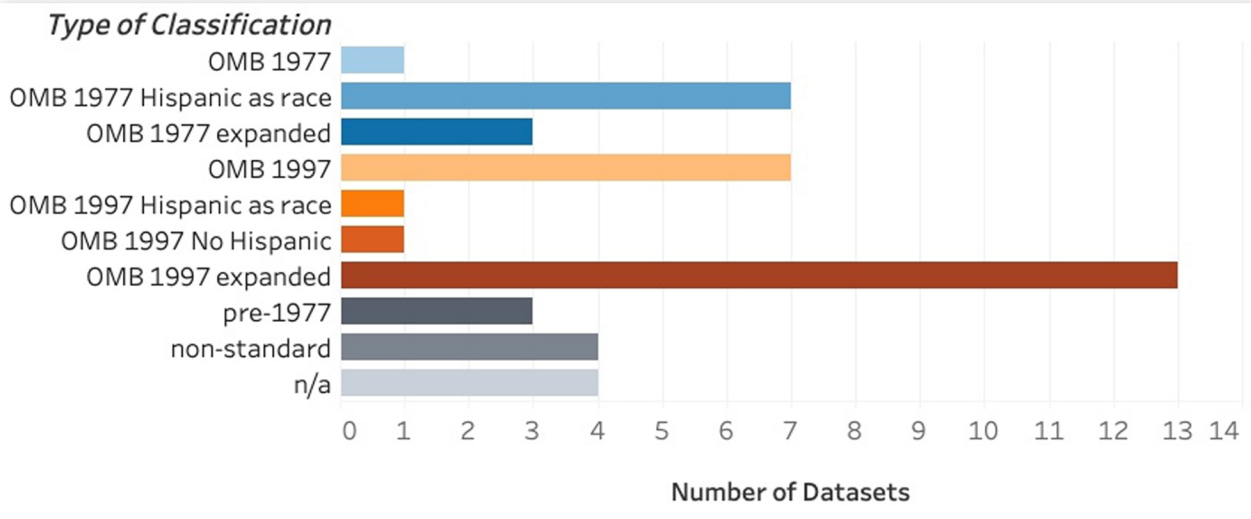


# Race and Ethnicity Classification in Health Datasets

## Recommended practices and ethical concerns

### Variability hinders data comparison

The race/ethnicity classifications of over 40 U.S. health datasets can be sorted into 3 broad categories - surveys using versions of the OMB 1977 standards, using versions of the OMB 1997 standards, and datasets with non-standard classifications. This variability hinders comparison between datasets and ultimately results in data being excluded or specificity being lost.



#### Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Race & Ethnicity Minimum Standards

<b>1977</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>Other</b>
Black	Black/African American	pre-1977
American Indian/Alaskan Native	American Indian/Alaskan Native	non-standard
Asian/Pacific Islander	Asian	n/a
White	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	
(Hispanic ethnicity)	White (Hispanic/Latino ethnicity)	

#### Examples of OMB Expanded Standards

<b>1977</b>	<b>1997</b>
Black	Black/African American
American Indian/Alaska Native	American Indian/Alaskan Native
Asian/Pacific Islander	Asian
Chinese	Asian Indian / Bangladeshi / Chinese
Japanese	Filipino / Hmong / Japanese / Korean
Native Hawaiian	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
Guamanian	Chamorro / Fijian / Samoan / Tongan
White	White
(Hispanic Ethnicity)	(Hispanic/Latino ethnicity)
(Cuban)	(Costa Rican / Cuban / Mexican/Chicano)
(Mexican/Chicano)	(Dominican / Guatemalan / Honduran)
(Puerto Rican)	(Panamanian / Puerto Rican / Salvadoran)

### Equitable data is good data

Using specific ethnicities that people identify as results in fewer blank and "Other" responses for race and ethnicity questions. With a more complete and inclusive dataset, stronger and more nuanced correlations can be found.

Ethnicity Group	Dataset			Recommended
	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey	Natl Health Interview Survey	CA Health Interview Survey	
Black	👤	👤	👤	👤
Indigenous	👤	👤	👤	👤
Asian	👤	👤	👤	👤
Pacific Islander	👤	👤	👤	👤
Latinx	👤	👤	👤	👤
* Southwest Asian / North African	n/a	n/a	n/a	👤
White	👤	👤	👤	👤
Option for multiple selections	👤	👤	👤	👤
Some other ethnicity	👤	👤	👤	👤

Number of ethnicities specified

\* A decolonial term for Middle Eastern; currently classified as White

### Racism is a public health crisis

Health disparities are not a result of genetic or physiological differences between communities of different races/ethnicities. Collecting race/ethnicity data is only pertinent because systemic racist practices have created a public health crisis. IHME has made a commitment to undertake research that addresses racial disparities in public health. A more inclusive and consistent collection of race/ethnicity data would support this important work.

