



Initial Proposals for Updating Statistical Policy Directive No. 15:

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

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

“A Renewed Direction for Directive 15: A Convening on OMB Race and Ethnicity Data Standards Revision”

March 21, 2023

Background and Current Review's Scope

Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15)

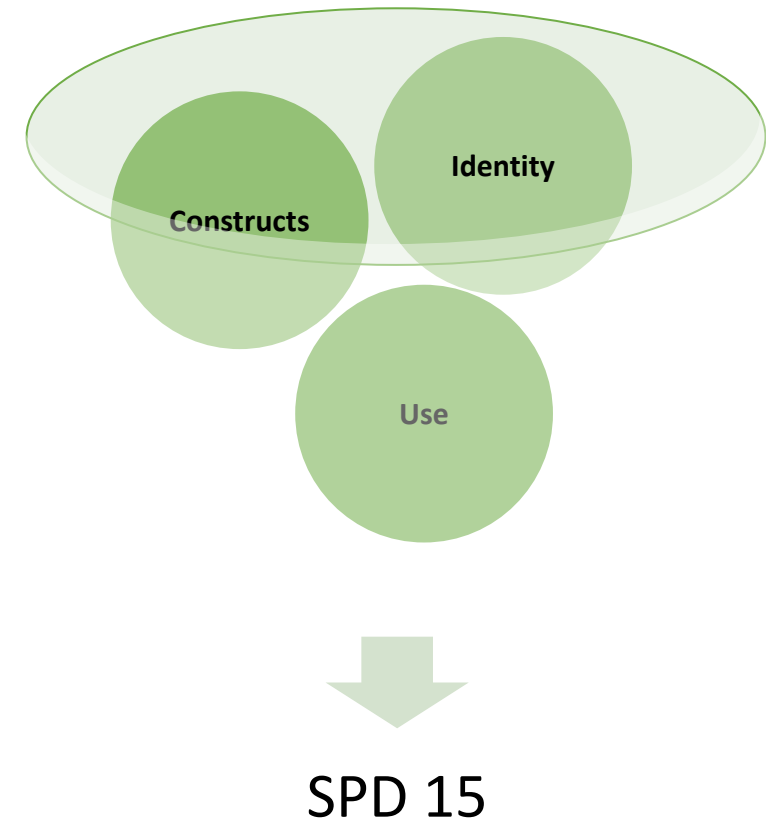
HISTORY OF SPD 15

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- Inconsistent and outdated terminology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

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.

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 12



Please Note

About Initial Proposals in the Federal Register Notice

[*Initial Proposals For Updating OMB's Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards*](#)

- These proposals are **preliminary – not final** – and do not reflect the settled opinions of the Working Group, the position of OMB, or the positions of the agencies participating on the Working Group.
- The Working Group will continue to deliberate, assess evidence, and take into consideration comments received from the public before making final recommendations for OMB's consideration.

Federal Register Notice's Public Comment Period:
January 27 – April 12

Working Group Assessed Existing Research and Evidence

About Initial Proposals in the Federal Register Notice

- Previous 2014-2018 Federal Interagency Working Group for Research on Race and Ethnicity
- Existing Federal Government research
- Experiences from the 2020 Census
- The work of the Interagency Working Group on Equitable Data pursuant to Executive Order 13985

Initial Proposals For Updating Statistical Policy Directive No. 15

Feedback Requested

The public is invited to provide feedback through the [Federal Register Notice](#) on the proposed revisions by April 12, 2023.

The Working Group's initial proposals include:

- Collecting race and ethnicity information using one combined question
- Adding “Middle Eastern or North African” (MENA) as a new response category
- Requiring the collection of detailed race and ethnicity categories by default

The Working Group is also asking for public comment on how best to revise SPD 15's:

- Terminology, definitions, and question wording
E.g., changes to the definition wording of the “American Indian or Alaska Native” minimum category
- Guidance on implementation and adoption of revised standards
- Guidance on how to collect and report administrative and proxy data

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.

Current Federal Register Notice

Initial Proposed Example Designs for Self-Response Data Collections

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

Working Group Conducting Additional Research

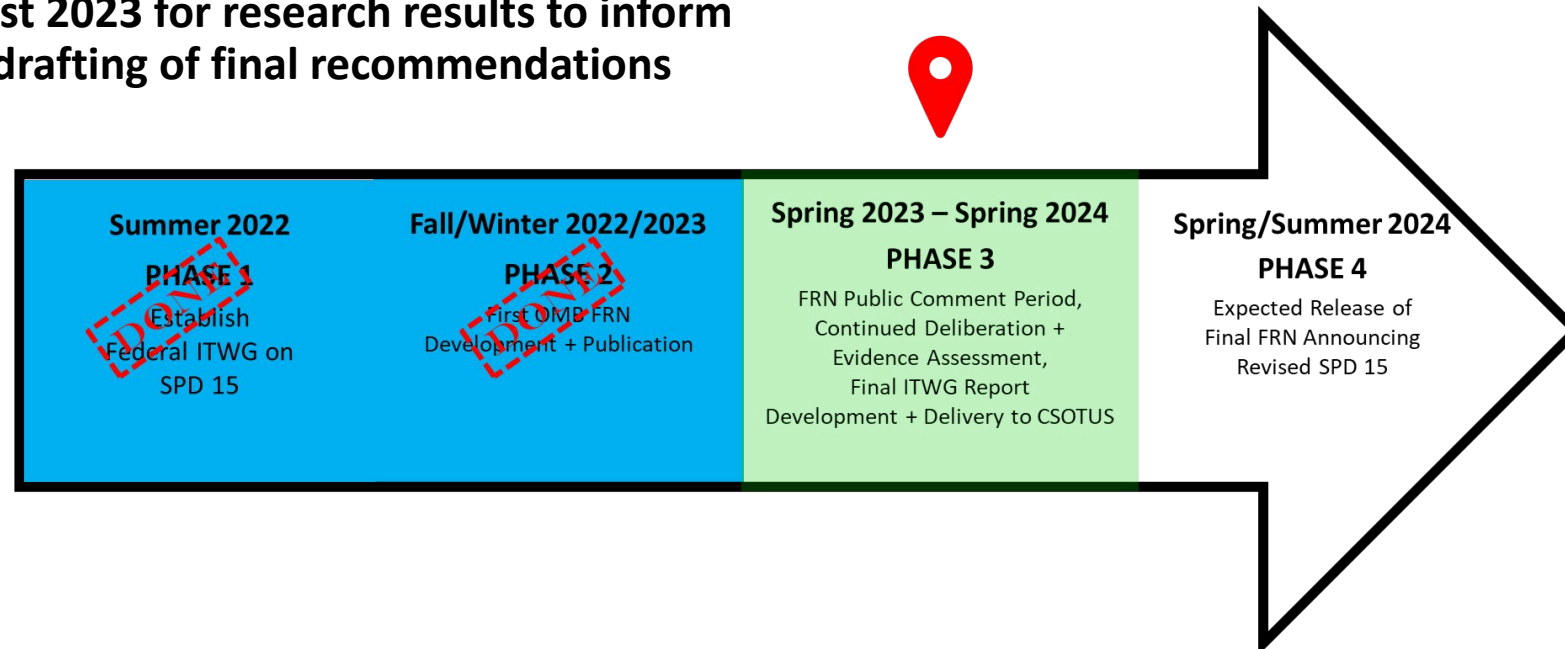
To Supplement Extensive Knowledge

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

The Working Group is collaborating with multiple agencies on funding and conducting qualitative and quantitative testing.

Target of August 2023 for research results to inform decisions and drafting of final recommendations



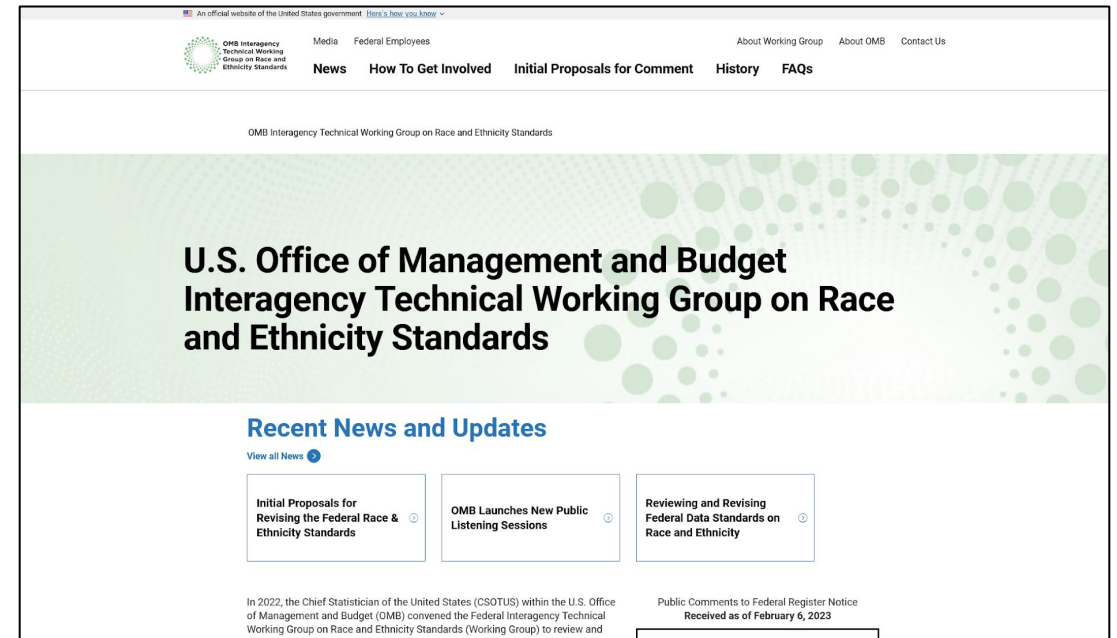
Current and Planned Public Engagements

During Federal Register Notice's Public Comment Period, January 27 – April 12

Meeting our Mission to Improve the Quality and Usefulness of Federal Race and Ethnicity Data Requires Input from the Public

- Federal Register Notice (FRN), [Initial Proposals For Updating OMB's Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards](#)
- During the FRN public comment period:
 - [Public Virtual "Town Halls"](#)
 - [Tribal Consultation](#)
- Sessions with scholars, e.g.,
 - Population Association of America Annual Meeting
 - American Statistical Association's Joint Statistical Meetings
 - American Sociological Association Annual Meeting
- [On-going bi-monthly listening sessions](#)
 - From Fall 2022 – Fall 2023

- Regular updates to the Working Group's website, spd15revision.gov



Thank You!

Discussion