NIH Ethnic and Racial Categories

Ethnic Categories:

Hispanic or Latino

A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, **regardless of race**. The term "Spanish origin" can also be used in addition to "Hispanic or Latino."

Not Hispanic or Latino

Racial Categories

American Indian or Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North, Central, or South America, and who maintains tribal affiliations 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.

****** Asian and Pacific Islander classifications: Japan and the Philippines are Islands in the Pacific, but both are classified in the Asian category.

Black or African American: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" can be used in addition to "Black or African American."

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.

****** Using respondent self-report or self-identification to collect an individual's data on ethnicity and race, investigators should use two separate questions with ethnicity information collected first followed by the option to select more than one racial designation**.**