Proposed race-based and Indigenous identity data standards

CIHI's proposed race-based data standard is adapted from the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate's race data standards and is consistent with The Upstream Lab's recommendations on collecting data on race. The standard should be accompanied by a distinctions-based Indigenous identity question (at minimum), along with community engagement and/or data governance agreements.

Proposed race-based question	
We know that people of different races do not have significantly different genetics. But our race still has important consequences, including how we are treated by different individuals and institutions. Which race category best describes you? Check all that apply:	
Proposed response categories	**Examples**
Black	African, Afro-Caribbean, African Canadian descent
East/Southeast Asian (optional: may collect as 2 separate categories — East Asian and Southeast Asian)	Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese descent or Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent
Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit)*	First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit descent
Latino	Latin American, Hispanic descent
Middle Eastern	Arab, Persian, West Asian descent (e.g., Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish)
South Asian	South Asian descent (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean)
White	European descent
Another race category	Includes values not described above
Do not know	Not applicable
Prefer not to answer	Not applicable

Proposed Indigenous identity question*
Do you identify as First Nations, Métis and/or Inuk/Inuit?
Proposed response categories (select all that apply)
Yes, First Nations
Yes, Métis
Yes, Inuk/Inuit
No
Prefer not to answer

Note

*   It is recommended that reporting on Indigenous identity data and communities be informed through engagement with Indigenous communities in the jurisdiction of data collection. Distinctions-based approaches — that is, identifying First Nations, Inuk/Inuit and Métis communities and/or other Indigenous populations such as nations or clans — may be preferred.

Sources

Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate. *Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism*. 2018.

The Upstream Lab. Screening for Poverty And Related social determinants and intervening to improve Knowledge of and links to resources (SPARK). Accessed May 29, 2020.