RACE AND ETHNICITY CATEGORIES

Race and ethnicity are different forms of identity but are sometimes categorized in non-exclusive ways.

*Race* is a form of identity constructed by our society to give meaning to different groupings of observable physical traits. An individual may identify with more than one race group.

*Ethnicity* is used to group individuals according to shared cultural elements.

Racial and ethnic categorizations relate to health because our society sorts groups of individuals based on perceived identities. These categorizations have meaning because of social and political factors, including systems of power such as racism. Examining the variation among racial and ethnic groupings in health factors and outcomes is key to understanding and addressing historical and current context that underlie these differences.

Methods for defining and grouping race and ethnicity categories can differ between data sources and within data sources over time. To incorporate as much information as possible in our summaries, CHR&R race/ethnicity categories vary by data source.

With a few exceptions, CHR&R adheres to the following nomenclature originally defined by The Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

- **American Indian & Alaska Native (AIAN):** includes people who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native and do not identify as Hispanic.
- **Asian:** includes people who identify as Asian or Pacific Islander and do not identify as Hispanic.
- **Black:** includes people who identify as Black or African American and do not identify as Hispanic.
- **Hispanic:** includes people who identify as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, other Hispanic, or Hispanic of unknown origin.
- **White:** includes people who identify as White and do not identify as Hispanic.
County Health Rankings data disaggregated by race and ethnicity are available for the following:

### Ranked Measures
- Premature Death
- Low Birthweight
- Teen Births
- Preventable Hospital Stays
- Mammography Screening
- Flu Vaccinations
- Children in Poverty
- Injury Deaths
- Driving Alone to Work

### Additional Measures
- Infant Mortality
- Child Mortality
- Premature Age-Adjusted Mortality
- Life Expectancy
- Median Household Income
- Suicides
- Homicides
- Firearm Fatalities
- Drug Overdose Deaths
- Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths
- Reading Scores
- Math Scores

More detailed subgroup data may exist at the state, county and even city or ZIP code level. Please visit [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org) for more information.