



# Race, Ethnicity & Language Data Collection FAQs



## 1. Why am I being asked these questions?

We ask these questions for two reasons:

- First, to help you. The more we know about you, the better we can provide care. Our racial and ethnic backgrounds may place us at different risks for some diseases. Knowing more about you can help us reduce these risks. It also allows us to customize services to your needs, such as if transportation or translation is a concern.
- Secondly, your information, combined with everyone else's, gives us a better picture of who we serve and of their needs. This allows us to develop programs designed to best serve everybody.

## 2. What if I don't want to answer these questions?

You do not have to answer these questions. However, if you do, it will help us provide better care both to you and to other members of our community. Regardless of whether you answer these questions, we will provide you with the best care we can.

## 3. Who will see my information?

The only people who will see your information are authorized members of our health center staff. We do not share your information with any other organizations of government agencies. As with your health information, this is protected by HIPAA regulations. The confidentiality of what you say is protected by law.

## 4. What if I'm not sure how to answer a question? Can I pick more than one race?

You can select all the races you identify with. If you're still not sure how to answer a question, you can select "Decline to Answer" or "I don't know." It is important to not leave the answers blank.

## 5. Why are you asking me about my country of origin?

Although our current categories for race are linked to different parts of the world, there is lots of diversity within those categories. A person's country of origin provides more specific information than just race and ethnicity. For example, it may alert us to certain health conditions for which they may be at risk, or it can help us know what languages we need translators in.

## 6. If I already said that my ethnicity is Hispanic or Latino, why do I also need to tell you my race?

Many people who identify as Hispanic or Latino also identify as one or more of the racial categories. In the past, people were asked to choose between Hispanic/Latino or a race. For example, a person who identified as both Hispanic and Black was not able to select both options. This is why we now ask for both pieces of information.

