

About the Demographic Data Standards Initiative

The first phase of the demographic data standards initiative is focused on race and ethnicity in response to new federal standards for race and ethnicity data collection and reporting under Statistical Policy Directive (SPD) 15, scheduled for full implementation by 2029.

In 2026, we aim to raise awareness of the new standards and compile information from state agencies about what is needed for implementation.

The Office of Equity is responsible for establishing standards for the collection, analysis, and reporting of disaggregated data in collaboration with OFM, WaTech, and other state agencies ([RCW 43.06D.040](#)).

Demographic Data Standards Initiative Race and Ethnicity

What is the initiative?

The Demographic Data Standards Initiative is driven by changes at the federal level regarding how racial and ethnic data is collected and reported. These changes are outlined in the Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive 15, known as SPD 15. They will impact numerous state agencies in Washington that have programs and reporting intersections with the federal government. As challenges will arise when the data is not aligned, we're here to help.

The Washington State Office of Equity, Office of Financial Management, and WaTech are co-sponsoring this initiative, which is focused on coordinating Washington state agencies' implementation of updated race and ethnicity data standards set forth in SPD 15.

Goals of the initiative

- **Facilitate collaboration and alignment across state agencies** regarding the collection and disaggregation of race and ethnicity data.
- **De-silo efforts across state agencies collecting similar data**, making it easier to implement without "reinventing the wheel."

Get involved

We are starting this initiative by gathering input from state employees of all levels of data expertise. This will help us better understand the current data collection and disaggregation structures within each agency, as well as how data is being used.

In the first phase of this work, we are holding listening sessions — and **we need to hear from you!**

You should attend our sessions if you:

- **Want to learn more about SPD 15** and what it might mean for your agency.
- **Work with demographic data** in any capacity and want to embrace further collaboration with other agencies.
- **Want to highlight the work of your agency** and how you handle race and ethnicity data collection and disaggregation.
- **Want to share your thoughts or learn more** about race and ethnicity data collection and disaggregation in general.

Project Overview Session with Q&A

Thursday, May 28 | 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Purpose

To share information about demographic data standards, including our planned work to coordinate Washington state agency implementation of updated race and ethnicity data standards.

Agenda

- Welcome, overview, and introductions
- Scope, plan, and timeline
- Overview of Statistical Policy Directive 15
- Q&A, closing, and next steps

Meeting Details

- May 28 from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. ([Registration link](#))
- This session will be recorded and made available after the meeting date.

Project Overview and Listening Sessions

Wednesday, June 24 | Tuesday, June 30 | Tuesday, July 7

Purpose

To gather feedback from Washington state agency partners regarding our planned work to coordinate implementation of updated race and ethnicity data standards. The feedback will be used to inform state policymakers about agency implementation needs.

Dates/Times

- **June 24** from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. ([Registration link](#))
- **June 30** from 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. ([Registration link](#))
- **July 7** from 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. ([Registration link](#))

Agenda

- Welcome, overview, and introductions
- Poll questions
- Discussion questions
- Q&A, closing, and next steps

Discussion questions

1. How do you collect demographic data across your agency? How do you report it and to which entities is it reported?
2. What requirements or expectations shape how you collect or report this data today?
3. What are your initial reactions to SPD 15?
4. If this were done well, what would be better for your agency, your programs, or the communities you serve?
5. What resources (e.g., statutory or rule changes) might you need to implement the new standards by 2029? What would make it easier?