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Demographic Data Standards Initiative

Race and Ethnicity

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Why Are We Here Today?

The federal government is changing the standards for race and ethnicity data. OFM, EQUITY, and WaTech have joined together to help **raise awareness** of the new standards and **help agencies implement** the changes.

OFM

Official state agency partner to the U.S. Census RCW [43.41.110\(9\)](#)

EQUITY

Responsible for establishing standards for disaggregated data in collaboration with OFM, WaTech, and other state agencies
RCW [43.06D.040](#)

WATECH

Directed to establish standards and policies governing IT acquisition, security, data management, and the use of an enterprise architecture program RCW [43.105.052](#)

Where Are We Heading?

- The federal Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive (SPD) 15 establishes **new federal standards for collecting and presenting data on race and ethnicity**.
 - Will impact all state **agencies that report race and ethnicity data** to federal agencies, as well as Census data collection.
 - Must be implemented by the federal **deadline of September 2029**.
- **We are starting a coordinated statewide effort to understand impacts** and identify needs for implementation in systems, processes, and reporting at state agencies.

What is the Washington State Context?

- There is growing demand from policymakers and communities for higher quality and **more granular race and ethnicity data** to more effectively address issues that affect specific communities. For example:
 - [HB 1541](#) (from 2016) led to more detailed [K-12 data standards](#)
 - 2026 proposed legislation [SB 5784](#) and [SB 6315](#) directed state agencies to implement new data standards
 - [EO 25-09](#) – protecting the rights and interests of immigrant communities, including individual privacy
- The state is moving toward **more consistent and disaggregated data practices** as it supports broader goals for equity and better decision making.

Why Does This Matter to Agencies?

More granular race and ethnicity data helps us:

- **See who is being served... and who is not:** Disaggregated data show whether different groups of people are benefitting equally from government programs.
- **Design solutions that work for everyone:** When you can see which communities are being left out, you can design targeted strategies that meet their specific needs.
- **Measure progress and accountability:** Disaggregated data allow you to track whether your actions are working overtime.

What Are We Asking from Agencies?



Watch the following presentation on SPD 15

Participate in listening sessions:



- Share how you currently collect and use demographic data, requirements, and constraints
- Help identify what support will make implementation easier and mitigate risks



Information gathered will be compiled in a public-facing **report**

What's next



**Please join us at the listening sessions
and give us your input.**

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](#))