

# Implementation of HHS Data Standards

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# HHS Data Standards

- The Affordable Care Act includes several provisions to address health disparities
- Section 4302 requires the Secretary of HHS to establish data standards for race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status
- HHS Data Council workgroup with representatives from HHS, OMB and the Census Bureau, made recommendations; invited public comments
- New Standards were adopted October 31, 2011

# Race

What is your race? (One or more categories may be selected)

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
  
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian
  
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander

# Ethnicity

**Are you Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin (One or more categories may be selected)**

**No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin**

**Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a**

**Yes, Puerto Rican**

**Yes, Cuban**

**Yes, Another Hispanic, Latino/a or Spanish  
origin**

# Sex & Primary Language

What is your sex?

\_\_\_\_\_ Male

\_\_\_\_\_ Female

How well do you speak English? (age 5 and over)

\_\_\_\_\_ Very well

\_\_\_\_\_ Well

\_\_\_\_\_ Not well

\_\_\_\_\_ Not at all

# Disability Standard

**Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?**

Yes

No

**Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?**

Yes

No

**Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions? (5 years old or older)**

Yes

No

# Disability Standard

**Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? (5 years old or older)**

Yes

No

**Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing? (5 years old or older)**

Yes

No

**Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping? (15 years old or older)**

Yes

No

# Minimum Standard

- The minimum standard should not be construed to limit collection of needed data
- The collection of additional information and/or greater granularity is encouraged as long as:
  - The minimum standard is included
  - The data are organized in a manner that additional categories can be aggregated into the minimum standard

# Data Standards: Applicability

- The new standards are applicable to all HHS conducted or sponsored population-based health surveys, specifically:
- Health surveys where respondents either self-report or a knowledgeable proxy provides information about the sample person or responds for all persons in the household

# Implementation Schedule

- Carried out in accordance with normal agency planning, budgeting, and data collection cycles
- Any new health survey conducted or sponsored by HHS must include the standards
- Current health surveys must incorporate the standards at the time of the next major survey revisions.

# Monitoring Implementation

- Monitoring Tool developed to track implementation by HHS Operating Divisions
- Disseminated through the HHS Data Council
- Report on current status of survey questions
- Describe agency implementation plans
- Report on agency timelines for new surveys and major revisions

# Adoption of Standards

Provides a common language

Promotes uniformity and consistency

Permits greater comparability across  
surveys

# Practical Considerations

- Instrument revisions are required to:
  - Capture new data standards
  - Data storage
  - Data tables and reporting systems
- Codebooks and Documentation
- Interviewer Training
- Crosswalks and Bridging techniques for trends

# Next Steps

- Review current survey questions that capture measures of socioeconomic status on HHS surveys and Census surveys (e.g., CPS, ACS, SIPP)
- Continue interagency collaboration regarding survey design and research methods
- Identify opportunities, where practicable, to coordinate and/or harmonize data collection

# Thank You

## For More Information:

- <http://aspe.hhs.gov/datacncl/standards/ACA/4302/index.shtml>
- <http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=208>