

7.2 Race and Ethnicity Codes

The State of Wisconsin requires collection and reporting of race data. Batch files will be **rejected if more than 25% of race and ethnicity codes are missing.**

Effective with Q42024 WHAIC is implementing the two (2) new OMB Race categories and codes and asks that you update your data collection efforts. This change will require facilities to update the patient registration questions or mapping to the updated list of race options. In addition, we also encourage facilities to collect and report a more detailed sub-category of race. Meaning, we are expanding the race field to allow for the collection of the main category as well as allowing patients to self-identify in reporting (more than one) sub-category in the discharge data if collected.

WHAIC Implementation of New OMB Guidelines

Implementation Timeline: Effective Date: Q4 2024 New Race Data Collection Updated and Available.

Requirement: By Q1 2026 - All facilities are required to submit data according to the new guidelines and codes.

Interim: For the next year, during the transition period, WHAIC will allow for both types of submission of race and ethnicity while working with facilities to update their extracts.

Key Changes:

- Single Question Format: There is no longer a separate category for ethnicity. The new format combines race and ethnicity into a single question.
- Reasoning: The OMB's research indicates that a single question format reduces confusion and more accurately reflects how people view their identity.
- Action Items for Data Collection Entities:
- Update Data Collection Systems: Ensure all verbal, written, EMR/EHR and collection systems and processes are updated to reflect the new combined race and ethnicity categories. We encourage hospitals and ASCs to collect data at the detailed level.
- **Update the 837 File** Loop 2010BA/2010CA and Element DMG05-1. DMG is a composite element, which repeats up to 10 times. RET
- Resources: [Addressing Health Care Disparities through Race, Ethnicity and Language \(REaL\) Data | IFDHE](#)
- [ifdhe_real_data_resource.pdf](#)

Main Code	Main Category	Subcategory Code	Subcategory Code	Subcategory	Subcategory	Subcategory	Subcategory
1	American Indian or Alaskan Native	101 - Aztec	102 - Cherokee	103 - Eskimo	104 - Iroquois	105 - Maya	106 - Navajo
2	Asian, Asian American, Asian Indian	201 - Chinese	202 - Filipino	203 - Hmong	204 - Japanese	205 - Korean	206 - Laotian or Vietnamese
3	Black or African American	301 - African	302 - Jamaican	303 - Ethiopian	304 - Haitian	305 - Nigerian	306 - Somali
4	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	401 - Chamorro	402 - Guamanian	403 - Fijian	404 - Marshallese	405 - Tongan	406 - Samoan
5	White / Caucasian	501 - English	502 - German	503 - Irish	504 - Italian	505 - Polish	506 - Scottish

6	NEW: Arab, Middle Eastern or North African	601 - Egyptian	602 - Iraqi	603 - Lebanese	604 - Pakistani	605 - Syrian	606 - Moroccan
8	NEW: Hispanic or Latino	801 - Cuban	802 - Dominican	803 - Guatemalan	804 - Mexican	805 - Puerto Rican	806 - Salvadoran
7	Declined						
9	Unavailable						

Simplified Listing of Main Categories

WHAIC Code	Main Category	Description
1	American Indian or Alaska Native	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
2	Asian	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of East Asia, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
3	Black or African American	A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
4	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
5	White	A person having origins in any of the peoples of North America, Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
6	NEW: Arab, Middle Eastern or North African	MENA Americans can trace their origins to more than a dozen countries, including Egypt, Morocco, Iran, Turkey and Yemen. People from there can be white, brown or Black, as well as identify with an ethnic group, like Arab, Amazigh, Kurdish, Chaldean and more.
8	NEW: Hispanic or Latino	A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
7	Declined	A person who refuses to answer this question.
9	Unavailable	A person unable to answer this question, or no available family member or caregiver to respond for the patient. May also be used by patients if their race is unknown.

Ethnicity Valid Until 12/31/2025

1	Hispanic or Latino	A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
2	Non-Hispanic or Latino	Person not of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.
7	Declined	A person who refuses to answer this question or cannot identify him/herself ethnicity.
9	Unavailable/Unknown	A person unable to answer the question, or ethnicity is unknown to the patient.

WHAIC Race Collections Update Effective 10/1/2024

According to the OMB [SPD 15 is revised to](#) and details contained in the Federal Register, patients (to the degree possible) should self-report race and/or ethnicity *at the detailed subcategory levels*. If this is not feasible, data must be collected and reported at the Minimum Category. OMB “Standards set forth minimum categories. The standards should set forth minimum categories; additional categories should be encouraged, provided they can be aggregated to the minimum categories. The number of minimum categories should be kept to a manageable size, as determined by statistical concerns and data needs.” The updated SPD 15 is effective immediately. Patients may choose all the subcategories that apply. WHAIC will record the categories as supplied in the file in WIpop.

Additional Information:

In 2022, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) initiated a review of the 25-year-old race and ethnicity standards. The update aims to produce more accurate and useful race and ethnicity data across all data collection agencies.

Facilities may need to work with their EMR/EHR or claims vendor to make sure they have the capability to collect and report more than one race. Collecting Subcategories: If a facility collects patient race data at the detailed/sub-category level, prior to release of data, WHAIC will map those back to the main collection category until we have enough data to support adding the subcategories to WIpop. For example, if a patient chooses German, WHAIC will map that patient to the WHITE Category 5.

Update the 837 File Loop 2010BA/2010CA and Element DMG05-1. DMG is a composite element, which repeats up to 10 times.

Questions you may have for WIpop data collection system

Q1. Can the facility send main or subcategory or both?

A. Yes, the file may contain both main and subcategory.

Q2. If a facility has different categories in the patient registry such as Chinese American – but it’s not on the WHAIC list as a viable category, should the facility roll that up to the proper Asian category for WHAIC?

A. Yes, the facility may choose to map to the main category code 2 or subcategory 201.

Q3. Can you provide an example of what the new codes would look like in the file?

A. `DMG*D8*19960913*M*S*RET:R5^RET:E2^RET:R502^RET:R503****ZZ*ENG`

➤ When translated in the file it looks like this:

`DMG*D8*19960913*M*S*5:2:502:503****ZZ*ENG`

Race 1 = 5

Ethnicity = 2

Race 2 = 502

Race 3 = 503

Q4. For reporting of ethnicity in the hospitals 837 claim file – In 2026, can hospitals still submit the ethnicity segment, but WHAIC ignores that in the file/parser.

A. Once WHAIC transitions to the new collection requirement, users do not have to update their files to remove the ethnicity. Facilities may still submit how they do now, meaning the Ethnicity field will be ignored effective 1/1/2026. We feel this is likely to be the easiest and most cost-effective way for facilities to do this.