

SPD 15 COMMUNITY TALKING POINTS

What is SPD 15?

SPD 15 is a set of rules from the U.S. government. It helps everyone use the same questions and answers for race and ethnicity. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) made it in 1977.

SPD 15 helps make race and ethnicity data match across federal forms and surveys. It also helps make the data better by using the same words and steps each time.

Where do we see SPD 15 in everyday life?

You see SPD 15 when a form asks you about your race and ethnicity. This can happen on school forms, job applications, surveys, or at the doctor's office.

If you have ever checked a box for race or ethnicity on a form, you have used SPD 15. Many forms use questions that come from SPD 15.

What has changed in SPD 15, and how could it affect me?

In March 2024, OMB updated SPD 15. The goal is to collect race and ethnicity information in a way that is more correct and more helpful.

The new SPD 15 rules start in 2029. Here are some changes you may see on forms:

1)

Instead of two questions (one for race and one for ethnicity), there will be one combined question.

2)

The race list will add a new choice: Middle Eastern/ North African. You may also pick more than one race.

3)

Under each race choice, you will see more detailed groups to pick from. You can also write in your group if you do not see it.

THE GOAL IS FOR PEOPLE TO BE COUNTED AND SEEN.

When the data shows more detail, leaders, doctors, and others can make better plans, programs, and services for different communities.

How do health care groups use SPD 15?

Health care groups use SPD 15 in a few ways.

Here are some examples:



CARE HELP AND PLANNING

Race and ethnicity information can help teams connect people to services that fit their language and culture.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Race and ethnicity data helps show health patterns and unfair differences in care. For example, Black women die from pregnancy-related causes about three times more often than White women.



HEALTH CARE WORKERS

This data can help clinics and hospitals train and support workers to give respectful care. When workers look like and understand the community, patients may trust them more and follow treatment plans.

Why should you care about SPD 15?

SPD 15 matters because it helps the federal government collect race and ethnicity information in the same way. This includes the census and health surveys. Without clear rules, some people may not fit the choices and may not be counted well in the data.

Why should your doctor or clinic care about SPD 15?

Doctors and clinics should care because they can look at care and health results by race and ethnicity. This can help them find problems and fix unfair gaps in care. Without this data, they may miss important needs.