Guiding Questions and Considerations for the Use of Race and Ethnicity in Population Health Research

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Background on the guiding questions can be found here. Further detail on each is linked below.

Conceptualization

1. How do you define race? How do you define ethnicity? How are your definitions for race and ethnicity similar or different?
2. Why is race and/or ethnicity important to your research question?
3. Where do race and/or ethnicity fit into your conceptual model?
4. In your manuscript, have you communicated your answers to questions #1, 2, and 3 clearly?

More details here

Measurement

5. What dimension(s) of race or ethnicity is(are) most relevant to your research question?
6. If you are collecting your own data, what kind of question(s) will you use to measure your chosen dimension(s) of race and ethnicity?
7. If your work uses existing data, how does that data source conceptualize and measure race and ethnicity?
    a. Is it consistent with your research question?
    b. If it is not, what are the limitations or resultant biases?
8. Measurement specific questions to consider, specifically around self-report questions, include:
    a. Is the self-report question open or close-ended?
    b. If close-ended, what is the list of potential response options? These racial and ethnic groups are the product of social forces, conscious individual decisions, and federal reporting requirements (themselves based on social forces and individual decisions).
    c. Are participants asked what group they MOSTLY consider themselves? Or should they be asked to report on ALL of the groups they consider themselves to be?
9. In your manuscript, have you unambiguously communicated what measure(s) you used?

More details here

Coding

10. How will you code race or ethnicity in statistical analyses?
11. Have you collapsed race and ethnicity into an ethno-racial construct?
12. If you aggregate different racial or ethnic groups, what are the potential implications for your findings?
13. In your manuscript, have you communicated which groups you collapsed together and why? Have you addressed possible biases or limitations of such a choice in the Discussion section?

More details [here](#)

Analysis & Interpretation

14. Does your interpretation align with the dimension of race that was measured?
15. Have you checked that you are not assigning a biological cause to racial or ethnic differences that were measured using a self-reported dimension?
16. Have you considered interpersonal, organizational, and structural racism as a potential explanation or mechanism?

More details [here](#)