

“Race” and “ethnicity” defined

“Ethnicity” refers to the identification of a group based on a perceived cultural distinctiveness that makes the group into a “people.” This distinctiveness is believed to be expressed in language, music, values, art, styles, literature, family life, religion, ritual, food, naming, public life, and material culture. *

“Race” is today primarily a sociological designation, identifying a class sharing some outward physical characteristics and some commonalities of culture and history. *

One of the major reasons for the change in collection and reporting is the recognition that members of Hispanic populations can be of different races. The new reporting scheme will afford Hispanic/Latino populations the opportunity to better describe themselves according to their culture and heritage.