

## Race & Ethnicity Data Collection: Frequently Asked Questions

This flyer will help you understand why DOC is interested in collecting your race & ethnicity information, how the data will and will *not* be used, and how your information will be protected. Please note that providing this information to DOC is fully voluntary.

### What is race & ethnicity?

**Race** is one way our society groups people together. Categories of race have been made up over time. These categories are often based on things we can see, like a person's skin color. Our race is a combination of the races of our parents.

**Ethnicity** is based on how we identify with other people when we share certain experiences or backgrounds with them. This may include things like language, history, religion, or culture.

### Are you trying to find out if I am a U.S. citizen?

DOC does collect data on place of birth and citizenship, but we do not report directly to ICE. We may be asked by a foreign embassy to provide information regarding how many of their citizens (ex. number of Korean or Mexican citizens) are in our custody and we comply with those requests.

### Can't you tell by looking at me?

Every person is different. We do not make any assumptions based on how a person looks.

### Who are you collecting this information from?

We are asking all individuals for this information.

### Why are you asking about my race and ethnicity?

We ask about race and ethnicity to make sure we have the most accurate information about you. This information also helps us with decisions regarding housing, healthcare, and compliance with federal law.

### Who will see the information? How will it be shared?

We limit access to this information to instances where the information is necessary for identification, housing, or for medical care.

### *Data Use Statement*

Individual race and ethnicity data can be shared/disclosed to the public upon documented request. In cases where providing race/ethnicity along with other identifiers and additional private data (medical, education, substance use treatment) may identify an individual, race/ethnicity data will not be shared to protect individuals private data.