

CHILD Cohort Study – Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Indigenous Identity Data

CHILD recognizes that approaches to the collection, governance, and use of race, ethnicity, and Indigenous identity data are continually evolving and is committed to their respectful, responsible, and transparent use through ongoing learning and partnership with the communities represented in the cohort.

In alignment with this commitment, researchers requesting access to detailed race, ethnicity, or Indigenous identity variables must clearly describe and justify how these data will be used. Completion of the required justification sections supports review of study design and proposed analyses for consistency with Research Ethics Board (REB) requirements, the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2), including Chapter 9, and recognized Indigenous data governance principles, including First Nations OCAP® principles where applicable. This process helps ensure that identity-related data are used in a culturally appropriate, respectful, and transparent manner for the communities represented in the CHILD Cohort Study.

Access to detailed self-identified race, ethnicity, or Indigenous identity variables is restricted and will only be considered when ***both*** of the following criteria are met:

1. The proposed analyses are clearly articulated and demonstrate sufficient sample size and statistical power to support meaningful interpretation for the race, ethnicity, or Indigenous group(s) of interest.
2. A clear plan for community engagement, interpretation, and knowledge mobilization is described for the identity variables being analyzed.

Because most analyses conducted using CHILD data are not designed or powered to meet these criteria, detailed race and ethnicity variables are not routinely shared. Instead, CHILD provides summarized, derived race and ethnicity variables intended for use as covariates for adjustment rather than as primary variables of interest. These categories are analytically defined and do not represent identity labels. Current summarized groupings include¹:

- White
- Racialized
- Multi-racial
- Other / not classified

Requests to use race, ethnicity, or Indigenous identity variables as primary variables of interest will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may require additional justification, consultation, or conditions of access to ensure alignment with ethical standards and community-informed research practices.

Footnotes:

¹Definition of the ethnicity groups:

Ethnicity Groups	Definitions
White	Includes Caucasian
Racialized Population*	Includes Indo-Canadian, Black, Japanese, Filipino, Middle Eastern, Chinese (Hong Kong/Taiwan/Mainland China), South East Asian (Cambodia/Vietnam/Laos/Malaysia/Thai), Hispanic, South Asian (Indian continent)
Multi-racial	Includes participants who selected more than one mutually exclusive race (e.g. combination of a South East Asian and a White is considered multi-racial, but "Japanese" and "Chinese" will still be "East Asian").
Other / not classified	Includes participants who selected First Nations, Unknown, and participants who selected other, with no other options and we were unable to reclassify (e.g. Trinidadian, Brazilians).

At prenatal 18 weeks, parents provided answers to “*to which ethnic or cultural group did your parents belong?*” with options Caucasian / Indo-Canadian / Black / Japanese / Filipino / Middle Eastern / Chinese (Hong Kong/Taiwan/Mainland China) / South East Asian (Cambodia/Vietnam/Laos/Malaysia/Thai) / First Nations / Hispanic / South Asian (Indian continent) / Unknown / Other, none of these groups (specify).

* The racialized population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese according to Stats Canada.