

Statutorily Mandated Collection of Race/Ethnicity Data

Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Performance Measures

PREP

The purpose of this program is to support Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) projects that replicate evidence-based, effective program models or substantially incorporate elements of effective programs that have been proven, on the basis of scientific research, to change behavior, which means delaying sexual activity, increasing condom or contraceptive use for sexually active youth, reducing the number of partners, or reducing pregnancy among youth. The statute requires applicants to describe how they will use the funds to achieve the goals for reducing the pregnancy rates and birth rates for youth populations, especially youth populations that are the most high-risk or vulnerable for pregnancies or otherwise have special circumstances, including youth in foster care, experiencing homelessness, with HIV/AIDS, pregnant who are under 21 years of age, mothers who are under 21 years of age, and residing in areas with high youth birth rates. (Sec. 513(a)(3) (42) U.S.C. § 713). Research has consistently shown that youth in racial/ethnic groups (e.g., African American, Hispanic, American Indian) are at higher risk for pregnancy.

Why Race & Ethnicity Data are Collected

- **Targeting Vulnerable Populations:** PREP specifically aims to reach youth from racial/ethnic minority groups, foster care, and those experiencing homelessness and in high-teen birth rate areas, making demographic data crucial for outreach.
- **Data for Program Monitoring:** Grant recipients are statutorily required to collect and submit data for program monitoring to identify access barriers and track program performance across different groups.
- **Civil Rights Compliance:** Federal programs receiving funds, like PREP, must comply with Title VI, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, and national origin, necessitating data collection to ensure compliance and identify disparities.