



REL 101: Getting to the root of REAL (Race, Ethnicity And Language) Data Understanding the Impact on Health Outcomes



What data elements are critical to deliver quality health care?

What is REal data? Why is it important to collect REal data elements? What are the barriers to collection?

How should REal data be collected? by whom? when?





Every person is unique.



27

Spanish

Single

Jamaican

Dominican

bi-sexual

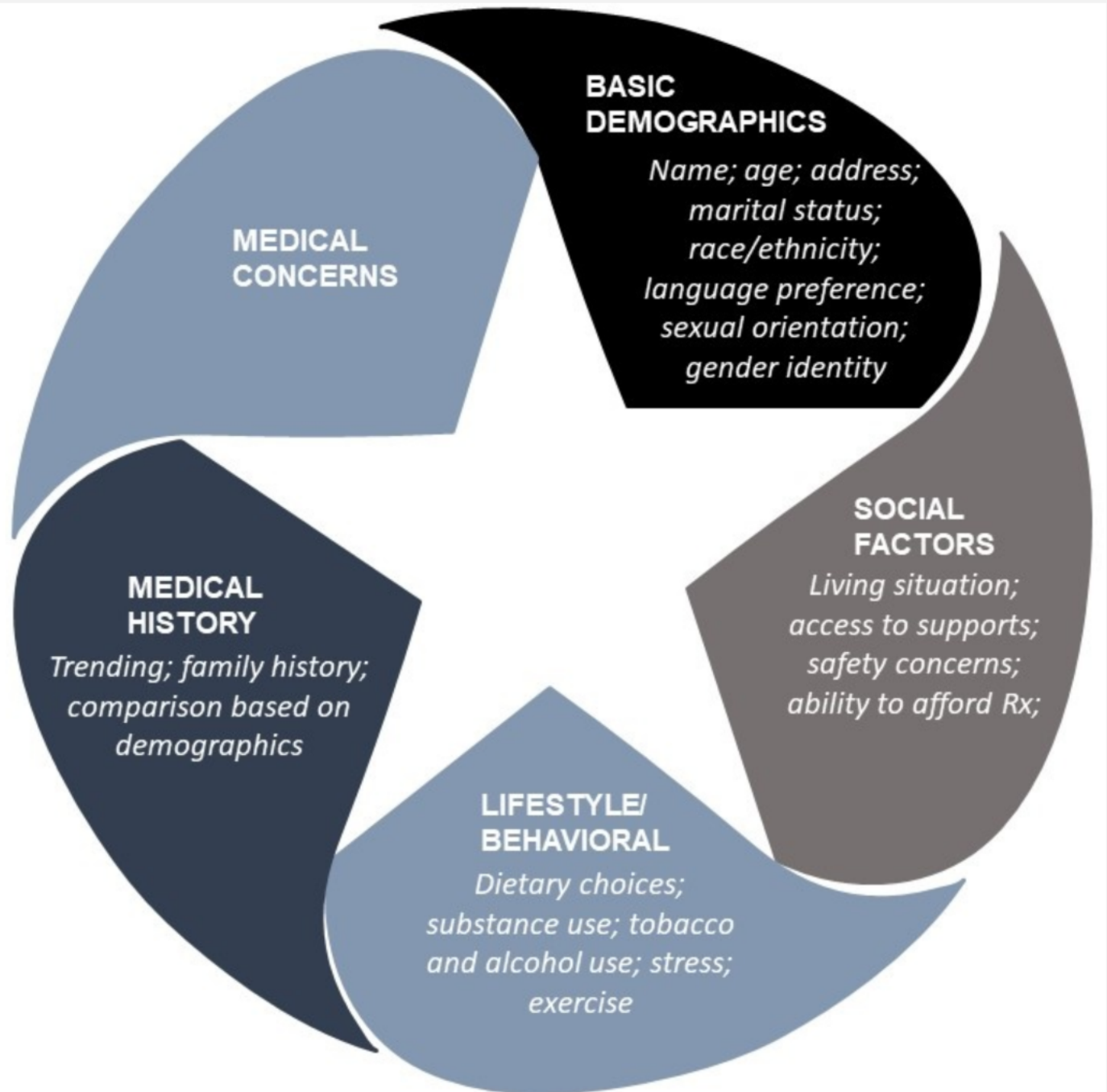
**They/
Them**

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What is REaL data? Why is it important to collect REaL data elements?

REaL Data: Race, Ethnicity and Language Data

- Helps care team communicate effectively, thereby reducing incidence of miscommunication
- Aids in the efficient discovery of potential health concerns
- Helps to measure and address health disparities
- Informs workforce needs to increase culturally concordant care
- Improves community relations

Is collecting the data enough?

"Thus, discerning the role of these factors is difficult...For example, according to the US National Cancer Institute, the rates of cervical cancer are higher among Hispanic/Latina women and Black/African American women than among women of other racial or ethnic groups, with Black/African American women having the highest rates of death from the disease, but social determinants of health and health inequities are also associated with a high prevalence of cervical cancer among these women...Identifying the race or ethnicity of a person or group of participants may provide information about the generalizability of the results of a study. However, many people may identify with more than one race/ethnicity; therefore, categories should not be considered absolute or viewed in isolation." (Flanagin, et al, Jama Network, 2021)

Barriers

- collection processes lack standards
- categories are limited and data fields are incompatible across sectors/organizations
- confusion exists about race v. ethnicity
- limited staff and staff training
- negative perceptions regarding the use of the data

Most hospitals collect an estimated 82% of data on their patients' race/ethnicity and 67% on patients' language preference, however data is not collected in a standard manner and is not shared, even between departments in the same hospital.

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How should REaL data be collected?

Figure 1. Race and Ethnicity Question with Minimum Categories, Multiple Detailed Checkboxes, and Write-In Response Areas with Example Groups

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
Select all that apply and enter additional details in the spaces below.

American Indian or Alaska Native – Enter, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.

Asian – Provide details below.

Chinese Asian Indian Filipino
 Vietnamese Korean Japanese
 Enter, for example, Pakistani, Hmong, Afghan, etc.

Black or African American – Provide details below.

African American Jamaican Haitian
 Nigerian Ethiopian Somali
 Enter, for example, Trinidadian and Tobagonian, Ghanaian, Congolese, etc.

Hispanic or Latino – Provide details below.

Mexican Puerto Rican Salvadoran
 Cuban Dominican Guatemalan
 Enter, for example, Colombian, Honduran, Spaniard, etc.

Middle Eastern or North African – Provide details below.

Lebanese Iranian Egyptian
 Syrian Iraqi Israeli
 Enter, for example, Moroccan, Yemeni, Kurdish, etc.

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – Provide details below.

Native Hawaiian Samoan Chamorro
 Tongan Fijian Marshallese
 Enter, for example, Chuukese, Palauan, Tahitian, etc.

White – Provide details below.

English German Irish
 Italian Polish Scottish
 Enter, for example, French, Swedish, Norwegian, etc.

Figure 2. Race and Ethnicity Question with Minimum Categories Only and Examples

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
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 For example, Lebanese, Iranian, Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi, Israeli, etc.

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
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White
 For example, English, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Scottish, etc.

Figure 3. Race and Ethnicity Question with Minimum Categories Only

What is your race and/or ethnicity?
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American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

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Hispanic or Latino

Middle Eastern or North African

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White

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In the breakout...

- Who should be collecting the data and when?
- Why does this matter to maternal and child health outcomes?
- How can we map this to the Map to Action Themes?
 - Workforce
 - Data
 - Payment Systems
 - Social Supports