# OEF/OIF ROSTER ETHNICITY VALUES

1. Asian Indian
2. Chinese
3. Filipino
4. Guamanian
5. Japanese
6. Korean
7. Vietnamese
8. Other Asian Descent
9. Mexican
10. Puerto Rican
11. Cuban
12. Latin American with Hispanic Descent
13. Other Hispanic Descent
14. Aleut
15. Eskimo
16. US/Canadian Indian Tribes
17. Melanesian
18. Micronesian
19. Polynesian
20. Other Pacific Island Descent
21. Other
22. None
23. Unknown
24. Declined to Answer: Missing
25. Declined to Answer: Observer
26. Declined to Answer: Proxy
27. Declined to Answer: Self
28. Declined to Answer: Unknown
29. Hispanic or Latino: Missing
30. Hispanic or Latino: Observer
31. Hispanic or Latino: Proxy
32. Hispanic or Latino: Self
33. Hispanic or Latino: Unknown
34. Not Hispanic or Latino: Missing

35. Not Hispanic or Latino: Observer
36. Not Hispanic or Latino: Proxy
37. Not Hispanic or Latino: Self
38. Not Hispanic or Latino: Unknown
39. Unknown by Patient: Missing
40. Unknown by Patient: Observer
41. Unknown by Patient: Proxy
42. Unknown by Patient: Self
43. Unknown by Patient: Unknown

## ALGORITHMS FOR CODING RACE/ETHNICITY

Below are the algorithms used for coding of VA and Roster and race/ethnicity data

**VA ETHNICITY:** we assigned each veteran to his/her most frequently reported ethnicity (Not-Hispanic or Hispanic).

**New VA RACE:** We retained all known race values recorded at each encounter regardless of which variable (i.e., RACE1-RACE7) the data was recorded. We combined the Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander racial categories. Next we identified veterans who consistently reported a single consistent race or single combination of races and those whose race was inconsistently reported. For those with ambiguous data we applied the following algorithm:

1) If a veteran always reported one race per encounter but was inconsistent in which value was reported, they were assigned to the most frequently recorded single race value.

2) Else if a veteran reported multiple races at a single encounter, then do the following:

    a) if a particular combination of multiple races was the most frequently reported pattern of race values then code them as "multiracial".

    b) else if the veteran most frequently reported one race but reported multiple races during at least one visit, then identify the most frequent combination of multiple race values for that person. If the multiple race values

include the most frequently reported single race value then code the veteran as "multiracial" . For example, if the most commonly reported race was 'white' but at some visits they reported both 'black' and 'white', then code as multiracial.

c) else if the most frequently reported combination of multiple race does not overlap with most common single race then assign the most frequent single race.

## OEF/OIF/OND ROSTER

**NEW ROSTER ETHNIC:**

We used the data in the Roster race and ethnicity variables to create a "New Roster ETHNIC" variable that parallels the VA ethnic coding scheme using the following algorithm:

Assign Hispanic as ethnicity if race recorded as "Hispanic" or ethnicity one of the following: Mexican; Puerto Rican; Cuban; Latin American with Hispanic Descent; Other Hispanic Descent; Hispanic or Latino: Missing; Hispanic or Latino: Observer; Hispanic or Latino: Proxy; Hispanic or Latino: Self; Hispanic or Latino: Unknown ;

Else, if race was not Hispanic and ethnicity was known then assign NOT HISPANIC.

**NEW ROSTER RACE:**

We used the data in the roster RACE and ETHNICTY variables to create a new Race variable that parallels the "new VA race" coding scheme using the following algorithm:

If the roster race variable was "unknown" or "other" then do the following:

If roster ethnic was one of Aleut, Eskimo, or US/Canadian Indian Tribes then code as **American Indian**.

If ethnic was Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, or Other Asian Descent then code as **Asian**.

If race was recorded as black then code as **Black/African American**.

If race recorded as "other or "unknown" and ethnic was recorded as one of following:  Guamanian, Melanesian, Micronesian, Polynesian, or Other Pacific Island Descent then code **HAWAIAN/OTHER PACific Islander**.

Combine Asian and Pacific Islander into one Asian/Pacific Islander category.

If race recorded as white then code "new Roster Race" as White;

If roster race recorded as Hispanic and ethnicity was one of following:

Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Latin American with Hispanic Descent, or Other Hispanic Descent then code the RACE as white;

For combinations of race and ethnic that implied multiple races, e.g., polynesian descent and black race. Anyone who reported being black or white but an ethnicity of any of following was coded as multiracial:

Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Other Asian Descent, Aleut, Eskimo, or US/Canadian Indian Tribes, Guamanian, Melanesian, Micronesian, Polynesian, or Other Pacific Island Descent.

**CREATION OF COMPOSITE ROSTER "RACE/ETHNICITY" variable:**

We combined the "New ROSTER ETHNIC" and "New ROSTER race" variables as follows:

If multiracial then assign multiracial.

Else, if Hispanic ethnicity then assign Hispanic race.

Else assign the "race/ethnicity" to be the value of the "New Roster Race", i.e., white, black, Asian/PI, American Indian, or unknown.

Table (Appendix). Concordance between the OEF/OIF/OND Roster and VA on race/ethnicity

| Roster Race/ethnicity | VA race and ethnicity | | | | | | | Total (N=834467) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | White | Black | Hispanic | Asian/PI | American Indian | Multiracial | Unknown | |
| White | 404140 (77.4%) | 1217 (1.0%) | 10975 (11.5%) | 1543 (5.8%) | 1307 (20.2%) | 2098 (26.8%) | 0 (0.0%) | 421280 (50.5%) |
| Black | 2265 (0.4%) | 84078 (69.0%) | 996 (1.0%) | 301 (1.1%) | 145 (2.2%) | 1356 (17.3%) | 0 (0.0%) | 89141 (10.7%) |
| Hispanic | 8749 (1.7%) | 1065 (0.9%) | 75029 (78.9%) | 783 (2.9%) | 167 (2.6%) | 694 (8.9%) | 0 (0.0%) | 86487 (10.4%) |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 1421 (0.3%) | 159 (0.1%) | 609 (0.6%) | 19356 (72.2%) | 201 (3.1%) | 788 (10.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 22534 (2.7%) |
| American Indian | 2163 (0.4%) | 74 (0.1%) | 214 (0.2%) | 130 (0.5%) | 3391 (52.5%) | 303 (3.9%) | 0 (0.0%) | 6275 (0.8%) |
| Multiracial | 1736 (0.3%) | 297 (0.2%) | 157 (0.2%) | 285 (1.1%) | 63 (1.0%) | 790 (10.1%) | 0 (0.0%) | 3328 (0.4%) |
| Other or unknown | 101641 (19.5%) | 34962 (28.7%) | 7076 (7.4%) | 4422 (16.5%) | 1185 (18.3%) | 1812 (23.1%) | 54324 (100.0%) | 205422 (24.6%) |
| Total | 522115 | 121852 | 95056 | 26820 | 6459 | 7841 | 54324 | 834467 |