

State Required Ethnicity and Race Questions

Texas law requires the Department of State Health Services to collect information on the race/ethnic backgrounds of healthcare facility patients. The rules state “In order to obtain this data, the facility staff retrieves the patient’s response from a written form or asks the patient, or the person speaking for the patient to classify the patient. **If the patient, or person speaking for the patient, declines to answer, the facility (or hospital) staff is to use its best judgment to make the correct classification based on available data.”**

The data obtained through this process will be used to assist researchers in determining whether or not all citizens of Texas are receiving access to adequate health care.

If patients fail to identify their own race and ethnic backgrounds, healthcare facility staff will use its best judgment in making the identification.

Question #1: Ethnic Background

- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Not Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Decline to Answer

Question #2: Race

- ☐ American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut
- ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Black
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Decline to Answer