

Appendix A: Guidelines regarding Demographic Information

Researchers often collect demographic information regarding participants. If you wish to collect demographic information as part of your study, you will need to identify this information in your IRB application and explain why it is relevant to your study.

When you write your demographic survey, you should use standardized wording that is in harmony with current best practices. It is always wise to include options for “Other” and for “Prefer Not to Respond”. You should also think carefully about the characteristics of your population when designing your survey to make sure that the listed options are appropriate for your participants.

Gender, race/ethnicity, and religion are sensitive topics and wording should be carefully chosen. Some samples are provided here to assist you when designing your survey.

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Other: _____
- Prefer Not to Respond

What race or ethnicity do you consider yourself?

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Multi-racial
- Other: _____
- Prefer Not to Respond

What is your religious preference?

- Seventh-day Adventist
- Other Protestant Christian
- Catholic
- Atheist
- Agnostic
- Buddhist
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Other: _____
- Prefer Not to Respond