

## Inclusive Language: Race and Ethnicity Quiz

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### ANSWER KEY

**Directions:** The following sentences all contain usage errors. Identify the errors and reword the sentences appropriately based on your reading of section §11.12.3, Race and Ethnicity of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

1. The study population included 412 black, 250 Hispanic, and 322 white participants.

**ANSWER: The study population included 412 Black, 250 Hispanic, and 322 White participants.**

**Editor's Note:** The names of races, ethnicities, and tribes should be capitalized, such as African American, Alaska Native, American Indian, Asian, Black, Cherokee Nation, Hispanic, Kamba, Kikuyu, Latino, and White.

2. Among 3133 US counties, the mean racial and ethnic composition was 76.1% White residents, 9.6% Hispanic residents, 9.0% Black residents, 2.3% American Indian or Alaska Native residents, and 1.7% Asian American or Pacific Islander residents.

**ANSWER: Among 3133 US counties, the mean racial and ethnic composition was 2.3% American Indian or Alaska Native residents, 1.7% Asian American or Pacific Islander residents, 9.0% Black residents, 9.6% Hispanic residents, and 76.1% White residents.**

**Editor's Note:** Categories should be listed in alphabetical order in text and tables and not by proportion.

3. Multinomial regression was used to assess the association of race/ethnicity (Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White) with the primary outcomes.

**ANSWER: Multinomial regression was used to assess the association of race and ethnicity (Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White) with the primary outcomes.**

**Editor's Note:** When collective terms are used, merging of race and ethnicity with a virgule as “race/ethnicity” is no longer recommended. Instead, “race and ethnicity” is preferred, with the understanding that there are numerous subcategories within race and ethnicity. Given that a virgule often means “and/or,” which can be confusing, do not use the virgule construction in this context (see also §8.4, Forward Slash [Virgule, Solidus]).

4. The study systematically examined the efficacy of systemic treatments for atopic dermatitis in minorities in the US.

**ANSWER: The study systematically examined the efficacy of systemic treatments for atopic dermatitis in racial and ethnic minority groups in the US.**

**Editor's Note:** The general term *minorities* should not be used when describing groups or populations because it is overly vague and implies a hierarchy among groups. Instead, include a modifier when using the word *minority* and do not use the term as a stand-alone noun, for example, racial and ethnic minority groups and racial and ethnic minority individuals.

5. Of the 120 patients who reported gender identities, 26 self-identified as Black, 30 as Latinx, 54 as White, and 10 as “other.”

**ANSWER: Of the 120 patients who reported gender identities, 26 self-identified as Black, 30 as Latinx, 54 as White, and 10 as other racial and ethnic categories, which included [query author to report the other categories; list in alphabetical order and ask if it is acceptable to list the numbers for each].**

**Editor's Note:** The nonspecific group label “other” is uninformative and may be considered pejorative. However, the term is sometimes used for comparison in data analysis when the numbers of those in some subgroups are too small for meaningful analyses. The term should not be used as a “convenience” grouping or label unless it was a prespecified formal category in a database or research instrument. In such cases, the categories included in “other” groups should be defined and reported. Authors are advised to be as specific as possible when reporting on racial and ethnic categories (even if these categories contain small numbers). If the numbers in some categories are so small as to potentially identify study participants, the specific numbers and percentages do not need to be reported provided this is noted. For cases in which the group “other” is used but not defined, the author should be queried for further explanation.

6. This study reports the prevalence of hepatitis B diagnoses in East Asian and mixed race (East Asian and white) adults in California.

**ANSWER: This study reports the prevalence of hepatitis B diagnoses in East Asian and multiracial (East Asian and White) adults in California.**

**Editor's Note:** In general, the term *mixed race* may carry negative connotations and should be avoided, unless it was specifically used in data collection. The terms *multiracial* and *multiethnic* are acceptable in reports of studies if the specific categories these terms comprise are defined or if the terms were predefined in a study or database to which participants self-selected. If the criteria for data quality and confidentiality are met, at a minimum, the number of individuals identifying with more than 1 race should be reported. Authors are encouraged to provide greater detail about the distribution of multiple racial and ethnic categories if known.

7. This study suggests that implementation of a suicide prediction model would disproportionately benefit Asian, Hispanic, and White patients compared with BIPOC patients, with a sensitivity of 10% for Black patients and 5% for American Indian or Alaska Native patients.

**ANSWER: This study suggests that implementation of a suicide prediction model would disproportionately benefit Asian, Hispanic, and White patients compared with Black and American Indian or Alaska Native patients, with a sensitivity of 10% for Black patients and 5% for American Indian or Alaska Native patients.**

Editor's Note: Specific racial and ethnic terms are preferred over collective terms, when possible. The term *people of color* was introduced to mean all racial and ethnic groups that are not considered White or of European ancestry and also as an indication of antiracist, multiracial solidarity. However, there is concern that the term may be “too inclusive,” to the point that it erases differences among specific groups. There are similar concerns about collective abbreviated terms for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and Black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) (used in the UK) eliminate differences among groups and imply a hierarchy among them. Although these terms may be used colloquially (eg, within an opinion article), preference is to describe or define the specific racial or ethnic categories included or intended to be addressed. These terms should not be used in reports of research, unless the terms are included in a database on which a study is based or specified in a research data collection instrument (eg, survey questionnaire).

8. The study examined the incidence of type 1 diabetes among brown people of Latino descent.

**ANSWER: The study examined the incidence of type 1 diabetes among Latino people.**

Editor's Note: Avoid use of colors such as *brown* and *yellow* to describe individuals or groups. These terms may be less inclusive than intended or considered pejorative or a racial slur.

9. Of the 1500 patients, 500 were White and 1000 were non-White, including 525 who were African American, 250 who were Hispanic, and 225 who were Asian.

**ANSWER: Of the 1500 patients, 525 were African American, 225 were Asian, 250 were Hispanic, and 500 were White.**

Editor's Note: Avoid collective reference to racial and ethnic minority groups as “non-White.” If comparing racial and ethnic groups, specify the groups. Researchers should avoid study designs and statistical comparisons of White groups vs non-White groups and should specify racial and ethnic groups included and conduct analyses comparing the specific groups. If such a comparison is justified, authors should explain the rationale and specify what categories are included in the “non-White” group. Categories should be listed in alphabetical order.

10. Even though prior studies have suggested an increase in prevalence of atopic dermatitis among Blacks and Asians compared with Whites, an analysis at a national level in any country of a representative sample of patients has never been conducted.

**ANSWER: Even though prior studies have suggested an increase in prevalence of atopic dermatitis among Black and Asian patients compared with White patients, an analysis at a national level in any country of a representative sample of patients has never been conducted.**

**Editor's Note:** Racial and ethnic terms should not be used in noun form (eg, avoid *Asians*, *Blacks*, *Hispanics*, or *Whites*); the adjectival form is preferred (eg, *Asian women*, *Black patients*, *Hispanic children*, or *White participants*) because this follows AMA style regarding person-first language.

11. The analysis identified important health care disparities among the African-American and Hispanic-American populations included in this study.

**ANSWER: The analysis identified important health care disparities among the African American and Hispanic populations included in this study.**

**Editor's Note:** Most combinations of proper adjectives derived from geographic entities are not hyphenated when used as noun or adjective formations; therefore, do not hyphenate terms such as *Asian American*, *African American*, and *Mexican American* and similar combinations as nouns or compound modifiers (eg, *African American patient*).

12. The incidence of triple-negative breast cancer is higher in African American women than in Caucasian women.

**ANSWER: The incidence of triple-negative breast cancer is higher in African American women than in White women.**

**Editor's Note:** The term *Caucasian* had historically been used to indicate the term *White*, but it is technically specific to people from the Caucasus region in Eurasia and thus should not be used except when referring to people from this region.

13. The legislation was associated with significant insurance coverage increases for Native Americans, primarily in Medicaid expansion states.

**ANSWER: The legislation was associated with significant insurance coverage increases for American Indian populations, primarily in Medicaid expansion states.**

**Editor's Note:** In reference to persons indigenous to North America (and their descendants), *American Indian* or *Alaska Native* is generally preferred to the broader term *Native American*. However, the term *Indigenous* is also acceptable. Authors should be queried for the correct specific category or categories. There are also other specific designations for people from other locations, such as *Native Hawaiian* and *Pacific Islander*. If appropriate, specify the nation or peoples (eg, *Inuit*, *Iroquois*, *Mayan*, *Navajo*, *Nez Perce*, *Samoan*). Many countries have specific categories for Indigenous peoples (eg, *First Nations* in Canada and *Aboriginal* in Australia). Capitalize the first word and use lowercase for *people* when describing persons who are Indigenous or Aboriginal (eg, *Indigenous people*, *Indigenous peoples of Canada*, *Aboriginal people*). Lowercase *indigenous* when referring to objects, such as *indigenous plants*.

14. The purpose of this study was to compare the associations of obesity with prostate cancer risk between African American (AA) and non-Hispanic White (NHW) men using data from a large clinical trial that emphasized recruitment of AA men as a study goal.

**ANSWER: The purpose of this study was to compare the associations of obesity with prostate cancer risk between African American and non-Hispanic White men using data from a large clinical trial that emphasized recruitment of African American men as a study goal.**

**Editor's Note:** Generally, abbreviations of categories for race and ethnicity should be avoided unless necessary because of space constraints (eg, in tables and figures). If used, any abbreviations should be clearly explained parenthetically or in table/figure footnotes or legends.