

Standards for the collection of data on language

Reference guide

Note: This document aligns with Utah Code 26B-7-114, Office of Health Equity duties.

This document serves as a reference guide for the standards for the collection of data on language. Additional information on the collection of data on language is outlined in the [Utah DHHS Guidelines for the collection of data on language](#).

Language data collection standards

The Utah DHHS standards for language data collection are outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1: DHHS language data collection standard*

1. How well do you speak English?

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Well
- ☐ Not well
- ☐ Not at all

2. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes (*if yes, ask question 3*)
- ☐ No

3. What is this language?

- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Sign language (ex: American Sign Language, Spanish Sign Language, etc.)
- ☐ Other language not listed: _____

It may be appropriate to add additional languages relevant to your community of focus

*These questions have been adapted from the American Community Survey (ACS) questions on language, as well as the recommendations from the U.S. HHS Office of Minority Health.^{9, 10}

Data collection standards for additional details

Additional details may be needed when collecting language data to meet specific needs.

For service providers, you may need more information to provide interpretation or translation services. Data collection standards for additional details are outlined in Figure 2.

Figure 2: DHHS language data collection standards for additional details

Preferred spoken or signed language11**

Which language do you prefer to receive spoken or signed information in? (Select one)★

- ☐ English
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Sign language (ex: American Sign Language, Spanish Sign Language), specify: _____
- ☐ Other, specify: _____

It may be appropriate to add additional languages relevant to your community of focus

Preferred written or signed language11**

Which language do you prefer to receive written or signed information in? (Select one) ★

- ☐ English
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Sign language (ex: American Sign Language, Spanish Sign Language), specify: _____
- ☐ Other, specify: _____
- ☐ None. I do not wish to receive any written information

Note: Use the same list of languages/answers as in the main language question. Make sure to include a “none” option in case the person wants to specify that they cannot read and do not want to receive any written information.

For service providers:

Which language do you prefer our service providers to speak with you in? (select one)**11 ★

- ☐ English
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Sign language (ex: American Sign Language, Spanish Sign Language), specify: _____
- ☐ Other language not listed: _____

Do you need or want to use an interpreter for us to communicate with you?***12

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**These questions were adapted from ClearGlobal¹¹

***These questions were adapted from REALD¹²

References

1. United States Census Bureau. Why we ask questions about...language spoken at home. Retrieved July 2024, from <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question/language/>
2. The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health. Explanation of data standards for race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability. The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved July 2024, from <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/explanation-data-standards-race-ethnicity-sex-primary-language-and-disability>
3. CLEAR Global. Language-related questions for new and ongoing surveys. Retrieved July 2024, from <https://clearglobal.org/language-questions/>
4. Oregon Department of Human Services. (2024, February). Race, ethnicity, language and disability (REALD.) Oregon Health Authority. Retrieved July 2024, from <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/me0074.pdf>