

Mapping NYTD Race Information

While NYTD and AFCARS collect information on a similar set of race data elements, there are a couple of differences that States should address when mapping race information between the two reporting systems. Unlike AFCARS, NYTD includes two elements which allow the State to report “unknown” (data element 11) or “declined” (data element 12) for a youth’s race.

In this brief:

We discuss how a State should report race information on a youth reported to both NYTD and AFCARS, including guidance on mapping race information between the two reporting systems.

Target audience: Data managers, caseworkers

Key words: data mapping, data element 11 (race-unknown), data element 12 (race-declined), AFCARS

While a State would simply report “declined” in a situation in which the youth or a youth’s parent declines to identify any race, there are two situations in which a State may report “unknown” for a youth’s race for NYTD:

- **The race or at least one race of the youth is unknown.** To capture this information on the worker’s entry screen, the State may want to have a field that indicates the youth’s race is unknown (“unknown”). A State may also choose to have a field that indicates that the youth is multi-racial and that one of his/her races is unknown (“multi-racial-other race not known”). In this scenario, at least one of the five designated race categories would be captured as well.
- **The youth and/or parent is not able to communicate the youth’s race.** To capture this information on the worker’s entry screen, the state may want to have a field that indicates this situation (“incapacitated or unable to communicate”). Each of these fields would then be mapped in NYTD to “unknown.”

As shown in the chart below, both NYTD race responses “unknown” and “declined” are mapped to the “unable to determine” race response in AFCARS. In an effort to capture accurate data for the NYTD race elements, States should exercise care in providing workers clear, meaningful options to input the responses. The extraction code also must correctly map these responses to the correct NYTD or AFCARS race element responses. A State that is in the process of changing their entry screens to accommodate the new NYTD race elements may also want to add the value of “abandoned” which for AFCARS purposes maps to the element “unable to determine.”



NYTD to AFCARS Mapping Chart

NYTD	AFCARS
American Indian or Alaska Native	American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian	Asian
Black or African American	Black or African American
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
White	White
Unknown	Unable to determine
Declined	Unable to determine

For more information, please contact:

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