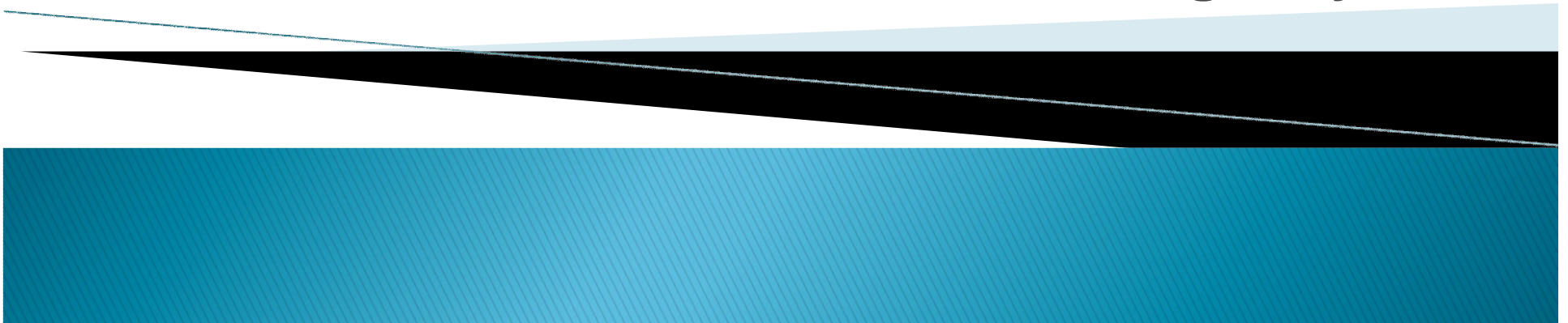# RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

CANS Application

May 20, 2011

Ed K.S. Wang, Psy.D.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

▸ **Nearly 1/4 of Massachusetts children are either immigrants or children of immigrants.**

▸ **Massachusetts has the 7th largest immigrant population in the U.S.**

▸ **Over 110 languages spoken**

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

What is the purpose of collecting information on race, ethnicity and language?

- To know who we serve and train those who serve them
- To ensure that our services are accessible and best care possible
- To improve services for all
- To plan services in order to address unmet needs
- To comply with accreditation and standards of care

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

"How do we collect racial, ethnic and language information about our clients?"

▸ Self-reporting, or self-identification, is the preferred method for collecting data on race, ethnicity and language.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

▶ **If unsure, offer the member the printed list of options for race, ethnicity and language tables (available on the CBHI website) which may help her / him make a choice.**

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

▸ **On Race: *"How would you identify your race?"*
The federal government officially designates five broad racial groups: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, White.**

▸ **In addition ask the client to identify himself/herself Hispanic/Latino/Black, Hispanic/Latino/White, Hispanic/Latino/Other*.**

* MDPH procedures

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

On Race:

Hispanic/Latino/Black

A person having origins in any of the black racial groups *AND* who is of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin.

Hispanic/Latino/White

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa, *AND* who is of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

On *ETHNICITY* --

An Ethnic Group, or Ethnicity, is defined as a group of people who are connected by a common national origin, history, language, customs and cultural experiences.

▸ **On Ethnicity: *"How would you identify your ethnicity?"* and give examples Vietnamese, Puerto Rican, Brazilian, Irish.**

▸ **Or use words like background, ancestry, heritage, culture or sometimes the country where they were born as prompt.**

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

LANGUAGE

▸ **What is the difference between asking for "primary" language and preferred" language? Why is it important?**

The distinction is made as an acknowledgement that even though a client may be "fluent" in one language, she or he may prefer to use another for a variety of reasons.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

▶ *Primary Language*

This is the language preferred by the child or youth.

▶ *Language at Home*

This is the language preferred by the caretaker(s) of the child or youth. For youth living independently, this should be the same as the primary language.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Massachusetts cities and towns with high percentages of families reporting that English is NOT their primary language:
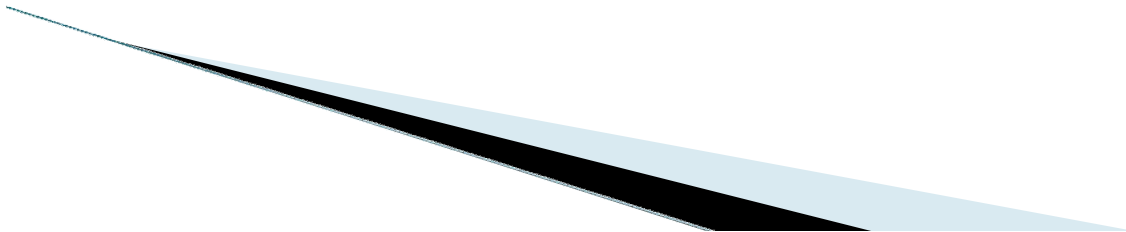
Lawrence	80.10%
Holyoke	53.0%
Somerville	31.40%
Fall River	29.20%
Worcester	24.70%

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

▸ If a client identifies him or herself as belonging to a race, ethnic or language group that does not appear in the tables, what do I do?　　Select *"Other."*

▸ Does not want to self-identify with a particular race or ethnic group, what do I do?　　Select *"Chooses not to self-identify."*

▸ Identifies him or herself with more than one race, ethnicity or language, what do I do?　Select <u>up to</u> <u>three</u> in the *Race category;* and <u>up</u> <u>to three</u> in the *Ethnicity* category that the client identifies. Identify <u>one</u> category from *Primary Language* and identify <u>one</u> category from *Language at Home.*

Client Questions / Concerns - Samples and Responses

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Interview Example #1:

Client: "I'm Ukrainian. We came here in 1998."

The new data fields in the CBHI Virtual Gateway will allow for the selection of a specific response such as "Ukrainian."

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Interview Example #2:

Client: "I'm mixed -- my mother is Cuban-Puerto Rican, and my father is Irish-American. Do you have a category for that?"

The data fields in the CBHI Virtual Gateway allow this respondent to choose up to three categories from:

*"Puerto Rican" or "Irish" or "American" or "Other" ***

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Interview Example #3:

Client: "Can't you tell by looking at me?"

Possible response:

"Well, usually I can. But sometimes I'm wrong, so we think it's better to let people tell us."

Hasnain-Wynia, R. Pierce, D. *A Toolkit for Collecting Race, Ethnicity, and Primary Language Information from Patients*. The Health Research and Educational Trust. February, 2005.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Interview Example #4:

Client: "I'm American. Of course, if you go back in my family's history, they came here from Italy in the 1940's, but we've been here ever since. I'm just plain old American, as far as I'm concerned."

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

NOTE:

The data fields in the CBHI Virtual Gateway include a field for "American."

There are many reasons people may select "American" as their ancestry, including the length of time their family has been here, or the fact that they have such mixed backgrounds that they do not identify with any particular group.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Interview Example #6:

Client: "It's none of your business."

Possible response:
"I'll put down that you choose not to self-identity which is fine."

Hasnain-Wynia, R. Pierce, D. *A Toolkit for Collecting Race, Ethnicity, and Primary Language Information from Patients*. The Health Research and Educational Trust. February, 2005.

Interview Example #5:

Client: "I'm human."

Possible response:

"Is that your way of saying that you don't want to answer the question? If so, I can say that you choose not to self-identity"

Hasnain-Wynia, R. Pierce, D. *A Toolkit for Collecting Race, Ethnicity, and Primary Language Information from Patients*. The Health Research and Educational Trust. February, 2005.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Interview Example #7:

Client: "Who looks at this?"

Possible response:

"The only people who see this information are those involved in providing or paying for your care and treatment, and people involved in planning, monitoring and improving the way services are delivered.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Interview Example #8:

Client: "Are you trying to find out if I'm a U.S. citizen?"

Possible response:

"No, definitely not! Also, you should know that the confidentiality of what you say is protected by law."

Hasnain-Wynia, R. Pierce, D. *A Toolkit for Collecting Race, Ethnicity, and Primary Language Information from Patients*. The Health Research and Educational Trust. February, 2005.

RACE, ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE DATA COLLECTION

Where can I get more information on data collection and/or other issues relevant to multicultural populations?

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