

InfoNet will include **South Asian** as a new Race/Ethnicity category in FY21

By **July 15, 2020** (hopefully earlier, and soon enough for all FY21 clients), InfoNet will include a new Race/Ethnicity checkbox for clients who identify as **South Asian**. ICJIA will be posting and sharing updated client intake forms with the new category by July 1st.

As always, **clients should self-identify** with the group(s) they choose, but following is the definition of **South Asian**:

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives.

While **South Asian** is not considered a major race category by the federal government, it is considered a subgroup within the broader **Asian** category. Therefore, InfoNet's reporting tools will still be in compliance with federal reporting requirements.

Once you begin collecting data on clients who identify as South Asian, please remember that when reporting the total number of Asian clients served to funders, you will use the InfoNet Report category **Asian OR South Asian**. This number will yield an unduplicated count of clients who identify as either or both categories and will meet your reporting requirement for the broader Asian category. ICJIA staff will be available to assist users with this as needed.

Reasons for adding the new category are similar to those for adding MENA last year, specifically:

- 1) The South Asian population and culture can differ substantially from East Asian populations, so there may be distinct needs and/or risk factors that are hidden by grouping together.
- 2) This population appears to be growing in Illinois (see SAALT article below).
- 3) It's not clear if either group (East or South Asians) is underrepresented among clients.

Relevant resources:

- Fact sheet for mental health practitioners about immigrant South Asian women in the U.S.: <https://aapaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DoSAA-SAsian-Immigrant-Women-Factsheet-2018.pdf>
- Fact sheet about DV among the South Asian population: <https://www.api-gbv.org/resources/dvfactsheet-southasian/>
- Public press on the topic: <https://time.com/5800209/asian-american-census/>
- Article by [South Asian Americans Leading Together](#) (or SAALT) on their efforts to increase census participation among South Asians: <https://www.newsindiatimes.com/census-2020-the-impact-on-south-asian-mental-health-resources/>