# A closer look at
# Anti-Racist Research

ICES encourages the use of race and related data to address health inequities in a way that reflects the values of communities directly impacted and acknowledges the impacts of systemic racism.

If considering race-related data* for your project, the following resources are recommended. Explore more guidance on **page 49 - 57** of the _Guidance Document & Framework for Anti-Racist Approaches to Research and Analytics at ICES_.

*ICES has previously developed distinct approaches for Indigenous data in partnership with Indigenous leadership organizations. More information here.*

## Project planning and initiation

When preparing a grant submission or submitting your PAW or PIA:

**1**

### Review ICES' race-related data inventory

- Consider why you want to use race-related data in your project and what other sociodemographic factors may be needed to contextualize the data.

- Consider how sources and collection methods may introduce bias in your project.

**2**

### Ground your work in a conceptual framework

- Recommendations published in _JAMA Pediatrics_ highlight the importance of explicitly presenting what your race-related variables are believed to proxy. Consider using a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) to guide your analysis (see examples).

- This and other resources for anti-racist research may support you to model and delineate the role of systemic factors in disparities.

**3**

### Consider the composition of your research team

- Consider where qualitative social science approaches can contribute to equity-focused research and complement traditional ICES approaches.

- Assess whether community engagement is feasible, appropriate, and necessary. Avoid tokenistic requests to 'sign off' once decisions have already been made.

- The ICES Public Engagement and Knowledge Translation office can provide one-on-one support to help plan and budget for engagement(s) for your ICES project.

# Data analysis and interpretation

When crafting a dataset creation plan, analyzing, or describing implications of findings:

**4**

### Self-reflect on privilege and positionality

- Data are never truly "raw", neutral, and unbiased. Rather, data reflect the biases of the societal contexts and institutional settings from which they were collected.
- Everyone has unconscious biases that influence reactions to data. Consider how your outcomes or exposures were selected and whether to consult community or social scientists.

**5**

### Acknowledge that "race" is a social construct

- Analyses of human variation have demonstrated that modern humans are not classifiable into biological races. "Race" should not be conflated with "ancestry".
- Familiarize yourself with these fundamentals through ICES' *Equity in Focus* speaker series.

**6**

### Consider the implications of your analytical decisions

- Consider how bias can appear in the analysis phase, including overadjustment, inappropriate modeling, missing data, and/or inappropriate comparison groups.
- For personalized guidance, book a chat with Dr. Arjumand Siddiqi (ICES Scientific Advisory Committee member and Canada Research Chair in Population Health Equity).

# Sharing and Mobilizing Findings

When preparing publications, presentations, and other knowledge mobilization efforts:

**7**

### Be mindful of language and reporting

- Overtly name "racism" where applicable.
- Use precise and respectful language to describe communities.
- Explore recommended communication tools.

**8**

### Go beyond publishing – plan for action and impact

- Model race as a social construct, where health disparities are a consequence of racism, to create a more helpful framing for solutions that address upstream causes.
- Get inspired by examples of work from other scientists in the *Equity in Focus* speaker series, where they showcase the role of ICES research in planning for action and impact.
- Learn more about integrating community engagement for impact.