



YEF Policy on collection of demographic data

Background

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is here to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. We do this by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice. To find what works, the YEF evaluates promising interventions and approaches based on the best available evidence. We also commission and publish original research that summarises the existing evidence and derives new insights into the lives of the young people affected by violence and the context in which they live.

The YEF is a What Works Centre - a centre of expertise generating, disseminating and promoting knowledge and practice to transform local and national responses to tackling crime and serious violence in children and young people. This means we are committed to generating useful research evidence from our funding and making findings accessible and freely available to policy makers, service commissioners and front-line professionals. The information produced as a result of our work will allow decision makers to understand the effectiveness of interventions, the issues affecting young people and the best ways to support them.

Researchers (the 'Grantee(s)') entering into a grant agreement with the YEF to carry out research must supply the YEF with the results of their work, as set out in the terms of the Grant Agreement. They are expected to agree to the principles outlined in this policy and referenced to in the body of the Agreement. Any infringement of this policy will amount to a breach of the Agreement and could result in early termination of the grant.

Key reporting principles

1. Why we collect demographic data

YEF are committed to understanding who is engaging (retention & attrition) in the programmes and evaluations that we fund, and for who these programmes are effective. Consistent and reliable collection of demographic data will therefore ensure robust monitoring across our evaluations and allow for sub-group analysis where appropriate.

2. Demographic data that are **COMPULSORY** to collect in all YEF evaluations

- a. All YEF evaluations must collect demographic data across the following three categories.
 - i. Ethnicity
 - ii. Sex
 - iii. Age
- b. Across all three categories evaluators should record the number of children and young people (CYP) that were referred to the programme, the number of CYP that were recruited, and the number of CYP who dropped out.

3. Demographic data that are **OPTIONAL** to collect in all YEF evaluations

- a. Evaluators should use their judgement to select any other demographic data that may be appropriate or necessary to collect based on the nature of the programme being evaluated, context in which it is being implemented, and the target population. **Examples** of such data may include, **but are not limited to:**
 - i. Gender
 - ii. Sexual orientation
 - iii. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and/or Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP)
 - iv. Looked after children
 - v. Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility
 - vi. Refugee status and/or asylum seeker status
 - vii. English as Additional Language (EAL)
 - viii. School year

YEF is committed to understanding the experience and outcomes of different groups of young people, where theoretically relevant to the project. Where it will

not be possible or meaningful to undertake quantitative analysis relating to engagement or outcomes for different groups, we encourage evaluators to instead explore experiences of different groups of young people through the implementation and process evaluation.

4. Ethnicity

- a. YEF evaluations should use the [UK Government guidance on reporting Ethnicity](#)
 - i. Ethnic groups should therefore be categorised as follows:

What is your ethnic group? <i>Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background</i>	
Asian or Asian British	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian • Pakistani • Bangladeshi • Chinese • Any other Asian background
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean • African • Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White and Black Caribbean • White and Black African • White and Asian • Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background
White	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British • Irish • Gypsy or Irish Traveller • Roma • Any other White background
Other ethnic group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arab • Any other ethnic group
<p>In Wales, 'Welsh' is the first option in the White category.</p> <p>Scotland and Northern Ireland use different ethnicity classifications. If research is being conducted in Scotland or Northern Ireland, the appropriate classifications should be used (see the UK Government guidance linked above).</p>	

- b. The [ethnicity harmonised standard](#) provides useful guidance on question and response options for collecting data on ethnicity, whether questions are asked face to face, are self-reported, or asked via the telephone.
5. YEF evaluators should use The UK Government's [Pattern](#) for asking participants about their equality information. This pattern is based on the harmonised standards.
- a. YEF evaluators should use the UK Government's [style guide](#) for writing about ethnicity.

6. Sex

- a. YEF follow [ONS guidance](#) for questions on sex. Please read this guidance in full using the link.
 - i. Based on the ONS guidance evaluators should ask participants to select from either Male or Female to answer the question 'what is your sex'.
 - Although not in the ONS guidance, YEF suggest adding another answer option of 'prefer not to say'.
 - ii. The answer provided by participants can be different from what is on their birth certificate.
 - iii. If a participant is not sure how to answer, they should use the sex registered on their official documents, such as passport or driving licence or whichever answer best describes their sex.
 - iv. Evaluators should note that for participants aged 16 or over, a later question should give the option to tell us if their gender is different from their sex registered at birth, and, if different, to record their gender.
- b. Note: The ONS guidance also covers questions for sexual orientation and gender identity. Evaluators are **not required** to collect data on these variables although they may choose to do so if appropriate for the evaluation.

7. Age

- a. Age should be recorded in years and reflect the CYP's *current* age (i.e., should not be rounded up to 16 years old if the child is currently 15 years and 11 months).