

# APPENDIX E: DETERMINATION OF CHILD'S RACE

## NCHS STANDARDS

Beginning in 1989, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) changed their standards for determining a child's race. Since that time, a child's race has been determined by the race of the mother as reported on the birth certificate. The following are NCHS guidelines for determining the child's race:

- If the mother is a mixture of Hawaiian and any other race, the child's race is recorded as **Hawaiian**.
- If the mother is a mixture of races other than Hawaiian, the child's race is the first listed race of the mother.
  - If the mother's race is listed as "Col.," "N," "Negro," "Colored," "B," "Brown," "AA," or "Afro-American," the child's race is recorded as **African American**.
- If the mother's race is listed as Asian, Yellow, Oriental, or Mongolian, and the mother's birth place is given as China, Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, India, Korea, Vietnam, Samoa, or Guam, the child's race is recorded by the **country of the mother's birth**. If the birth place is not one of those places, the child's race is recorded as **Other Asian or Pacific Islander**.
- If the mother's race is Indian and mother's birth place is not in North, Central, or South America, the child's race is recorded as **Other Asian or Pacific Islander**.
- If "part \_\_\_\_\_" or "1/4, 1/2, 3/4 \_\_\_\_\_" is given, the child's race is recorded as the **first reported race** of the mother. The prefix is ignored.
- If the mother's race is shown as unknown, the child's race is recorded as Unknown.

## STATISTICAL CALCULATIONS

In this report, for any decedents born in Alaska during 1989 or later, a comparison has been made between the decedent's race as shown on the death certificate and the mother's race as shown on the birth certificate. If the two are not the same, the mother's race has been used for statistical analysis.

Birth certificates in which the mother's race is not specified may result in an under-reporting of the race-specific birth rates. Therefore, in this report, for statistical purposes only, any certificates in which the mother's race is unknown are assigned the race of the previous certificate on which the mother's race is known. While not accurate on an individual basis, this does allow for accurate overall estimates of rates by race. This method is also used by the National Center for Health Statistics.